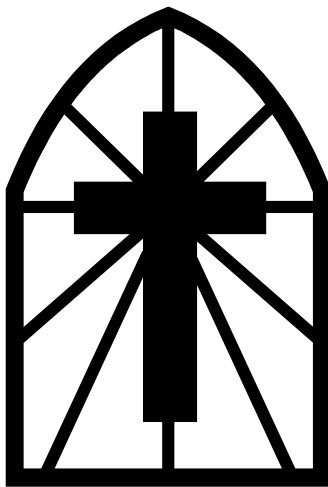


CHRIST
CHURCH
CHALLENGE



November 2007

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

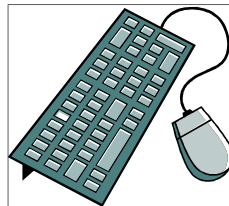
By arrangement. Please 'phone the Vestry 338869 / Officiating Minister 427462

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.

LMG News

On Sunday 16th December, the Bishop of Bath and Wells will re-dedicate the tower and bells at St Stephen's Lansdown. Christ Church has been pleased to help in the fund raising, which has secured the future of the tower which is a familiar and well loved feature of the bath sky line. We are invited to St Stephen's to join with all our friends on this historic occasion. Please put the time and date in your diary so that we can all be there.

Forum...



Food is important. Not just nutritionally, but morally, spiritually and socially. Our ancestors knew this – most religions developed some form of dietary laws and calendars of feasts and fasting – but in modern Britain we seem to have lost sight of the moral aspect of our eating.

Over the last year or so, Emma and I have changed the way we eat. Or rather, we've changed the way we shop for food. We were already starting to think a little more about the kind of food we were buying and how it was produced and then I received "The River Cottage Meat Book" by Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall for Christmas. It has become my food bible! The vague feeling that buying a bag of eight individually packed and sealed chicken breasts for £8 was probably, somehow, not quite right, was turned in to an absolutely solid conviction that much of the food we eat in this country is produced in morally questionable ways.

There is one illustrative example which sticks in my mind. "Broiler House" chickens can be kept 20,000 – 30,000 to a shed and we rear between 750 and 800 million of them a year in the UK. The chickens take only 6 weeks to reach slaughter weight as opposed to 20 weeks for a normally bred and reared chicken. The intensive weight gain causes many chicks legs to deform and they cannot support their weight. This, coupled with the fact that the sheds are not cleaned at all during the 6 week raising period, means that many chicken's knees burn in the ammonia from the faeces on the floor. These burns are known as hock burns, and they are visible on some supermarket chickens if you look carefully.

There are plenty of other examples, relating to other animals, of abhorrent "farming" practice. It is all too easy to ignore the fact that by buying meat produced in this way, we are directly supporting the use of those methods. If the chicken carried a label saying "In order to bring you this chicken, animals were subject to fear, distress, disease, pain, hunger, thirst and injury" would you buy it? (I often say a similar thing about fair trade goods. If the fair trade coffee was just labelled "coffee" and the other stuff carried a label which read "Unfairly Traded - The farmer who grew this coffee is subjected to horrible poverty so that you can have this packet a bit cheaper", which would you buy?)

I'm not trying to pretend that I'm now whiter than white in all of my food purchasing habits – I'm still prone to giving in to the odd Burger King; I still buy pub food when I have no idea about the provenance of the ingredients

(and if they aren't advertised as ethically produced in some way, they almost certainly aren't) – but I do think about it quite carefully.

I'm sure that any survey of a general cross section of British society would reveal that the vast majority of people are against cruel and intensive farming practices, and yet the vast majority of people are also happy to buy the results of these cruel practices from the supermarket when they're packed in polystyrene trays.

I'm not trying to say that any particular method of food shopping is Christian or un-Christian! I am saying that in choosing how we spend our money we are making moral choices, and those choices need to be faced honestly and with integrity.

Mark

MOTHERS' UNION NEWS

Although it seems a long time ago, the MU Christmas items, ordered at the beginning of September, have all been delivered, and I do hope that everyone is pleased with their purchases.



We sincerely thank all the members of the congregation who so generously supported our Autumn Women's Refuge Appeal by bringing in such a lovely lot of domestic items. For details of their requirements, readers should refer to the October Magazine. We can continue to accept gifts and donations until November 4th, after which the parcels and Morrison's Gift. Tokens will be delivered.

Following the summer break, we have already held two monthly MU Corporate Communion which current and former members attended. At these Services we still pray for Margaret, our Deanery Contact, who has now been absent from our midst for five months. We do hope that she will soon be well enough to return to us. Our next Communion will be at 11am on Wednesday November 21st, and this will be followed as usual by a delicious 'Metcalfe' Lunch.

In December I will produce my annual Financial Statement which I will distribute to members, and I will then be available to discuss this and other relevant matters.

Sylvia M. Ayers (MU Secretary)

Church Calendar for November

Nov	4	Sun	FOURTH SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT	
	9	Fri	11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café
	11	Sun	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY	
	15	Thur	Deadline for magazine articles	
	16	Fri	ST MARGARET OF SCOTLAND - 1093	
			11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café
			ST HUGH, BISHOP OF LINCOLN - 1200	
	18	Sun	SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT	
			4.00pm	Road Peace Service at Nexus
	19	Mon	ST HILDA, ABBESS OF WHITBY - 680	
	20	Tues	ST EDMUND OF THE EAST ANGLE - 870	
			PRISCILLA LYDIA SELLON - 1876	
			7.30pm	Church Council
	21	Wed	11.00am	Mother's Union Communion followed by lunch
	23	Fri	ST CLEMENT, BISHOP OF ROME - c.100	
			11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café
	25	Sun	FESTIVAL OF CHRIST THE KING	
			10.00am	Joint service with LMG partners Preacher: Rev Simon Holland (Walcot)
	30	Fri	ST ANDREW OF SCOTLAND	
			11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café
Dec	2	Sun	ADVENT SUNDAY	
			Year A Readings begin	
			Church Duty at Genesis Lunchbox	
			6.30pm	Advent Carol Service

Keep up to date with the latest events on our website.

Laity Rota for November

		OT Readers	NT Readers	Gospel
November	4	Nicky Gladstone	Bob Siderfin	Martin Palmer
	11	Mark Elliott	No reading	Georgina Bowman
	18	Chris Graham	Jane Fletcher	David Bishop
	25		Junior Church	
December	2	Sarah Hiscock	Margaret Heath	Sylvia Ayers
	9	Judith Anderson	Margaret Burrows	Ann Kemp

Chalice Assistants

November	4	Andrew Sillett	Tessa Claridge
	11	Bev Pont	Margaret Burrows
	18	Margaret Heath	Janet Mahto
	25	Chris Graham	Ann Kemp
December	2	Jane Fletcher	Penny Edwards
	9	Bob Siderfin	Andrew Sillett

Intercessors

November	4	Rev Cliff Burrows
	11	Chris Graham
	18	Junior Church
	25	Junior Church
December	2	Georgina Bowman
	9	Rev Antony Claridge



Sidespeople

		8am	10am	
November	11	Arthur Jones	Margaret Silver	Frank Twissell
	18	Clive Tilling	Ken and Sylvia Ayers	
	25	Arthur Jones	Joan Bunkin	Jean Ferguson
December	2	Clive Tilling	Margaret Heath	Andrew Sillett
	9	Arthur Jones	Tessa Claridge	Janet Mahto

Lectionary for November

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
Nov 11	Third Sunday before Advent (Remembrance Sunday)		
	Job 119.23 – 27a	No reading	Luke 20.27-38
18	Second Sunday before Advent		
	Malachi 4.1 – 2a	2 Thessalonians 3.6-13	Luke 21.5-19
25	Feast of Christ the King		
	Jeremiah 23.1-6	Colossians 1.11-20	Luke 23,33-43
Dec 2	Advent Sunday		
	Isaiah 2.1-5	Romans 13.11-14	Matthew 24.36-44
9	Second Sunday of Advent		
	Isaiah 11.1-10	Romans 15.4-13	Matthew 3.1-12

Our Calendar Correspondent Explains...

“PRISCILLA LYDIA SELLON” (20th November)

Priscilla Lydia Sellon (1821 - 1876) was Foundress of the Society of the Most Holy Trinity, friend of Dr Edward Pusey, Florence Nightingale and Queen Emma of Hawai'i, High Church Anglican, driving force behind what are now St Andrew's Priory School in Honolulu, St Dunstan's Abbey School in Plymouth and Ascot Priory.

Lydia Sellon arrived in Plymouth with only one helper, Catherine Chambers, but quickly won the agreement of Bishop Philipotts of Exeter to start the Devonport Sisters of Mercy. They wore plain black dresses with black wooden crosses.

The Park Village Sisterhood at Regents Park, London, the Sisterhood of the Holy Cross, was founded in 1845, but it was absorbed into the Devonport sisterhood in 1856 and the united sisterhood took the name the Society of the Most Holy Trinity.

Much of the society's work was unseen and done for people who could not make their gratitude public. The work which eventually received most recognition was the sisters' heroic nursing. A few sisters were sent to work under Florence Nightingale during the Crimean War but they had already distinguished themselves during a serious outbreak of cholera in Plymouth in 1849 which lasted almost six months.

Mother Lydia had a stroke in 1861 which partially paralysed her for a time, and another in 1872 which left her right arm permanently paralysed. A third stroke when she was staying at Osborne House, West Malvern, Worcestershire, made her unable to swallow. She died there on 20 November 1876. Her body was taken to Ascot Priory, in Berkshire, and on 29 November she was buried in the graveyard there.

DO YOU KNOW the tree this month: it is one of my favourites, perhaps because there are two growing in Larkhall and I pass them most days; they are also Peweeep or Whistle trees; have fruits known as knives-and-forks; and are often regarded as weeds with slimy leaves.



The tree comes from Europe, where it grows in mountainous regions, and was imported into Britain at the end of the seventeenth century. It was planted as a shade tree, to give relief from the sun to inhabitants of country houses: so it appeared in walks in country parks. Its habit of rapid self-seeding soon released it into the wider world; aided and abetted by clergy who liked to plant it in their churchyards, graveyards and glebe houses. It soon spread throughout the land and seems to thrive in all conditions, from damp meadowlands to windswept mountains. In fact some conservationists dislike it so much that they spend many hours destroying young saplings and trying to get rid of their woodlands. They liken it to a weed and argue that it will replace our native woodlands. There isn't much evidence to support this view; these trees seem to grow with oak and ash, and their woods cast so much shade that their own seeds fail to germinate, which suggests other trees may take their place.

Another reason these trees are disliked goes back to the nineteenth century, and probably earlier: they shed their leaves early in Autumn and their sliminess was thought to conceal all kinds of putrefaction. The truth is kinder: the leaves not only provide food and warmth for the earthworm population, they also encourage the growth of green aphids, essential sustenance for many birds. There are several individual trees which are revered and cared for by the local people. On a hill near Matlock is a single tree, but the local story is that two brothers planted one tree each: but one tree flourished and one tree died—just like the brothers. Another tree near Dulverton has an immense girth and a great age. It was struck by lightning in 1845 and lost part of its crown; but the use of steel wires, for strength, and an internal drainpipe, to keep it dry, has ensured its survival.

A more famous tree is The Martyrs Tree that stands by the Green at Tolpiddle. Under this tree meetings of the first agricultural trade union were held: this was illegal in the 1830s and six of the leaders were transported to Australia. By the 1960s, when the tree was 200 years old, it seemed about to die as the heart of the tree had rotted away; but it was



adopted by the TUC. They filled the trunk with vermiculite and wrapped it with metal bands: and the tree survives! Children are said to be fond of this tree because of the games they can play with the winged seeds. These are called helicopters in England and bathies (small bats) in Scotland. Yes, you're right, the tree is a Sycamore.



Cyril Selmes

Churches Together in Bath

Notes from the meeting of held on October 2nd 2007

As Armistice Day, November 11th, will this year fall on a Sunday, the Commemoration at the War Memorial by Victoria Park will be at 3pm.

A service for the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims to acknowledge the pain and suffering of the bereaved and injured will be held at Nexus Church, Walcot on November 18th at 4pm, and will be followed by refreshments. This event is promoted by "Road Peace", the UK's national Charity for road traffic victims, and is attended by people from all over the West Country. A Poster about this is on the Church Noticeboard.

Plans for Open Christmas 2007 are well under way. A meal followed by entertainment will be provided at Kingswood School on Christmas Day, for which many helpers will be required. Sarah Sheppard, who has taken on the job of Secretary, reports that a donation of £1,000 towards expenses has been received from BIBS.

A major debate on Climate Change is being planned for April or May 2008. In connection with this, Bath Churches are being asked to look at an Eco Audit of their own life, following the example of the Churches in Clifton, Bristol, who launched their own audit in September under the title "The Sound of many Waters."

The next Meeting of this Committee will be in a downstairs room at Holy Trinity Queen Square on Tuesday February 12th. After confirming the date, the representatives from this Church reported that following a recent spate of vandalism, their building now has at least 20 broken glass panes. The small congregation, which is at present without a Vicar, has been quoted over £300 per window for replacement Glass, Leading and Wire Mesh. The building is currently shut except for Services, although formerly they were able to keep it open all the time, and they ask for our prayer at this difficult time.

Sylvia Ayers

Joint CTB Representative

Christ Church Play Day

2nd February 2008

At one of the Church Council meetings during the summer, the subject of the Christmas Fair and its future was raised. Only the longest standing members of the congregation will remember the early days of the Fair, when sales throughout the year financed the production of craft items which coach-loads of punters came in to buy, providing a vital addition to the church's finances. Times change, and although the catering continues to do well, toys and gifts are cheaply available and the demand for home-made or second hand goods has plummeted. Together with the rising price of the Guildhall, and despite the work put in by the congregation, the visitor numbers and income have fallen steadily over the last six or seven years.

Putting aside the fund-raising aspect, Council was quick to recognise other positive aspects of the Fair. One important one is that it brings the whole congregation together as a team to play their part on the day to make it work: all except a few like myself, who conveniently seemed to remember they had left the bath running and have to dash off home. So its cancellation meant we would deprive our church family of an event at which we could enjoy each other's company and work together for a common cause. We all went away to think of an alternative to bring us all together.

Being the sort of character that likes to see people having a good time and laughing a lot, life is too short to be serious for long, I set about contriving 'an entertainment' which would involve as many people as possible and already my initial concept has developed into what I hope will appeal to all. The idea is to rehearse and stage a performance all in one day, plus a few hours perhaps learning your short script in advance.

The main aim of the day is to laugh, for everybody to let their hair down (if you are fortunate to have some), join in and just take part with no inhibitions.

The first Saturday of February has been chosen as it is well clear of Christmas, Lent will not have started and it is normally a duller time of the year when everyone could do with a fun day to cheer themselves up. The day would comprise of sectional rehearsals during the morning and afternoon, leaving people free to go when not needed. Everyone amassing in the early evening to prepare for the performance and then to stage the play before, during or after supper (not yet decided).



MORE DETAILS ON PAGE 11

Martin Palmer
October, 2007

The plan is to put on a performance of *'The Wild Woods'* by James Graham-Brown hopefully at the Gloucester Hall, which is opposite the Lansdown Grove Hotel, halfway between Christ Church and St. Stephen's, in the Junior section of The Royal High School in Lansdown Road. We have asked the school and are awaiting confirmation.

A perfect performance is not essential or expected providing everyone involved has a good time and enjoys each other's company and, laughs a lot especially at themselves and others. That's why we are calling it the

Christ Church Play Day.



SATURDAY

2ND FEBRUARY, 2008.

A ROWPING GOOD DAY

James Graham-Brown, a brilliant, award winning playwright, is also Headmaster of the Royal High. His play *'The Wild Woods'* was actually written to be performed outside by a large cast of principles moving, with the audience, from scene to scene around the school site, but it can be performed just as easily on a stage in the conventional way. It is a cross between a play and a pantomime, entwining comedy scenes with characters from several famous fairytales (including: Little Red Riding Hood, Cinderella, Goldilocks, Hansel and Gretel and the 3 Little Piggies, etc., etc.).

Members of the Christ Church congregation and 1 or 2 people from St. Stephen's will be invited to play specific characters (not necessarily as you might expect in terms of typecasting), musical interludes will be performed by our own band of talented musicians. It will all be directed by Jo P. who, as Head of Drama at the Junior School, is well practiced in the art of coaxing accomplished performances out of reluctant thespians. By using the Gloucester Hall, we have a fully equipped venue well known to both Jo and myself, giving us all the technical facilities we require, a vast wardrobe of costumes and props and an industrial equipped kitchen to produce high quality food to make the evening complete.

We would invite the congregations of St. Stephen's and St. Mary's to join us as an audience in the evening, where food and drink will be available at modest, value for money prices.

HIGH AND LOW

I followed Matthew and Sarah Jones's recent reports of their London church crawl with particular interest. Because I work in London, I have always found it difficult to join the Christ Church congregation for the major festivals when they fall on a weekday. But how and where to find the time and place in a strange town?

*The vast suburban churches
Together we have found:
The ones which smelt of gaslight
The ones in incense drown'd;
I'll use them now for praying in
And not for looking round.*

John Betjeman's *Cockney Amorist*

A few years ago, I walked several blocks to find an Ascension Day service at the English Church in Madrid. But the notices in the porch suggested I come back later. I couldn't. The Anglicans in Cairo advertised an 8.00am Sunday Holy Communion, but what they really meant was 10.00am when I could not join them.

This is where websites come in. Many churches have a website these days. Christ Church is no exception. The vital thing is that the website is kept up to date. Last Maundy Thursday I took the bus from the office to St John's, Waterloo for the advertised 1.00pm Communion, only to find that they'd changed the start to 12.30pm without changing the website.

When I worked at the BBC, at the top of Regent Street, my office was a stone's throw from All Soul's, Langham Place – 'Granny's church' in our family, because my grandmother used to travel from Bayswater to worship there, I think, for sentimental reasons. All Soul's was the BBC church, broadcasting the Radio 4 Morning Service each day, before the Religious Broadcasting Department was moved to Manchester a few years ago. Memorial services for BBC high ups are often held at All Soul's. Richard Briers reading Ecclesiastes in his characteristic panting dog voice recently was something to be savoured.



The trouble with All Soul's – the cathedral of Evangelicalism – was that they don't do saints' days - or weekdays, for that matter. But a few streets away, All Saints, Margaret Street – the cathedral of Anglo-Catholicism – makes up for it. All Saints gave me my introduction to 'bells and smells' Anglicanism. It met a need, but I found the full High Mass on All Saints' Day itself a bit hard to take.

When I moved on from the BBC to an organisation based off the Tottenham Court Road, my local church was the former university church of Christ The King, Gordon Square. Services were held in the Lady Chapel of this great barn of a church. But Christ the King seemed most interested in the sectarian issues of Forward in Faith, the Third Province, and so on. When my company moved to High Holborn, I briefly found a similar home at St Alban's, another Anglo Catholic church, but similarly obsessed with C of E politics.



Frankly, London has too many churches – and in High Holborn I am spoiled for choice. As well as St Alban's, there is the Hawksmoor gem which is St George's – recently

restored with American money, but a church without a congregation. There is also St Giles-in-the-Fields, next to Tin Pan Alley. And at the City end, there is St Andrew's, which has come to be my London weekday home.

St Andrew's is a Guild Church and offers a mission to City professionals during the week. On Sundays, the Russian Orthodox take over. I find the Wednesday evening Sung Eucharist is just what I need in the middle of a busy week. We have a good congregational setting of the Mass, a responsorial psalm, much ceremony around the gospel reading with more singing, and lots of hymns from the New English Hymnal. There is a good deal of incense, which I now rather like. The homily is intelligent and challenging – and sometimes there are notes. After the service, we gather around a long table for Prêt-a-Manger leftovers and a glass of wine. There is a real sense of community as everybody goes out of their way to welcome newcomers.

Another London church I like is in the same mould – St James and St Peter, Islington. Islington is where I have a mid-week *pied-a-terre*. But Islington, like Bath, is predominantly Evangelical, having been largely bought up by the Simeon Trust in an earlier generation. St James's was recommended to me as a Liberal Catholic oasis, and, when I am stuck in London over the weekend, St James's is a very acceptable substitute for Christ Church. We have a quick congregational singing practice before the service begins and we are expected to read the music set out in the pew sheet.

Over the summer, I was reading a new interpretation of the English Revolution of 1641-2. It seems that St Andrew's, Holborn – as the Earl of Warwick's London chapel - was the centre of extreme Puritanism and of opposition to Popery, Arminianism and Innovations. 'How ironic,' said the Associate Vicar when I pointed this out. 'Innovations is what we do.'

The correct response to all this one-up-churchmanship came in the epistle reading we had at St Andrew's the other day:

Remind them of this, and warn them before God that they are to avoid wrangling over words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening.



The glory of Anglicanism is its toleration of difference. Some will take from the Alpha Course at St Mary's Islington as much or more than I take from the very different fare at St Andrew's or St James's. But when tolerance goes out of the window, the wrangling of the Anglican family will only serve to ruin those who are listening – if they haven't stopped listening years ago. And the challenge for all those London churches is to get today's Londoners to listen at all.

Chris Graham

Thoughts about the Prayer List

I know from my own experience the power of prayer and good wishes from friends and those close to you, when your world is suddenly turned upside down by a quite unforeseen event. It feels as though your own strength is multiplied by the number of people all praying at the same time.



“Betty Spreadbury, Rachel Sillett, Mike, ...” We are all familiar with the litany. Some are acquaintances, some dear friends, others, I haven't the foggiest idea. What I do know is that they are all in need of our thoughts and prayers and have been for quite a long time. Other than that I wouldn't know some from Adam. Week in, week out, I hear their names and include their faceless, enigmatic needs into a blanket Meditation which might as well include everyone in the world in distress, battling with health or other problems. Surely the aim is to concentrate our thoughts on the needs of each one as an individual and pray that good fortune will go with them when they undergo treatment or that they find solace to their distress in the comfort of their God and their friends around them.

It seems to me that the form one's prayers for others take, needs some aim to help concentrate them in their direction. One's thoughts might be quite different for someone suffering with a terminal cancer to those of a person in the middle of a personal crisis which is making them unable to put problems into a sensible perspective. Maybe they have so many problems that they can't see the slightest glimmer, let alone a light at the end of their tunnel.

Sometimes I wish I knew just a little more about the person in need of my thoughts rather than switch off because of a lack of information and start to think about some mundane domestic necessity. Now, I have to say, that I also have no desire to pry into the personal lives of those who would rather I kept my oversized, family heirloom of a nose out of their business, far from it. Having everyone knowing all your private problems is hardly a recommended therapy for any ailment, but to know if someone is about to undergo heart-surgery or needs some calm to pervade their turmoil, surely makes a difference to the direction of ones prayers. We don't need to be a close friend or even have met someone to be able to help them in an hour of need and support.

As well as regular members of the Christ Church congregation, whom we meet and talk to on a weekly basis and we are as shocked and distress for them, as they are for themselves, when something serious happens to them, we should also be able to direct the power and strength of our prayers and good wishes to friends and family of congregation members. For instance, we pray for Trevor Shears, Ali Dudley's father and Jenni, Abi and Harrie's grand-father, who is in the middle of a period of distressing health problems with his heart involving surgery and long stays in hospital and a slow convalescence. Whilst not necessarily well known to all the congregation, I am fortunate in having met him many times and thus find it much easier to give thought to his particular needs.

So, I wonder if there is a way we can give a little more detail about those we try to help with our prayers each Sunday. Hopefully, this will generate some thought and discussion among us to find a sensitive way of making all aware of how we can help. I am going to kick off by telling you the story of one of the names on the list that I am certain nobody knows anything about.



Each week, the name of Alex Dawson is included in our special list. Alex is one of identical twins now aged 16. He lives in Wakefield in Yorkshire, is a lively, witty teenager who, with his identical brother, plays endless harmless pranks of mistaken identity on the unsuspecting. He is a great, enthusiastic sportsman, playing rugby for one of the Yorkshire County youth teams and leads a fully active life enjoying all the things a teenager should, both at school and out of it, that is until they discovered he has serious bone-cancer nearly 2 years ago. Since then, he has undergone endless courses of debilitating Chemotherapy with varying degrees of success, had to have one knee removed and replaced with an artificial one, gone into remission for a short period until he developed tumours in both lungs, which have now been successfully removed from one lung with the other to follow soon. He has developed a tumour on his jaw bone which means he cannot chew and so is fed by a multi-nutritional compound in liquid form through a straw and, amid all that, has just passed his GCSEs all with A*, A and B results. His mum - Sarah, brother - Patrick, sister - Felicity and her boyfriend Craig all take it in turns to stay with him overnight when he is in hospital for long periods so that he doesn't have to endure it all alone.

When he came home for the first time after a long stay in hospital, the first thing he wanted to do was throw a party to thank everyone for their love and support. Sarah sends out fortnightly text messages to all, to keep us updated with his progress. Alex always includes his love to everyone and says that he will not give up fighting nor does he want to hear any negative comments and he will not give in to it! And he's just sixteen!!!

Patrick is in turmoil, struggling to come to terms with what has happened to his brother and inseparable best friend. Felicity is away at University studying to be a physiotherapist. Sarah is a powerhouse who organises everything, bolsters everyone, smiles, is a rod of iron and copes with it all single-handed. Her own tale is enough to make a soap-drama as well, but let's not go into that, I just don't know how she keeps smiling and is always ready to help others with their problems.

Now, you tell me, does that make any difference to the way you will think when you hear the name Alex Dawson during the Intercessions next week?

*Martin Palmer
September 2007*

† Just as we were going to print, we heard the sad news that Alex had died, with friends and family at his bedside. We pray for his soul's repose and the comforting of those who love him. Editor

Prayer Cycle for November

November

- Thurs 1** We remember all who have inspired us, in word or deed, all who have helped us walk more closely with Jesus.
- Fri 2** We remember those we have loved and who have died. We thank God for all with whom we are sharing our pilgrimage through this world.
- Sat 3** For the Cedar Tree project, celebrating its first birthday today; for Nicky and all the helpers; for our local community.
- Sun 4** For those who are lonely or feel uncared for.
- Mon 5** For Rowan our Archbishop and for Peter our Bishop. For all Anglican Bishops and Primate.
- Tues 6** For David, our Treasurer.
- Wed 7** For the work of USPG in general, and especially for St Anne's Hospital, Lake Malawi.
- Thurs 8** For those who make coffee for us to enjoy after the 10am Communion service.
- Fri 9** For those coping with terminal illness. For their families and all who care for them.
- Sat 10** For Cyril and Mark our Readers; for Sarah's ministry at Batheaston.
- Sun 11** For Angela and Chris, our Churchwardens; for Frank and Yvonne, our Deputy Churchwardens.
- Mon 12** For those facing redundancy, for those who are unemployed. For parents under pressure to spend more than they can afford at Christmas.
- Tues 13** 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.
- Wed 14** For all our readers, chalice assistants, intercessors and sidespeople. For Sarah, who draws up the Laity Rotas.
- Thurs 15** For Nicky, our Magazine Editor.
- Fri 16** For our Local Ministry Group; that it may be a light in the city of Bath.
- Sat 17** For our next-door neighbours; for our colleagues at work.

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- Sun 18** For all who are mourning or caring for victims of road accidents. For our emergency services.
- Mon 19** For those who are facing retirement, that God will help them with the challenges of their new life
- Tues 20** For all who serve on our Church Council, meeting tonight, that there deliberations may be guided by the love and wisdom of the Holy Spirit.
- Wed 21** For our branch of the Mother's Union.
- Thurs 22** For Mark, David and the choir. For a spirit of joy in our worship of the Lord.
- Fri 23** For Emma, Margaret and Sarah, our Deanery Synod representatives.
- Sat 24** For Judith, who prepares our weekly notice sheet.
- Sun 25** On our patronal festival, we pray for all who have worshipped in Christ Church down the years, for all who will visit and worship here over the coming year.
- Mon 26** For our Clergy Team.
- Tues 27** For Angela, our Verger.
- Wed 28** For all those who have no safe home to go to.
- Thurs 29** For members of our congregation who can no longer attend church due to illness or infirmity.
- Fri 30** We give thanks for the blessings of the month now ending, and offer the coming month to God.

December

- Sat 1** For the homeless in our country; for the work of Genesis among those in Bath; for those from our congregation serving at the Lunchbox this weekend.
- Sun 2** That we may spend this Advent wisely to prepare ourselves for Christmas. That we may be given the same wisdom to prepare for the Lord's return.
- Mon 3** For all who have lost their way or their hope. For all feeling forsaken and alone.
- Tues 4** For all parents, step-parents and godparents. For foster parents and all who care for children.

**Road Peace Service
Nexus (Walcot) Methodist Church
18th November 4pm**

There has been a request for a choir to sing Rutter's 'Gaelic Blessing' at the Road Peace Service, remembering Road Traffic Victims, and all those affected by road crashes: families, friends and emergency services.

Members from all the Central Zone Churches are invited to join the choir.

There will be a rehearsal at 3pm on 18th November.

Please contact Sharon Keevill if you would like to join the choir or for more details. She would like to know in advance how many singers will be coming.



Sharon Keevill
Music Co-ordinator
Nexus Methodist Church
sharon.keevil@btconnect.com
Telephone Bath 332006



The Christ Church Friends in Deed scheme is designed to provide a network of good neighbours who 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 local contact best able to provide the help that is needed.

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 / 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 / Verger	Angela Soboslay, 285 Newbridge Road, Bath BA1 3HN 01225 333297
Church Council Secretary	David Bishop, The Old Tannery, Turleigh, Bradford on Avon, BA15 2HG 01225 869409
Treasurer to the Trustees	David Marles, 5 Westwoods, Box Road, Bath BA1 7QE 01225 859969
Chairman of the Trustees	Yvonne Morris, 3 Summerhill Road, Sion Hill, Bath BA1 2UP. 01225 425555
Deanery Synod	Emma Elliott, 32 Charlcombe Lane, Larkhall, Bath BA1 6NS 01225 445360
Deanery Synod / Laity Rotas / Junior Church	Sarah Hiscock, 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
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
Christian Aid / Children's Society	Your name here? Speak to Chris or Angela!
Organist	David Wrigley, 3 Haydon Gate, Radstock, BA3 3RB 01761 439355
Magazine Editor / Secretary to the Trustees	Nicky Gladstone, 5 Westwoods, Box Road, Bath BA1 7QE 01225 859969
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

**The deadline for articles for the magazine is the
15th of the preceding month.
Thank you.**