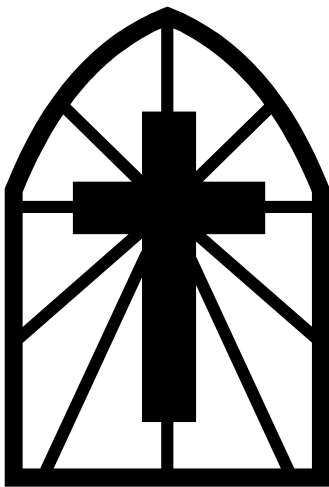
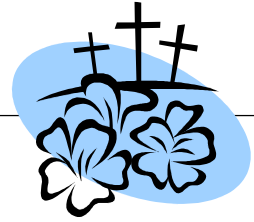


CHRIST
CHURCH
CHALLENGE



April 2010



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 4.30pm
Other Sundays	Said Evening Prayer at 5.30pm

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

Angela and Chris, 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.

From the Church Registers

Funeral on 10th March 2010

Rosina Beatrice (Betty) Spreadbury aged 81.

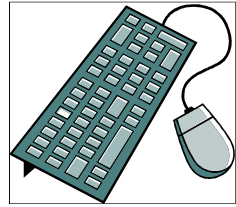
Holy Baptism on Sunday 21 March 2010

Matilda May Hammond born 6th May 2009
the daughter of Roger and Jasmine Hammond.



Forum...

An advertising leaflet for a local garden centre declared in floral lettering that "There's more to Easter than eggs". I read on, not expecting any great theological revelation. I was not disappointed but at the same time I thought the writer of the little pamphlet came close to something real and true. The message was that after you've eaten your Easter eggs you should be out in the garden. Vigorous clumps of annual plants are ready for planting, young trees should be put in and, if you haven't already done so, the garden and patio can be brightened up with bright and cheerful primulas.



This garden centre has won my custom. Behind the sales pitch there is an expression of what Easter is about. Among the eggs and the flowers and the new growth, there is God. With Easter we are within sight of the great promise coming true, that the earth shall be filled with the glory of God as the waters cover the sea.

Westminster Abbey has many obvious treasures but there is one, the most exquisite of all in my opinion, which you have to search for. It is a badly damaged 13th century retable, a decorative frame which once stood above the high altar. What remains of the painting still retains its delicate colouring and an exquisite image. In the centre stands Christ, holding in both hands with great tenderness, a globe. On it is painted a miniature Eden: a garden with a river and a man fishing. Around the fisherman are sheep and birds, trees and flowers. Above him ride the sun, the moon and the stars.

Glorious though the old Eden was, Easter tells us that a new creation is afoot. A new creation full of glory and beauty. And it is in that context that we may be able to understand the wondrous exchange which takes place between Jesus and Mary at the tomb on the first Easter morning. She imagines him to be the gardener. That's probably the right mistake to make if we believe we are now in the new Eden, the new creation,

Jesus calls her tenderly and gently by her name. Then there comes a moment of wondrous recognition. He warns her not to touch him, as the High Priest might warn worshippers not to come too close to powerful holiness. And he commissions her to tell his brothers that in him, and in the events that are now taking place, heaven and earth have come together at last, the new Temple is established, and the access to the Creator God which you would normally get through going to the Temple and offering sacrifice, is now openly available through Jesus himself.

The resurrected Christ is freed from the darkness of death and walks in the sunshine of a garden. Easter carries with it a strange and powerful beauty. On this day, beauty awakes afresh as Jesus emerges from the tomb. This beauty which is now let loose in all the world, will rightly generate new forms, new possibilities, new delights. It will come closer and closer to us so that in Christ we may know Love and Truth.

Antony



*Let Beauty awake,
in the morn from the cool of the grave,
Beauty awake from death;
Let Beauty awake,
For Jesus' sake,
In the hour when the angels their silence break
And the garden is bright with His Breath.*

Robert Louis Stevenson

Lectionary for April

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
Apr 4	Easter Day		
	No reading	Acts 10.34-43	John 20.1-18
11	Second Sunday of Easter		
	No reading	Revelation 1.4-8	John 20.19-31
18	Third Sunday of Easter		
	No reading	Revelation 5.11-14	John 21.1-19
25	Fourth Sunday of Easter		
	No reading	Revelation 7.9-17	John 10.22-30
May 2	Fifth Sunday of Easter		
	No reading	Revelation 21. 1-6	John 13.31-35

Church Calendar for April

Apr	4	Sun	EASTER DAY	
			10.00am	Family Communion followed by the Great Easter Egg Hunt!
	9	Fri	11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café
	11	Sun	SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER	
	16	Fri	11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café
	18	Sun	THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER	
	21	Wed	ST ANSELM OF CANTERBURY	
	23	Fri	ST GEORGE, Patron Saint of England	
			11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café
	25	Sun	FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	
			10.00am	Holy Communion followed by Church AGM
	26	Mon	ST MARK, Evangelist	
	30	Fri	11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café
May	1	Sat	PHILIP AND JAMES, Apostles	
	2	Sun	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	
			4.30pm	Choral Evensong

We shall miss him

On Palm Sunday the announcement was made that the Revd Professor Cliff Burrows, has resigned from his post as assistant priest at Christ Church. This came as a great shock to us all. Cliff came to Christ Church in 1990 when he left the University Glasgow to take the Chair of Mechanical Engineering at Bath University. A man of determination and energy, Cliff found time in his busy and important professional life to serve the people of Christ Church during the incumbency of the Revd Vaughan Roberts and, latterly, of Antony. His ministry has been full of insights, inspiration and great kindness. He and Margaret have been friends to all and helpers of many. We give thanks for Cliff's ministry with us and would have him know that we shall miss him very much.

Laity Rota for April

		OT Readers	NT Readers	Gospel
April	4	No reading	Richard Gabe	Bev Pont
	11	No reading	Eileen Selmes	Martin Palmer
	18	No reading	Bob Siderfin	Esme Buss
	25	No reading	Penny Edwards	Rosanne Gabe

Chalice Assistants

April	4	Tessa Claridge	Bev Pont
	11	Janet Mahto	Jane Fletcher
	18	Penny Edwards	Bob Siderfin
	25	Andrew Sillett	Tessa Claridge

Intercessors

April	4	Bev Pont
	11	David Marles
	18	Rev Cliff Burrows
	25	Rev Antony Claridge



Sidespeople		8am	10am	
April	4	Arthur Jones	Andrew Sillett	Janet Mahto
	11	Clive Tilling	Morny Davison	Margaret Heath
	18	Arthur Jones	Tessa Claridge	Emma Elliott
	25	Clive Tilling	Margaret Silver	Frank Twissell

Un peu d'histoire suite et fin aka "Change but not decay"

Sarah Jones has written ("All Change!") of Anglican resistance to change but one way or another it comes. Whilst appreciating the niceties and not discussing the future with Antony, at the same time we should not be in denial, alas he really is off. Over the past twenty odd years there have been lots of changes; people have reacted to them in different ways just as some have been the result of conscious decisions and others because of changes in the composition of the congregation or in the outside world.

There do not seem many laments for dropping the Christmas Fair and jumble sales. These had their pluses; some people are glad of the opportunity to buy jumble, we met locals, the cooperation over the fair got us together *but* the stashes of items in the gallery, the backbreaking humping of all crockery and cutlery to the Guildhall and back and a lot else made it sense to abandon these events. Some people had amazing time and talents to produce saleable goods in those days; not so now.

Outings used to be quite a feature. Marcus would ask me to arrange a coach. I learned a lot by my mistakes. Loos are only unlocked if requested *in advance*, for one thing, and one should *always* "suss". On one occasion the choir was asked to sing in a very distant part of the diocese indeed and I was assured that the church was suitable for the disabled. Not so. We overshot the Village Hall on a one way street and it was a long hike back, the only loos were up a steep hill from the church—worst of all, nobody from the host church came to the service apart from a warden to unlock and the Vicar. There were other, happier ventures.

"Away-days" also featured. Sarah and I did suss Salisbury and Bemington before the Herbert outing; we had Canon Jim Free to talk at Freshford Old Bakery; studied Bonhoeffer in the Upper Room at Ammerdown and before that there were a mass of talks and lectures at Christ Church itself. These were possible because Vaughan found funding somehow and got hold of eg Rowan.

Under Marcus we had acquired a reputation for inviting Inter-Faith speakers and this was not approved at all in some quarters—"They had a BUDDHIST/MUSLIM/JEW in their church", in tones of horror. It made us different and even thought dangerous, I think?

External changes have also affected us. The Internet is perhaps the prime example; see our wonderful website. The computer can save waste of paper and costs but it is divisive until everyone has access and a sensitive

continued on page 8

issue. Introduction of liquid soap, I learned the hard way, was also a sensitive issue! Those present at the BIG ROW will not have forgotten it. In my time I have inadvertently trodden on an oldie's toe or two - and now I *am* an oldie and tell myself I must observe and just see what you the future come up with and roll with any punches.

Change yes, decay no?

Margaret Heath

Easter Monday – a day of oddity and fun !

Traditional holiday

Easter Monday has always been a holiday in Christian cultures. The post-Easter festivities involved a week of secular celebration, but this was reduced to one day in the 19th century. Events include egg rolling competitions and, in predominantly catholic countries, dousing other people with water which, at one time, had been holy water blessed the day before at Easter Sunday Mass and carried home to bless the house and food.



Easter Monday always wet in Poland

Dyngus Day or Wet Monday is the name for Easter Monday in Poland. In the Czech Republic it is called Pomlázka. Both countries practice a peculiar custom on this day. In Poland, traditionally, early in the morning, boys awake girls by pouring a bucket of water on their head and strike them about the legs with long thin twigs or switches made from willow, birch or decorated tree branches

Sedate parades in Germany

In Germany, particularly in the south, the Monday celebrations are more sedate. People in many areas go out

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for a candle-lit parade called the Emmaus Walk. They set off early in the morning to remember the walks that Jesus made after his crucifixion and resurrection. The parades end with a church service. People who do not join the parade may travel to the countryside for a walk and to enjoy the Spring weather and the wild flowers. Processions or walks through fields of winter crops may be held in rural areas to mark the symbolic end of the winter and the start of the spring.

The UK has its odd customs

Our own country is not without its odd customs. The following is an account, dated 1826, of some peculiar goings on in Durham.

On Easter Sunday, it was a common custom, for a number of boys to assemble in the afternoon, and as soon as the clock struck four, scoured the streets in parties, and accosted every female they happened to meet, with "pay for your shoes if you please," at the same time, stopping to take them off; which, if they did, and did not immediately get a penny or twopence, they actually carried them off. Often the boys collected, at least, a dozen odd shoes; but generally, something was given, which in the evening they either spent in public houses or divided.

On Easter Monday, the women claimed the same privilege towards the male sex. They began much earlier in the day, and attacked every man and boy they could lay hold of to make them pay for their shoes; if the men happened to wear boots, and would not pay any thing, the girls generally endeavoured to seize their hats and run off. If a man caught the girl with the hat, it was usually thrown or handed about to the great amusement of spectators, till the person was baffled out of sixpence to redeem the right of wearing it again.



All Change



It's with some sadness that I come to put together my final Christ Church Challenge, as well as the final edition in its current form. When Cyril Selmes stood down about ten years ago, Nicky took on the editorial responsibilities. She redesigned the magazine, taking advantage of technologies that had not been available

before to bring in the friendly, attractive style we still use today. In a shocking fall in standards, we very bravely dropped the titles from the rotas, only Reverends were allowed—no Misters, Misses or Doctors.

Nicky introduced a number of new features, such as “Little Questions, Big Answers” and Cyril continued his involvement, first with a series on every book in the Bible, and then by a series of “Did you know...” essays on plants, trees and bushes.

When Roy Vince died, I started preparing the monthly Prayer Cycle. It was fun to continue Roy's style: as well as prayers for those within our own community, Roy was not afraid to drop in suggestions for prayers that could be

described as mischievously political. I have tried to continue that tradition. From there, I started helping Nicky out by adding a few bits of clip art, and it was only in the last few years that I moved on to compiling and typesetting all of the magazine.

This means that it is now about a decade since our church magazine was overhauled, so this is a good chance for a time of renewal and re-evaluation, and Easter is an appropriate time to start.

As reported in earlier editions, Matthew and Sarah are planning to produce a publication, probably quarterly, as part of their work in

What kind of publication does Christ Church need?
Occasional bulletins on burning issues?
A brief “Thought for the Week”?
We don't need to be bound by what we've done before.
If you have an idea you'd like to try, Church Council would love to hear from you.

promoting Christ Church, but that doesn't mean that there isn't room for other publications.

The monthly Prayer Letter is an important focus for our communal prayer, and it needs a new compiler. Would you like to take on this task? Please speak to David or Antony.

Looking back through the editions, starting with articles referencing the Millennium Bug, through the book reviews, quizzes and news items, is a nostalgic pastime. The life of the church and the congregation are all there. Groups and events now half forgotten are written about with a whirl of anticipation. Baptisms, weddings and funerals of many friends are recorded.

It is clear that a church magazine is a useful snapshot of the church's life. Margaret's articles on our recent history help to show how important that can be, in giving thanks for what has gone before as well avoiding reinventing the wheel.

I would like to thank all of the contributors to the magazine: the clergy and readers who wrote the Forum lead articles and all of our article writers; particular thanks go to our regular writers, not only Cyril but also Sylvia Ayers, Chris Graham and Margaret Heath; Antony also regularly provides much of the copy (as we call it in the trade).

What will be missed? Maybe you don't have the resources to volunteer yourself, but it would still be helpful to know what you would like to see. Of course, it will only happen if someone comes forward...

Lastly, thanks to everyone who has read the magazine, especially those who have taken the time to give feedback on an article or feature that they enjoyed or made them think.

On a practical note, you will be able to find the rotas in their usual place at the back of church, and they are also available from our website (christchurchbath.org) and announcements will continue to be given in the weekly notices. The calendar is available in church and also online.



And for those of you who are still being kept awake wondering: our Mysterious Calendar Correspondent was... Chris Gladstone.

David Marles

Prayer Cycle for April

April

- Sun 4** Alleluia! The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!
- Mon 5** For our friends, for feasts, for all the blessings poured upon us!
- Tues 6** For our Clergy Team.
- Wed 7** For Rowan our Archbishop and for Peter our Bishop. For all Anglican Bishops and Primates.
- Thurs 8** For all our readers, chalice assistants, intercessors and sidespeople. For the witness they bear. For Sarah, who draws up the Rotas.
- Fri 9** For the work of the Cedar Tree and all the helpers.
- Sat 10** For the staff, pupils and governors of St Andrew's and St Stephen's schools.
- Sun 11** We pray for the safety of those who are travelling.
- Mon 12** For David, our Treasurer.
- Tues 13** For the work of Bath Alcohol and Drugs Advisory Service.
- Wed 14** For Margaret, Andrew and Lewis, our Deanery Synod representatives.
- Thurs 15** For Chris and Lewis, our church wardens.
- Fri 16** For Mark, our Director of Music and David, our Organist. For our choir.
- Sat 17** For the work of Dorothy House, for those benefiting from its care and for their families.
- Sun 18** Today, together with the other Bath Central Churches, we pray for the congregation of St John's and St Mary's Catholic Churches and their clergy, leaders and office holders.

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- Mon 19** For the leaders of the nations, that they may be directed in the ways of justice and of peace.
- Tues 20** For Cyril and Mark our Readers.
- Wed 21** For Angela, our Verger.
- Thurs 22** For Judith, who prepares our weekly notice sheet.
- Fri 23** For all caught up in conflict areas; for those grieving for loved ones killed in war; for those who have survived and are struggling to rebuild their lives.
- Sat 24** For the children in our congregation; for our witness to them and theirs to us.
- Sun 25** For all who contribute to the life of Christ Church. For all attending today's AGM.
- Mon 26** That we may cherish the earth and its fruitfulness, and recognise and give thanks for the plenty around us.
- Tues 27** Let us give thanks for our closest family and friends. May we always treat them with love and patience.
- Wed 28** As the General Election approaches, we pray for honesty and openness in the campaigns.
- Thurs 29** For the work of Christian Aid in helping the world's poor.
- Fri 30** Let us thank God for the blessings of the month now ending.
- May**
- Sat 1** For the safety of all who are travelling this Bank Holiday weekend.
- Sun 2** For couples experiencing difficulties in their relationship. For the work of Relate.

O Lord hear my prayer

Christian film producers plan Bristol premiere First screenings in April



Bristol based Christian Television Association will be screening its latest production in the Colston Hall Bristol on 26th April. CTA's latest production is a 75 minute drama documentary on the life of Charles Haddon Spurgeon, the Victorian era's most famous preacher.

The People's Preacher is a feature length drama documentary filmed locally and in London eastern London, France and Scotland. It's a story for today—an innocent country lad from the remote fens of eastern England goes to London. He has what we now call the X-factor, finds romance and becomes a celebrity. He earns the love and respect of a nation, becoming one of its most influential figures. By the age of 20 he is preaching to 6,500 people in London's biggest church. But he has strong principles, which run against the culture of the times. In standing up for them he becomes isolated and ridiculed by the media. Eventually, he becomes the most famous preacher of the Victorian era, whose writings continue to be published and read today, throughout the world.

The second feature in the April premiere will be ***Robber of the Cruel Streets***. This film used locations in Bristol, the West Country and Germany. It tells the story of the German immigrant George Muller whose faith continues to inspire people through the orphanages he built and maintained by prayer alone. Today the former orphanages on Ashley Down stand as testimony to this man's faith in God—a faith which was at times severely tried and tested.

Tickets for the premiere can be booked at the Colston Hall booking office. (0117 922 3686).

There are posters at the back of the church and there is also a DVD "trailer" of ***The People's Preacher*** available on loan.

Officiating Minister	The Rev Antony Claridge, 62 Cranwells Park, Weston, Bath BA1 2YE 01225 427462
Assistant Clergy	The Rev Cliff Burrows, Stonecroft, Entry Hill Drive, Bath BA2 5NL 01225 334743
Reader / Chairman of the Trustees / Director of Music	Mark Elliott, 32 Charlcombe Lane, Larkhall, Bath BA1 6NS 01225 445360
Reader / Magazine Distributor and Editor Emeritus	Cyril Selmes, 10 Daffords Buildings, Larkhall, Bath BA1 6SG 01225 420039
Churchwarden	Chris Gladstone, 5 Westwoods, Box Road, Bath BA1 7QE 01225 859969
Churchwarden / Christian Aid / Deanery Synod	Lewis Boyd, 5 Jesse Hughes Court, Lower Swainswick, BA1 7BE 01225 329190
Verger	Angela Soboslay, 285 Newbridge Road, Bath BA1 3HN 01225 333297
Treasurer to the Trustees / Church Council Secretary	David Bishop, The Old Tannery, Turleigh, Bradford on Avon, BA15 2HG 01225 869409
Magazine Editor	David Marles, 5 Westwoods, Box Road, Bath BA1 7QE 01225 859969
Deanery Synod / Laity Rotas / Junior Church	Sarah Cade, 2 Mortimer Close, Bath BA1 4EN 07983 556759
Deanery Synod / Churches Together in Bath (CTB)	Margaret Heath, St Lawrence, Lansdown Road, Bath BA1 5TD 01225 428272
Deanery Synod	Andrew Sillett
Mothers' Union (MU)	Margaret Burrows, Stonecroft, Entry Hill Drive, Bath BA2 5NL 01225 334743
CTB / MU Secretary & Treasurer / Missions to Seafarers / Calendar	Sylvia Ayers, 5 Forester Avenue, Bath BA2 6QD 01225 463976
USPG	Adrian Pegg, 68 London Road West, Bath BA1 7DA 01225 858809
Organist	David Wrigley, 3 Haydon Gate, Radstock, BA3 3RB 01761 439355
Concert and Bookings Co-ordinator / Weekly Notices	Judith Bishop, 01225 869409 Email concerts@christchurchbath.org

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

**There are no more magazine deadlines.
Thank You and Good Night.**