

CHRIST CHURCH CHALLENGE



December 2005

CHRIST CHURCH, JULIAN ROAD
DIOCESE OF BATH AND WELLS IN THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.00am	Holy Communion
10.00am	Family Communion, Junior Church & Crèche
First Sundays & Festivals	Choral Evensong and Sermon at 6.30pm
Other Sundays	Said Evening Prayer at 5.30pm (see page 5)

There is amplification to assist the hard of hearing

CHOIR

Junior Choir Practice	Friday 6.30pm - 8.00pm
Adult Practice	Friday 7.30pm - 9.00pm

New singers always welcome - please contact Director of Music 01225 445360

BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES, FUNERALS

By arrangement. Please 'phone the Vestry 338869 / Officiating Minister 427462

Chris and Angela, the churchwardens, would like to know about people who are ill, or of any circumstances in which the ministry of the Church would be welcome.

This is a tricky bit to write. It's still Advent, and yet it's very tempting to wish all of our readers a Very Happy Christmas in 16-point **Olde English** font and be done with it. But no.

Reading this month's magazine should help you to contain yourself in the hectic run-up to the Festive Season. Page 8 lists the Churches Together news, including Open Christmas information, and on page 10 you can read about a new report into Homelessness in Bath, which will be available very shortly.

The mysterious Calendar Correspondent (whoever could it be?) gives us yet more little-known insights on page 7, and Cyril Selmes begins a new botanical series on page 13.

And if that's not enough, the Festive Quiz on page 14 will give you something to "mull" over. Ho Ho Ho!

NG

Forum...

The season is upon us....



We have waited and it has arrived, as it does every year, on time. Whether it seems early or late, to have come quickly or quietly or belatedly, Christmas always comes on time. Every year the same, and every year not quite the same.

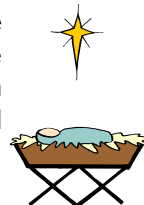
Whether it is anticipated with light or heavy heart, we help give birth to Christmas. We help in all the familiar rituals. We bring the birth of Christmas in the lighting of candles, the writing of cards,



the singing of carols, the baking of mince pies, the welcoming of friends and relatives into our homes, the remembrance of treasured Christmases, the wrapping of presents. In the wonderful variety of our homely rituals, we affirm what we know all year - we are not alone. We are connected to faces we love and faces we have never seen; we are connected to our natural environment in all of its howling, shuddering, shining glory. This is to say, we are connected to God.

We write a Christmas card and give thanks for friendship. We put a red bow on a present and celebrate the abundance of God's gifts to us. We give toys and socks and blankets to people whose names we don't know. We light candles and remember God's light that shines in our darkness. We sing carols and sometimes fumble with the words and slide into the right note, but eventually we find the happy melody that comes from one voice in harmony with another.

For thousands of years God came to us in impressive and powerful ways: pillars of fire, thunder, the parting of seas. God came to us in dreams, through angels, in a burning bush. But in this season we recall that he came to us in the vulnerability of a child in a manger at Bethlehem. A gift beyond all price.



Whilst we might resent much of the commercialisation of Christmas, the fact remains that Jesus is in the shops again this year. He is there in the countdown to Christmas, on the Christmas cards, in the nativity scenes, in the carols piped into every shopping mall, and the manger has become a familiar sight.



Many people will again make their annual pilgrimage to church. They will come to hear again the story of the baby in the manger – as the poet says “to worship now in heart and mind; he who came in poverty to be our great richness”. These pilgrims will come for a variety of reasons. Some will come firm in their faith; some kindly and out of courtesy. Many others will be in search of they know not what, drawn by the mystery, the colour and the carols.

For what ever reason they may make that awkward journey into church at Christmas no-one will be denied entry. They need not feel defensive about their faith, their doubts, their hopes or their fears. The Christ-child is here and the stable door is open so that all may step forward into his marvellous light which shines now in our ordinary muddy world. A very happy and holy Christmas to you all.

Antony

Happy New Year with Genesis Sunday Centre

As one practical response to the problem of homelessness in Bath (see page 10) can anyone help at the Genesis Sunday Centre on New Year's Day? There's a joint Churches team manning the centre, so that no one Church has to find enough volunteers on what is probably going to be an unpopular day to help.

If you can spare some time on 1st January, please see Matthew Jones as soon as possible.

Church Calendar for December

Dec	4	Sun	THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT	
			5.00pm	Said Evening Prayer
	6	Tue	NICOLAS OF MYRA , Bishop - c.362	
	7	Wed	AMBROSE, Bishop & Teacher of the Faith - 397	
			EMBER DAY	
	8	Thur	CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	
	9	Fri	EMBER DAY	
	10	Sat	10.00am	Christmas Fair in the Guildhall
			EMBER DAY	
	11	Sun	THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT	
			12 noon	Christ Church Trustees Meeting
			5.00pm	Said Evening Prayer
	13	Tue	LUCY, Martyr - 304	
	14	Wed	JOHN OF THE CROSS, Teacher of the Faith - 1591	
			11.00am	Holy Communion followed by Christmas Lunch
	18	Sun	THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT	
			5.00pm	Said Evening Prayer
			6.30pm	Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight
	24	Sat	2.30pm	Nativity Play and Blessing Of The Crib
			11.00pm	Midnight Mass
	25	Sun	CHRISTMAS DAY	
	27	Tue	ST JOHN, Apostle & Evangelist	
	28	Wed	THE HOLY INNOCENTS	
	29	Thur	THOMAS BECKET, Archbishop & Martyr - 1170	
Jan	1	Sun	THE FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS	

Laity Rota for December

Readers	OT Readers	NT Readers	Gospel	
December	4	Audrey Sheppard	Judith Bishop	Rosanne Gabe
	11		Junior Church	
	18	No Reading	Emma Elliott	Richard Gabe
	25	Bev Pont	David Marles	John Metcalfe
January	1	Eileen Selmes	Martin Palmer	Lloyd Grosvenor
	8	Nicky Gladstone	Bob Siderfin	Penny Edwards
	15	Georgina Bowman	David Bishop	Chris Graham

Chalice Assistants

December	4	Ann Kemp	Jane Fletcher
	11	Penny Edwards	Bob Siderfin
	18	Tessa Claridge	Rosanne Gabe
	25	Margaret Burrows	Janet Mahto
January	1	Chris Graham	Ann Kemp
	8	Jane Fletcher	Penny Edwards
	15	Bob Siderfin	Tessa Claridge

Intercessors

December	4	Georgina Bowman
	11	Junior Church
	18	Rev Antony Claridge
	25	Mark Elliott
January	1	Penny Edwards
	8	Bev Pont



Sidespeople	8am	10am		
December	4	Elizabeth Iden-Hart	Ken & Sylvia Ayers	
	11	Dil Jones	David Marles	Joan Bunkin
	18	Dorothy Twissell	John and June Metcalfe	
	25	Barbara Hayward	Chris Tanner	Ann Charman
January	1	Clive Tilling	Tessa Claridge	Jean Ferguson
	8	Elizabeth Iden-Hart	Nicky and Joshua Gladstone	
	15	Dil Jones	Margaret Silver	Frank Twissell

Lectionary for December

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
Dec 4	The Second Sunday of Advent		
	Isaiah 40.1-11	2 Peter 3.8-15a	Mark 1.1-8
11	The Third Sunday of Advent		
	Junior Church		
18	The Fourth Sunday of Advent		
	No Reading	Romans 16.25-27	Luke 1.26-38
24	Christmas Eve—Midnight Mass		
	Isaiah 52.7-10	Hebrews 1.1-4	John 1.1-14
25	Christmas Day		
	<i>Readings to be announced</i>		

Our Calendar Correspondent Explains...

“St Lucy, Martyr” (13th December)



Saint Lucy of Syracuse, also known as **Saint Lucia**, (traditional dates 283-304) was a rich young Christian martyr who is venerated as a Saint by Catholic and Orthodox Christians. Her feast day in the West is December 13; she is the patron saint of blindness. Lucy is the only saint celebrated by the Lutheran Swedes and Norwegians, in celebrations that retain many pre-Christian elements of a midwinter light festival. A marriage was arranged for Lucy with a pagan bridegroom, but she urged that the dowry be spent on alms that she might retain her virginity. News that the patrimony and jewels were being distributed came to the ears of Lucy's betrothed and he denounced Lucy as a Christian to the magistrate Paschasius, who ordered her to burn a sacrifice to the Emperor's image. Lucy replied that she had given all that she had: "I offer to him myself, let him do with his offering as it pleaseth him." Sentenced to be defiled in a brothel, the guards who came to take her way found her so filled with the Holy Spirit that she was stiff and heavy as a mountain; they could not move her even when they hitched her to a team of oxen. Even with a dagger through her throat she prophesied against her persecutor. As final torture, her eyes were gauged out. She was miraculously still able to see without her eyes. To this day we see pictures of St-Lucy holding her eyes on a golden plate.

Churches Together in Bath

The Mayor's New Year Call to Prayer will be at the Guildhall on Tuesday January 3rd at 7.30pm.

The 2006 Ecumenical Epiphany Service will take place at 6pm on Sunday January 8th, at the URC in Argyle Street. It will be organised by the Metropolitan Church who hold regular services in the same building.

This is another opportunity for Bath Christians to worship together with the members of other denominations who nevertheless still share the same basic faith. This Service will lead us nicely into the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which runs from January 18th to 25th.

The theme for the week is: "Where two or three are gathered together in my name." During the Week, on Thursday January 19th, the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, Cormac Murphy-O'Connor will preach at a United Service at 7pm in Bath Abbey. Although this event is the initiative of Bath Central Churches, the officers of the CTB felt it right to extend an invitation to all Churches and Bath and all Roman Catholic Churches in the Deanery. They hope this does not clash with any other plans for mid-week united services in the individual zones, and would encourage us to attend this service as well as continuing with our own programme. The CTB and the Rector of Bath Abbey, the Rev Edward Mason, plan to make this a splendid City-wide occasion.

The annual open air Flower Show Service at Victoria Park will be on Sunday April 30th. More details of the show will be available in due course from Frank Twissell and in the local press.

Open Christmas

Held on Christmas Day at Kingswood School, "Open Christmas" provides Lunch, Afternoon Tea and an Entertainment for 200 mainly elderly Bath people. The event is completely free to the guests, and the £4,000 it costs to stage each year is raised by donations from both Churches and individuals. If members of our congregation feel drawn to contribute, I will gladly pass on your cheques to the organisers. Please make them payable to Churches Together in Bath—Open Christmas.

Volunteers are needed from December 24th to 27th, and applications forms are available on the Church Table for anyone who would like to help run the event. I also have invitations for anyone who will be alone at Christmas and would like to share in the hospitality. Tickets will be sent direct to the guests on receipt of their completed forms. A poster is on display and further details are in the weekly notices.

Sylvia M Ayers
Christ Church joint CTB representative

Christmas at Christ Church

~ Sunday 18th December ~

6.30 pm: Carols by Candlelight

~ Christmas Eve ~

2.30 pm: Nativity Play and Blessing of the Crib

The familiar story of the Nativity is presented by our children, offering the opportunity to see the traditional story with new eyes.

11.30 pm: Midnight Mass

A sung service which carries us into the first hour of Christmas Day, when we can all share the joy of the Incarnation

~ Christmas Day ~

8.00 am: Holy Communion

A quiet meditative service with the words of the
1662 Prayer Book

10.30 am: Christmas Celebration with Communion

We hope that this one-hour service with carols will be the icing on your Christmas Cake!
Children are invited to bring their best present (so far) to be admired, and it's always worth checking the Christmas Tree for a festive treat.

MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

With the £70 donated for the Bath Women's Refuge, the residents chose a George Foreman Grilling Machine which, together with all the donated items, was delivered to the Refuge in November. The ladies there very much value all your help and interest in their work of housing and caring for the desperate women and their children who arrive on their doorstep almost daily. We were very pleased to find that even without our holding the usual Coffee Morning and Sale, the amount raised has still exceeded the 2004 figure, so we do thank all members of Christ Church very much indeed for their co-operation in our annual appeal.

At our AGM on November 15th, it was unanimously decided that in 2006 we few would continue with our usual activities. Therefore, at the appropriate times, financial collections will be made for the MU Magazine and the Christmas Orders, an Autumn Refuge Collection will be held and Corporate Communion will be arranged at least four times during the year.

We have been invited by St Luke's MU to join their Service of Lessons and Carols on December 6th, so we will attend this instead of trying to hold our own Christmas meeting. Nevertheless, the Branch and its supporters would once again like to send our best wishes and heartfelt thanks to Antony for the Corporate Communion Services held throughout the year and to John and June for providing the delicious lunches each time.

Sylvia M Ayers, MU Secretary

Homelessness in Bath

Bath Abbey recently commissioned one of its members, Peter Miles, to do a survey on the homeless in Bath. Peter carried out a wide-ranging survey over four weeks during the summer.

His report, *Homelessness in Bath*, presents a reliable picture of the complex situation which exists in our city. In his conclusion, Peter writes:

"Homeless and vulnerably housed people are under pressure, the independent agencies working to meet their needs are under pressure, both local and central government are under pressure, trying to get more from less."

Copies of Peter Miles' short, readable report are now available in church. Readers are asked to take a copy in order to learn about the problem and see how the Abbey and all the churches in Bath are going to seek practical solutions.



LMG News: Down by the sea in flaming June

As announced in last month's magazine, the congregations of Christ Church, St Stephen's and St Mary's Charlcombe will be heading for the coast on the week-end of June 9 –11.

The venue, Brunel Manor near Torquay, has been recommended for:

- fantastic food and loads of fun
- love, care and hospitality
- an idyllic setting with gorgeous gardens
- leisure facilities which include an indoor heated pool
- children's adventure playgrounds
- spiritual renewal and personal relaxation

A recent visitor has written about Brunel Manor as a place populated by "happy children, relaxed parents, fun-loving young people and very contented older people". Antony's old friend, the Bishop of Hull speaks well of the accommodation – most guest bedrooms are en-suite – and the dedicated staff team who do everything possible to ensure every visitor's comfort.

Our three churches weekend away is designed to explore why faith and community belong together. There will be two main sessions which will help us look at how our churches might work together in the future. The name of a visiting speaker is to be announced shortly.

Whilst there is a serious intent behind the idea of going to the seaside together, there is a determination that it should be a lot of fun. Families with young children are particularly welcome and older people can also be assured of a relaxing and comfortable time.

Christ Church Trustees are so anxious that as many people as possible should have the opportunity of enjoying a weekend away that they are subsidising the price, which includes accommodation and all meals. The cost for adults will be £60; students, OAPs £35 with under 16s free. Obviously, if there are adults who are able to afford the full price of £100, we shall be able to offer more places.

If you have not yet received a copy of Antony's letter and the Brunel Manor brochure, please ask one of the wardens – they will be pleased to provide you with one.

All welcome to Mid-Week Christmas lunch

If you would like to enjoy a cooked Christmas lunch after the 11am Eucharist on Wednesday, 14th December, please see John or June Metcalfe as soon as possible. The Christmas lunch is always a relaxed and happy occasion and people of all ages are always given a warm welcome. Why not come – there will be plenty of time for Christmas shopping afterwards.

Oliver Kirkbride would like to thank all readers for their congratulations expressed in last month's magazine following his academic successes. He wishes to draw to our attention another Christ Church connection—the Food Technology teacher who set him on the path to greatness was none other than Madge North's daughter, Angela Morris!

Missions to Seafarers



As we get ever nearer to Christmas, you cannot fail to notice all the potential presents in the shops, and of course the splendid array of cards which are on sale in Church: you probably buy quite a few yourself to send to family and friends. Following this, of course you will expect to receive a much increased post through your letter box, all suitably adorned with attractive Christmas Stamps. Of course, the cards will find a ready home on your mantelpiece, but what about the envelopes?

Before consigning them to the dustbin, please take a moment or two to carefully cut off the pictorial stamps with a pair of scissors, leaving a half inch border all round, (if you just tear them off, the stamps are apt to get damaged). Then bundle them up for the Missions to Seafarers and leave them in the "A" pigeon hole in Church. I have, however, been asked NOT to send the ordinary red and blue 1st and 2nd class stamps, as the dealers can no longer sell them. I have been advised that only the HIGHER VALUE "Queen's Head" stamps are now required, eg from 50p upwards. This ban has of course reduced the number of parcels I can send, but I do most sincerely thank all those regular, if anonymous, contributors to this cause who leave me so many lovely parcels during the year.

Sylvia M. Ayers

DO YOU KNOW...

...why the poppy became the symbol of remembrance?

It all began with a poem written by Colonel John McRae, who was a Canadian medical officer treating some of the appalling casualties of the second battle of Ypres in the winter of 1915. He sent the poem anonymously to *Punch* and it was published in December 1915.

"In Flanders Fields the poppies grow,
Between the crosses, row on row.
They mark our place: and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly.
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow.
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders Fields."

Not surprisingly the poem was reprinted and spread throughout the world. Moine Muchael, a worker with the YMCA in Georgia USA, was so moved by it that she vowed to wear a poppy for the rest of her life. In 1921 a friend of Moine approached the newly formed British Legion with a sample of artificial poppies that she had made: Poppy Day to celebrate the Armistice was born; in the first year they raised £100,000.

Other writers have also described the scene at Ypres and the Somme. William Orpen visited the Somme in the summer of 1917, six months after the carnage. He wrote: "No words could express the beauty of it. The dreary dismal mud was baked white, dazzlingly white. White daisies, red poppies and a blue flower (probably cornflowers), masses of them stretched for miles and miles. The sky a pure, dark blue and the whole air, up to a height of about forty feet, thick with white butterflies: your clothes were covered with them. It was like an enchanted land, but instead of fairies, there were thousands of little white crosses, marked "Unknown British Soldier" for the most part."

Cyril Selmes

(My sources are FLORA BRITANNICA by Richard Mabey and
THE ENGLISHMAN'S FLORA by Geoffrey Grigson)

STAMPS! STAMPS! STAMPS!

Because many of you bought your 2004 Bath Scout Post stamps from us, we have decided to continue with this for one further year. Our 15p stamps are much cheaper than the Post Office! We will sell them from 27th November, and they are valid until Dec 15th, but ONLY in the Bath area. (It is surprising how many "out of area" cards we get—is Wells really within the Bath City Boundary?)

Having written and stamped your cards, you will of course need somewhere to post them. Well, worry not! FOR ONE WEEK from December 4th to 11th, there will be Box in Church for you to deposit your post, (cards only please). Until Thursday 15th, cards can also be posted at any BIBS shop, or at the Scout HQ in Grove Street. In this way, you will be helping Scouts from all over the City to carry out their promise to 'Help Other People.' May we thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Sylvia Ayers and Frank Twissell

A Friend



In Deed

The Christ Church Friends in Deed scheme is designed to provide a network of good neighbours, called Area Wardens. These Area Wardens have volunteered to do the neighbourly things we used to do for each other when we lived closer together. When the need arises, they are prepared on request to:

- make friendship visits or telephone calls
- do shopping at times of illness or infirmity
- offer or find sources of advice
- handle occasional non-specialist odd jobs

All areas in which church members live are covered by the Friends in Deed scheme. If you need or know of someone else who needs help, you should in the first instance contact the Friends in Deed Co-ordinators, Jane Fletcher (01225 463758) and Yvonne Morris (01225 425555). They will then get in touch with the Area Warden best able to provide the help that is needed.



Grand Christmas Trivia Quiz

Answers next month!



1. What is the biggest-selling Christmas single of all time?
2. Name the three reindeer whose names begin with a "D"
3. What is the name of the little girl in most versions of the Nutcracker?
4. In the film, on what street did a Christmas Miracle occur?
5. What gift does Caspar bring?
6. Who wrote "The Night Before Christmas"?
7. In "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," why is the Grinch so mean?
8. Who kept time with the Little Drummer Boy?
9. What song does a caroller sing outside Scrooge's office?
10. How many pipers piping?
11. Name the 10th century Bohemian Duke immortalised in a carol
12. Who banned Christmas in 1647?
13. In which Eastern European country did St Nicholas live?
14. How long does it take to defrost a 15lb turkey in the fridge?
15. "The boys of the NYPD choir were singing" which song?



Prayer Cycle for December

- Thur 1** For the departed who have shared their earthly pilgrimage with us
- Fri 2** For our clergy team, Antony, Cliff and Sandy
- Sat 3** For those moving house or looking for a new home, that God's peace will touch them at this stressful time
- Sun 4** For children who care for their parents, either due to illness or old age; for families everywhere
- Mon 5** For couples formalising their Civil Partnership
- Tue 6** For couples experiencing difficulties in their relationship. For the work of Relate
- Wed 7** For those who are lonely or feel uncared for
- Thur 8** For all doing voluntary service overseas
- Fri 9** For the homeless; for the work of Julian House and Genesis
- Sat 10** For the work of Churches Together in Bath; for Sylvia and Chris, our CTB representatives
- Sun 11** For our children and young people and for our Junior Church leaders, that God will bless them in their time together
- Mon 12** For those suffering from depression, and for those who love them; that they will find the strength to seek the help which they need.
- Tue 13** We pray for the University Chaplaincy Centre, for Angela the University Chaplain, and for all the chaplains
- Wed 14** For those whose Christmas stress-levels are increasing
- Thur 15** For Sarah Hiscock who draws up the Laity Rota. For all our readers, chalice assistants, intercessors and sidespeople
- Fri 16** For our Local Ministry Group
- Sat 17** For Nicky, our Magazine Editor
- Sun 18** For Mark, David, Mike and the choir. We thank God for the gift of music and its role in our worship
- Mon 19** We pray for the week ahead, and think especially of those who are unhappy or frustrated in their work.

- Tue 20** For Cyril, Mark and Tom our Readers; for Sarah's ministry at Batheaston
- Wed 21** For children being bullied at school. For parents who worry about them and do not know how to help
- Thur 22** For Angela and Chris, our Churchwardens, and for Frank and Yvonne, our Deputy Churchwardens
- Fri 23** For those who use our roads; for all who are travelling
- Sat 24** For all those who will be unable to attend Church over the Christmas period, that they may know the blessings of the season
- Sun 25** Jesus is born today! O come, let us adore him
- Mon 26** For those who work behind the scenes to assure the smooth running of our church
- Tue 27** For those whose Christmas has been a disappointment in any way
- Wed 28** For intelligent interfaith dialogue; for all those affected by acts of terrorism
- Thur 29** For our hospitals, nursing homes and local surgeries
- Fri 30** For all clergy spouses; for Tessa, Margaret and Chris
- Sat 31** Let us thank God for the blessings of the month and the year now ending

January 2006

- Sun 1** We dedicate ourselves to God in this New Year and offer him all of our hopes and fears
- Mon 2** For all people who are uncertain about their future
- Tue 3** For the Trustees of Christ Church, and Yvonne, their Chairman
- Wed 4** For all who are coming to terms with the death of a loved one; for those who are bearing a grief which they cannot share
- Thur 5** For those facing redundancy, for those who are unemployed
- Fri 6** For the work of the Mission to Seafarers
- Sat 7** For David, our Treasurer
- Sun 8** On this feast of the Epiphany, we pray that God's message may shine through us

Big Questions, Little Answers

This month's subject is Jane Kirkbride, our Christmas Fair Organiser

Where were you born? Altrincham, Cheshire

What are your hobbies?

Organising the Christmas Fair and walking with our dog Baggins.

What car do you drive?

The last one on the drive.

What is your favourite film, and why?

Ryan's Daughter. Very haunting with the most amazing scenery and brilliant performance by John Mills

What is your favourite kind of music?

No particular favourite although there are some types which I do not enjoy

What is your favourite kind of meal / food?

Well cooked – The Firehouse is my favourite restaurant in Bath

What has been your proudest moment?

As I am still adjusting to the last of our children leaving home, I would have to say the achievements of all 3 of our children this year.

What is the most amazing place you have visited?

The Mawddach Estuary in Wales – it is beautiful and this year we found a new view of the estuary whilst on a walk on the most glorious early October day – stunning

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

I probably wouldn't as it might shatter any illusion about them.

What's your pet hate?

People saying 'we have no.....'

What's your favourite book?

Jane Eyre

Tell us a little-known fact about yourself

My first school report at age 5 suggested that I was very slow at everything especially dressing myself – I sometimes wonder if much has changed.

WHO'S WHO?

OFFICIATING MINISTER

The Rev Antony Claridge, 62 Cranwells Park, Weston, BA1 2YE Tel: 427462

ASSISTANT CLERGY

The Rev Cliff Burrows, Stonecroft, Entry Hill Drive, BA2 5NL. Tel: 334743

The Rev Sandy Munday, 18 Chestnut Walk, Saltford, BS31 3BG. Tel 342740

READERS

Mark Elliott, 32 Charlcombe Lane, Larkhall, BA1 6NS. Tel: 445360

Cyril Selmes, 10 Daffords Buildings, Larkhall, BA1 6SG. Tel: 420039

Tom Slade, 42 Rockcliffe Road, Bathwick, BA2 6QE. Tel: 465864

CHURCHWARDENS

Chris Gladstone, 5 Westwoods, Box Road, Bath BA1 7QE Tel: 859969

Angela Soboslay, 285 Newbridge Road, BA1 3HN. Tel: 333297

HON SECRETARY

Nicky Gladstone, 5 Westwoods, Box Road, Bath BA1 7QE Tel: 859969

HON TREASURER

David Marles, 5 Westwoods, Box Road, Bath BA1 7QE Tel: 859969

CHAIRMAN of the TRUSTEES

Yvonne Morris, 3 Summerhill Road, Sion Hill, BA1 2UP. Tel: 425555

DIRECTOR of MUSIC

Mark Elliott (see above)

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BATH

Sylvia Ayers, 5 Forester Avenue, Bath BA2 6QD. Tel: 463976

CHRISTIAN AID/CHILDRENS' SOC

Jenny Wright, Ground Floor Flat, 3 Lansdown Lane, BA1 4LS. Tel:465331

JUNIOR CHURCH

Emma Elliott, 32 Charlcombe Lane, Larkhall, BA1 6NS. Tel: 445360

BOOKINGS AND CALENDAR

Sylvia Ayers (see above)

USPG & MISSIONARY COMMITTEE

Adrian Pegg, 68 London Road West, Bath BA1 7DA. Tel: 858809

MOTHERS UNION BRANCH DEANERY

Margaret Burrows, Stonecroft, Entry Hill Drive, BA2 5NL. Tel: 334743

SECRETARY / TREASURER

Sylvia Ayers (see above)

MISSIONS TO SEAFARERS

Sylvia Ayers (see above)

ORGANIST

David Wrigley, 3 Haydon Gate, Radstock, BA3 3RB. Tel: 01761 439355

MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTOR

Cyril Selmes, 10 Daffords Buildings, Larkhall BA1 6SG. Tel: 420039

LAITY ROTAS

Sarah Hiscock, 1 Julier House, Pera Road, BA1 5PA. Tel:

CHRIST CHURCH, JULIAN ROAD

DIOCESE OF BATH AND WELLS IN THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

PAST HISTORY

Christ Church was built at the end of the 18th Century by the socially concerned clergy and lay people for those excluded from worship by the system of pew rents. It was probably the first church of that time to provide seating free of charge. Early supporters included the Archbishops of Canterbury and York; the great evangelical campaigner against slavery, William Wilberforce; Philip Pusey, the father of E B Pusey; and Martin Stafford Smith, the godfather of John Keble, who were both founders of the Oxford Movement. The building was designed by the famous Bath architect John Palmer, who was responsible for the completion of the Great Pump Room, Lansdown Crescent and St Swithin's, the parish church of Walcot. In November 1998, the congregation, friends and well-wishers from all over the world celebrated the bicentenary.

MINISTRY

Christ Church is unusual in not being a parish church. Much of the vitality of its life and worship derives from the fact that the congregation comes from all areas of the city and the surrounding districts. Whilst there is no full-time paid vicar, there is a non-stipendiary priest-in-charge, who leads a ministerial team of ordained and lay people. Worship at Christ Church largely reflects the traditions of those responsible for its foundation and the rich diversity of the Church of England as a whole. Thus, preaching and Bible-based teaching is firmly set within a liturgical setting which is best described as liberal and catholic.

SERVICES

The 8am Holy Communion is either Book of Common Prayer (1662) or Common Worship. At 10am the Eucharist is celebrated according to Common Worship. On the first Sunday of each month, there is a full Choral Evensong. A Junior Church and a Crèche cater for the children and young people who attend the 10am service. We hold special all-age services once a month and at festivals such as Easter, Christmas, Mothering Sunday and Harvest.

There are a variety of mid-week activities including Holy Communion at 11am every Wednesday during Lent, followed by lunch). The notice board and the weekly notice sheet provide details of discussion and prayer groups which are held at different times throughout the year. An all-age choir, which rehearses on Friday evenings maintains the much-admired music tradition at Christ Church.

CHURCH COMMUNICATIONS

Published on the first Sunday of every month, Christ Church Challenge brings news of the church locally, in the Diocese, and throughout the world. Our website is constantly updated and can be found at www.christchurchbath.org

The Editor would be so very grateful if contributors were to submit articles by the 15th of the month preceding the publication date. God bless us, every one.