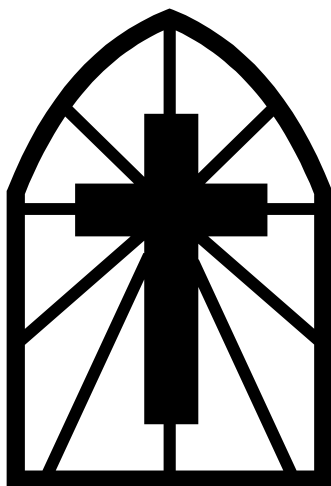


# CHRIST CHURCH CHALLENGE



May 2005

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

**SUNDAY SERVICES**

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

*There is amplification to assist the hard of hearing*

**CHOIR**

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

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

**BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES, FUNERALS**

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

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

**Flower Show Service in Victoria Park**

*Praying and singing with the flowers*

There will be no Choral Evensong at Christ Church on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May. Instead, we shall be going to join Churches Together in Bath for the Flower Show Service in the marquee in the Royal Victoria Park. Singing will be led by the Salvation Army band and Father Tom Gunning from St John's will be the preacher. The service begins at 6.30 pm and admission to the Flower Show area is free providing you arrive after 6 pm.

# Forum...

*For God's sake, vote!*



When I was working as a head teacher, a senior politician enraged me by suggesting that “education is too important to be left to teachers”. My retort was to the effect that by the same token “politics is too important to be left to politicians. In retrospect I think we were both right. Society as a whole has a higher stake in the education of its children than those who specialise in it. Similarly, politics is more than party politics – which is what politicians are good at –and is concerned with the way in which we organise our national life for the good of all.

Nationally, many people are finding the behaviour of election candidates thoroughly tiresome. There seems an inability – even among the most senior of our politicians – to debate issues with honesty and integrity. Electioneering strategies appear to be thoroughly confrontational and to be more of a Punch and Judy show than a considered look at the options facing our country. This why a frightening percentage of people have said that they intend to stay away from the polls.

In his pre-election open letter, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, alerted party leaders to this. He warned them to avoid political campaigns based on the exploitation of fear. Dr Williams argued that although negative campaign strategies may make headlines they do not determine the outcome of elections and politicians should focus instead on offering long-term solutions to deep-rooted challenges. Already, familiar anxieties over terrorism, asylum and immigration, and crime, are featuring too prominently in the contest.

Far from winning votes, our politicians are driving people to neglect their basic democratic duty and go out to vote. If the turn-out at the general Election is as low as many predict, there will be talk of laws to make voting compulsory. This will not solve the problem, however; compulsion will simply replace absentee voters with mountains of spoiled ballot papers.



People will vote if the issues are placed before them logically and clearly. Honest differences of opinion are bound to be expressed but this is good and part of a process in which we can and ought to take part. To quote again from the Archbishop's letter, “there are things that really should make us tremble – rootlessness and alienation among some of our urban youth, the degradation of the environment, the downward spin into



chaos and violence of large parts of the poorer world." Issues such as these are worthy of more thought and expression than the current yah-boo mouthings on the hustings. Furthermore, challenges such as these don't lend themselves to defensive and short-term solutions.

If as Christians we believe that the world, in all its facets, is a gift from God in creation we cannot stand aside from the political debate. In one of the Eucharistic prayers we use at Christ Church we tell God that "we look forward to that day when your kingdom comes and justice and mercy is seen in all the earth".

The main function of religion is to express and deepen our relationship with God. Acceptance of this carries with it a political duty which is concerned with the unity and cohesiveness of society. And that unity and cohesiveness rests ultimately on the belief that God provides a common source of values. At all times, and particularly at election time, I believe we all have a duty to maintain in our nation the sense of its religious inheritance in public and political life.

I cannot advise you on which party to support but I do recommend that you question and debate and then go out for God's sake and vote.

*Antony*

## **Christ Church Singers at Prior Park**

### *Sublime voices heard but not seen*

Our choir, directed by Mark Elliott joined with Richard Gabe's Canzona and the Somerset Chamber Orchestra in a charity concert in the chapel of Prior Park. They gave a varied programme of music in handsome surroundings and it was all in aid of Dorothy House.

The chapel was full and the performances delighted even those of us in dark side chapels where we could not see but only hear. As we climbed the hill to the car park when the concert was over talk was of the sublime voices of our Jenny and Abi Dudley who were soloists in Allegri's *Miserere*. Congratulations to them and everyone who took part.

# Church Calendar for May

May	1	Sun	THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	
			3.00pm	Holy Baptism - Shelby Escott
			6.30pm	Flower Show Service, Victoria Park (Churches Together in Bath Service)
	3	Tue	7.30pm	CTB "Meet The Candidates" - Central URC Church, Argyle Street
	5	Thur	THE FEAST OF THE ASCENSION	
			11.00am	Holy Communion - Rev Antony Claridge followed by lunch
	8	Sun	THE SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION DAY	
			5.00pm	Said Evening Prayer
	15	Sun	THE DAY OF PENTECOST	
			5.00pm	Said Evening Prayer
	18	Wed	7.30pm	Church Council Meeting
	22	Sun	TRINITY SUNDAY	
			5.00pm	Said Evening Prayer
	26	Thur	CORPUS CHRISTI	
			11.00am	Holy Communion - Rev Antony Claridge
	29	Sun	THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	
			5.00pm	No Evening Prayer
Jun	5	Sun	THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY	
			6.30pm	Choral Evensong

# Laity Rota for May

Readers		OT Readers	NT Readers	Gospel
<b>May</b>	1	Richard Gabe	Bev Pont	Pat Adelman
	8		Junior Church	
	15	Bob Siderfin	Lloyd Grosvenor	Nicky Gladstone
	22	Martin Palmer	Penny Edwards	Georgina Bowman
	29		Junior Church	
<b>June</b>	5	David Bishop	Chris Graham	Mark Elliott

## Chalice Assistants

<b>May</b>	1	Margaret Burrows	Chris Graham
	8	Rev Sandy Munday	Cyril Selmes
	15	Jane Fletcher	Penny Edwards
	22	Margaret Burrows	Bob Siderfin
	29	Rev Sandy Munday	Chris Graham
<b>June</b>	5	Jane Fletcher	Cyril Selmes

## Intercessors

<b>May</b>	1	Rev Cliff Burrows
	8	Junior Church
	15	Rev Antony Claridge
	22	Mark Elliott
	29	Junior Church
<b>June</b>	5	Penny Edwards



Sidespeople		8am	10am
<b>May</b>	1	Clive Tilling	Tessa Claridge    Jean Ferguson
	8	Elizabeth Iden-Hart	Nicky & Joshua Gladstone
	15	Dil Jones	Margaret Silver    Frank Twissell
	22	Dorothy Twissell	Ken & Sylvia Ayers
	29	Barbara Hayward	David Marles    Joan Bunkin
<b>June</b>	5	Elizabeth Iden-Hart	Nicky & Joshua Gladstone

# Lectionary for May

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
<b>May 1</b>	<b>The Sixth Sunday of Easter</b>		
	Acts 17.22-31	1 Peter 3.13-22	John 14.15-21
<b>8</b>	<b>The Sunday after Ascension Day</b>		
	No Reading	Acts 1.6-14	John 17.1-11
<b>15</b>	<b>The Day of Pentecost</b>		
	No Reading	Acts 2.1-21	John 7.37-39
<b>22</b>	<b>Trinity Sunday and Christian Aid Sunday</b>		
	Isaiah 40.12-17,27-31	2 Corinthians 13.11-13	Matthew 28.16-20
<b>29</b>	<b>The First Sunday after Trinity</b>		
	Deuteronomy 11.18-21, 26-28	Romans 1.16-17;3.22b-28	Matthew 7.21-29

## Mothers' Union News

We will next meet in Church on Ascension Day, Thursday May 5th, for our Mid-Week Corporate Communion to be followed as usual by lunch. Our grateful thanks go to Antony, John and June who all give up so much of their valuable time for us.



Our small number of branch members and friends enjoy the fellowship of these occasions, which are doubly important to us because of the current cancellation of our afternoon get-togethers.

Following our Branch Leader's sojourn in Shanghai during the Easter season, we hear that she plans to be back in time to attend the Bath Deanery MU meeting being held on Monday May 16th. We pray for the success of this meeting, which other members are also very welcome to attend.

*Sylvia M. Ayers (MU Secretary)*

## Genesis Sunday Centre - an appeal

Volunteers from Christ Church have been helping to run the Genesis Sunday Centre for well over a year now. This project runs at Nexus Methodist Church in Walcot Street and offers low cost Sunday lunches in a warm and friendly environment to homeless people and others on the fringes of Bath's affluent society. Eight local churches run the centre on a rota basis, so the Christ Church team are only on duty once every two months, when we join with helpers from a number of other churches to form the Combined Churches team. There are about a dozen Christ Churchers who help at the centre and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank them for all their efforts – I know that they're very much appreciated by both the customers of the centre and the other helpers on the team.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to appeal to members of the congregation who haven't yet helped at the centre. For various reasons, a number of volunteers are no longer able to help as much as they once could, which has left the team a bit short on occasion. In addition, if a few more people were to join the team it would mean that each member would only have to help at every other Combined Churches centre – that's only three times a year!

There are various tasks that need to be performed and these are arranged into a number of short shift, some of which are "backstage" and require little contact with the customers:

- 11:00 – 13:00 – preparing the meal before the centre opens
- 12:45 – 14:30 – working in the kitchen and serving the meal from the kitchen hatch
- 12:45 – 14:30 – serving tea and coffee in the dining area
- 14:30 – 16:00 – serving tea and coffee in the dining area
- 16:00 – 17:00 – clearing up at the end of the day

We have also been asked if someone from Christ Church could do the food shopping for each of our centres. The details of this are currently being worked out, but it would involve liaising with the team co-ordinator over the shopping list, buying the food from the Cash and Carry and/or a supermarket (the cost would be reimbursed) and delivering it to Nexus Methodist church.

Christ Church's Sunday Centre dates for the rest of the year are May 22<sup>nd</sup>, July 17<sup>th</sup>, September 11<sup>th</sup>, and November 6<sup>th</sup>. If you feel you can help with any of these, there will be a poster at the back of church where you can sign up in the preceding weeks. If you have any questions about helping out at the centre, please do not hesitate to talk to me about it at church or on the telephone: 01179 572106.

*Matthew Jones*



## Esther Hewlett 1911 - 2005

When Esther Hewlett died, Christ Church lost a faithful member of the congregation and a living link with our church in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Many remember the pride with which Esther spoke at the thanksgiving service for our bicentenary, as she recalled what her mother had told her about the celebration of the church's centenary in 1898.

Esther would have been pleased that so many people representing all aspects of her life gathered for her funeral on 22<sup>nd</sup> April. Christ Church people knew Esther as a Trustee, a Churchwarden, a Church councillor and rock-like member of the 8 o'clock congregation. Many former pupils of Bath High School where Esther taught biological science joined them and members of her family.

The sermon was preached by Sarah Sheppard who had been one of Esther's pupils and also served with her on Council and as a Trustee. She chose as her text, a passage from John's gospel which was often quoted by Esther: "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." (John 8.31-32). Sarah pondered the ways in which Esther searched for truth and recalled that her botanical skills were of such a high order that she could always recognise a plant from its leaf alone. "Here", said Sarah, "was Esther searching for truth – and with characteristic steadiness of purpose."



Sarah said she was sure that Esther inherited her steadiness of purpose from her parents. She made their standards and values her own and in turn, tried to pass them on to those whom she taught. Generous of her time and her giving, Esther served her school and church well. "I do believe," said Sarah, "that it was a life spent in looking for the truth, both in her studies and in her Christian practice. Her personal reticence made it impossible to say whether the truth set her free. "We could see the Esther leaf and note its traceries ... The Esther flower was an altogether more private thing".

And so we gave thanks for Esther and her long life in pursuit of the truth. We commended her to the divine love, the source of all freedom and prayed that she might know wonder and delight in the presence of God.

## Children's Society News



Many thanks to all those who have assisted in any way in raising money for The Children's Society this year. Boxes emptied last May raised a total of £210.41.

The Children's Society is the Church of England organisation working with and for children to help them deal with life's harshest challenges and to face the future with confidence. The expertise and commitment of The Children's Society is focussed to where it is most needed, to help children whose needs are overlooked, neglected or ignored. Currently efforts are concentrated on four groups: children at risk on the streets, disabled children, young refugees and children in trouble with the law.

*Jenny Wright*

*Editor's note: This report was omitted from this year's AGM report due to technical difficulties. Many thanks to Jenny for all her hard work as Christ Church Children's Society Representative.*

## Only 100 Shopping Days to Christmas

Ok, so there are more than that, but it's out there...

There's no getting away from it – the Christmas Fair is a vital cog in Christ Church's fund raising machine. Not only is the most lucrative event of the year, it's also the one that brings in the most money from people outside of the church.

The team that organised the 2004 Christmas Fair will not be able to do so again this year and so a new organiser or team of organisers is required. Due to the extensive support given by members of the congregation, this task is not as onerous as it at first sounds – it simply requires organisation and communication with the church from about September onwards. In addition, last year's team have put together a pack of information on what they did and when and some of them will still be around to give help and advice.

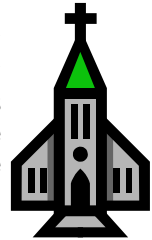
Please give prayful consideration to whether you can help your church in this vital way.



## **LOCAL MINISTRY GROUPS - The future of our church?**

A little over 8 months ago, Bishop Peter sent out a discussion paper to all the churches in the diocese. It was called *"Changing Lives – Changing Churches for Changing Communities"*.

In the preface, the bishop wrote: "The parish system has been at the heart of our mission and ministry for centuries. In recent years it has been modified to increase flexibility. But, for all its strengths, the traditional parish is increasingly unable to serve the Church or the community effectively." He went on to propose the setting up of local ministry groups and he directed clergy and people to look at groupings of churches to replace the old parishes.



At the Bath Deanery workshops held last Autumn, Christ Church was better represented than the majority of churches. Church Council and the Trustees immediately began looking at ways in which Christ Church might be part of a Local Ministry Group (LMG). More recently, talks were held with St Mary's Charlcombe and St Stephen's Lansdown and the councils of all three churches have recommended that the congregations begin an exploration of what an LMG might mean to us.

On **Pentecost Sunday – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May** – the idea of an LMG will be introduced to all three congregations; at St Mary's at 9am, at Christ Church at 10am and at St Stephen's at 11am. Three clergy will celebrate the Eucharist together at each church.

At Christ Church the LMG presentation will be made by Mark Elliott. In the days and weeks following the presentations the people of all three churches will be invited to:

- think and pray about the LMG
- get to know each other
- talk together
- ask questions
- express fears and anxieties
- identify opportunities for united witness to the Gospel

It is essential that everyone should be involved in exploring the idea of an LMG. Please come to church at 10 am on Pentecost Sunday, hear what it is all about and then start talking.

**Christian  Aid**

## Christian Aid Week 15-21 May 2005

The UK government is committed to making 2005 a year when poverty is on the international agenda. To tackle poverty it must address the injustices in world trade. Christian Aid Week this year asks churches to call for trade justice.

*"There are many women working at the sugar plantation. Before the sugar factory opened, we were very poor... Now things are better, we can all earn money and buy food from the markets."* Louisa Mahahele.

Louisa Elias Mahahele works on a sugar plantation in Mozambique, earning enough to feed her family. Her job is one of thousands that have been created since the Mozambique government helped its sugar industry by attracting investment to it. It set the price for imported sugar, most of which comes from rich countries where it is subsidised. This set price means that the locally produced sugar is able to compete with imports.



But Mozambique is an exception. Other poor countries are prevented from helping vulnerable industries and farmers. Rich countries and international institutions that lend poor countries money force governments to accept free-trade policies.

For example, in Ghana, thousands of farmers have been forced to give up farming because they are no longer able to make a living selling their produce. Kofi Eliasa used to be a tomato farmer. He now works 12 hours a day in a quarry, breaking rocks to make gravel. He struggles to earn enough to feed his family and send his children to school.

In exchange for loans, Ghana was forced to open up its markets to international trade and take away the government help given to farmers such as Kofi. This is the same for other poor countries across the world. The result is that millions of people now face an uncertain future as they lose the means to make a living.

Free trade means that governments may not interfere in the market place and all traders – from rich and poor countries alike – must face each other in open competition. This gives the poorest no chance. To begin to make a decent living for their families they need some help from their government to support their industries – that is they need trade justice, not free trade.

This is why Christian Aid is campaigning for trade justice not free trade. The campaign is informed by the biblical vision of a just world where the needs of the poorest people are met. To compete in today's global marketplace poor farmers and traders need special help from their governments until they are strong enough to manage without it.



***“There has been a real change because now we have more of a future. We were not expecting this kind of help, but we did need it. It has brought light back into our lives. It has turned our lives around and I am now able to share my fortune with others. My eldest children go to school and I thank God for this. Everything we have is a grace from God.”*** Antonio Fundice Tomo, whose family received support from Christian Aid's partner the Christian Council of Mozambique).

**Thank you for helping to bring about a better life for people such as Antonio in poor communities all over the world.**

## **A Prayer for Christian Aid week**

Holy Spirit of God,  
light a flame within me,  
burning for justice,  
glowing with kindness,  
shining with hope  
for the end of poverty  
and the peace of all people  
in this ever-turning world. Amen  
*(Christian Aid/Peter Graystone)*

*Jenny Wright, Christian Aid Representative*

The precise moment of the golden age of television is one of those subjects on which everyone has an opinion. Which Blue Peter presenter, which sit com marked the pinnacle of televisual entertainment?

Remember how the streets were deserted when Morecambe and Wise or Quatermass aired. We'll never see the likes of The Prisoner, or The Box of Delights or Bagpuss again.



### **Angel Series 5** **Joss Whedon and David Greenwalt**



For the last few years, while we've been force fed gardening, home improvement and other reality shows, American television has been producing high quality, intelligent and emotionally compelling television, such as Six Feet Under and The West Wing. Just released on DVD is the fifth and final series of 'Angel', based on a character from 'Buffy, the Vampire Slayer', whose final series was released last year.

These shows have a large teenage following, but I love them too, and so does my Mum. The creative whirlwind behind the whole Buffy and Angel universe is Joss Whedon, who also has writing credits on the last 'Alien' film and 'Toy Story', and gives his world a believable consistency.

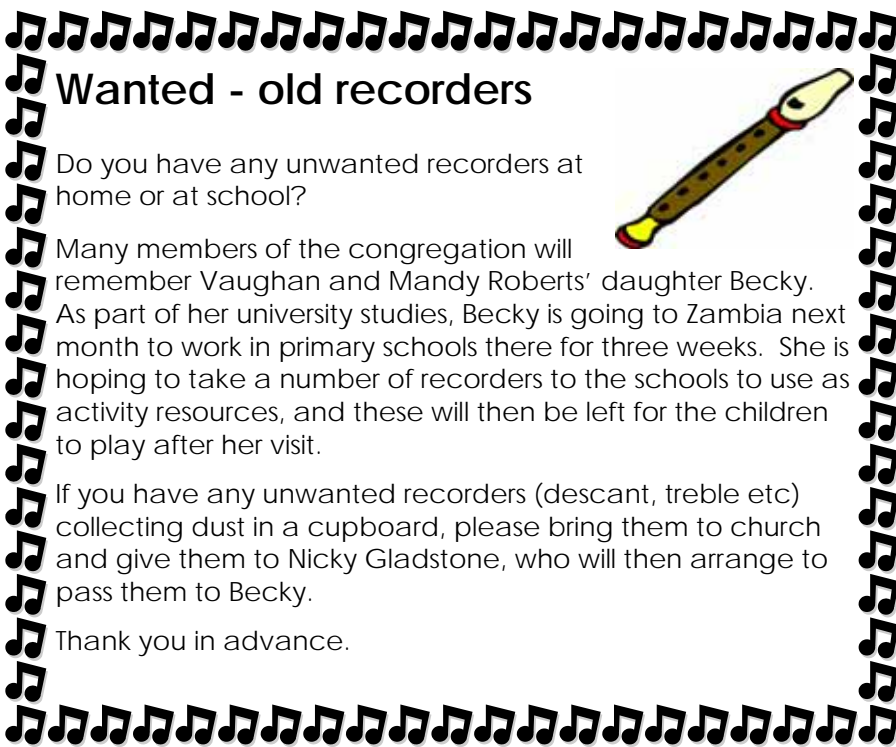
The show is about vampires and demons, so it's about good and evil. Although the 'Buffy' series have carefully constructed arcs to keep you hooked, each show guarantees that the good guys will beat up the bad guys; B-movie feel-good escapism that leaves you smiling. 'Buffy' takes steps towards darker territory with each season, but 'Angel' strides into it. The lesson is that the world isn't nice but you've got to do your best with it.

Angel himself is a vampire with a soul. Not just any vampire, but one of the most violent to have walked the earth. He acquired his soul through a gypsy curse, condemning him to feel the guilt of all his terrible deeds. He sets out to be a hero - to help the helpless - but whether this is to redeem himself or to try to blot out the horror of his past, even he is unsure.

If you've watched any of the previous series, you've probably either bought this or are saving up for it. If you haven't, get saving now; you've eleven seasons to catch up on.

*David Marles*

"Redemption is something you have to fight for in a very personal, down-dirty way. Some of our characters lose that, some stray from that, and some regain it." - Joss Whedon



## Wanted - old recorders



Do you have any unwanted recorders at home or at school?

Many members of the congregation will remember Vaughan and Mandy Roberts' daughter Becky. As part of her university studies, Becky is going to Zambia next month to work in primary schools there for three weeks. She is hoping to take a number of recorders to the schools to use as activity resources, and these will then be left for the children to play after her visit.

If you have any unwanted recorders (descant, treble etc) collecting dust in a cupboard, please bring them to church and give them to Nicky Gladstone, who will then arrange to pass them to Becky.

Thank you in advance.

### A Friend



### In Deed

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

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

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

# Prayer Cycle for May

- Sun* 1 For Antony, Cliff and Sandy, and for their families
- Mon* 2 For those who work for the Emergency Services
- Tue* 3 For engaged couples as they prepare for their marriage; for all who are responsible for helping and advising them
- Wed* 4 For our hospitals, nursing homes and local surgeries
- Thur* 5 As we approach the General Election, we pray for all those in government and in opposition, that they will be honest and work for the good of us all
- Fri* 6 For those suffering from depression, and for those who love them; that they will find the strength to seek the help which they need.
- Sat* 7 For those who feel that no-one appreciates or cares about them
- Sun* 8 For Christ Church's children, as they help to lead this morning's 10am service; for those who lead the Junior Church
- Mon* 9 We pray for the University Chaplaincy Centre, for Angela the University Chaplain, and for all the chaplains
- Tue* 10 For our next-door neighbours; for our colleagues at work
- Wed* 11 For couples experiencing difficulties in their relationship. For the work of Relate
- Thur* 12 For all who are coming to terms with the death of a loved one. For those who are bearing a grief which they cannot share
- Fri* 13 For those facing redundancy, for those who are unemployed
- Sat* 14 For all parents, step-parents and godparents
- Sun* 15 For all members of the congregation who are away from Christ Church today
- Mon* 16 For Angela and Chris, our Churchwardens, and for Frank and Yvonne, our Deputy Churchwardens
- Tue* 17 For the work of the Mission to Seafarers
- Wed* 18 That God will guide our Church Council as it meets this evening
- Thur* 19 For the departed who have shared their earthly pilgrimage with us



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- Fri** 20 For Rowan our Archbishop and for Peter our Bishop
- Sat** 21 For countries of the Third World which suffer through the selfishness of richer nations
- Sun** 22 For our brothers and sisters in the Roman Catholic Church, and especially for St Mary's RC Church.
- Mon** 23 For David our Treasurer
- Tue** 24 For children being bullied at school. For parents who worry about them and do not know how to help
- Wed** 25 For the Trustees of Christ Church; for Yvonne, their Chairman
- Thur** 26 For those who work for the Emergency Services
- Fri** 27 For David, our Organist, and for Mike, our Organ Scholar. For Mark and all the Choir
- Sat** 28 For peace throughout the world, and for all world leaders
- Sun** 29 For Cyril and Tom, our Readers. For Sarah's ministry at Batheaston. For Mark, as he trains to become a Reader
- Mon** 30 For the work of USPG in general, and especially for St Anne's Hospital, Lake Malawi
- Tue** 31 Let us thank God for the blessings of the month now ending, and offer him the challenges of the month that is to come
- June**
- Wed** 1 For everyone facing exams at this time
- Thur** 2 For journalists and all those who work in the media, that they will be mindful of their responsibilities both to those whom they inform, and those about whom they report
- Fri** 3 For young people in prison for whatever reason; for all who work with them
- Sat** 4 For those facing new challenges at work or at home
- Sun** 5 For our Altar Servers, Sidespeople, Chalice Assistants, Readers, and all who assist in any way at our services
- Mon** 6 Let us pray for the congregation as a whole, and for the success of tonight's "Meet Up", that we may all benefit from the fellowship found there
- Tue** 7 For those considering a vocation to the priesthood or religious life

## **High Days and Holidays:**

### **1st May Rogation Sunday**

Rogation means an asking of God - for blessing on the seed and land for the year ahead. It is appropriate in any emergency, war, plague, drought or foul weather. The practice began with the Romans, who invoked the help of the gods Terminus and Ambarvalia. In those days a crowd moved in procession around the cornfields, singing and dancing, sacrificing animals, and driving away Winter with sticks. They wanted to rid the cornfields of evil. About 465 the Western world was suffering from earthquake, storm and epidemic. So Mamertius, Bishop of Vienne, aware of the popular pagan custom, ordered that prayers should be said in the ruined or neglected fields on the days leading up to Ascension. With his decision, 'beating the bounds' became a Christian ceremonial.

Rogation-tide arrived in England early in the eighth century, and became a fixed and perennial asking for help of the Christian God. On Rogation-tide, a little party would set out to trace the boundaries of the parish. At the head marched the bishop or the priest, with a minor official bearing a Cross, and after them the people of the parish, with schoolboys and their master trailing along. Most of them held slender wands of willow. At certain points along the route - at well-known landmarks like a bridge or stile or ancient tree, the Cross halted, the party gathered about the priest, and a litany or rogation as said, imploring God to send seasonable wealth, keep the corn and roots and boughs in good health, and bring them to an ample harvest.

### **24th May David of Scotland**

If you like Scotland, you'll appreciate St David of Scotland, who lived c.1085 – 1153. David became king of Scotland in 1124, and devoted himself to improving his country. This included a feudal system of land tenure in place of the Celtic tribal one; an Anglo-Norman judicial systems, and the development of towns such as Edinburgh, Berwick and Perth. Above all, David re-organised the Church in Scotland. Contact with Rome was close, but he opposed Canterbury's primatial claims. David founded several bishoprics, including those of Dunblane and Aberdeen. David was loved for his justice in administration, his accessibility to all, and his intense interest in gardens and orchards and buildings.

He was generous in alms-giving, and a devout Christian. When dying, and ordered to rest by his doctors, he said: "Allow me rather to think about the things of God, so that my soul may be strengthened...when I stand before God's judgement seat, none of you shall answer for me..." David died on 24 May and centuries later his name was inserted in the calendar of the Prayer-book for Scotland. His historical importance is that he founded the Scotland and defied Edward I.

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**WHO'S WHO?**

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**OFFICIATING MINISTER**

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

**ASSISTANT CLERGY**

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

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

**READERS**

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

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

**CHURCHWARDENS**

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

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

**HON SECRETARY**

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

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

### **CHURCH COMMUNICATIONS**

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

**The Editor would be surprised yet pleased if contributors  
were to submit articles by the 15th of the month  
preceding the publication date**