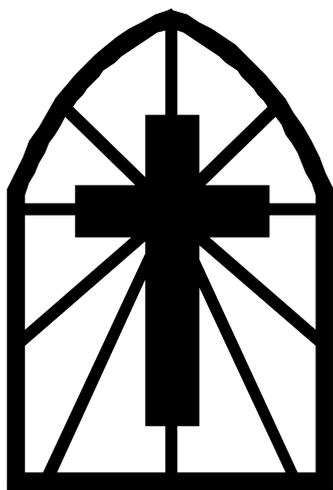


CHRIST
CHURCH
CHALLENGE



March 2004

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

MID-WEEK SERVICE

11.00am Thursday	Holy Communion
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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.

In the sense that the season of Lent is a journey towards the events of Holy Week and Easter, this edition of your Church magazine really does have a Lenten feel to it. Many of our articles contain important information about Holy Week, and this is so that sufficient notice has been given for all members of the congregation to feel able to participate fully in as many Holy Week and Easter services as possible. Turn to page 9 for full details.

Similarly, Roy Vince's Prayer Calendar (pp 16-17) reaches all the way to Easter Sunday, and it is even more thought-provoking than usual. Thank you to Roy who provides this focus for our prayers month by month.

Forum...



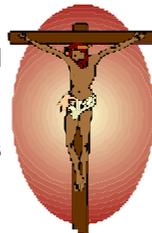
Audience statistics show that not many of my generation still visit the cinema. Pleased not to be part of a trend, I still enjoy going to the pictures (the use of which word tells you to which generation I belong). A video at home is no match for the full wide screen wrap-round sound experience of the modern cinema. Whilst not exactly a multiplex, the Little Theatre is a good place to see a film in Bath. On Tuesday mornings they have a Silver Screen presentation with the over-60s in mind. Whilst I have not turned up for this treat, I am told it is excellent value at £2.50 for a film with free tea and biscuits.



At the moment the media is full of articles and discussion about *The Passion of Christ* a new film directed by the Australian actor Mel Gibson. Inevitably, the letters columns of the newspapers are beginning to fill with letters from Disgusted of Tunbridge Wells and a host of other citizens of genteel watering places and cathedral cities. The authority with which they write is strange in view of the fact that the film has yet to be released in this country.

The portrayal of Jesus on the screen has always been open to debate. Many readers will remember Robert Powell's performance in the television series *Jesus of Nazareth*. He offered a Christ with mesmerizing deep blue eyes which some people found inspiring and others repugnant. And this is the problem. It is impossible to provide any image of Jesus in art which will not offend some and enlighten others.

For me, the most successful film about Jesus is Pasolini's 1964 film *The Gospel According to Matthew*. It has none of the false grandeur of the traditional historical epic. Using a neo-realist approach, Pasolini's focus is the immediate social significance of Christ's teaching. The film represents a unique collaboration between a Marxist director and the Catholic Church which contributed to the budget. It is remarkable, not only for the powerful truth of its message, but also for the gentle intensity of Enrique Irazoqui's Jesus. He rails against injustice and then works his miracles with a compassion that is not found in the more reverential Hollywood productions. The majority of the actors are amateurs, chosen by Pasolini for the ordinariness of their peasant features. And so you have rugged Calabrian faces photographed on location against the rocky harshness of their home landscape.





Reaction at the previews of Mel Gibson's film suggest that, on release, audiences will be divided and the film will ignite a fierce debate. In America, its alleged anti-Semitism has offended the Jewish community. Catholic response has been split between those who see in the portrayal of the crucifixion evidence of the true nature of Christ's sacrifice, and those disgusted by the violence.

Whilst out socially, I have been approached by people anxious know what I think about the film. So much so, that next time I emerge on to the cocktail circuit I shall wear a neat cardboard notice round my neck. It will say: "I have not seen Mel Gibson's film and until I have, I will not be making any comment". One thing I will say. We should be thankful that, whatever its merits or demerits, this film has set people talking about the meaning of the events which we shall be celebrating at Easter. Popular radio and television programmes have made the film the subject of discussion at peak viewing and listening time. This is yet more evidence of an intense interest in religious and spiritual matters at a time when numbers attending church are falling or, at best, static. Again we should ask ourselves the question: why are all those people with a yearning to come to terms with their spirituality not queuing at the doors of our churches? Are we not speaking? Are we speaking but using the wrong language? Are we just not where people are?

Antony

All the information you need:

On Passion Sunday, 28 March, everyone will be given a copy of a leaflet describing what will be happening at Christ Church during Holy Week and Easter. This leaflet will be widely distributed and the information will also appear in the local press and on a large poster at the front of the church. There are important words on the outer cover which say: *"This leaflet comes to you with best wishes from the congregation at Christ Church. Please join us for one or all of our services."*

These words have implications for all of us. The leaflet you receive is designed to be handed on to someone else. Your act of Easter witness will be to ensure that at least one other person knows that they are welcome to share Holy Week and Easter with us.

So that you have the same information for personal use advance notice is given of the dates and times of all events on page 9.

Church Calendar for March

Mar 3 Wed 11.00am Holy Communion - Rev Antony Claridge followed by Lent Lunch at St Mary's

7 Sun THE SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

6.30pm Choral Evensong

10 Wed 11.00am Holy Communion - Rev Antony Claridge followed by Lent Lunch at Christ Church

14 Sun THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

5.30pm Said Evening Prayer

17 Wed 11.00am Holy Communion, MU Corporate Communion - Rev Antony Claridge followed by Lent Lunch at St Mary's

19 Fri JOSEPH of NAZARETH

20 Sat 7.30pm Concert - Bath Baroque

21 Sun MOTHERING SUNDAY (FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT)

5.30pm Said Evening Prayer

24 Wed 11.00am Holy Communion - Rev Antony Claridge followed by Lent Lunch at Christ Church

25 Thurs THE ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LORD

27 Sat 7.30pm Concert - Canzona & Christ Church Choir

28 Sun THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT, AND BEGINNING OF PASSIONTIDE

5.30pm Said Evening Prayer

31 Wed JOHN DONNE, PRIEST AND POET 1631

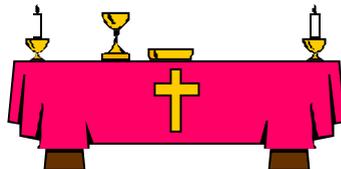
11.00am Holy Communion - Rev Antony Claridge Followed by Lent Lunch at St Mary's

Service Rota for March

	8 am	10 am	Evening
		Celebrant	Leader
		Preacher	
Mar	7 Rev Antony Claridge	Rev Cliff Burrows Rev Sandy Munday	Rev Antony Claridge
	14 Rev Antony Claridge	Rev Sandy Munday Dr Cyril Selmes	Rev Antony Claridge
	21 Rev Antony Claridge	Rev Antony Claridge Rev Antony Claridge	Rev Antony Claridge
	28 Rev Antony Claridge	Rev Antony Claridge Passion Reading	Rev Antony Claridge
April	4 Rev Antony Claridge	Rev Antony Claridge Rev Sandy Munday	Rev Antony Claridge

Midweek Services at 11.00 am

Mar	3 Rev Antony Claridge
	10 Rev Antony Claridge
	17 Rev Antony Claridge
	24 Rev Antony Claridge
	31 Rev Antony Claridge
Apr	7 Rev Antony Claridge



Laity Rota for March

Readers		OT Readers	NT Readers	Gospel
March	7	Mrs S Ayers	Mrs E Selmes	Mrs P Edwards
	14	Mrs E Elliott	Mr M Palmer	Mrs G Bowman
	21		Junior Church	
	28	Mr B Pont	Mrs N Gladstone	Mr C Graham
April	4	Mrs P Adelman		
	11	Miss S Hiscock	Mrs P Edwards	Miss J Fletcher

Chalice Assistants

March	7	Mrs M Burrows	Mr C Graham
	14	Rev S Munday	Dr C Selmes
	21	Miss J Fletcher	Mrs P Edwards
	28	Mrs J Metcalfe	Mr R Siderfin
April	4	Mrs M Burrows	Mr C Graham
	11	Rev S Munday	Dr C Selmes

Intercessors

March	7	Rev C Burrows
	14	Mr C Graham
	21	Junior Church
	28	Mr R Vince
April	4	Mr M Elliott
	11	Mrs P Edwards



Sidespeople		8am	10am	
March	7	Mr C Tilling	Mr & Mrs Metcalfe	
	14	Miss E Iden-Hart	Mrs C Tanner	Mrs A Charman
	21	Mr A Jones	Mrs T Claridge	Mrs J Ferguson
	28	Mrs D Twissell	Mr & Mrs Olney	
April	4	Mrs B Hayward	Mrs M Silver	Mr F Twissell
	11	Miss E Hewlett	Mr & Mrs Ayers	

Lectionary for March

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
Mar 7	The Second Sunday of Lent		
	Genesis 15.1-12, 17-18	Philippians 3.17-4.1	Luke 13.31-35
14	The Third Sunday of Lent		
	Isaiah 55.1-9	1 Corinthians 10.1-13	Luke 13.1-9
21	Mothering Sunday		
	Junior Church - Readings tba		
28	The Fifth Sunday of Lent		
	Isaiah 43.16-21	Philippians 3.4b-14	John 12.1-8
Apr 4	Palm Sunday		
	Isaiah 50.4-9a	No reading	The Passion: Luke

SITUATION VACANT!

The Bath Deanery Synod now meets at the All Saints Centre, Weston. We meet three times per year, and there are future meetings on 22nd June and 17th November this year.



There is currently a vacancy for a Deanery Synod representative (Christ Church has two reps). If you are interested, speak to Emma Elliott, who will be able to tell you more.

Something a little new...

On Holy Saturday, 10 April, a Vigil of Prayer will follow the usual Vigil Service. Teams of people will pray in church until 11 pm when there will be a celebration of the Eucharist.

HOLY WEEK

During Holy Week you are invited to join us on the pilgrimage of the cross, the destination of which is the celebration of Easter day. On each of the first three days there is a quiet reflective celebration of the Eucharist. Central to these said services is the Gospel of the day which describes each stage of Christ's journey to the cross. Each service will last no more than 45 minutes. This will provide a valuable opportunity to find inner space and quiet in a busy world. On Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, different forms of worship lead us into the Easter Vigil and Easter Day.

HOLY WEEK

† **Monday 5 April**

7.30 pm Holy Communion

† **Tuesday 6 April**

7.30 pm Holy Communion

† **Wednesday 7 April**

11.00 am Holy Communion, followed by lunch with St Mary's

7.30 pm Holy Communion

† **Maundy Thursday**

7.30 pm Holy Communion with Washing of Feet and Stripping of the Altar

† **Good Friday**

12 noon The Stations of the Cross

All are invited to follow the Way of the Cross.

1.00 pm Music and Meditations for Good Friday

2.00 pm An Hour at the Cross

† **Easter Eve**

7.30 pm The Easter Vigil with music and hymns

8.15 pm Prayer Vigil

11.30 pm Choral Eucharist

EASTER DAY

8.00 am Holy Communion - Book of Common Prayer (said)

10.00 am Sung Family Eucharist

(Plus the Great Christ Church Egg Hunt!)

6.00 pm Evening Prayer (said)

Christian Aid

"It is not the Kings and the Generals that make history, but the masses of the people."

Nelson Mandela

Even small actions, like signing a petition or sending off a letter can make a huge difference to the lives of the world's poorest people.

Christian Aid believes that it is essential to tackle the underlying causes of poverty. Many of the key decisions that affect poor countries and poor communities are made by politicians and business leaders in the rich world. These decisions can either create poverty or they can end it. We can all use our influence on these people to make sure that the perspective of the world's poorest people is heard.



Although essential, aid and development alone cannot tackle some of these structural causes of poverty - they require change at an international, government and business level. Christian Aid believes we can all help to bring about that change. And we know that campaigning works, because previous campaigns have delivered real change on issues like debt and fair trade.

Christian Aid is campaigning because everyone can do it. Every action we take, however small, can help make a real difference. Letters will be pre-printed and handed out with the notices once a month. Please write your address on the top then sign and print your name at the bottom and send off to make your voice heard.

Jenny Wright, Christian Aid Representative

DEANERY SYNOD LATEST: ‘Churches Inside Out’



At the most recent meeting of Deanery Synod, we were “Making sense of life” with Nick Cuthbert, a Leader of Riverside Church, Birmingham. He has been involved in mission and outreach for some years and gave us an enlightening presentation where he outlined his vision for the future of the church in this country. The traditional role of a Minister is to do just that, to minister to the people in the church. Nick’s vision, if we are to be effective as a church is to change the idea of a church leader into an empowering figure, to equip the people to go out and live and work as Christians in a secular society. He told a story of a Minister in a large town. The Minister was talking with a gentleman who enquired, where is your church? He replied, “I don’t know”. The gentleman, feeling it a little strange that a Minister did not know where his own church was, pressed the matter. The Minister informed him that Alan, a member of his congregation who was a nurse, was most likely at the hospital at the moment, and Robert, a bus driver, could be anywhere in an area of about 6 square miles of the city. Tony and Ann were road menders and were currently working in the City Centre. He went on to list many other members of the congregation and gave their likely whereabouts. His idea of Church was not buildings but people who have faith, and who live and work among many who have pushed Christ away.



Nick went on to focus on the Gathered Church, addressing what we do in church on Sunday, urging us to be inclusive, not exclusive. He once paid a complete non-churchgoer to come to church, sit at the back and write down all the parts of the service that were not understandable. He was amazed at how much of the service was highlighted, and it gave him a good starting point for improving the appeal of the church to visitors. His feeling is that the most important people in the church are those at the door when a newcomer arrives. These are the people who provide a friendly face and a warm welcome.

Finally, many individuals are seeking, but do not realise they are seeking Christ because they associate him with church, and all their pre-conceived ideas of church. We have to change that, by turning our church inside out and by going out into the community and loving the people we meet.



Emma Elliott

Agape by popular request



In response to many requests, the evening service on Maundy Thursday will be an agape. The Greek word "agape" means Love Feast and was used to describe the fellowship meal enjoyed by Christians in the very earliest days of the church.

Most scholars conclude that the Lord's Supper was originally eaten as a full meal. Donald Guthrie, in *The Lion Handbook of the Bible*, states that "in the early days the Lord's Supper took place in the course of a communal meal. All brought what food they could and it was shared together." Dr John Drane, in *The New Lion Encyclopedia*, commented that "Jesus instituted this common meal at Passover time, at the last supper shared with His disciples before His death . . . the Lord's Supper looks back to the death of Jesus, and it looks forward to the time when He will come back again.

Throughout the New Testament period the Lord's Supper was an actual meal shared in the homes of Christians. It was only much later that the Lord's Supper was moved to a special building. On Maundy Thursday, 8 April we shall, once again, recreate that early Christian experience. We shall sit down at a long table at the back of the church and enjoy a simple meal – soup and a main course. At various points readings and prayers will be introduced and the bread and wine of the Eucharist consecrated and shared. Finally, the desertion of Christ by his disciples is recalled and everyone leaves in silence.



In past years, many people found this an intensely moving experience and a deep and personal preparation for Good Friday and then the celebration of the Resurrection.

The Children's Society



Please take the time to read the leaflet about The Children's Society that you received with your magazine. It explains some of the difficulties faced by children and young people in desperate need and what the organisation does to help.

One of the simplest ways to raise money for The Children's Society is to keep a collecting box in your home to put all that loose change in. You can then hand your box in at church at the end of the year for the money to be counted and passed on for you. What could be easier?! If you do not already have a box and would like to help The Children's Society raise money for its valuable work then please contact Jenny Wright.

The Christ Church Away Day

St Valentine's Day found 26 people from Christ Church at the little conference



centre in the village of Chewton Keynsham. It was a lovely Spring-like day and the children in the party collected flowers and leaves in the sunshine. The complete age range of our congregation was represented and there was lots of good and lively discussion.

The focus of the day was what we should do in practical terms in response to the Archbishop's call to "Restore Hope in our Church". Cliff led the final session and, in his own inimitable way, prevented us from leaving until we had decided when the priorities we set should be acted on, how we should do it and who would do it. Look for full details of the action plan in the next edition of the magazine and be prepared to make a personal commitment to the way forward.

Antony away with the University



Antony was delighted to be invited by Bath University's Anglicans to lead part of their weekend retreat to mark the beginning of Lent. It was held at Legge House in Wroughton near Swindon.

Familiar student members of Christ Church's congregation were there – Anne, Sally Jane and Matthew – and Antony was made very welcome. Many readers will remember Beth Blakey, an enthusiastic and active member of Christ Church until she returned home after graduation. She came over from Reading for the weekend with the good news that she is starting a new job with an engineering consultancy in London.

Antony led two sessions on how the Old and New Testaments relate to each other. A prior commitment prevented his joining the mystery walk on the Saturday afternoon. "Chicken", they all cried.



OUR BIBLE CONSULTANT WRITES...

...about St. Luke's gospel. This may be a rather short commentary because I am almost lost for words. I admired the short and direct gospel of St. Mark; enjoyed the more detailed account by St. Matthew; but this gospel has now become my favourite synoptic. It's a long time since I read it as a whole and I'd forgotten how overwhelming it was as a story of Jesus' life and death. It has a continuity that the other gospels seem to lack and a style of language, even in translation, which seems to flow and draw you on to the next event. In spite of this, I did not find it easy to read. I think the denseness of the detail made it difficult to concentrate for long periods, but I would still recommend that you try to read this gospel in a regular way. I was amazed how many parts of it seemed to be new to me. We will never know what St. Luke missed out: it reads as if he wove together as many different strands of information as he could gather. All I feel I can do is to mention some of my favourite pieces and to recommend that you may find some of your own.

I liked the detail of the twin stories of Zachariah and Elizabeth, Joseph and Mary, as well as Simeon and Anna, who was over 100 years in age, but both bearing witness to Jesus. As in the other gospels I was impressed by the teaching, preaching and healing that Jesus and his disciples did throughout Judea. When St. Luke refers to multitudes and crowds of tens of thousands, one wonders if these can be true, but he also makes it clear that as soon as Jesus started on his mission there were widespread rumours about his teaching and healing that spread throughout the land - even Herod wanted to meet him! As is usual, too, the Scribes and the Pharisees seem to be critical of Jesus from the beginning, although this cannot be true of all of them as, at one stage, when Jesus nears Jerusalem, some Pharisees warn him that Herod wants to kill him.

Indeed, it is Pilate and Herod who seem to be prime movers in Jesus' death: St. Luke says they became firm friends as a result of their conviction of Jesus. There are many consistent themes throughout the gospel, many of which are familiar to us. For example, the emphasis on sin and repentance: the clear message that Jesus and His Father had come to save sinners, emphasising in many ways that the righteous did not need any help, only the sick needed a doctor! Similarly, repentance

was all that was needed: this leads immediately to God's forgiveness. There are, too, many suggestions about our expected behaviour. Prayer is needed and it must be intense, continuous and unselfish; unlike the Pharisee, but similar to the tax collector. If this prayer is persistent and consistent, then it will be answered, for every hair on our head is counted. And we have to learn how to forgive, not seven times, but seven times seven. Everyone becomes our neighbour and we are expected to be Good Samaritans to the best of our ability.

Finally, I also liked the version of the Lord's Prayer: "When you pray, say: 'Father, may your name be hallowed. May your kingdom come. Give us our sufficient bread day by day; and forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who is our debtor. And do not bring us into temptation.'"

Cyril Selmes

Mothers' Union News

First, may I thank everyone for your prompt response to my recent request for subscriptions. All monies have now been sent off, and a Branch receipt given to each member, as required by law.

In February we held our annual Wave of Prayer Service. Although we were few in number, this was still a very worthwhile afternoon for us, and we were able to pray especially for Joan Bunkin, who is suffering from a virus at the moment. Looking ahead, we have decided to hold our Overseas Bring and Buy with Coffee on Saturday April 17th, which is at the end of Easter week, and the Refuge Appeal will again be in October.

As a reminder, our "Teddies for Tragedies" appeal to send teddies in little bags to sick children in the third world or war-torn countries is still on-going. Patterns are available if you have lost yours or have never had one. If any knitter in the congregation is already engaged in this activity or intends to be as part of your Lenten observance then please let me know.

Our next meeting will be a Corporate Communion followed by a Lent Lunch at St Mary's on Wednesday March 17th. We hope that all members will be able to attend, and we look forward to seeing you there.

Sylvia M Ayers (MU Secretary)

Prayer Cycle until Easter Day

- Mon 1** For Tom and Cyril our Readers, and for Sarah's ministry at Batheaston
- Tue 2** For any so grievously handicapped that work is impossible.
- Wed 3** Any day will do for a new beginning. Why not today?
- Thur 4** For parishes coping with an interregnum
- Fri 5** For the work and witness of Churches Together in Bath
- Sat 6** For an end to violence in Iraq
- Sun 7** For our Clergy Team and their families
- Mon 8** For a re-think on our Lenten Disciplines
- Tue 9** For the work of CRUSE in caring for the bereaved
- Wed 10** For all who contribute to Christ Church Challenge, and who produce Notice Sheets and other literature for us
- Thur 11** For Dorothy House and for the projected Hospice for sick children
- Fri 12** For our National Health Service, our hospitals, nursing homes and our local surgeries
- Sat 13** For mothers the world over
- Sun 14** For Rowan our Archbishop and Peter our Bishop
- Mon 15** For David our Treasurer, and Angela and Chris our Churchwardens
- Tue 16** For a review of our nation's wealth and how it should best be spent
- Wed 17** For peace throughout the whole of Ireland
- Thur 18** For Mark, our Director of Music, David, our Organist, our Choir and all who contribute musically to our worship
- Fri 19** For positive action by all citizens in providing information that may be of value to our Police Forces
- Sat 20** For our servers
- Sun 21** For guidance for all planning our worship this Mothering Sunday
- Mon 22** That those whose words are widely heard or read may consider the consequences of ill-expressed criticism of others

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- Tue 23** Let us give thanks for the young people of our congregation, and support them in the service and witness they offer
- Wed 24** For a sensitive and helpful attitude to those who suffer mental illness, and to their families
- Thur 25** For our Junior Church and those who care for its members
- Fri 26** For a more responsible popular press
- Sat 27** For all who live alone: for those who cannot cope with living alone: for those who live in fear
- Sun 28** For clergy and other leaders of worship where the response is discouragingly low or even nil
- Mon 29** For those whose way of life and conduct are determined by evil individuals or groups who hold them in their power
- Tue 30** For the work of our branch of the Mothers' Union and the Children's Society
- Wed 31** Let us give thanks for the blessings of the month now ending
- April**
- Thur 1** For those who work to entertain others
- Fri 2** For reverence and concern for our environment
- Sat 3** For those who have lost, or are in danger of losing their jobs
- Sun 4** Let us rejoice in the praises offered to Our Lord on this day, but be mindful of the events which will follow in this Holy Week
- Mon 5** Let our prayer be our personal pilgrimage this Holy Week
- Tue 6** Let us go on from yesterday: if we are worried about yesterday's effort, let's stir up our imaginations and try a different approach
- Wed 7** The testing time for our brother man is now so close. Consider that he has only his true and uncomplicated human nature to offer for the world's salvation
- Thur 8** Let us give thanks that Jesus gives us himself - his Body and Blood - to be our strength
- Fri 9** Today, God is judged by mankind to be an inconvenience and of no relevance to human affairs. Let us pray for grace to cope with the horrors which we have thus unleashed on ourselves
- Sat 10** As we look back to yesterday and forward to tomorrow, we must surely conclude that God is love, and give thanks accordingly
- Sun 11** Death is swallowed up in Victory. Let us all rejoice and give thanks

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

READERS

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

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

CHURCHWARDENS

Chris Gladstone, 16 Croft Road, Fairfield Park, BA1 6JJ. Tel: 444938

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

HON SECRETARY to Church Council

Nicky Gladstone, 16 Croft Road, Fairfield Park, BA1 6JJ. Tel: 444938

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MAGAZINE DISTRIBUTOR

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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 Family Eucharist is celebrated according to Common Worship. On the first Sunday of each month, there is a full Choral Evensong. A more informal discussion-based service is held on the third Sunday of the month. A Junior Church and a Crèche cater for the children and young people who attend the 10am service. At festivals such as Easter, Christmas, Mothering Sunday and Harvest, our special services, designed for the whole family, are very popular.

There are a variety of mid-week activities including Holy Communion at 11am every Thursday (with lunch on the first and third weeks of the month). 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.

THE CHURCH MAGAZINE

Currently published on the first Sunday of every month, Christ Church Challenge brings news of the church locally, in the Diocese, and throughout the world.

Articles or news items MUST be with the Editor by the 15th of the month preceding the publication date