



Bells and beyond

Bell restoration approved; more works being considered now

In October we mounted an exhibition in the Lower Mews to explain the plans to restore the bells at Christ Church. This was publicised in the *Bath Chronicle* in print and on the web, by means of flyers distributed with *Bath Life* magazine and delivered locally, and by displaying a great big banner over the church door.

The primary aim was to consult with our near neighbours and canvas their views. It's fair to say that the number of visitors was modest, but the responses received were overwhelmingly in favour (33 out of 35 questionnaires returned).

Of the positive responses, however, six could be described as conditional. The two concerns mentioned were that the sound of the bells must be kept at a reasonable level, and that the cost of the project must not prevent other necessary works from happening. Both these questions are addressed in the proposal (as explained in *Christ Church Link* number 18 last October), but these were also the grounds on which the two negative responses objected to the plan.

After detailed analysis of all the responses and much discussion, both Christ Church Council and Trustees have voted to approve the restoration proposal, on the understanding that it is fully funded from outside sources and includes measures to reduce the level of sound produced by the bells.

The next step is to apply for a Faculty (the Church of England equivalent of planning permission) and, assuming this is successful, fundraising can then begin in earnest.

Meanwhile, our Buildings Working Group is considering other work to the west end, such as the provision of fully accessible toilets, a more disabled-friendly entrance, and renovation of the porch, possibly including glass doors in place of the inner "windbreak" doors.

A proposed programme of works will be considered by Church Council at its meeting on Tuesday 7 January. As ever, your views are vital to ensure that any works and changes reflect the wishes of the whole Christ Church community. Please don't hesitate to make your opinions known, ideally in writing: if you wish, you can e-mail Canon Angela, one of the Churchwardens or a member of the Buildings Working Group – see page 11 for the relevant contact details.



Around half of the people who visited the bells restoration exhibition heard about it from the banner displayed on the church.

Meet the new Bishop of Bath & Wells

Care for the countryside, the young and the most vulnerable

The next Bishop of Bath and Wells was announced on 10 December 2013. He is Rt Revd Peter Hancock, who is currently Bishop of Basingstoke in the Diocese of Winchester, a role he has held since September 2010.

Bishop Peter said in a statement released by the Diocese: "I am delighted to be coming to Bath and Wells – it's a wonderful part of the country. It will be a great privilege to meet all who live and work here in Somerset, to hear people's stories and to discover all that God is doing in their lives.

"The mission of the diocese is 'Changing Lives, Changing Churches for Changing Communities'. The good news of Jesus is life-changing and I look forward to seeing the lives of individuals and communities continuing to be transformed by his grace and his love."

Before becoming a bishop, Bishop Peter served two curacies before serving as a parish priest for 13 years in the Diocese of Portsmouth. Later he became Archdeacon of the Meon, a position he held for 11 years.

Bishop Peter is familiar with life in rural, coastal counties after spending much of his ministry on the south coast of England. He has never lived far from the sea and describes the countryside as "a real passion". He can regularly be found out walking his two Golden Retrievers.

Bishop Peter's love of the countryside translates into a strong interest in rural and environmental issues. This, alongside encouraging children and young people and supporting the homeless and most vulnerable in society, forms what Bishop Peter describes as the "three threads" of his ministry.

On the day his appointment was announced, Bishop Peter made a short tour of the Diocese, with stops reflecting



Bishop Peter Hancock and his wife, Jane.

these three threads. The first was Prockter's Farm outside Taunton to meet the owners of the family-run farm and hear of their successes as well as the challenges they face. Next stop was St Paul's Church in Weston-super-Mare to meet church leaders who offer a number of outreach services to individuals in the community.

After this, Bishop Peter went to Marksbury to visit school children in rehearsal for their nativity play. Finally he visited the Lifeline Centre in Bath, a drop-in centre offering advice and support for the homeless, ex-homeless and vulnerably housed.

The new Bishop Peter will be formally enthroned at Wells Cathedral in 2014. He will work at the Bishop's Palace in Wells alongside the Bishop of Taunton.

However, the Church Commissioners announced at the start of December that the Bishop of Bath and Wells will no longer to live in the Bishop's Palace. Andrew Brown, Secretary to the Church Commissioners, said: "The decision to move the bishop's home will mean he can live in more privacy as the Palace and gardens will remain open to the public. We are currently looking at an alternative residence near to Wells."

World Leprosy Day, 26 January 2014

The apostle John tells us that Jesus came so that we may have “fullness of life” (John 10: 10). Throughout the gospels we hear of Jesus’s concern for the poor and the oppressed. It is following Jesus’s example that The Leprosy Mission works to not only treat people with leprosy, but take an holistic approach to their life, helping to lift them from poverty.

Leprosy is a mildly infectious disease associated with poverty. It is easily cured with a course of antibiotics, yet millions of lives are destroyed by its devastating consequences. Leprosy starts by damaging the small nerves on the skin’s surface, resulting in a loss of sensation. Without the gift of pain, everyday activities are fraught with danger. Unnoticed burns and ulcers can lead to permanent disability. Due to the inability to detect grit in the eye, blindness is a common consequence of leprosy.

Leprosy-affected people face a triple blow of disease, disability and discrimination. Due to disabilities incurred as a result of the late treatment of the disease and age-old stigma surrounding leprosy, earning a living often seems an impossible dream. Without a helping hand these people, so loved by God, can be reduced to begging in order to survive.

The good news is that, thanks to your generosity, The Leprosy Mission can offer



Gilberto from Mozambique, diagnosed with leprosy, was given medication to cure him.

people affected by leprosy gifts of reconstructive surgery, sight-saving eye surgery, housing, a fresh water supply, schooling for their children, job training and help to start a business. In other words, everything needed to restore their dignity and enable them to be self-sufficient.

On Sunday 26 January – World Leprosy Day 2014 – please pray for the three million people globally with irreversible disabilities as a result of the late treatment of leprosy. And, if you can, please give a gift of hope so that The Leprosy Mission, an international Christian charity with almost 140 years of experience, can continue its life-changing work in 11 countries across Asia and Africa.

For more information ring 01733 370505 or visit www.worldleprosyday.org.uk

Mothers’ Union news

Margaret Burrows writes:

I should like to thank warmly our Priest Angela and Chrissy for their wholehearted support of our sale of mince pies, teas and coffees at the annual Christmas Market. We had many interesting conversations with customers from as far afield as Northern Ireland and Wales. The profits will help to support free distribution of the student cookbook which has been published for the last 10 years and is warmly received by students.

The modern MU welcomes men as well as women and that was apparent at a meeting we held on transgender issues.

The work of the MU extends worldwide. It is particularly active in Africa, which is currently in the news, and the hardships of the people are apparent. This involvement is enormously appreciated and is made possible through the modest annual membership fee, which is currently £18. It would be encouraging if we could double our membership so that Christ Church can increase its involvement in this work.

I hope that many of you will want to support the work of MU. For current members, may I remind them that their fee is now due, and I hope that we will have the pleasure of welcoming more members.

Thanks from Bath Foodbank



Bath Foodbank has sent a warm thank-you for the first basket-full of donated food from Christ Church, which was collected before Christmas, in good time to meet the demand which always rises at this time of year. The need, however, is ongoing, and donations left in the collection basket at the back of the church will be collected every month (or sooner if it fills up more quickly).

Bath Foodbank, operated by Genesis Trust, aims to deliver help to people who find themselves without funds to buy food. 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 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.

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

Please leave whatever you can in the 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 Foodbank will be included on the list of charities we'll support by means of retiring collections from time to time.

We've also been asked to remember Foodbank and its clients in our prayers, particularly in the course of Poverty and Homelessness Action Week, which begins on 25 January.



Our Foodbank collection basket.

Bishop's Message for January

This year is the newest year there is

**From The Rt Revd Peter Maurice,
Bishop of Taunton**

“This year is the newest year there is,” writes the preacher, “but it won’t be new always, and that’s worth thinking about. So pay attention to what’s going on this newest year, no matter how humdrum and unimportant it may seem. Keep your eyes and ears open, because new as today always seems while you’re living it, in a few years from now it will exist only in your memories of it, and in a few centuries it will have vanished like a dream.”

It does seem as if we struggle to live, and I mean *really* live, in the present. I am reminded of that truth when I listen to a particular take on the Innkeeper in the stories around the birth of Jesus. “Later that night,” says the Innkeeper, “when the baby came, I was not there. I was lost in a forest of a million trees, preoccupied with this and that, so that when he came, I missed him.”

At the year’s end, we are naturally inclined to look back. As someone has remarked, “we do the past rather well” (perhaps rather too well!), so as I sing Auld Lang Syne on New Year’s Eve, I always remember some of the major events of my year, both the good and the not so good. I hope that under God I might have the grace to acknowledge with a degree of honesty where I might have fallen short, but I also look forward in hope to what God might have in store for me, because our God is a God of promise. You will have your own memories too of how last year was, some of them sad and some joyful, but, as the preacher says, this year is the newest year there is, so I must not dwell too much on the past but rather turn my attention as I hope you will turn yours to how we will live this year in



Bishop Peter at Christ Church in November 2013.

such a way that when God comes, we will not miss Him.

This year will be marked by continuing economic pressure, particularly on the poor, so for a significant number of people in this country and county the prospects of the New Year will be bleak. In different parts of the world conflict and poverty will continue to blight the lives of millions of people. It is easy to lose hope, but we are invited, dare I say obliged, to be people who both live by hope and also partner others in building communities of hope in our families, our communities, our churches and our world.

In the Diocese we will look forward to the arrival of our new Bishop, another Peter! He is not a Messiah Bishop, but he is a bishop with a deep concern to grow the faith, to engage with community, to encourage the young and to have a special concern for those on the edge as I saw first hand as I travelled with him around the Diocese on the day of his announcement. Please pray for him and for Jane as they prepare to come to live and minister among us.

This year is the newest year there is. May the God who calls time into being be upon us at this time of New Year and empower us to live our time in faithfulness to the Gospel now and always.

Poverty & Homelessness Action Week

Standing alongside people in crisis

Poverty & Homelessness Action Week has been running each year since 2008. It brings together two special Sundays which have been marked in UK churches for many years: Homelessness Sunday and Poverty Action Sunday.

The Week aims to:

- raise awareness of the issues of poverty and homelessness in the UK;
- raise funds for projects and campaigns which work to tackle poverty and homelessness;
- involve people in campaign actions that tackle the causes of poverty and homelessness.

Action Week is jointly organised by Church Action on Poverty, Housing Justice and Scottish Churches Housing Action. It is sponsored and supported by many other organisations.

This year we have turned to Proverbs for inspiration: “Speak up for the rights of all who are destitute”.

There are people who are destitute in today’s Britain. The phenomenal growth of foodbanks has happened not because there is “infinite demand for free food,” as Lord Freud put it last July – but because thousands of people have recognised something needs to be in place to fill gaps left by our creaking benefits system. Without them, families are starving.

Low wages, zero-hours contracts, outrageous interest charges by doorstep lenders, benefits cuts, benefits delays, “sanctions” on job-seekers – all these and more contribute to a Britain where many are locked out of what the rest take for granted.

And there are plenty who are not destitute, but teetering on the edge. “Just two pay-packets away from homelessness” is how many feel.

So from Homelessness Sunday on 26 January to Poverty Action Sunday on 2 February, we call on churches across the UK to stand alongside people in crisis: to give, act and pray for justice.

In the Old Testament, we see an emphasis on social duties and community obligations: the periodic jubilee under which property debts were wiped out; the importance of supporting the widow and her children, of providing for the stranger and the refugee. In the New Testament, Jesus demonstrates grace in the stories of the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son.

These biblical approaches are a world away from the current fixation with driving a wedge between the poor and the comfortable in our land. Action Week is one opportunity for churches to stand together and speak up for people in poverty.

The poster features a black header with the text 'poverty & homelessness action week' in white and yellow, followed by 'Standing with people in crisis – give, act, pray' and '25 January – 2 February 2014'. Below this is a grid of four colored squares: top-left (red) with a flame icon and 'Church Action on Poverty'; top-right (blue) with a house icon and 'Scottish Churches Housing Action'; bottom-left (yellow) with the text 'Speak up for the rights of all who are destitute' and 'Proverbs 31:8'; bottom-right (teal) with a hand icon and 'Housing Justice'. At the bottom is a black bar with 'www.actionweek.org.uk' and 'Action Week includes Homelessness Sunday and Poverty Action Sunday'.

Christ Church calendar January 2014

Jan 1 Wed *New Year's Day / Naming and Circumcision of Jesus*
11am Mothers' Union Holy Communion, followed by coffee

3 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

5 Sun *Epiphany*
4:30pm Choral Evensong

7 Tue 7:30pm Christ Church Council meeting

10 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

12 Sun *Baptism of Christ*
8am Holy Communion (BCP)

17 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

18 Sat Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins

19 Sun *Second Sunday of Epiphany*

24 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

25 Sat Poverty & Homelessness Action Week begins

26 Sun *Conversion of St Paul*
8am Holy Communion (BCP)

31 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

Feb 2 Sun *The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)*
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 January 2014

Wednesday	1	For all carers
Thursday	2	For good relations between different faiths
Friday	3	For the homeless
Saturday	4	We give thanks for artists, poets and musicians
Sunday	5	For Peter our new Bishop designate
Monday	6	For those who work in social services
Tuesday	7	For our link dioceses in Zambia
Wednesday	8	For those who live and work in the streets around Christ Church
Thursday	9	For countries experiencing civil unrest
Friday	10	For Keri and the Cedar Tree
Saturday	11	For our own personal witness
Sunday	12	For Angela our Verger
Monday	13	For scientists and engineers
Tuesday	14	For those who have suffered from terrorism
Wednesday	15	For the appointment of a new organist at Christ Church
Thursday	16	For those at school
Friday	17	For the sick and suffering
Saturday	18	For those preparing for marriage or recently married
Sunday	19	For Alex and Malcolm our churchwardens
Monday	20	We give thanks for our blessings
Tuesday	21	For the local Deanery Synod
Wednesday	22	For adoptive and foster families
Thursday	23	For our Home Group

Friday	24	For those who are unable to keep warm
Saturday	25	For countries affected by the economic downturn
Sunday	26	For all clergy taking services at Christ Church
Monday	27	For journalists and those who work in the media
Tuesday	28	For victims of natural disasters
Wednesday	29	For our flower arrangers and those who look after the church
Thursday	30	That we may have the gift of kindness
Friday	31	For those who face tragedy

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
 Louise Taylor
 Edna Ferris
 Ali Ferris
 Harold Holmes
 Sue Paul & family

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 January 2014

Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
5 Jan Epiphany	Georgina Bowman Isaiah 60:1-6	June Matthews Ephesians 3:1-12	Rowena Hall Matthew 2:1-12
12 Jan Baptism of Christ	Margaret Burrows Isaiah 42:1-9	Andrew Sillett Acts 10:34-43	Martin Palmer Matthew 3:13-17
19 Jan Epiphany 2	Emma Elliott Isaiah 49:1-7	Jane Fletcher 1 Corinthians 1:1-9	Morny Davison John 1:29-42
26 Jan Conversion of Paul	Daphne Radenhurst Acts 9:1-22	Rosanne Gabe Galatians 1:11-16a	Janet Mahto Matthew 19:27-30
2 Feb Candle- mas	Penny Edwards Malachi 3:1-5	Malcolm Wall Hebrews 2:14-18	David Bishop Luke 2:22-40

Laitry rota, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Chalice assistants	Sidespeople	Intercessions
5 Jan	Jane Fletcher	Morny Davison, Janet Mahto	Sarah Jones
12 Jan	Keri Chivers, Bob Siderfin	Ken Ayers, Sylvia Ayers	Revd Cliff Burrows
19 Jan	June Matthews	Margaret Heath, Jane Nicholson	Mark Elliott
26 Jan	Janet Mahto	Rowena Hall, Margaret Silver	Penny Edwards
2 Feb	Lewis Boyd	Iain Barrowman, Andrew Sillett	Martin Palmer

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

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Director of Music** Mark Elliott
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**Churchwarden,
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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
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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 Morný 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 very 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)
<i>On the second and fourth Sunday of every month</i> |
| 10am | Sung Eucharist with Junior Church activities for children and young people
<i>Every Sunday</i> |
| 4:30pm | Choral Evensong
<i>Usually the first Sunday of every month, but see website or notice board for details</i> |

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



Contacting us

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(answer phone)
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