



Christ Church Link

Autumn 2010 Issue 2

We're an open-minded Christian community exploring our faith together

50p

Autumn days: new beginnings

Even those of us with no current connection to school often feel September is a time for new beginnings. Whatever sort of summer we have had, there is an air of promise about the autumn. In this edition, Mark (our chair of Trustees) challenges us all to think about the future of Christ Church and there is an air of promise about this too. However, the coming year will also be one of challenges. Please read Mark's article (p4-5) and then consider what action you can take:

- Pray that we are able to discern God's will for Christ Church as we consider our future. Pray too for the community we serve
- Sign up to regular, planned giving if you don't already give to the church in this way
- Review the amount you are able to give
- Let David (our Treasurer) know about your decision by 17 October.
Email david.bishop@christchurchbath.org or use the slip on page 5
- Share your thoughts on the future of Christ Church with the relevant people (see Mark's article)

The collision of sporting scandal and human tragedy

Rev Cliff Burrows

I am writing at a time when the cricketing world is stunned by the latest alleged betting scam. It involved predicting the occurrence of "no balls" in three specified overs in an innings of the fourth Test Match between England and Pakistan. The likelihood of being able to predict those three events is negligible, but if you are in a position to ensure the occurrence, there are people who would pay a significant sum of money for the information because they could obtain very high odds from a Bookmaker. Such betting scams have

become a feature of sport. In this alleged case the match result would not be fixed, as has been the case in other instances, but the ethical and legal distinctions are debatable.

The background to this story is particularly distressing given the disaster engulfing the ordinary citizens in Pakistan. We see night after night on television the horrendous conditions people are suffering as a result of the flooding. We hear of the danger of cholera. It is particularly distressing to see the plight of innocent children. The Aid Agencies are consistently urging us to provide funds to alleviate suffering and the response from the UK has been generous. Many individuals will have given sacrificially. It is against that background that some privileged Pakistan cricketers are alleged to have received a significant sum of money to assist in a betting scam. I do not know the sums involved, but the television images of a large sum of money being exchanged were sickening.

This is the latest example where journalists have used secret cameras to engage in a so-called "sting", at the root of which is greed. What I find puzzling is the contrast between the Pakistan peoples' reaction to the cricket tour of England and the outcry when the President of the country undertook a number of international state visits instead of remaining in Pakistan to aid in flood relief. Was the different reaction a reflection of different attitudes towards politicians compared with cricketers? If so, what will be the reaction among the suffering people in Pakistan to this current story which if proved to be correct demonstrates at the very least a lack of sensitivity for the suffering back home? That is not intended to be censorious. We have plenty of examples in this country of unequal opportunities and living standards. But when I see those images of the suffering in Pakistan I am thankful that our Government and the previous administration regard the continuance of a substantial International Aid Programme as a top priority.



Working with the Church of England Youth Council

Jayne Trickett

In 2004 the Education Division of the Church of England set up a council for young people across the Church to express their views on a variety of different issues. The Church of England Youth Council (CEYC) now meets twice a year with up to two representatives per diocese aged 16-25. Previous issues debated include legislation relating to women bishops, assisted dying, confirmation preparation and discipleship.

In February the Council was extremely privileged to meet with the Archbishop of Canterbury to raise issues relating to young people in the Church. These included the place of young people within a church community and the future of the Church in a secular society. The council has since presented the Archbishop's Council with a statement summarising the desired aims of confirmation preparation discussed with members at a meeting in Liverpool Cathedral. Several Council members were also given the opportunity to attend General Synod in July as observers.

I joined CEYC as a representative of Bath and Wells Diocese in November last year. I was then elected onto the core group which meets more frequently to plan the two yearly meetings. My role is to liaise with other dioceses in the Southern Province to inform them of CEYC's activities and to encourage more young people to join. I hope to meet with the Diocesan Youth Officer for Bath and Wells to be able to feed back any issues relating to young people in our diocese.

CEYC is very privileged to be able to feed back its views to both the Archbishop's Council and through two representatives from the Council on General Synod. Our contributions to both meetings at these high levels of the Church have been very positively received. Hopefully this is a reflection of the Church's ongoing commitment to having the voices of young people heard and engaged with.

If you would like to find out more about my role with the council or are interested in becoming involved, please come and have a chat with me on a Sunday morning.



Farewell to Frank

Sarah Sheppard

How many of us these days live, work and die in the city of our birth? But this is what Frank Twissell did. No wonder the church was packed for his funeral, a carpet of people filling the pews - while a carpet of flowers filled both porch and sanctuary.

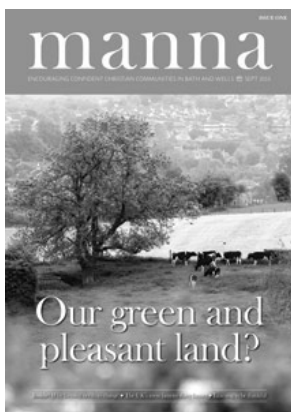


Frank was a son of our city, and for well over half a century made hundreds of its gardens flourish. He was also, most fittingly, a president of its Horticultural Society. No wonder kith - and kin - came that day to say thank you.

But I would also like to say that Frank was a true son of Christ Church, and this brought many of the congregation to say their farewells. For Frank had given devoted service over many years. Long ago he was a member of our Church Lads' Brigade, more latterly he was our deputy warden. Above all, we recall how faithful he was in coming - despite the illness and disability that dogged his later years.

Now we send our love and condolences to Dorothy, Kevin and Mark in their great loss. That day of dear Frank's funeral we said our "good-byes", and we meant them in the old meaning of the phrase, for we all want to say - Frank, God go with you.

New Diocesan Magazine



Manna is the new Bath & Wells magazine (the successor to Grapevine) and the first issue is available in church now.

It will be published quarterly and aims to have a slightly different emphasis from its predecessor. It will be looking more in-depth at issues affecting our lives as Christians today. The magazine will also help communicate more about the Diocese's Changing Lives initiative and what it means. At the same time it will be firmly 'rooted' in Somerset and, like Grapevine, will showcase achievements from across Bath & Wells and celebrate our Diocese.

Many thanks to Tony and Esme Buss who have volunteered to collect future copies for Christ Church.

Big Questions: Little Answers

Having got to know one of our wardens in the previous edition, we realised we had been remiss in not providing our other one with the same opportunity. Here are some things you almost certainly wanted to know about Lewis Boyd:

What are your hobbies?

I'm an engineer, so naturally I have none! However, when I get the time I've been known to enjoy a bit of cycling.

What car do you drive?

I drive a Ford Focus estate (note the spelling, and please pronounce delicately). The "s" must have fallen off some time before we bought the car. It does however give it an air of individuality!

What is your favourite film, and why?

I'm not a big film buff. One that I can watch time and time again though is Amelie, simply because it's such a feel-good story.

What is your favourite kind of music?

It really depends on my mood. My iPod has everything from ABBA to Zeppelin and Bach to Vivaldi. If I need to relax though, I'll put on some Harry Christophers and the Sixteen singing something nice and old like de Victoria.

What is your favourite kind of meal / food?

Got to be lasagne. Hazel and I make a mean one. Not wanting to boast (oh go on then) - it's got to be the best I've ever had!

What has been your proudest moment?

Watching Hazel graduate with her PhD

What is the most amazing place you have visited?

I went to India once and visited the Taj Mahal. The scale of the place simply blew me away.

What famous person, dead or alive, would you like to meet?

Ooh, a tough one. I'm not a great one for "celebrity", and don't really have any idols. An evening down the pub with C. S. Lewis would be enlightening no doubt, especially as we could talk about our time at the same school!

What's your pet hate?

Answering personal questions. No seriously, punctuality. I get quite worked up about being on time, and do get more than a little irked when others don't seem to feel the same.

What's your favourite book?

Anything by Terry Pratchett. The man is a genius at satire and social commentary. Once you see through the science-fiction aspect of his Discworld novels, they really are a great study of why people are so rubbish!

Tell us a little known fact about yourself

On my 23rd birthday party I ate a raw potato. Best not to ask any more...

Looking forward: appointing a new Priest-in-Charge

Mark Elliott

Over the next few months we could shape the future of Christ Church. We have to define who we are, what we want to be, where God is leading us, and what we're looking for in our new Priest to help lead us in that journey. When the Archdeacon spoke to the Trustees about this process he described it as "seeking God's person for this place", and I think that puts it quite nicely.

Thought and Prayer

A lot of what we have to do is practical, but the most important thing we can all do is think and pray. We must always keep in focus that we are trying to seek God's will for us.

Offering "House-for-Duty"

We've been incredibly fortunate that for the last 25 years at least, we've benefitted from clergy who have worked in a non-stipendiary capacity. That is, they have not been paid in any way. Having a non-stipendiary post means that, whenever a vacancy occurs, we are absolutely reliant on there being a local priest, who already has accommodation and an independent income, and who is keen to take on the responsibility of running a church. The Archdeacon, who knows all of the local clergy, is aware of no such person existing at present in the area. The Trustees feel that the time has come to change the nature of the appointment at Christ Church, and to offer the position as a "House-for-Duty" post. This is a common arrangement, where a priest is not paid a stipend, but is given accommodation and expenses, in exchange for a part time role as Priest-in-Charge. There are various kinds of person who might be interested in this sort of appointment, and the important thing is that it is the sort of post which is actively sought out by some priests. The plan would be to offer cottage no. 2 as accommodation, or alternatively, to use the income from cottage no. 2 to be able to offer a housing allowance. Combined with expenses, this would cost the church approximately £10,000 per year.

Financial Impact

This change would involve a significant financial impact and I feel it's right that we, the worshipping community of this church, should be asked to financially support the aim of offering a House-for-Duty priest. It's a few years since we've asked people to think about their regular giving to the church. Given that we're now talking about a really tangible need, I think it's a good time to raise it. £10,000 sounds like a lot of money for us to cover,

but when that's divided across the whole congregation, it's actually a few pounds per head per week. For some, a few pounds is a lot of money, and for some, it isn't. The ones for whom it isn't need to give significantly more than a few pounds extra to cover the ones for whom it is a genuine struggle – this has considerable biblical precedent!

Specific Financial Actions

If you don't give in a regular, planned way at the moment, please consider it. Regular giving is absolutely vital to the church to allow us to plan. There are two main ways of doing this: through the envelope scheme, or by standing order from your bank. Giving by either of these methods gives us the ability to budget properly for the future of the church.

If you do already give in one of those regular planned ways, please consider whether you are able to increase that giving. This will help to secure the future of this church and allow us to move forward with confidence.

If you are able to do either of those things, please let our treasurer, David Bishop, know using the slip below. All financial matters are dealt with in the strictest confidence but if you don't tell him what you're planning to do, we won't be able to plan based on the revised giving!

I'd like to set a target of 17 October to see if we can get ourselves into a position where we're confident we can move ahead with offering a House-for-Duty post. If we can't, we need to radically rethink our next steps. So, please do consider the financial matters carefully over the next few weeks.

Direction and Vision

The financial aspect of this is the boring but necessary part. The exciting bit is developing a vision for Christ Church. This should be an exciting and uplifting time.

To manage the process of gathering together ideas from the congregation, we're in the process of putting together a group of people – two trustees, two members of council, and one of the church wardens – who will be responsible for making this happen. The names of the people who have volunteered for this group will be announced soon. It is desperately important that the view of the whole congregation is pulled together for this, so the role of the group will be to co-ordinate and canvas opinion. I believe that this will be a truly exciting and invigorating process for the church, and if you have thoughts, ideas or a particular vision for where you feel we should be going, please let this be known and put your views forward.

This then needs to be turned into a document called

a Church Profile, which is a booklet of 15-20 pages that is sent to anyone who expresses interest in the position. It's our chance to put down what our vision for Christ Church is, and to invite prospective ministers to come and play their part in helping us realise that vision.

Timetable

This process will take about three months, so by the new year we aim to have a document we can send out to interested people. This means we will look to advertise the post in February. We would then seek to hold interviews around Easter, with a view to a new Priest-in-Charge

taking up the post in September next year.

A Step Forward

My key message is, come with us on this journey. Let's see where we can take this church. Let's see how we can further the kingdom of God in this little bit of the world. We've been handed an awesome responsibility – to be the agents of God, to be the hands, feet and eyes of Jesus, in this place. To do that, we need financial backing, we need spiritual vision, and we need faith. So with humility, yes, but with confidence in our future, and with faith, let us together take a step forward.

Christ Church Regular Giving Commitment

Name

Contact phone number and/or email

I would like to begin regular giving using standing order/envelope scheme (delete as appropriate)

I have reviewed my regular giving and would like to amend the amount to _____ per _____

If you are a tax payer please ensure you David has an up-to-date Gift Aid declaration

Please return to David Bishop or email your response to david.bishop@christchurchbath.org

Mothers' Union News

Sylvia Ayers

We would like to thank everyone who supported our Summer appeal for the MU Overseas Fund. Including the very welcome donations from Jane Nicholson's "Flower Fund" we collected the magnificent total of £77.20. This is £10 more than in 2009, so the credit crunch seems to have had very little effect on your generosity! Sadly, however, because of the falling exchange rate, the value of our donation is much reduced.

Items such as salaries and travel grants for overseas workers are budgeted for in the UK, but have to be paid for in local currency, where costs have increased by more than 30%.

Margaret Burrows is now Chairman of the Students' Cook-Book Sub Committee, the latest edition of which will be given away on Wednesday September 29th at the Freshers Week Fair at Bath Spa University and also on Friday 1st October at Bath University. Thank you to everyone who has contributed squares of flapjack to be given away with the book, all contributions are most welcome, and will be really appreciated by the recipients!



The book can also be purchased, if you'd like to buy a copy please speak to Margaret Burrows. We will hold our annual collection for the Women's Refuge on Sundays 17 and 24 October, and items can also be accepted during that week. At any time up to eight families can be welcomed in the house, and they are all told about the support given by the MU, which is where you come in. It is still a regrettable fact that some women and children arrive at the

refuge with nothing but the clothes they stand up in. Anything in this line, particularly children's wear, that

we can give them, will be very welcome, and any cash received will be used to buy small comforts for them. Tea, coffee, sugar and cleaning materials are always needed, and there is still an ongoing need for basic items such as light bulbs, tinned goods and pasta. If you use it at home, they need it too! In previous years, our friends at Christ Church have been most generous with their donations, so we are confident that you will want to help us again this year. We invite each member of the congregation to give us at least one item on those Sundays, or else during the following week, and you can be assured that every gift is very warmly welcomed by those in the refuge, so do please be generous.



Dave Walker is a freelance cartoonist whose work features regularly in the Church Times. He has also published three books of cartoons about church life. We hope you enjoy his work as much as we do.

HOW TO TELL WHAT IS GOING ON



FIRST READING



SECOND READING



PRAYERS



NOTICES

CartoonChurch.com

Please join us for a hot meal and dessert
at the

Harvest Lunch

Sunday 3 October at 12:30pm

Followed by a short service

Please sign the sheet at the back of church if you
would like to come



Coming up at Christ Church

Sunday 3 October 10am Holy Communion for Harvest Festival followed by lunch

3pm A service of Vespers for Harvest Festival

Wednesday 13 October Trustees meeting

Sunday 7 November Choral Evensong
4:30pm

Thursday 11 November Church Council meeting

Sunday 28 November Advent Carol Service
6:30pm

Sunday 5 December Choral Evensong
4:30pm

From the editors' laptop

Matthew and Sarah Jones



The next edition of *Christ Church Link* is due in December. The deadline for the submission of articles is Sunday 14th November.

Many thanks to Emma Elliott and Janet Mahto who have agreed to guest edit

the winter edition whilst we get used to the arrival of baby Jones.

We are still looking for some willing volunteers to help distribute Christmas publicity, please let us know during October if you could spare a few hours to help with this really important task. The more volunteers we have, the easier the job

becomes and Christmas really is a vitally important time for us to concentrate on our outreach as a Christian community. We think we have something special to offer people at Christ Church, the chance to explore questions of faith and belief as part of a thoughtful and welcoming Anglican Christian community. However, unless people are able to find out about us, they are unlikely to simply stumble through our doors. These thoughts of course, are all linked to Mark's article on pages 4-5. In order to take forward the process of appointing a new Priest-in-charge we need to give prayerful consideration to what we are now and what we wish to become. We feel that a likely part of our aspiration for the future is to be a growing church, and our publicity is an important part of achieving that.

Devil's Advocate

In April, we were all astounded to learn the true identity of the Mysterious Calendar Correspondent, only to be disappointed to hear he was move to the

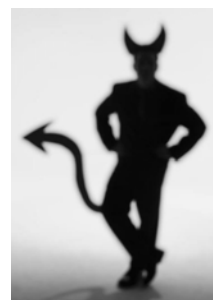
Devil's advocate

(noun, idiomatic)

One who debates from a view which they may not actually hold, usually to determine its validity, or simply for the sake of argument.

bleak wastelands of The North. Then in the summer, the true identity of The Stig was revealed, much to the BBC's disgust. But there's still one international man (or woman) of mystery, our new correspondent, the Devil's Advocate.

He or she has a lot to say, with the simple aim of getting you to think and promoting debate. Perhaps you might like to pick up on what's been said and write something for the next magazine!



"I heard a sermon recently on Luke 6:1-11, which addresses the issue of the Sabbath. The preacher suggested that one of the purposes of worship is for the congregation to find rest and refreshment by spending time in the presence of God. It set me wondering...is this something we at Christ Church are good at? Do our services enable people who come to relax? Or are we too busy running around trying to do all the jobs? Or too worried about following the appropriate liturgical niceties?"

Who's who

Officiating Minister	Vacant	Organist	David Wrigley 01761 439355
Reader	Mark Elliott	Magazine editors and publicity coordination	Matthew & Sarah Jones 01225 443284
Chairman of Trustees	01225 445360		sarah.jones@christchurchbath.org
Director of Music	mark.elliott@christchurchbath.org		
Reader	Cyril Selmes	Concert bookings	Judith Bishop
	01225 420039	Weekly notice sheet	01225 869409
			concerts@christchurchbath.org
			notices@christchurchbath.org
Churchwarden	Lewis Boyd	USPG	Adrian Pegg
Home group leader	01225 329190		01225 858809
	lewis.boyd@christchurchbath.org		
Churchwarden	Malcolm Wall	Mothers' Union	Margaret Burrows
	malcolm.wall@christchurchbath.org		01225 334743
Verger	Angela Soboslay	Deanery Synod	Margaret Heath
	01225 333297	Churches Together in Bath	01225 428272
Treasurer	David Bishop	Deanery Synod	Andrew Sillett
	01225 869409		
	david.bishop@christchurchbath.org		
Secretary to Church Council	Hazel Boyd	Churches Together in Bath	Sylvia Ayers
	01225 329190	Mothers' Union	01225 463976
		Mission to Seafarers	
Junior Church	Sarah Cade	Church Calendar	
Laity rotas	01225 339305		

Regular Sunday Services

- 8am Holy Communion using the text from the Book of Common Prayer.
Arrangements for this service are still being made for the period of the interregnum, please check notice boards and website for the next dates
- 10am Sung Holy Communion
With Junior Church activities for children and young people
- 4:30pm Choral Evensong once a month
Usually the first Sunday of every month but see website or notice board for details

The church also aims to be a place of spiritual welcome when marking particular points in life's journey. If you would like to discuss holding a service of marriage, baptism or a funeral here, please use the details below to contact us.

About Christ Church

Christ Church has an unusual history out of which has developed a distinctive ministry. It was built at the end of the 18th century, founded by socially concerned clergy & lay people for those excluded from worship through the system of pew rents. It was probably the first church at that time to provide seating free of charge. Early supporters included the Archbishop of Canterbury, the great evangelical and campaigner against slavery, William Wilberforce and Martin Stafford Smith, godfather of John Keble, a founder of the Oxford Movement.

It is not a parish church and does not have a paid 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 today is part of the Anglican diocese of Bath and Wells, although it still sits outside the normal 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. There are separate activities for children in Junior Church groups.

As well as worship on a Sunday morning, there are many other activities going on in our community. We support the Genesis Sunday Centre and have our own community café. The musical tradition of the church continues to thrive and we have an active choir. Our ecumenical home group provides a space for exploration and discussion of faith in an open and non-judgmental setting.

If you are considering whether Christ Church is a place where you would feel comfortable in exploring the Christian faith, we would be delighted to welcome you, please come along to a service or get in touch with us (see below). If you feel you are looking for a different Christian community we wish you well with God's blessing and we would be happy to tell you of other churches in the area.

How to find or contact us

Christ Church
Julian Road
Bath
BA1 2RH

Telephone: 01225 338869 (answer phone)

Email: admin@christchurchbath.org

Website: www.christchurchbath.org

