



Turning to the future

From the priest-in-charge...

Revd Lore Chumbley writes:

By 27 December, the third day of Christmas, any remaining Christmas decorations and kitsch gifts had been squashed onto a single shelf in the supermarket. In their place was the new seasonal product – Cadbury’s Creme Eggs!

You can’t fault the theology. As Christmas ends, our thoughts turn to the great feast of Easter. At Christ Church we will keep our crib figures on display until Candlemas, the feast of the Presentation in the Temple, on 2 February. That feast reminds us that for the Jews each first-born son belonged to God and had to be redeemed by sacrifice. But Jesus taught that God is God of the living, not of the dead (Mark 12: 27). There is no more need for sacrifice – except of praise and thanksgiving (Psalm 50:14) – and we will celebrate that at the great feast of the resurrection on Easter day.

Looking towards our Lent and Easter preparations, we will be joined for Holy Week by Brother Marc Voase, an Anglican monk from the Community of the Resurrection in Mirfield, Yorkshire, who is also currently studying for a degree in theology at the University of Sheffield. Marc will join our Holy Week services and will also be available to talk about vocation to the religious life, the ups and downs of living in community; and his own faith story. While Mirfield is renowned as a centre for High Anglican churchmanship, Marc’s churchmanship is, in his own words,

“middle to low”. He will be making a preliminary visit to Bath on the weekend of 22-23 February and will be in Christ Church on Sunday 23 February, so there will be a chance to meet him then before his arrival on Palm Sunday.

We are also privileged to welcome Biblical scholar, Methodist preacher and inspirational teacher Dr Margaret Barker, who has accepted an invitation to inaugurate our Lent observances. She will join us on Saturday 29 February for a one-day course on “Easter Day in John’s Gospel” with a particular emphasis on the significance of Mary Magdalene. There will be a small charge for the course which will cover the cost of lunch. We will open the day to the rest of the Diocese, so sign up early to ensure your place.

So as we go into 2020, there is plenty to keep us learning and growing. Happy New Year!



This magnificent, colourful quilt is to be raffled to raise funds for our reordering. Watch for details of how to get tickets soon!

Meet Owen

Hello! I'm Owen Pembrey. I'm going to be on a placement at Christ Church for two weeks in January, as part of me exploring a call to ordained ministry.

So that you know a bit more about me: I grew up in the wonderful Forest of Dean, as part of a Christian family, and moved to Bath nine years ago to study for a degree in mathematics. Since then I've spent some time working for my church (St Bart's in Oldfield Park), got married to Rebecca, completed a PhD (in maths again!), developed a love of gardening, and grown more amazed at Jesus' love for me at the cross!

Recently I've been discerning whether God is calling me to ordained ministry, and so I'm visiting Christ Church to see what life is like here – it's different to life at St Bart's! I'm looking forward to getting stuck in with things here, and meeting new people – please come and say hello! I'd love to hear about what God's doing in your life, and what you love most about Jesus!

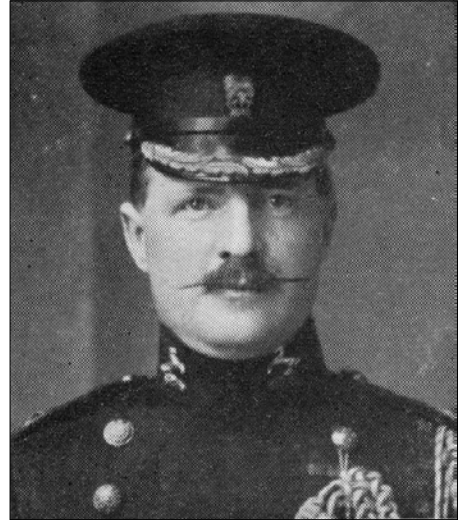


Owen will be joining us for two weeks from Monday 6 January. Do say hello to him!

Seeking descendants

Do you know anyone related to either of the following, whose memorials will be affected by the planned work at the east end of the church? Please put them in touch with Lore.

- William Stirling Bannatyne, Lieut-Col, 1st Battalion the King's (Liverpool) Regiment, killed in action near Ypres 24 October 1914.
- Innes Moore (1887–1968).



Lieut-Col William Stirling Bannatyne. Photo © IWM (HU 113288)

Magi and Epiphany Tea

Jewish Astronomers? Persian Philosophers? Magicians? Princes? On Sunday 5 January at 2:15pm in the Lower Mews, Lore will deliver an illustrated talk by Margaret Barker on “Legends and Traditions of the Magi” accompanied by an Epiphany tea. Donations, if wished, to Open Doors charity.



Pilgrim Group

The Christ Church Pilgrim Group meets every fortnight. It is a combination of reading group, Bible study and home group. Last term we read and discussed Rowan Williams' short book *Being Disciples*. In 2020 we will take on a significant challenge, reading through the Gospel of John in the light of Mark's Gospel.

In the 19th century it was fairly common for scholars to believe that John's Gospel was written for readers who knew the synoptic Gospels. In the 20th century that belief was replaced with the view that the synoptics and John's Gospel were entirely independent. Richard Bauckham, retired professor of Biblical Studies at St Andrews, has recently restated and argued for the view that John's Gospel is intimately related to and dependent on Mark's.

The Pilgrim Group studied Mark's Gospel in 2018, so we feel it's time to take on the challenge: is Bauckham right? Is John's Gospel written with a knowledge of Mark's Gospel?

Our first meeting of term will be on Thursday 9 January at 7:30pm in the Lower Mews. Everybody is welcome!

Further meetings are on alternate Thursday evenings up to Thursday 2 April, then resume on Thursday 23 April. You can check the dates in the *Link* every month.

Other LMG services

These are the regular services at our Local Ministry Group sister churches:

Sundays

- 9am Eucharist, Charlcombe St Mary's
- 10:45am Choral Communion (1st and 3rd Sundays) or informal communion (2nd and 4th Sundays), St Stephen's Lansdown

Morning Prayer

- Monday 8:45am St Stephen's
- Tuesday 9am Charlcombe St Mary's
- Saturday 9:30am St Stephen's

Christian Meditation

- Wednesday 6:45–7:30pm, Charlcombe St Mary's

Meet Jessica



The newest member of the Christ Church family, Jessica Faye Wrigley, was born at 5:27am on Saturday 28 December, weighing 7lb 8oz. Congratulations to Jo and David and all their family!

Charities for 2020

As a registered charity, Christ Church cannot legally give money to any other causes than those specified in its governing document, and our Trust Deed of 1801 lays down very narrow aims. In order to enable us to give practical support to charities we want to help, Church Council decided in 2013 to establish a "Charity of the Month" scheme, under which money is collected for a specific nominated charity each month.

At its meeting on 26 November, Christ Church Council decided on the following charities for 2020:

- January: Bath City Farm
- February: USPG
- March: Bath Welcomes Refugees
- April: Open Doors
- May: USPG
- June: Project 28 Bath Children's Initiative
- July: Burlington House
- August: USPG
- September: Unseen
- October: Libra Women's Refuge
- November: USPG
- December: Genesis/Julian House

Coming events

Promenade Concert: Opus Anglicanum - Gregorian Chant Reinvented

What is it? The immersive sounds of ancient Gregorian chant are the centrepiece of this remarkable new collaboration between Opus Anglicanum and pianist Jason Rebello. A seamless interweaving of meditative plainchant, solo piano, and the combination of the two, this concert blurs the boundaries between classical music and improvisation, creating an atmosphere which is both calming and spiritual. You are free to wander the nave during the performance. The Promenade Concerts are performances of glorious music during which the audience is encouraged to move through the open space of Wells Cathedral, cleared of all chairs, and experience the sound worlds of this extraordinary building.

When is it? Friday 24 January, 7pm

Where? Wells Cathedral, Wells BA5 2UE

Tickets £20 from the Wells Cathedral Shop Box Office (01749 672773), at the door, or online at <http://bit.ly/opus-plainchant>. Early booking is advised.



Opus Anglicanum is a quintet of unaccompanied male singers. Coincidentally, we welcomed Opus Anglicanum's music director Roland Robertson (second from left in the photo), a former Organ Scholar at Wells, as a visiting organist at Christ Church last month.

Everyday Faith

The Church of England has launched a series of reflections and prayers highlighting the value of everyday work, from putting a load in the washing machine to answering e-mails.

The Everyday Faith campaign aims to help people live out their Christian faith wherever they may be, emphasising how much even the smallest and most routine aspects of our working lives – both paid and unpaid – matter to God and make a difference to others.

The three-week programme starting on 12 January will offer a daily Bible reading, a book of reflections, and prayers on the themes of love, faith and hope from authors including the Bishop of Gloucester, Rachel Treweek.

The reflections highlight how the Christian faith has inspired and supported people in their working lives, telling the stories of people including a London Underground worker, a teacher, a hairdresser, a plumber, a nurse, police officers and a retired couple.

Launched on Plough Sunday, the traditional start of the agricultural year, when many Christian communities ask for a blessing on human labour, the campaign will make use of an app, social media posts and animations.

Bishop Rachel said: "Living and sharing a Jesus-shaped life, that's what everyday faith is all about. It's being with people in the places where they are, places of pain and struggle as well as places of ease and joy."

Everyday Faith is part of the CofE's Setting God's People Free programme, aimed at encouraging people to live out their faith in their Monday to Saturday lives, in workplaces, gyms, shops, clubs and on the school run.

Find out more or sign up to receive the campaign emails at www.churchofengland.org/everydayfaith.

everyday
faith

Bishop's Message for January

A rich journey



**From the Rt Revd Ruth Worsley,
Bishop of Taunton**

*A cold coming we had of it,
Just the worst time of the year
For a journey, and such a long journey...*
– T.S. Eliot's "Journey of the Magi"

How many of us are making journeys over the turning of this new year? Perhaps it has been an opportunity to catch up with family or friends we haven't seen for a while. Perhaps, for some of us, it's been about fun and relaxation (although skiing doesn't appeal as either, for me!).

Perhaps some of those journeys have been disrupted by weather or illness. Or perhaps they've been punctuated by the plaintive cry, "Are we there yet?"

During winter months we are often seeing the journey as a "means to an end" rather than something of value in itself. However, travelling with others or meeting people on the way can make journeys so much richer.

On my windowsill at home sits a wooden cross with a shell attached. It's made from the stick my son used to walk the Camino de Santiago, one of the most popular of pilgrim paths in Europe. I'm not sure I have the legs to do it! Two of my sons have walked it from France to the coast of Spain, each on his own, but meeting strangers along the way who have become friends.

2020 is being marked by our Cathedrals as a year of pilgrimage. You will be hearing more from our Cathedral here in Wells as they invite us to share in pilgrimage with them. Journeying together gives opportunity for us to discover something new as we share in others' perspectives and experiences, not just our own. At this time of Epiphany we remember the journey of the wise men who travelled together to seek out something new. A star had appeared which indicated to them there was new learning to be had. And so they left the familiar and went to explore what was new.

So... what new thing might you wish to explore this year? Who might you travel with? And what might you do once you find it?

Wishing you a very special new year!

+Ruth Taunton

This month's charity: Bath City Farm

The loose collection in the plate on the second and fourth Sunday of the month – 12 and 26 January – will go to Bath City Farm. (Donations in collection envelopes will continue to go to Christ Church.)

Bath City Farm is a non-profit organisation providing education, training and therapeutic activities to disadvantaged people in the local community. Situated on a 37-acre plot between Twerton and Whiteway, the farm is a popular visitor attraction for families and children with a play park, animals, walking trails, farm shop and café. Admission is free.

“From the very beginning our mission has been to build a strong, healthy and caring community by engaging local

people with nature and farming. We exist to:

- Support disadvantaged and disabled people to develop new skills and confidence;
- Boost emotional, mental, physical and social well-being;
- Inspire environmental awareness and activity;
- Grow the number of people engaging in their community;
- Bring enjoyment to the public;
- Educate people about farming and where their food comes from.

“Our neighbourhood is within the 20% of most deprived areas in England. It also has the highest proportion of children living in poverty in the county. Evidence has shown that poverty can have long lasting effects on education, with a 28% gap by GCSEs between children receiving free school meals and their wealthier peers.

“We’ve grown from the handful of passionate volunteers who started Bath City Farm in 1990, to 12 members of part-time paid staff, a board of trustees, 100 animals and over 50 volunteers. In 2018 we welcomed 24,197 visitors, with 292 people accessing projects that improved emotional and physical well-being.

As a charity we rely on investments from private funders, donations, and revenue from our own commercial operations. Every penny from our education programmes, shop, café, meeting spaces and events is invested back into the farm.

Find out more at <http://bathcityfarm.org.uk>.



Bath City Farm is situated on a 37-acre plot between Twerton and Whiteway.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will take place this year from Saturday 18 to 25 January, the octave of St Peter and St Paul (although some churches choose to celebrate it around Pentecost).

This is an annual initiative whereby Christian communities throughout the world are invited to pray for one another and for greater Christian unity.

The theme for 2020 is “They showed an unusual kindness”, which finds its origins in Acts 27:18 – 28:10.

Resources, prepared by the Christian Churches in Malta and Gozo, are now available from the Churches Together in Britain and Ireland website, where you can also find out more about the initiative. <https://ctbi.org.uk/weekofprayer>

Christ Church calendar January 2020

1 Wed *New Year's Day / Naming and Circumcision of Jesus*

2 Thu 11am Eucharist, followed by coffee

3 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

5 Sun *The Epiphany*
Epiphany Tea & Talk 2:15pm

9 Thu 11am Eucharist, followed by coffee
Pilgrim Group meeting, 7:30pm

10 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

12 Sun *The Baptism of Christ / The First Sunday of Epiphany*
8am Holy Communion (BCP)

14 Tue Christ Church Council meeting, 7:30pm

16 Thu 11am Eucharist, followed by coffee

17 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

18 Sat *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins (ends Saturday 25th)*

19 Sun *The Second Sunday of Epiphany*
4:30pm Choral Evensong

23 Thu 11am Eucharist, followed by coffee
Pilgrim Group meeting, 7:30pm

24 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

25 Sat *The Conversion of Paul*

26 Sun *The Third Sunday of Epiphany*

30 Thu *Charles, King and Martyr, 1649*
11am Eucharist, followed by coffee

31 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

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

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 2020

Wednesday	1	For carers
Thursday	2	For those on holiday
Friday	3	For the homeless
Saturday	4	That we may hunger and thirst after righteousness
Sunday	5	For new members to be added to Christ Church
Monday	6	For our armed forces and police
Tuesday	7	For good relationships between different faiths
Wednesday	8	We give thanks for those who inspire us
Thursday	9	For our Local Ministry Group partners
Friday	10	For those who are unable to keep warm
Saturday	11	For countries in conflict
Sunday	12	For Mark our Lay Reader
Monday	13	For journalists and those who work in the media
Tuesday	14	For the Church Council, meeting tonight
Wednesday	15	For good use to be made of this prayer cycle
Thursday	16	For the chaplaincies at Bath's Universities
Friday	17	For those who have been forced to flee their homes
Saturday	18	For our bell-ringing team
Sunday	19	For our Archbishop, bishops and clergy
Monday	20	For those who work in financial services
Tuesday	21	For our charity of the month
Wednesday	22	For prisoners and prison workers

Thursday	23	We give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy
Friday	24	For the lonely and depressed
Saturday	25	For Christian unity
Sunday	26	For our Junior Church
Monday	27	For our government and politicians
Tuesday	28	That we may have the gift of patience
Wednesday	29	For all in hospital
Thursday	30	We give thanks for beauty in the world around us
Friday	31	For those who are persecuted for their faith

Long-term Prayer List

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

Joyce Fairburn
 Nick Johnson
 Hilary and Mary Faulkner
 Amber
 Sister Catherine
 Demelza King
 Zayad
 Joe Street
 Mrs Wright
 Gill
 Zareb

Fred Matthews
 Judith Rogers
 Nancy Kiddie
 Revd John Brown
 Harold Holmes
 Alan White
 Ian Muir
 Angela Morris
 Peter Bowes

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.

Rotas for January 2020

Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
5 Jan Epiphany	Mark Elliott Isaiah 60:1-6	Thomas Wolker-Darley Ephesians 3:1-12	Sylvia Ayers Matthew 2:1-12
12 Jan Epiphany 1	Greg Ridley Isaiah 42:1-9	Georgina Bowman Acts 10:34-43	Daphne Radenhurst Matthew 3:13-end
19 Jan Epiphany 2	Morny Davison Isaiah 49:1-7	Rebekah Cunningham 1 Corinthians 1:1-9	Virginia Knight John 1:29-42
26 Jan Epiphany 3	Charles Rice Isaiah 9:1-4	Lewis Boyd 1 Corinthians 1:10-18	Ian Hay Davison Matthew 4:12-23
2 Feb Candle- mas	Clive Tilling Malachi 3:1-5	Robin Kerr Hebrews 2:14-end	David Bishop Luke 2:22-40

Laitry rota, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Chalice assistants	Sidespeople	Intercessions
5 Jan	Janet Mahto, Angela Soboslay	Ken Ayers, Sylvia Ayers	Sarah Jones
12 Jan	David Rawlings, Keri Chivers	Jane Nicholson, Morny Davison	Ian Hay Davison
19 Jan	Clive Tilling, Angela Soboslay	Ken Ayers, Sylvia Ayers	Nick Wells
26 Jan	Keri Chivers, David Rawlings	Jane Nicholson, Janet Mahto	Rebekah Cunningham
2 Feb	Angela Soboslay, Janet Mahto	Morny Davison, TBC	Mark Elliott

Who's who at Christ Church

Priest-in-charge	Revd Lore Chumbley 07595 294146 lore.chumbley@me.com	Tower Captain, Ringing Master	Will Willans
Supporting clergy	Revd Canon Simon Tatton-Brown 01225 835404 simontb@christchurchbath.org	Tower Secretary	Ian Hay Davison 07932 160482 bells@christchurchbath.org
Reader, Director of Music	Mark Elliott 01225 445360 mark.elliott@christchurchbath.org	Steeple Keeper	David Kelly
Churchwarden, Safeguarding officer	Lewis Boyd 07739 989639 lewis.boyd@christchurchbath.org	Publicity co-ordinators	Janet Mahto Lewis Boyd
Churchwarden, Cedar Tree café organiser	Janet Mahto 01225 424860 janetmahto@gmail.com	Laity rotas	Judith Bishop
Verger	Angela Soboslay 01225 333297 angela.soboslay@christchurchbath.org	Prayer cycle	Virginia Knight
Chair of Trustees	Charles Rice 01225 332915 charles.rice@btopenworld.com	Junior Church	Emma Elliott
Treasurer	David Bishop 01225 869409 david.bishop@christchurchbath.org	Churches Together in Bath, USPG	Rebekah Cunningham
Christ Church Link editor	Alex Soboslay 07769 655927 alexs@christchurchbath.org	Traidcraft orders	Judith Bishop
Event/concert bookings, weekly notice sheet	Judith Bishop 01225 869409 concerts@christchurchbath.org notices@christchurchbath.org	Mission to Seafarers	Sylvia Ayers
		Deanery Synod Reps	Sarah Kerr Jane Nicholson Brenda Wall

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



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 Sunday and Thursday mornings, there are many other activities going on in our community. We have our own weekly community café every Friday. 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 Pilgrim 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 Sunday of every month

10am Sung Eucharist with Junior Church activities for children and young people

Every Sunday

4:30pm Choral Evensong

Usually on the third Sunday of every month, but see website or notice board for details

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



Contacting us

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(answer phone)

Email: admin@christchurchbath.org
Website: www.christchurchbath.org

