



Sunday 29th March - 5th Sunday of Lent

Welcome!

Dear friends of Christ Church,

We hope that you found last week's first bulletin useful in keeping you in contact with our community in Christ Church in this most difficult time. We welcome contributions from anyone who has a message to give, be it serious or maybe a little humorous. We all need to be able to smile in the face of challenge.

This bulletin will be emailed out to those on our email list. As always, material for inclusion should be emailed by Tuesday evenings to Jude Bishop at notices@christchurchbath.org

Please forward this bulletin to anyone to whom you think it would be of interest. We will print a few paper copies and deliver them to those who are not on email.

Fill our church!

As you will see from the Archbishops' letter, we can no longer use Christ Church either for public worship, or for online worship. By taking this stand the church is taking a visible, sacrificial lead in complying with the government's 'stay at home' policy. 'Remaining' or 'abiding' is a very Biblical concept. 'Abide in me' Jesus says in John 15:4 and he returns to the idea of abiding throughout his ministry. So we abide not just with those at home with us, or the memories of those with whom we used to share a home, but also with Christ himself.

And we can still worship together online, [here's how](#), and for the moment we will do that from the tiny chapel Colin and I have created at home. To make it more of a Christ Church community we would love you to send photos of yourself and I will put them up in the chapel as a visible sign that we are all worshipping together. They can come by email to me lore.chumbley@me.com or by post to Christ church.

Also, do please email or post or text prayer requests and we will try to include them week by week. But be aware that the service will be online and so be careful of the confidentiality of friends and loved ones

Alex is currently putting together the **April Link** which will be online next month. Do email him articles for inclusion at alexs@christchurchbath.org.

East End Re-ordering Time and Talents Challenge is still alive and kicking

We'd still like to encourage you all to use the opportunity of having time on your hands and to take your mind off the current situation. We're not cancelling the Time and Talents challenge and in fact it continues through Lent and extends to the end of October to raise the remaining funds for the East end re-organisation. If you have time to craft or embroider or knit or paint or do beautiful calligraphy, or bake or use any of the almost infinite talents that Christ Church folk have, then this is the place to advertise your talents. If you need help with delivering your cake or craft work, let the team here know and we can arrange for 'clean' delivery. By arrangement with us, you leave it on the doorstep, we will pick it up, transfer it, and leave it on the recipient's doorstep. Take advantage of this **weekly** bulletin and we can respond flexibly to need.

Charity of the month



It's really important at this difficult time that we don't forget the charities we have undertaken to support. This month it is **Bath Welcomes Refugees**. They'll be struggling with even more than we

are at the moment. If you are able to donate online go to <https://localgiving.org/charity/bathwelcomesrefugees/>
We won't be able to get a total for Christ Church donations this way, but at least we haven't forgotten them.

Rebekah Cunningham

Social action in Bath

If you want to get involved as a volunteer, either from home by making phone calls or more actively by delivering food and medicines, go to : <https://www.3sg.uk/news/nhs-volunteers>

There will be a phone number and/or email address where you can volunteer for as much as you are able. But remember, when you are at home praying, you are in the heart of the church's mission. Let's not underestimate the importance and power of prayer.

Support the Julian Road Community.

- For anyone local to Christ Church, St James' St Deli is doing delicious but fairly expensive take-away hot meals. Order the day before between 9.30 and 12.00, on 07429 240429. They will deliver locally.
- Ede's Greengrocers, Julian Road will put together a box of fruit, veg and groceries and deliver widely. Order on 01225 317319

A blog from an NHS front-line member of staff

The sky is so bright this morning. At this time it's normally peak rush hour but the roads are nearly empty. I put on "I'm still standing" by Elton John and intermittently pray and sing. I drive into the multi-storey car-park and toy with the idea of driving to the top. I imagine myself surveying the city and praying. I see my future self-communing with God. I have second thoughts and stop at the nearest available place. I want to have time to buy some decaffeinated coffee before work.

There is an intersex baby on the unit. We talk amongst ourselves about whether the baby's face looks female or male. Opinions differ. The father states that his intuition tells him that the child is female.

I study the baby's face, the child, as yet without a name has a slightly broad nasal bridge and thin lips, in profile there is a touch of the feminine about them. The parents have a list of 30 unisex names.

I attend trial of forceps delivery in theatre. Something about the atmosphere in the hospital is oppressive. The air feels close. Two plump women stand near the double doors chatting, wearing raspberry coloured scrubs. A black woman stands near a whiteboard, occasionally writing things on it with her thick pen.read more [here](#).

Prayer For the Christian community

*We are not people of fear:
we are people of courage.*

*We are not people who protect our own safety:
we are people who protect our neighbours' safety.*

*We are not people of greed:
we are people of generosity.*

*We are your people God,
giving and loving,
wherever we are,
whatever it costs*

*For as long as it takes
wherever you call us.*