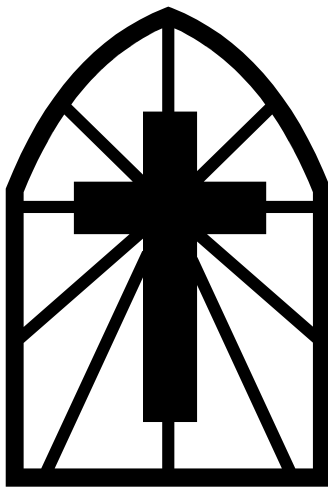


CHRIST  
CHURCH  
CHALLENGE



November 2009

**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.*

**In Flanders' Fields—John McCrae, 1915**

In Flanders' fields the poppies blow  
 Between the crosses, row on row,  
 That mark our place: and in the sky  
 The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
 Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead. Short days ago  
 We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
 Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
 In Flanders' fields.

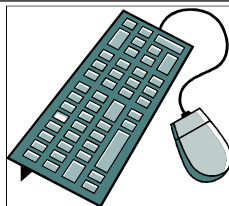
Take up our quarrel with the foe;  
 To you from failing hands we throw  
 The torch; be yours to hold it high,  
 If ye break faith with us who die  
 We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
 In Flanders' Fields.



## *Forum...*

### **Swimming the Tiber**

Pope Benedict XVI has announced that the Roman Catholic Church will set up special provision for Anglicans who wish to convert Roman Catholicism while preserving elements of their Anglican identity.



While this may seem like it will have little direct effect on us locally at Christ Church, it's a development which is getting a lot of press coverage and I thought it might be worth looking at what all the fuss is about.

The Catholic church has made it clear that this is in response to requests from "disaffected Anglicans", which is diplomatic code for conservative sections of the Anglican Church who do not accept the ordination of women, the blessing of same sex unions or the ordination of openly gay clergy.

This provision will be in the form of "personal ordinariates" which means that Bishops will be appointed outside of the ordinary diocesan structures within the Catholic Church to oversee congregations who will be in full communion with Rome, but who will be allowed to carry much of their Anglican spiritual heritage and tradition with them. In practice this means allowing married Anglican priests to be re-ordained as priests in the Catholic Church and allowing the use of existing Anglican liturgy, for example, Evensong and Matins.

Married Anglican priests have actually been allowed to convert since the 1980s when churches within the Anglican communion started ordaining women, but it seems that this will be a more general dispensation. Having said that, there is no detail yet on exactly what it means. Does this apply only to existing priests and those already in training, or to men newly seeking ordination within the new structure? Could a married Catholic man join the Anglican Church, train to be a priest, get ordained, and then convert back to Catholicism?! Could a married Catholic man simply decide to join the new Anglican "ordinariate" and become a priest?

There are many unanswered questions, not least the thorny issue of property – if a Church of England clergyman and, say, 75% of his congregation wish to take this opportunity to join the Catholic Church, does the C of E come to some arrangement about the building? Or does it have a duty to retain the place of worship for the 25% who wish to remain Anglican? What if the congregation is split 50:50?

The biggest unanswered question, of course, is: how many people will choose to make this leap? While the newspaper predictions of hundreds of clergy and thousands of laity are almost certainly exaggerated, even a

small exodus from the Anglo-Catholic wing of the C of E could make a big difference to the balance of the church.

While the media have chosen to portray this announcement in largely a negative light (either the liberal atheist “yet another nail in the coffin of the C of E” or the xenophobic “those naughty foreign Catholics stealing our good English Christians”) I think we should view this development positively. There is certainly no reason to believe it was intended as anything other than a charitable gesture by the Pope. Those Anglicans who genuinely feel that the Catholic Church is their spiritual home, and for whom this new structure provides a release from tensions between their theological position and their spiritual traditions, should be allowed to go with our blessing. Those on the Anglo-Catholic wing of the church who now choose to stay within the Anglican Church will know that they have had a genuine alternative offered to them and decided that their home was in the C of E after all. This may help to take a little of the heat out of the current arguments over the role of women and human sexuality which have occupied too much of the churches time in recent years.

*Mark*

## ***Celebrating Christ the King***



On Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November, we shall, in the company of our LMG partners, celebrate once again our patronal festival and declare that Christ is our King. It is also the day on which we remember and give thanks that 25 years ago this Autumn Antony was priested by the Bishop of Bath and Wells in Wells cathedral.

When Antony first came to live in Bath in 1981 he worshipped at Christ Church, together with Tessa and their then young children Edward and Victoria. Many Christ Church people were in the cathedral when he was ordained.

After ordination, Antony was appointed to serve in the Keynsham Parish where he worked as head teacher of Broadlands School. Arriving as Rector of Keynsham at the same time was the now Bishop of Hull, the Rt. Revd Richard Frith, Bishop of Hull. Bishop Richard has been in Hull – coincidentally the hometown of Tessa – since 1999. We shall be delighted to have him as celebrant and preacher at our patronal festival and to welcome his wife, Kay who will be visiting Bath with him.

# Church Calendar for November

<b>Nov</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>ALL SAINTS DAY</b>	
			Travelling Light arrives at Christ Church	
			4.30pm	Choral Evensong for All Souls
	<b>2</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>ALL SOULS DAY</b>	
	<b>5</b>	<b>Thur</b>	7.30pm	Home Group at 77 Brookfield Park, BA1 4JJ
	<b>6</b>	<b>Fri</b>	11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café
	<b>8</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>REMEMBERANCE SUNDAY</b>	
	<b>10</b>	<b>Tues</b>	7.30pm	CTB Central Zone Committee St Mary's, Julian Road
	<b>13</b>	<b>Fri</b>	11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café
	<b>15</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT</b>	
			4.30pm	Road Peace Service at Christ Church
	<b>19</b>	<b>Thur</b>	7.30pm	Home Group at 77 Brookfield Park, BA1 4JJ
	<b>20</b>	<b>Fri</b>	11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café
	<b>22</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>CHRIST THE KING</b>	
	<b>26</b>	<b>Thur</b>	7.00pm	World Aids Day Candle Light Procession Holy Trinity, Queens Square
			7.30pm	Church Council Meeting
	<b>27</b>	<b>Fri</b>	11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café
	<b>29</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>ADVENT SUNDAY</b>	
			6.30pm	Advent Carol Service
<b>Dec</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Fri</b>	11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café
	<b>6</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	
			Travelling Light departs for Salvation Army	
			Church Genesis Duty—please sign up	

.org...see our website for latest details...www.christchurchbath.org...see o

# Laity Rota for November

		OT Readers	NT Readers	Gospel
<b>November</b>	<b>1</b>	Matthew Jones	David Marles	Eileen Selmes
	<b>8</b>	Martin Palmer	Nicky Gladstone	Bob Siderfin
	<b>15</b>	Esme Buss	Morny Davison	Penny Edwards
	<b>22</b>	Festival of Christ the King		
	<b>29</b>	Jane Fletcher	Sarah Cade	Margaret Heath
<b>December</b>	<b>6</b>	Sylvia Ayers	Matthew Jones	Judith Anderson

## Chalice Assistants

<b>November</b>	<b>1</b>	Andrew Sillett	Tessa Claridge
	<b>8</b>	Bev Pont	Margaret Burrows
	<b>15</b>	Margaret Heath	Janet Mahto
	<b>22</b>	Jane Fletcher	Penny Edwards
	<b>29</b>	Bob Siderfin	Andrew Sillett
<b>December</b>	<b>6</b>	Tessa Claridge	Bev Pont

## Intercessors

<b>November</b>	<b>1</b>	Bev Pont
	<b>8</b>	David Marles
	<b>15</b>	Rev Cliff Burrows
	<b>22</b>	Festival of Christ the King
	<b>29</b>	Rev Antony Claridge
<b>December</b>	<b>6</b>	Mark Elliott



## Sidespeople

		8am	10am	
<b>November</b>	<b>1</b>	Arthur Jones	Margaret Silver	Frank Twissell
	<b>8</b>	Clive Tilling	Ken & Sylvia Ayers	
	<b>15</b>	Arthur Jones	Andrew Sillett	Janet Mahto
	<b>22</b>	Clive Tilling	Morny Davison	Margaret Heath
	<b>29</b>	Arthur Jones	Tessa Claridge	Emma Elliott
<b>December</b>	<b>6</b>	Clive Tilling	Margaret Silver	Frank Twissell

# Lectionary for November

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
<b>Nov 1</b>	All Saints Sunday		
	Isaiah 25.6-9	No reading	John 11.32-44
<b>8</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday before Advent		
	Jonah 3.1 – 5.10	Hebrews 9.24-28	Mark 1.14-20
<b>15</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday before Advent		
	Daniel 12. 1-3	No reading	Mark 13.1-8
<b>22</b>	Christ the King		
	Daniel 7.9-10, 13-14	No reading	John 18.33-37
<b>29</b>	Advent Sunday		
	Jeremiah 33.14-16	1 Thessalonians 3.9-13	Luke 21.25-36
<b>Dec 6</b>	Advent 2		
	Malachi 3.1-4	Philippians 1.3-11	Luke 3.1-6

***Calendar Date – they’re in the shops now!***

Advent calendars have been in the shops since the middle of last month. This reminds us that Advent Sunday will be on 29<sup>th</sup> November.



Our Advent Carol Service will be held at 6.30 in the evening on that day. As usual we shall be joined by the people of St Stephen’s and St Mary’s. For the first time, we shall also welcome the congregation of St Swithun’s. This will be a great occasion and one not to be missed. All readers should make sure the date and time is in their diaries.

## **Wear a poppy in remembrance**

### **The importance of Poppy Day this year**

#### *A place in the national calendar*

The first official Poppy Day was held in Britain on 11 November 1921, inspired by the poem *In Flanders' Fields* written by John McCrae. Since then the Poppy Appeal has been a key annual event in the nation's calendar.



#### *Flanders field*

Some of the bloodiest fighting of World War One took place in the Flanders and Picardy regions of Belgium and Northern France. The poppy was the only thing which grew in the aftermath of the complete devastation. McCrae, a doctor serving there with the Canadian Armed Forces, deeply inspired and moved by what he saw, wrote the poem printed on page 2.

#### *Poppies first sold*

On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918, the First World War ended. Civilians wanted to remember the people who had given their lives for peace and freedom. An American War Secretary, Moina Michael, inspired by John McCrae's poem, began selling poppies to friends to raise money for the ex-Service community. And so the tradition began.

#### *Help for service people and their families*

The British Legion has traditionally organised the Poppy Day appeal in this country. The money raised through the sale of poppies is used to help serving and ex-Service personnel and their families. Not just those who fought in the two World Wars, but also those involved in the many conflicts since 1945 and those still fighting today.

#### *Gesture of gratitude and a prayer for peace*

We still ask our young service men and women to defend peace and freedom. As the magazine goes to press, there are news reports of the death of 26 year old Corporal James Oakland in Afghanistan. He died while on a foot patrol near Gereshk district in Helmand Province. Corporal Oakland is the two hundred and twenty-second Briton to be killed in action since October 2001. Whatever our view of the politics of the Afghan war, we ought to recall with gratitude the sacrifice of our service men and women. We should all wear a poppy this year of all years and, at the end of our Service of Remembrance, cast them down at the War Memorial as a gesture of gratitude and a prayer for peace.



## ***World Day of Remembrance for Road Accident Victims***



### **RoadPeace comes to Christ Church**

*RoadPeace*, a UK charity, provides support for victims of road crashes and campaigns for justice, road safety and road danger reduction. It operates a national helpline for crash victims offering confidential emotional and practical support. In addition, the organisation provides direct support and specialist advice for people bereaved as a result of road crashes. Together with European partners, *RoadPeace* campaigns for justice for road crash victims and supports all measures to reduce road danger.

### **Remembrance service at Christ Church**

The third Sunday of November is the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims. Initiated by *RoadPeace* in 1993, this day is now globally recognised. On 26th October 2005 the UN General Assembly urged all member states to recognise the third Sunday in November of every year as the World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims as an appropriate acknowledgement for victims of road traffic crashes and their families.

### **Our mayor and member of Parliament**

At the invitation of Churches Together in Bath, *RoadPeace* are coming to

**Christ Church**  
**4.30pm, 15<sup>th</sup> November**

to make their annual act of remembrance. Attending the service will be the Worshipful mayor of Bath, Cllr. Colin Barrett and the city MP Mr. Don Foster. The service has been widely advertised and all are welcome. It would be good if a large number of Christ Church people were to be present to mark the occasion and to welcome our guests.

## **Death and Dogma**

A hint of controversy arose at a recent lecture on assisted dying by Lord Joffe at the University of Bath. Lord Joffe is working to introduce a third Private Member's Bill in an area which is a natural, maybe inevitable, source of controversy. Given the ethical questions around the subject, you may not be shocked to learn that the controversy in question was sparked by a question from the Catholic Chaplain. The chaplain's question did not address assisted dying directly, but accused Lord Joffe of an ad hominem attack on the Archbishop of Cardiff. Although trimmed about with caveats and courteousness, Lord Joffe's position could be caricatured as this: "It's no use talking to those religious types, they don't approach questions objectively and they don't change their mind." It was this that the Chaplain challenged, suggesting that opinions are not dictated by one's faith, but confirmed by it.

In my experience, there's a common accusation here: that faith is not supported by evidence (indeed can be held in the face of contradictory evidence) and that neither it, nor its rules, can ever be questioned.

Consider this quote from Richard Feynman, Nobel Prize winning physicist. He did "not believe that the scientist can have the same certainty of faith that very deeply religious people have." Feynman is careful to say that religion has its proper sphere, but argues that because science is not dogmatic, it is free to reach the truth, whatever that may be; the point being that if you'd believe it no matter what, you'd believe it if it was false.

The employment equality law considers intransigent religious beliefs from another angle. This law protects "religions, religious beliefs and similar philosophical beliefs", a phrase which in practice has covered the major world religions, and anything which seemed to be similar or analogous, such as humanism or atheism.

In the spring of 2007, parliament decided that the word 'similar' added no meaning to the phrase, and removed it. The rules now covered "philosophical beliefs" pure and simple, and since then courts and tribunals had to grapple with what this meant.

An early, failed claim ruled that the beliefs need "sufficient cogency, seriousness, cohesion and importance" and to be "worthy of respect in a democratic society." The claim failed partly because the views, although sincere, were judged to be open to change. This chimes with what Joffe and Feynman appeared to believe; that religious beliefs are, or should be, immovable.

Another tribunal ruled that the beliefs before it (not religious; they concerned climate change and carbon emissions) were indeed covered by

the rules. It held that they were not only serious and worthy of respect, but led to settled views about how an individual leads his or her life.

Here again is the connection between religious or philosophical beliefs and some level of constancy, here in the phrase “settled views”, which are now related to choices and behaviour.

In all these examples, we see the same pattern: while everything the secular figure believes is open to doubt and analysis, they are frustrated by dogmatic religious believers who are not open to reason.

Naturally, I am bound to have simplified the views of the very distinguished people I have mentioned above, but I think that there are two genuine traps that my straw men could fall into. On the one hand, our secular man could fail to realise that he too has dogmatic, “settled views”, and our man of faith could treat as settled, views which really should be open to doubt.

I think that Feynman would have been happy to hold up his work on quantum electrodynamics and say, “Yes, my life’s work, even this is open to doubt. Let’s prove it wrong.” But that doesn’t mean that he doubted everything. There are other kinds of scientific belief, such as the belief that the universe runs according to some laws, or that these laws apply widely in time and space, or that they are at least partially fathomable by the human mind.

These were surely (some of) Feynman’s settled views, which informed his choices and behaviour, not least his decision to be a physicist. Although he could, in theory, doubt these views as well, the upheaval would be so great that he couldn’t do it more than once or twice in his life.

On the other side, it’s easy to dodge difficult questions by quoting the Bible or tradition. This question came up at the first House Group (next meeting 5<sup>th</sup> November!), where it was suggested that questions like these must be answered, prayerfully, alone with God and your conscience.

An opinion on assisted dying, for example, could not really be considered to be part of a philosophy or religious faith. It should be something that is arrived at through your faith, as the Chaplain in the lecture said, and with due attention to the evidence and arguments.

Lord Joffe’s work is underpinned by a sense of compassion. In his careful argument in favour of assisted dying, he simply asserted his belief in compassion; it was his dogmatic, settled view, and I think it would strengthen his argument to own up to it. Personally, I agree with him, I could not ask others to choose an abstract, bible-based belief in the sanctity of life over a concrete act of compassion in the face of suffering.

*David Marles*

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# Prayer Cycle for November

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*November*

- Mon 2** For those we love; for those who love us, in this world and the next.
- Tues 3** For Cyril and Mark our Readers.
- Wed 4** For our Trustees, and for Mark, their chairman.
- Thurs 5** For those attending the House Group tonight; for all acts of fellowship in our congregation.
- Fri 6** For David, our Treasurer and magazine editor.
- Sat 7** For friendly relations between the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches.
- Sun 8** For Rowan our Archbishop and for Peter our Bishop. For all Anglican Bishops and Primates.
- Mon 9** For our Clergy Team.
- Tues 10** For all Churches in our city, for their shared witness and worship.
- Wed 11** For Mark, our Director of Music and David, our Organist. For our choir.
- Thurs 12** For Judith, who prepares our weekly notice sheet.
- Fri 13** For all our readers, chalice assistants, intercessors and sidespeople. For the witness they bear. For Sarah, who draws up the Rotas.
- Sat 14** For all who are affected by traffic accidents.
- Sun 15** In the Churches Together in Bath rota, we pray for the people and leaders St Matthew's and St Thomas, Widcombe
- Mon 16** For Chris and Lewis, our church wardens.
- Tues 17** For all the children in our congregation. For those who lead the Junior Church.
- Wed 18** For the University Ecumenical Chaplaincy Centre, for Angela the University Chaplain, and for all the chaplains.
- Thurs 19** For the staff, pupils and governors of St Andrew's and St Stephen's schools.
- Fri 20** For Angela, our Verger.

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- Sat* 21 For all those killed or injured in wars; for their families.
- Sun* 22 For the ministry of Antony; for Tessa; and for all the gifts they have shared with us.
- Mon* 23 That rich countries may wake up to the disproportionate damage their societies do to the earth.
- Tues* 24 For Margaret and Andrew, our Deanery Synod representatives.
- Wed* 25 For those who are travelling and working on the seas.
- Thurs* 26 For members of our Church Council, meeting tonight.
- Fri* 27 For the work of the Cedar Tree. For Nicky and all the helpers.
- Sat* 28 For all those who have no safe home to go to.
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- Sun* 29 That we may use this season of Advent to prepare for the coming of our Lord.
- Mon* 30 Let us thank God for the blessings of the month now ending.
- December*
- Tues* 1 As Christmas approaches, that we may be mindful of the dangers of greed in our consumerist society.
- Wed* 2 For those concerned about fuel costs as colder days approach.
- Thurs* 3 For all parents, step-parents and godparents. For foster parents and all who care for children.
- Fri* 4 For all who have lost their way or their hope. For all feeling forsaken and alone.
- Sat* 5 For those who have financial worries as Christmas approaches.
- Sun* 6 For the work of the Genesis Trust; for those helping at the Sunday Lunchbox today.

*O Lord hear my prayer*

## Mission to Seafarers

As we get ever nearer to Christmas, you cannot fail to notice all the potential presents in the shops; and of course the splendid array of Charity cards which are on sale in St Michael's Church: you probably buy quite a few yourself to send to family and friends. At this time you will hope, Post Office Strike permitting, to receive a much increased post through your letter box, all suitably adorned with attractive Christmas Stamps. Of course, the cards will find a ready home on your mantelpiece, but what about the envelopes?

Before consigning them to your Green Box, please take a moment or two to carefully cut off the pictorial stamps with a pair of scissors, leaving a half inch border all round, (if you just tear them off the stamps are apt to get damaged). Please label your parcel for the Mission to Seafarers and leave it in the "A" pigeon hole in Church. I do most sincerely thank those regular, if anonymous, contributors to this cause who continue to leave me their lovely parcels during the year. However, I have been advised that although "pictorial" stamps, especially those from abroad, are still warmly welcomed, the Mission can no longer accept the ordinary first and second class stamps, so unfortunately I now have no option but to throw these away. Although thousands of used Postage Stamps have already come my way, I am nevertheless still appealing for them, so thank you, everyone, for all your help.

Sylvia M Ayers

## Mothers Union News

Although it was still very early, the MU Christmas items, ordered in August 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 until All Saints' Day, November 1st, after which the parcels will be delivered. A list of items donated will appear on the Mothers' Union Notice Board in due course.

*Sylvia M Ayers (MU Secretary)*

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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	Lewis Boyd, 5 Jesse Hughes Court, Lower Swainswick, BA1 7BE 01225 329190
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 / Magazine Editor	David Marles, 5 Westwoods, Box Road, Bath BA1 7QE 01225 859969
Secretary to the Trustees	Nicky Gladstone, 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 <a href="mailto:concerts@christchurchbath.org">concerts@christchurchbath.org</a>

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