

## The Sun, the Moon and Easter

*Why the date of Easter varies, and why this isn't a bad thing*

**Revd Kara Maylor writes:**

First, a peaceful, joy-filled and blessed Easter to you all. With the state of our world today we can never take that blessing for granted, can we?

People have commented over the last few weeks how quickly Easter has come this year. It has been interesting to revisit why this is. The convoluted system for working out when Easter will fall is the result of a mix of Hebrew, Roman and Egyptian calendars, culture and custom. The Egyptians based their calendar on the Sun, which was adopted by Roman and then Christian culture, while Judaism bases its calendar partly on the Moon, and Islam also uses the phases of the Moon. Easter's date fluctuates not least thanks to attempts

to harmonise those solar and lunar calendars, with the issue further complicated by the fact that different strands of Christianity use different formulae for their calculations.

In 1582 the Gregorian calendar, which was adopted and promoted by Pope Gregory XIII, was largely designed to make the date of Easter earlier and easier to calculate. That is the calendar we still use today. Eastern Churches (Greek and Slavic) and Oriental Churches (Syrian, Armenian, Coptic Egyptian and Ethiopian) continued using the Julian Calendar, named after Julius Caesar, even after Europe adopted the Gregorian Calendar in 1582. This is why even now Easter is calculated

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*Admittedly there were other things happening on Easter Sunday, but did you notice the changes to the wall at the west end of the nave? See page 3.*

# Sun, Moon and Easter Celebration of lay ministries

*Continued from page 1*

▶ differently by the Eastern and Oriental Orthodox Churches to the Catholic and other western churches. Fun Fact: *Easter last fell on the same day for both Christian Church strands in 2017, but this will not happen again until 2034.*

Many Christians feel that retaining the moveable date of Easter and an understanding of its cosmic aspects are important. Fixing the festival to a particular day would be to ignore the rhythm and meaning of the planetary spheres and their subtle influence on life on the earth. And perhaps then this would reduce it to simply a remembrance of an event that occurred instead of celebrating it as the pivotal point and the most joyful fact that makes a personal relationship with God for each one of us possible!

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## Christ Church ACM

The Annual General Church Meeting of the Christ Church congregation will be held on Sunday 12 May after the 10am service – so starting at about 11:15am. Come along to elect Churchwardens and members of Church Council, and receive reports on the activities of all the groups in the church.

Anyone can attend, but you must be on the Electoral Roll of Christ Church to take part. To be on the Electoral Roll you need to be baptised and 16 years old or older. Please check the printout of the current roll at the back of the church (or if you can't do so, contact Kara, one of the Churchwardens or Judith Anderson, our Electoral Roll Officer). If you're on the roll, no further action is needed. If you've recently joined us and wish to add your name, or if you need to change any details, forms are available at the back of the church, and will need to be returned by Sunday 14 April. If you have any questions, please speak to Judith or, in her absence, one of the Churchwardens.

The Diocese's annual Celebration of Lay Ministries event takes place this year at St Paul's, Weston super Mare, on Saturday 22 June at 2pm. The Celebration is an opportunity for both lay and ordained to come together to be valued, affirmed and thanked for the unique contribution each makes to church and community.

This year's theme is *Harmony*, recognising that we all have a voice and together we can make harmony.

The event will include a Celebration Service during which we will hear a range of different voices as people share how they have heard God's call and responded. There will also be a marketplace of stalls where we can see and explore the variety of ministries that are on offer.

On past experience, places will be filled quickly, and early booking is advised. To book a place or find more information, visit [www.bathandwells.org.uk/ministry/celebration-of-lay-ministries/join-the-celebration-of-lay-ministries](http://www.bathandwells.org.uk/ministry/celebration-of-lay-ministries/join-the-celebration-of-lay-ministries).

If you have any queries, please contact Charmain Gilmour, the diocesan Ministry Training Team Administrator, by e-mailing [charmain.gilmour@bathwells.anglican.org](mailto:charmain.gilmour@bathwells.anglican.org).

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## Bishop's Zambia visit

The Rt Revd Michael Beasley will be making his first visit to Zambia as Bishop of Bath and Wells this month, from 22 April to 5 May, having previously spent time there during his career as an epidemiologist.

"I am really looking forward to be going back to Zambia," Bishop Michael said. "It takes the whole world to know Christ and I'm so excited at the thought of all I will learn from our Zambian brothers and sisters. I am also looking forward to the opportunity to explore how we can potentially work together on a joint environmental project involving our schools."

# Last month in Christ Church

A small working party – Robin Kerr, David Bishop and Alex Soboslay – managed to get the west wall of the nave refurbished in time for Easter Sunday. They cleaned and repainted the wall, then mounted the new noticeboards, which will help make notices and necessary information more organised and easier to find. The bells donor board is on display at last, and you might even spot that Lore's name has been added to the Incumbents board, thanks to the skills of Maggie Willans.



## Ordinand's (tidy) Corner

**Jane Hoe writes:**

Paul tells the Thessalonians to “Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). These verses could not have been further from my mind as I spent a whole day last week catching up on washing, shopping and housework – time I grew increasingly resentful of, with a backlog of study needing to be attended to! It's not that I mind doing the chores (there are few things that make my heart sing more than a line full of billowing washing), it's just the *time* it takes when other things are pressing.

What I needed was some perspective. I got that, that evening watching the news – women in Sudan forced from their homes; they and their families living in horrendous conditions, facing violence, sickness and impending famine. Of course, Sudan is just one example of this needless suffering in our desperately troubled world.

And then I thought about what I have – a spacious, safe home, cupboards full of food, healthy, educated children – and on top of this I get to study. Looked at from this perspective, my life is one privilege piled on another.

But what does God call me to do for those women living in such desperate conditions? To return to Paul's verse: “Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances.” He is tasking me with being thankful and rejoicing in what I have, appreciating everything

– but also, see sandwiched in the middle? To “pray continually”. My thankfulness reminds me I must pray continually for those whose unbearable lives I witness daily – and asking God: what can I do?

And perhaps next time if, like me, you are despairing at those monotonous chores, rejoice and be thankful – your own home, plentiful food and clean clothes every day. We are blessed indeed.



Photo by Fox Photos on Freeimages.com.

# Growing together

## **From the Diocese of Bath and Wells:**

Spring is a time to celebrate the signs of new growth, making it the perfect time to come together to share stories of growing church. The second Greenhouse gathering took place in March, and those who attended shared the progress on their projects to grow their churches. Megan Jones-Dellaportas is part



*Gathering for Greenhouse at St Peter's & St Paul's, South Petherton.*

of the team planning to start a new church on the new Orchard Grove housing estate in Trull. "It's great to have the opportunity to get together with others going through something similar," she says. "I came away inspired and with lots of ideas to share with my team."

Sally Mottram and Barbara Taylor from Ilchester were also able to share their good news. They started a new church gathering in September 2023, in a school at the other end of the village from the church. "We wanted to offer a way to access worship for those who aren't drawn to worship in a church building," they said, "and we've already got a core group of families who come every month. Even when it poured with rain the other Sunday and we thought no one would turn up, they did, which is a very encouraging sign for the future."

For more about Greenhouse and how it can help nurture new Christian worshipping communities: [bathandwells.org.uk/greenhouse](https://bathandwells.org.uk/greenhouse).

# A shared life of prayer and mission

## **From the Diocese of Bath and Wells:**

*Revd Liz Dudley, with Pioneers Elizabeth and Andrew Alden, share plans for a new Christian Community in Frome.*

Work is underway at the former vicarage at St Mary's to prepare the house for a new Christian community of four self-supporting adults. They will live there for a year and work locally.

Mary's House will offer a lifestyle grounded in contemplative prayer and a Christian commitment to the environment. The shared life will be marked by a daily pattern of prayer, weekly work in the local community, and a rule of life with shared values and approaches to missional living.

Why Frome? The combination of St Mary's site, the congregation's missional outlook, and the pioneering work at The Giant's Garden presents a compelling opportunity. Frome is open to the spiritual side of life, there is a

common concern for those on the edge of society, and we hope that those who choose to live here will be able to connect with that aspect of life here. Mary's House offers an opportunity to show that you can live out in the world and live in a Christian community with a rhythm of prayer and rule of life; that it is possible to do the two together.

The hope is that this community will contribute to God's work of regeneration in the churches and the town, increasing the missional impact of God's people. Long term it could develop a model that could be replicated elsewhere in the diocese.

The community will include a dispersed element of people living in their own homes but following a similar rule of life. It's hoped that those called to help establish the residential expression of the community will move into Mary's House from September. Read more at <https://bit.ly/st-marys-frome>.

# Bishop's Message for April

*Worship is key*



**From the Rt Revd Michael Langrish,  
Assistant Bishop for Bath and Wells**

In January I was back in my old Diocese of Exeter, marking the death of Sabine Baring Gould 100 years before. What an extraordinary person he was, with an incredible range and roundedness of learning and interests, in an equally full and fulfilled life. He was a great traveller and prolific writer of biographies, folklore, travel books, theology, novels and hymns, including some, such as “Onward Christian soldiers”, that remain popular today. He was a linguist and translator; and, as an archaeologist on Dartmoor, very much a pioneer in the field. For many, his greatest achievement was collecting the old folk songs of Devon and Cornwall, providing inspiration for such composers as Elgar, Vaughan Williams and Holst. He was also Squire of Lewtrenchard and, being ordained, appointed himself as parish priest as well!

This he saw as his true vocation. His responsibility, and that of the local church, was the cure of souls from cradle to grave. This meant a care for the spiritual well-being of all in the

community and for their bodily and social welfare too. Striving for good health and housing must go hand in hand with growth in faith and prayer. All should be encouraged to full humanity, to holy discipleship, to the recognition, and use, of whatever gifts anyone possessed for the common good.

But, underlying all of this, one other aspect of this great man's life speaks very strongly to me now. That is how he understood worship and its relationship to the whole of life. “To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God, to devote the will to the purpose of God.”

This month brings us encouraging stories of new Christian worshipping communities in Bath and Wells [see page 4]. Worshipping is key. I am reminded of the later words of Archbishop William Temple: “It is sometimes said that conduct is supremely important, and worship helps it. The truth is that worship is supremely important, and conduct tests it.”

**+Michael**

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## Daily Morning Prayer

One of the impacts of being without a Priest-in-charge is that there will be no 8am Sunday morning service at Christ Church during the Vacancy. However, a group of us meet on Zoom at 8am every day, Monday to Friday, to pray Morning Prayer together. This will continue through the Vacancy. If you would like to join us please contact Simon Tatton-Brown on [simon@tattonbrown.myzen.co.uk](mailto:simon@tattonbrown.myzen.co.uk) or 07891 898472 and he will send you the link.

# Wells Cathedral admission charge

Wells Cathedral has announced changes to its admission guidelines taking effect this month. Anglican cathedrals receive limited funding from the Church or the government, and Wells says it needs to raise £4,500 every day



to maintain and care for the building. From Monday 22 April it will ask adult tourism visitors to contribute a £14 admission charge. This includes a ground floor tour or audio tour; access to the new Undercroft Exhibition, and re-entry at no further charge for 12 months. Entry for under-18s will be free.

However, there will never be a charge for people who wish to come into the Cathedral to pray, attend a service or light a candle; everyone is welcome. Free passes will also be available to local residents and to anyone on the Electoral Roll of an Anglican church anywhere in the Diocese of Bath and Wells. Find out about these at [www.wells cathedral.org.uk/your-visit/wells-passes](http://www.wells cathedral.org.uk/your-visit/wells-passes).

The funds raised by the new tourist admission charge will go towards the care of the cathedral building and its mission.

## This month's charity: Jamie's Farm

*The loose collection on the second and fourth Sundays of this month – 14 and 28 April – will go to Jamie's Farm, a charity chosen by our young people. (Donations in collection envelopes will continue to go to Christ Church.)*

As you'll remember from last month, the children's choice for Charity of the Month in March and April is Jamie's Farm. This charity offers opportunities for young people to take part in a unique residential programme, built around working on the farm. The young people who benefit are from all sorts of backgrounds, with differing needs, including social and emotional-related, and often having difficulties in school. The programme is designed specifically to improve well-being, boost engagement, improve behaviour and develop

essential life-skills such as communication and self-awareness. There are six farms all over the country, and one is located just outside Bath, in Box. You can find out more about the charity at <https://jamiessfarm.org.uk>.

Members of our Junior Church will be fundraising for Jamie's Farm again during April. Keep a lookout in the notices for their fundraising escapades!



*Jamie's Farm seeks to combine Farming, Family, Therapy and Legacy to assist the attendees in their daily lives. Photo courtesy of Jamie's Farm.*



# Christ Church calendar April 2024

4	Thu	11am Eucharist
5	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm
<b>7</b>	Sun	<i>The Second Sunday of Easter</i> 10am Eucharist
8	Mon	<i>The Annunciation</i>
11	Thu	11am Eucharist
12	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm
<b>14</b>	Sun	<i>The Third Sunday of Easter</i> 10am Eucharist
18	Thu	11am Eucharist
19	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm
<b>21</b>	Sun	<i>The Fourth Sunday of Easter</i> 10am Eucharist 4:30pm Choral Evensong
22	Mon	<i>Earth Day</i> Christ Church Trustees meeting, 7:30pm
23	Tue	<i>George, patron of England</i>
25	Thu	<i>Mark the Evangelist</i> 11am Eucharist
26	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm
<b>28</b>	Sun	<i>The Fifth Sunday of Easter</i> 10am Eucharist 5pm Iona Contemplative Service
<b>May</b>	1	Wed <i>Philip and James, Apostles</i>
	2	Thu 11am Eucharist
	3	Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm
	<b>5</b>	Sun <i>The Sixth Sunday of Easter</i> 10am Eucharist

**Our Sunday 10am Eucharist, and other services as advertised, continue to be live-streamed at** [www.facebook.com/christchurchbath/live](http://www.facebook.com/christchurchbath/live)  
**and** [www.youtube.com/@ChristChurchBath1798/streams](http://www.youtube.com/@ChristChurchBath1798/streams)

# Prayer Cycle for April 2024

<b>Monday</b>	<b>1</b>	For our government and politicians
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>2</b>	For those preparing for confirmation or recently confirmed
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>3</b>	For our plans for the appointment of a priest in charge
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>4</b>	That we may work for the kingdom of heaven
<b>Friday</b>	<b>5</b>	For those who use and run food banks
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>6</b>	For good relationships between different faiths
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>7</b>	For churches, Cathedrals and communities named Christ Church
<b>Monday</b>	<b>8</b>	For the emergency services
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>9</b>	For countries experiencing civil unrest
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>10</b>	We give thanks for the fruits of the earth
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>11</b>	For our Pilgrim Group
<b>Friday</b>	<b>12</b>	For those who are confined to their homes
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>13</b>	For our charity of the month, Jamie's Farm
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>14</b>	For our Diocese of Bath and Wells
<b>Monday</b>	<b>15</b>	For those who organise and attend events at Christ Church
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>16</b>	For peace
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>17</b>	We give thanks for family and friends
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>18</b>	For our servers and others who assist at the altar
<b>Friday</b>	<b>19</b>	For the unemployed
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>20</b>	For those who teach
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>21</b>	For Mark, David and the choir
<b>Monday</b>	<b>22</b>	For the Trustees of Christ Church, meeting tonight



<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>23</b>	For those who work in the hospitality industry
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>24</b>	For those on our long-term prayer list
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>25</b>	For the work of Julian House
<b>Friday</b>	<b>26</b>	For all in hospital
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>27</b>	That we may have the gift of patience
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>28</b>	For our Local Ministry Group partners
<b>Monday</b>	<b>29</b>	For scientists and engineers
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>30</b>	We give thanks for the blessings of the past month

## Long-term Prayer List

*Please remember those we've been asked to pray for...*

Geoff  
 Joyce  
 Daniel  
 Milo  
 Naomi  
 Frankie  
 John & Sheila  
 Peter & Margaret  
 Sheila W  
 John & Jean

**Our prayer lists have been reset, as they are from time to time to keep them current. If you want to add a name to the prayer list, either long-term or short-term, or remove one, please use the lists at the back of the church, or speak to the Verger or one of the Churchwardens.**

## Cedar Tree is open

The Cedar Tree community café is open from 11am to 1:30pm every Friday except Good Friday. All are welcome! If you live or work in the area, do consider dropping in for a chat, a cup of coffee, homemade cake or a light snack, to support this important part of our outreach to the local community. If you can help on a Friday or make a cake we can sell, then please contact Jenny Hesketh. Your offers will be very gratefully received.



# Rotas for April 2024

*Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist*

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
<b>7 April</b> Second Sunday of Easter	<b>Jane Hoe</b> Acts 4:32-35	<b>Jonathan Stead</b> 1 John 1:1 – 2:2	<b>Mark Elliott</b> John 20:19-31
	Intercessions: <b>Georgina Bowman</b>		
<b>14 April</b> Third Sunday of Easter	<b>Beryl Bowes</b> Acts 3:12-19	<b>Morny Davison</b> 1 John 3:1-7	<b>Judith Anderson</b> Luke 24:36b-48
	Intercessions: <b>Jonathan Stead</b>		
<b>21 April</b> Fourth Sunday of Easter	<b>Richard Gabe</b> Acts 4:5-12	<b>Carol Hussey</b> 1 John 3:16-24	<b>Rachel Preston</b> John 10:11-18
	Intercessions: <b>Mark Elliott</b>		
<b>28 April</b> Fifth Sunday of Easter	<b>Malcolm Wall</b> Acts 8:26-40	<b>Virginia Knight</b> 1 John 4:7-21	<b>Marcus Bull</b> John 15:1-8
	Intercessions: <b>Simon Tatton-Brown</b>		
<b>5 May</b> Sixth Sunday of Easter	<b>Robin Kerr</b> Acts 10:44-48	<b>Georgina Bowman</b> 1 John 5:1-6	<b>Brenda Wall</b> John 15:9-17
	Intercessions: <b>Beryl Bowes</b>		

# Who's who at Christ Church

<b>Priest-in-charge</b>	(Vacant)	<b>Organist and Assistant Director of Music</b>	David Winters david.winters@christchurchbath.org
<b>Curate</b>	Revd Kara Maylor 07749 614613 kara.maylor@btinternet.com	<b>Deanery Synod Reps</b>	Brenda Wall Pauline Swaby-Wallace
<b>Supporting clergy</b>	Revd Canon Simon Tatton-Brown 01225 835404 simon@tattonbrown.myzen.co.uk	<b>Christ Church Link editor</b>	Alex Soboslay 07769 655927 alexs@christchurchbath.org
	Revd Beryl Bowes Revd Dr Peter Bowes	<b>Tower Captain, Ringing Master</b>	Will Willans
<b>Reader, Director of Music</b>	Mark Elliott 01225 445360 mark.elliott@christchurchbath.org	<b>Tower Secretary</b>	Maggie Willans 07773 244024 maggiewillans@hotmail.com
<b>Churchwarden</b>	Jane Nicholson 07990 552413 jane@janemnicholson.com	<b>Steeple Keeper</b>	David Kelly
<b>Churchwarden</b>	Jonathan Stead jonathanstead20@gmail.com	<b>Cedar Tree café organiser</b>	Jenny Hesketh jenny.hesketh@me.com
<b>Verger</b>	Angela Soboslay 01225 333297 angela.soboslay@christchurchbath.org	<b>Junior Church</b>	Emma Elliott
<b>Chair of Trustees</b>	Nick Wells 07774 104584 chair@christchurchbath.org	<b>Laity rotas</b>	Judith Bishop
<b>Treasurer</b>	Zoë Bushell zoe.bushell@christchurchbath.org	<b>Prayer cycle</b>	Virginia Knight
<b>Event/concert bookings, weekly notice sheet</b>	Judith Bishop 01225 858816 concerts@christchurchbath.org notices@christchurchbath.org	<b>Charitable Giving co-ordinator</b>	Jonathan Stead
<b>Safeguarding officer</b>	Virginia Knight 07896 916840 christchbathsafeguarding@gmail.com	<b>Mission to Seafarers</b>	Sylvia Ayers

## Christ Church Link

This magazine is published on the first Sunday of each month. Please send any contributions of news and articles by the 15th of the preceding month to the editor, Alex Soboslay, or by e-mail to [magazine@christchurchbath.org](mailto:magazine@christchurchbath.org)



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

# About Christ Church

*We're a liberal, inclusive and open church,  
seeking God through beauty in our worship, honesty  
in our faith and doubt, and support in our community*

Christ Church has an unusual history, out of which has developed a distinctive ministry. It was founded at the end of the 18th century by a group of socially concerned clergy and lay people for those excluded from worship through the system of pew rents. It was probably the first church in England since the Reformation to provide seating for all free of charge. Early supporters included John Moore, Archbishop of Canterbury, and William Wilberforce, the great evangelical and campaigner against slavery. We must recognise, however, that much of Bath's wealth at the time derived, directly or indirectly, from the trafficking and exploitation of enslaved human beings, so that inevitably some of the funds donated ultimately derived from this source.

Christ Church is not a parish church and does not have a full-time vicar. This has led to the development of a shared ministry where clergy and laity both make important contributions to worship and church life.

Christ Church is part of the Anglican diocese of Bath and Wells, although it still sits outside the Church of England

parish system. We see ourselves as a traditional and liberal Anglican church. Worship is led by our clergy, and music is provided by our robed choir and organist. New singers of all ages are always very welcome.

As well as worship on Sundays and Thursdays, there are many other activities going on in our community, including our weekly community café every Friday. Our ecumenical Pilgrim Group provides a space for exploration and discussion of faith in an open and non-judgemental setting. Visit the website to check service times and events.

## Regular Sunday services

- 8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) – *Suspended while we are in Vacancy*
- 10am Sung Eucharist with Junior Church activities for children and young people – *Every Sunday – also streamed at [www.facebook.com/christchurchbath](http://www.facebook.com/christchurchbath)*
- 4:30pm Choral Evensong – *Usually on the third Sunday of each month*
- 5pm Contemplative Quiet Service (Iona) – *On the fourth Sunday of every month*

Baptisms, marriages and funerals by arrangement – please contact us!

## Contacting us

Christ Church,  
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