



A Happy and a Holy Christmas to all!



Christ Church Link

December 2013 ● New series Number 20 ● 50p where sold

Let your light shine

The lanterns are repaired, restored and blessed

On the feast of Christ the King, Sunday 24 November, we not only celebrated our patronal festival together with our friends from St Stephen's Lansdown and St Mary's Charlcombe at our 10am service. We also welcomed Bishop Peter Maurice, Bishop of Taunton, who was our celebrant and afterwards blessed our newly repaired lanterns outside.

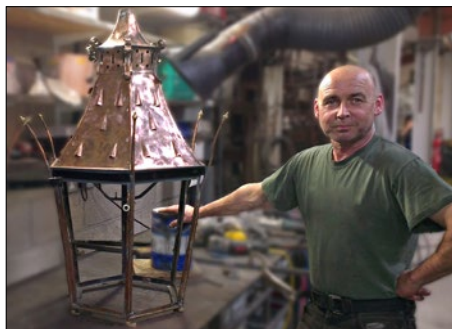
The repairs had been made possible by bequests given in loving memory of Frank Twissell and Audrey and Geoffrey Sheppard, all of whom had a long association with Christ Church. Stonework repair was carried out by Minerva Stone and metalwork by Ironart.

A remarkable piece of history came to light in the course of the repairs: when Ironart took off the thick layers of paint on the metalwork, they discovered that one of the lanterns had two bullet holes in it. These were 7.62mm in diameter,

matching the machine-guns used by the Luftwaffe in the Second World War.

The Julian Road area was very badly affected in the Bath Blitz of April 1942, but we don't have records of any other damage to Christ Church. It would be astonishing if this were the only damage that Christ Church suffered. A possible explanation is that the lanterns actually hung elsewhere at the time and came here only later. They certainly aren't here in photos taken around 1890.

The lanterns themselves don't shed any further light on this mystery, but they'll once again light the entrance to Christ Church and welcome visitors, especially to the ever-popular evening services for Advent and Christmas.



Above: Martin of Ironart with one of the lanterns, repaired but not yet repainted. Right: Bishop Peter delivers the blessing. (Or was it a consecration?)



Open Christmas

Margaret Heath writes:

Open Christmas is run by Churches Together in Bath. People who would otherwise be on their own are offered a warm welcome, a traditional Christmas lunch and entertainment on Christmas Day, all free of charge.

Volunteers collect them by car; my late husband did this and found that some guests had forgotten it was Christmas. Kingswood School, on Lansdown Road, lends its dining hall and kitchen and other facilities. A professional cooks the turkeys but volunteers prepare sprouts and so on; there is quite a camaraderie on the 24th! Then on the day volunteers serve and clear. This seems more popular than sitting at the head of a long table making sure everyone is having a good time. One year two of my family did this plus our houseguest. Feedback was, his table was the jolliest of all. My son William went at I think 11:30 and got back around 5:30 gasping, "Mum, I think I need a brandy!"

The guests are a mix. If you know anyone who would appreciate a free lunch, do ring Brian Drew on 07879 826879. Alternatively if you could help on the 24th, 25th or 26th (clearing up), please visit www.bathchurches.org.uk/openchristmas.htm

This year the loose collection at Christ Church for the three Sundays in December before Christmas – that is, money in the plate but not in gift aid envelopes on Sunday 1st, 8th and 15th December – will go to Open Christmas. Please give generously.



Mission to Seafarers

Sylvia M. Ayers writes:



For seafarers, who often have to spend the Festive Season far away from their homes and families, Christmas will be just another day at sea. This year we are asking you to make a difference to their lives by donating a Mission Gift as a virtual Christmas present for a seafarer. On the shelf at the back of the church, there is a pile of leaflets entitled "Gifts of Christmas" which gives more details of this worthwhile system. Please take a sheet home with you now, and give what you can to make the life of a lonely seafarer that much more bearable. An order form is included, so all you have to do, is read, sign and post it.

If you would like to do still more to help, please read on...

As we get ever nearer to Christmas, you cannot fail to notice all the extra cards and potential presents in the shops: you probably buy quite a few yourselves to send to family and friends. Then of course, you will expect to receive a much increased post through your door, 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 throwing them away, please take a moment or two to carefully cut off the stamps, leaving at least a half inch border all round, and bundle these up for the Mission to Seafarers.

You can then leave your stamps in the "A" pigeonhole in church, where they will be gratefully received by yours truly. I will send them off to the Mission in London, where they are sold to raise much needed funds. All sorts of picture stamps are welcome, including any foreign issues which may come your way, but unfortunately I cannot accept the ordinary First and Second Class red and blue stamps, as the Mission is not able to sell them. I look forward to receiving your parcels, and I do most sincerely thank those regular, if often anonymous, contributors to this cause who continue to give me their bundles throughout the year.

Recently baptised at Christ Church



George Carey, former Archbishop of Canterbury, warned in November that the Church “is on the brink of extinction”. Not if the Christ Church family continues to grow like this! Top left and above: Hardy Francis Lyons Brinkworth was baptised on Sunday 3 November. Top right and right: Marcus Iain Cade was baptised on Sunday 17 November. Congratulations and welcome, both!

Coming events

- Sunday 8 December: Advent Carol Service 6:30pm. A contemplative mix of choral music, hymns and readings exploring the beauty and mystery of this season of expectation.
- Sunday 22nd: Christmas Carol Service 6:30pm. A joyful celebration of the coming of Jesus into our world, with choral music, carols, readings and poetry.
- Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24th: The Christmas Story 4pm. For families and children. 11:30pm, Midnight Mass, the traditional celebration of

the first Eucharist of Christmas.

- Christmas Day, Wednesday 25 December: 8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer). 10am Family Eucharist (bring your favourite toy so far!).

Other events in the month ahead include the Norland College Carol Service, Friday 13th at 10am, a Bath Camerata concert on Saturday 21st at 7:30pm, and more Toppings books events. See the weekly notice sheet or visit our website for more information.

Bath Foodbank appeal



Families on the borderline, trying to make ends meet, can be severely thrown by a sudden demand on their resources and find themselves without funds to buy food. That's where Foodbank can step in to help, and Foodbank needs your support.

People may be referred to Foodbank by social and health services, Citizens Advice Bureau or other advice agencies and charities. The kinds of crises that lead to referrals are: benefit delays, benefit changes, debt, low income, illness, domestic abuse, delayed wages.

Bath Foodbank, run by Genesis Trust, will supply vouchers that can be exchanged for non-perishable supplies to tide clients over a crisis. The list of items is carefully drawn up to provide a nutritionally-balanced food parcel to last three days. There is a limit of three issues of vouchers to any one applicant; after that, clients are referred to the social services.

Demand for Foodbank vouchers in Bath has risen threefold in the past year, with almost 400 people being

fed by Foodbank in April this year, matching the previous peak in November 2012, and the need is likely to grow rather than shrink. Foodbank is struggling to keep up supply, so our donations, particularly at this time of year, are urgently sought.

Most wanted are: longlife milk, long-life juice, sugar, tinned meat products, instant mash, sponge pudding, rice pudding, tinned fruit, chocolate and sweet treats.

Also needed: tinned vegetables, tinned tomatoes, tinned fish, cereal, tea/coffee, pasta sauces, pasta/rice, biscuits, feminine hygiene products/deodorants, tinned/packet soups and baked beans.

There's now a collection basket at the back of the church. Donations of cash are also welcome, to help defray costs such as warehousing, admin and transport, and Christ Church Council has voted to include Foodbank on the list of charities we'll support by means of retiring collections – see below. We're also asked to remember Foodbank and its clients in our prayers.

Supporting charities and good causes

As a charity, Christ Church is prohibited from giving money to other charities. (It's just one more consequence of not being a "normal" church!) This makes it tricky to put our faith into practice and support good causes in a practical way. We can, however, pass on funds received for a specific cause in the first place, not simply given to Christ Church. So Council

has drafted a list of charities we want to support, and proposes a retiring collection on the second Sunday of each month for a specified charity from the list. There's a mix of local, national and international causes, from Julian House and the Women's Refuge to Help for Heroes and the Prince's Trust, to Water Aid and UNICEF. Watch for full details soon!

Mothers' Union news

**Margaret Burrows and
Sylvia Ayers write:**

Once again we would like to thank the Christ Church congregation very much indeed for their extremely generous response to the Mothers' Union annual appeal for gifts for the Bath Women's Refuge. It was wonderful to get such a splendid response, with over 100 items given by those of us who have plenty, so from that abundance, we can give to those who have very little.

As you will be aware, most of these ladies arrive at the Refuge House with their children, bringing only what they could quickly pick up during their often hurried and stressful departures from their homes. They are all very grateful for anything that we can give them, and the realisation that we do care gives them the confidence to carry on, to try to make the best of things, and to regain their self-respect. Esther, the Hostess, is very appreciative of the little we do for them, and has sent us a lovely "Thank You" letter, which I have put on our Noticeboard, so once again thank you, everyone, for your help.

It was lovely to have Angela back at the altar once again for the November Corporate Communion, and we do hope that she enjoyed her well-deserved break. However, as several people arrived late because of problems with the Bath traffic, we have asked Angela if it would be possible to return to the previous 11am start, when more people would be able to attend. Our next monthly Corporate Communion will still be in the Lady Chapel on Wednesday 4 December, but hopefully at the later time, and will be followed by coffee as usual. The Branch would like to extend our best wishes to the whole congregation for a very Happy Christmas and a successful and enjoyable New Year.

Christmas starts with Christ

The *Christmas starts with Christ* campaign kicks off on 1 December and runs up to Christmas Day, with a national advertising programme using posters and radio ads. As the Bishop of Taunton, the Rt Revd Peter Maurice, says: "The *Christmas Starts with Christ* campaign is an invitation to the Church to put Christ and the wonderful story of his birth at the heart of the nation's favourite time of the year. The story of the birth of Jesus is where it begins for Christians.

"Up and down the country, the star which lights the stable reminds us of the light of love and compassion that churches seek to bring into their communities throughout the year, and it is important that we don't forget 'the reason for the season.' Our purpose is to continue to tell the story because it reveals a God who chose, out of sheer love, to make his home with humanity, offering hope and promise even into its darkest corners."

One way that the campaign hopes to get the Christmas story out is the Real Advent Calendar. Behind each of its windows is a line of the Christmas story and a Fairtrade chocolate star. Behind the final window is a 24-page Christmas storybook. The Real Advent Calendar costs £3.99 (part of which goes to The Children's Society). It will be available from most Tesco stores, or through Traidcraft stalls. You can also arrange for home delivery by calling 0845 330 8900 or online at www.realadvent.co.uk/shop



Diocesan Message for December

The Unbelievable Truth



**From The Venerable
Andy Piggott,
Archdeacon of Bath**

I enjoy listening to the radio when I'm travelling around the archdeaconry. On Sunday mornings as I drive home from parishes, I usually turn to Radio 4 to enjoy *Just a Minute*, *I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue* or one of the other comedy shows that form the staple diet of this pre-prandial broadcasting slot. Unless of course *Test Match Special* is on!

In recent years a new programme has appeared, *The Unbelievable Truth*. Panel members give a short lecture on a given topic and the aim is to "smuggle truths" past fellow panellists, who in turn have to "spot" truth-telling from falsehood. The mini lecture can be very amusing but, apart from five "truths", is entire fabrication.

I've been thinking about truth-telling in the last week or so. The news has been dominated by coverage of a court case and a Parliamentary enquiry in which at the heart is the question, "who is telling the truth?" Were three policemen telling lies about a former Cabinet Minister? Was Rebekah Brooks aware of what was going on within the organisation for which she held key responsibility?

How good are we at truth-telling? Would you dare tell someone you love that their hair looks awful or give an honest answer to the question most



husbands dread, "Does my bum look big in this?"

More seriously, are we tempted to collude when others hide from the painful truth that the one they love is terminally ill? When we've been hurt deeply by someone we love, do we say we're fine, or tell them the truth?

What is truth?

- John tells us in his Gospel that Jesus is the **true** light (1:9).
- He came from the Father, **full of grace and truth** (1:13).
- Later he records the words of Jesus himself, "I am the Way, the **Truth** and the Life" (14:6)
- And "For this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. **Everyone on the side of truth listens to me**" (18:37).

In Jesus Christ, God's truth is

embodied and personified. Jesus makes real for us the truth of God's love and commitment to everyone. His whole life was lived seeking to reveal God's love for us and for all people.

As the season of Advent begins, I'm challenged by Jesus, who is the Truth, to live truthfully. I reckon myself to be on the side of truth, so I resolve to live with utter integrity. I want to avoid telling the bald truth without love, and I want never to manipulate the truth by exaggeration or telling only that part of a story that reflects well on me. As

Jesus came into the world to testify to the truth, I too want to commit myself in all that I am to living a life which speaks of God's love in Christ for me. And to that end I pray the Spirit will fill me with the same grace and truth Jesus showed to all he met.

And as we naturally begin to turn our eyes to our celebrations of Christ's first coming, I'm humbled and in awe again of the truth that in this baby, the truth of who God is was truly revealed.

Unbelievable? It's the truth.

Archdeacon Andy Piggott

Bishop's message for November

(This message was meant for publication in November but did not reach us, apparently because of e-mail problems.)

**From the Right Revd Peter Maurice,
Bishop of Taunton**

As many of you will know, this period in the Church's year between All Saints and Advent is known as "The Kingdom Season", and it invites us to reflect on what we believe the church is for.

You will have your own views, but at the heart of my response to that question as I look forward to Advent and Christmas is my continuing belief in a God who chose to come and make his home among us.

In other words the church is called to be a sign of the God who has come to earth to dwell with his people. Our purpose as a church is not only to make better the lives of individuals, but through them to enable local communities to flourish as well. It is only when a community flourishes that the individuals who live there can live well, which

is why the church is right to be so concerned at the levels of increasing poverty and debt that we are witnessing across the country.

"Seek the welfare of the city", God told the exiled Jews through the mouth of the prophet Jeremiah, because in its welfare you will find your welfare. On a recent visit to the Halcon Estate in Taunton that is what I witnessed. The church at the heart of one of the most deprived parts of our diocese working in partnership with the school, the police, social services and other willing partners to enable the community to flourish – the Kingdom of God at work!

For all its weaknesses and foibles the church is still populated by Christian people who quietly go about the business of being Christians in their workplaces and communities, transforming them by their patience, kindness and generosity often over long periods of time. May God give us grace to continue to give evidence of the Kingdom by seeking the welfare of the communities in which we are set.

+Peter Taunton

Supporting the United Society

Find out about the organisation formerly known as USPG

Christ Church has supported the United Society, formerly USPG, for several decades. We are delighted to welcome to our 10am service on 8th December Heather Skull, US's Outreach and Engagement Officer, to tell us of her first hand experiences following a recent visit to Zimbabwe.

We've all been shocked by graphic images of the recent devastation in the Philippines (where US also works) and it's timely to be reminded that we are all part of a common humanity, and as Christians, part of the worldwide Church. So it's good to have this link with US, to learn more about the experiences of Christians in other countries and to support them both by giving and by our prayers.

US changed their name a year ago. Previously known as United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, they realised that this name was not connecting with people in the 21st century. They state: "Our new name is rooted in the gospel. It is a reminder that God's love is for all of us – Jesus' promise of a full life is for every person in every community. We are all part of 'us', regardless of faith, ethnicity, gender or sexuality. We are all made in God's creative image. There is room for us all."

US has been working for over 300 years, sharing God's love through action in Brazil, Asia and many African countries. They aim to support the development of local skills and the empowerment of communities, leading to change from within, rather than giving handouts. While their programme



partners are predominantly Anglican, they work ecumenically and with other faith communities for the benefit of all people, regardless of ethnicity, gender or sexuality. Their aim is to fulfil Christ's words "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full". (John 10:10)

At the moment we don't make a regular financial contribution to US, but our recent Harvest retiring collection went to them. There are some little collection boxes at the back of the church, along with some of their literature (look out for the bright pink logo shown above), and I would like to encourage you to take a collecting box for any odd change that may be weighing down your purses and wallets – it all adds up! They also have a good website for finding out more: www.weareus.org.uk

I am now the link person for US at Christ Church, following Adrian Pegg's long service in this role, and would be happy to help with any queries or to receive your full collecting boxes.

Rebekah Cunningham

#Christmameans twitter campaign

On Christmas Eve, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby (@ABCJustin and @lambethpalace), and the Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu (@johnsentamu) will be using the hashtag #Christmameans in order to spread the message of the real meaning of Christmas.

On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, congregations and clergy in the 12,000 parishes of the Church of England are being encouraged to get out their mobile devices and finish the sentence: Christmas means... to let as many people as possible know the joy and meaning of Christmas to the 10 million people who make up the UK's 'Twitterati' and further across the world.

#Christmameans follows on from last year's successful #ChristmasstartswithChrist campaign which reached more than 9 million people in 24 hours. During a 12 hour period from mid-

night on Christmas eve through to lunchtime on Christmas day over 9,000 tweets were sent using the hashtag.

"We are delighted that #christmameans gives us this opportunity for parishes to take the good news of the first Christmas beyond churches and into people's lives and homes," says the Revd Arun Arora (@RevArun), Director of Communications at the Archbishops' Council. "Whilst for some people Christmas means the John Lewis Advert, the Harrods window or crippling debt, around the country on Christmas Day #Christmameans hymns, cribs, nativity and most of all joy"

The hashtag #Christmameans goes live on Christmas Eve. Tweets can be expected from carol, crib and midnight services, before carrying on into Christmas morning services.

Archbishop speaks at Church Urban Fund conference

Archbishop Justin has said that Christians cannot escape participating in politics because seeking justice and the common good are 'absolutely central' to their faith.

In a keynote address to the Church Urban Fund's 'Tackling Poverty Together Conference', the Archbishop said that for Christians, loving our neighbour places 'responsibilities' upon us.

'We don't speak about common good and justice because we think we have some automatic right to be heard,' he said, 'but because loving our neighbour places responsibilities upon us. We have responsibilities to speak,

even when it might be easier to stay quiet, to point to injustice and to challenge others to join us in righting it.

The Archbishop praised the Church Urban Fund (cuf.org.uk) for its 'focus on delivering projects through local partnerships, [which] cuts through one of the great political challenges of the present day – how one actually makes a difference on the ground'.

More at: www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/articles.php/5181/seeking-justice-is-absolutely-central-to-christian-faith-says-archbishop

Church ministry playing vital role in every community

Ministry stats for 2012, published by the Research and Statistics Division of the Archbishops' Council, show a change in patterns of ministry over the past 10 years with numbers remaining largely constant. The overall number of diocesan licensed clergy declined by 1% in the decade between 2002 and 2012. The number of full-time stipendiary clergy was 7,798 in 2012, a fall of 2% since 2011.

They now represent 69% of all licensed clergy compared to 80% in 2002. Over the

same period the number of self-supporting ministers increased by 50% from 2,091 in 2002 to 3,148.

The number of ordinations has remained broadly stable since 2002. In 2012 22% of recommended candidates were under the age of 30, compared to 15% in both 2002 and 2007. This reflects a focus in the dioceses on encouraging vocations among younger people.

The statistics can be viewed at:
bit.ly/17xAqDP

Archbishop of York Visits Egypt

The Archbishop of York has spent five days visiting the Diocese of Egypt with North Africa and the Horn of Africa.

Bishop Mouneer Anis invited the Archbishop to preach at the services for the 75th Anniversary of All Saints Cathedral, Cairo during November. All Saints Cathedral is the mother church of the Diocese and is located at

the centre of a city of 26 million people, in Zamalek.

Speaking about his visit the Archbishop said: "All Saints Cathedral is an amazing place, and the prayers for the 75th anniversary celebrations gave such a great sense of the Holy Spirit moving in the Diocese."

More at: www.archbishopofyork.org/articles.php/2993/archbishop-of-yorks-visit-to-egypt

News in Brief

Daily Media Digest

The Daily Media Digest is a multi-media service rounding up daily news in the national press relating to the Church. The weekday emails are available via a signup form, and is available online on the Church of England website's media centre and on the [@c_of_e](https://twitter.com/c_of_e) twitter page each morning.

To sign up for daily emails, please complete the form found here: eepurl.com/DI95D

Interviews from @c_of_e

The Archdeacon to the Army, Peter Eagles talks about Remembrance in the Garden of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey.

bit.ly/19JXIKX

Female representatives to House of Bishops

The final result from the elections for female representatives to attend the House of Bishops have been announced. The Rev Libby Lane, Dean of Women in Ministry, Chester Diocese, has been appointed as representative for the NW region.

The full list of representatives can be found at:
bit.ly/1crdJE5

Revd Ron Lancaster, Vicar and owner of Kimbolton Fireworks, talks about combining making fireworks with his role as a vicar:

bit.ly/16G3KLg

Christ Church calendar Dec. 2013

Dec	1	Sun	<i>Advent Sunday</i> 4:30pm Choral Evensong
	3	Tue	11:30am Wives' Holy Communion and bring-and-share lunch
	4	Wed	11am Mothers' Union Holy Communion, followed by coffee
	6	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am-1:30pm
	8	Sun	<i>Second Sunday of Advent</i> 8am Holy Communion (BCP) 6:30pm Advent Carol Service
	13	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am-1:30pm
	15	Sun	<i>Third Sunday of Advent</i> 8am Holy Communion (BCP) Christ Church rostered to assist at Genesis Sunday Centre
	20	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am-1:30pm
	22	Sun	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> 8am Holy Communion (BCP) 6:30pm Christmas Carol Service
	24	Tue	<i>Christmas Eve</i> 4pm The Christmas Story for families and children 11:30pm Midnight Mass
	25	Wed	<i>Christmas Day</i> 8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10am Family Eucharist
	26	Thu	<i>Stephen, the first martyr</i>
	27	Fri	<i>John, apostle and evangelist</i> Cedar Tree café, 11am-1:30pm
	28	Sat	<i>The Holy Innocents</i>
	29	Sun	<i>First Sunday of Christmas</i>
Jan	1	Wed	<i>New Year's Day / Naming and Circumcision of Jesus</i>
	3	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am-1:30pm
	5	Sun	<i>Epiphany</i> 4:30pm Choral Evensong

Got something you want to let everyone know about? Pop a note in the "Magazine Editor" pigeonhole at the back of church or send an e-mail with all the details to magazine@christchurchbath.org. For the weekly notice sheet, e-mail notices@christchurchbath.org

Prayer Cycle for December 2013

Sunday	1	For our diocese of Bath and Wells
Monday	2	For those who work in local government
Tuesday	3	For peace
Wednesday	4	For Bible scholars and theologians
Thursday	5	For the work of Genesis
Friday	6	For those finding it hard to earn a living
Saturday	7	For our neighbours at St. Mary's Catholic Church
Sunday	8	For Angela our priest-in-charge
Monday	9	For those who work in financial services
Tuesday	10	We give thanks for family and friends
Wednesday	11	For countries recovering from storms and flooding
Thursday	12	For our Church Council
Friday	13	For those who use food banks in Bath and elsewhere
Saturday	14	That we may be open to encounters with God
Sunday	15	For our Junior Church
Monday	16	For farmers
Tuesday	17	For those who mourn
Wednesday	18	For Sylvia and the Mothers' Union
Thursday	19	For vocations to the ministry
Friday	20	For those in slavery and bonded labour
Saturday	21	For the work of Julian House
Sunday	22	For the appointment of a new organist at Christ Church
Monday	23	For those who work in medicine

Tuesday	24	That we may have the gift of patience
Wednesday	25	Thanksgiving for the Incarnation
Thursday	26	For Ned and all clergy spouses
Friday	27	For the lonely and depressed
Saturday	28	For children and their families
Sunday	29	For all who produce written materials for Christ Church
Monday	30	For those who work in the transport industry
Tuesday	31	We give thanks for the blessings of the past year

Long-term Prayer List

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

Kay Clark
 Rachel Sillett
 June Metcalfe
 May Palmer
 Cyril Selmes

Ken Austwick
 Marjorie Nicholson
 Rowena Hall
 David Ough

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 let the Verger or one of the Churchwardens know.

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

Rotas for December 2013

Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
1 Dec Advent Sunday	Jane Fletcher Isaiah 2:1-5	Andrew Sillett Romans 13:11-14	Richard Gabe Matthew 24:36-44
8 Dec Advent 2	Bob Siderfin Isaiah 11:1-10	Daphne Radenhurst Romans 15:4-13	Malcolm Wall Matthew 3:1-12
15 Dec Advent 3	Judith Bishop Isaiah 35:1-10	Penny Edwards James 5:7-10	Margaret Heath Matthew 11:2-11
22 Dec Advent 4	Sylvia Ayers Isaiah 7:10-16	Rebekah Cunningham Romans 1:1-7	Virginia Knight Matthew 1:18-25
29 Dec 1st Sunday of Xmas	Alex Soboslay Isaiah 63:7-9	(No reading)	Mark Elliott Matthew 2:13-23
5 Jan Epiphany	Georgina Bowman Isaiah 60:1-6	June Matthews Ephesians 3:1-12	Rowena Hall Matthew 2:1-12

Laitly rota, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Chalice assistants	Sidespeople	Intercessions
1 Dec	David Rawlings, Keri Chivers	Ken Ayers, Sylvia Ayers	Canon Angela Townshend
8 Dec	Brenda Wall, Janet Mahto	Margaret Silver, Iain Barrowman	Canon Angela Townshend
15 Dec	Lewis Boyd	Jane Nicholson, Andrew Sillett	Mark Elliott
22 Dec	Bob Siderfin, Keri Chivers	Margaret Heath, Morny Davison	Georgina Bowman
29 Dec	Andrew Sillett	Ken Ayers, Sylvia Ayers	Penny Edwards
5 Jan	Jane Fletcher	Morny Davison, Janet Mahto	Sarah Jones

Who's who at Christ Church

Who to contact, and how – those vital contact details

Priest-in-charge Canon Angela Townshend
01225 464194
angela.townshend@christchurchbath.org

Supporting clergy Revd Cliff Burrows
Preb Angela Berners-Wilson
Canon Melvyn Matthews

**Reader,
Chair of Trustees,
Director of Music** Mark Elliott
01225 445360
mark.elliott@christchurchbath.org

**Churchwarden,
Council Treasurer** Malcolm Wall
01225 864933
malcolm.wall@christchurchbath.org

**Churchwarden,
Christ Church Link editor** Alex Soboslay
07769 655927
alexs@christchurchbath.org
magazine@christchurchbath.org

Verger Angela Soboslay
01225 333297
angela.soboslay@christchurchbath.org

Lay Chair of Church Council David Rawlings

Secretary to Church Council Brenda Wall
01225 864933

Treasurer David Bishop
01225 869409
david.bishop@christchurchbath.org

**Safeguarding officer,
Home Group leader** Lewis Boyd
07739 989639
lewis.boyd@christchurchbath.org

Organist *Position Vacant!*

**Concert bookings,
Weekly notice sheet** Judith Bishop
01225 869409
concerts@christchurchbath.org
notices@christchurchbath.org

**Pastoral care coordinator,
Cedar Tree café** Keri Chivers
01225 421265
keri.chivers@christchurchbath.org

Publicity coordinators Matthew & Sarah Jones
01225 443284
sarah.jones@christchurchbath.org

**Junior Church,
Laity rotas** Sarah Cade

Prayer cycle Virginia Knight

**United Society,
Traidcraft stall** Rebekah Cunningham

Mothers' Union Margaret Burrows
01225 334743
Sylvia Ayers
01225 463976

Churches Together in Bath Sylvia Ayers
Margaret Heath
01225 428272

Mission to Seafarers Sylvia Ayers

Deanery Synod Reps Morny Davison
Andrew Sillett
Brenda Wall

**Chairs of Committees
& Working Groups**
Liturgy Canon Angela Townshend
Buildings Bob Siderfin
Outreach Andrew Sillett
Hospitality Angela Soboslay



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, the Archbishop of Canterbury; William Wilberforce, the great evangelical and campaigner against slavery; and Martin Stafford Smith, godfather of John Keble, a founder of the Oxford Movement.

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 normal 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. There is the option of separate activities for children in Junior Church groups during our 10am Sunday service.

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. New singers of all ages are always welcome. Our ecumenical Home Group provides a space for exploration and discussion of faith in an open and non-judgemental setting.

Regular Sunday services

- 8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
On the second and fourth Sunday of every month
- 10am Sung Eucharist with Junior Church activities for children and young people
Every Sunday
- 4:30pm Choral Evensong
Usually the first Sunday of every month, but see website or notice board for details

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



Contacting us

Christ Church,
Julian Road,
Bath BA1 2RH
Telephone: 01225 338869
(answer phone)
Email: admin@christchurchbath.org
Website: www.christchurchbath.org

