



We will remember them.



Christ Church Link

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Remember community

From the Priest-in-Charge...

Revd Heather Smith writes:

November is the month of remembrance and of thanksgiving for those who have gone before us. It begins on the first of the month with All Saints Day – a joyous celebration of the saints who have provided an example for us to follow. All Souls' Day, which follows on 2 November, focuses more on those whom we have known in our lives and have now gone on to be with God. In the UK, remembering is completed with Remembrance Day, when we think of those who gave their lives, especially in the First and Second World Wars.

At its heart, remembrance is about relationships. The Genesis creation stories tell us that relationship is vital. The Hebrew word we translate as *man* could be something like “earthling”, only to be seen as human when the individual becomes two and relationship is born. In the West we seem to have moved steadily towards individualism that ignores the importance of relationship and community.

The African concept of Ubuntu – “I am because we are,” championed by Desmond Tutu – offers a needed

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Speaking of community... Jenny Hesketh writes:

More celebrations at Cedar Tree as Sheila (left) and Paul (right) blow out the candles to mark their “special” birthdays! We love the excuse to join with friends and sing “Happy Birthday”. Everyone is welcome at Cedar Tree on Fridays

to enjoy hot drinks, home-made cakes and freshly prepared light lunches. Some of our regulars are also expert at table-top Jenga. Please feel free to come along and meet friends at our weekly community café. (Photos courtesy of Jane Nicholson.)

Remember community

Continued from page 1

- ▶ counterpoint to Western individualism. It insists that personhood arises through relationship. Tutu said: "While rational autonomy has value, flourishing requires both community and responsible individuality."

As we remember during this month, let's focus not just on individuals, but on the community that made them. It's the community that makes us who we are and enables us to flourish.

Stamps for Seafarers

Sylvia and Steven Ayers write:

At this time of year, most of us start receiving a greatly increased post through the door, much of it adorned with attractive Christmas stamps. There is a market for these stamps, even when they have been used to post items to you. They can be any value except for the ordinary first and second class stamps, which are not welcomed by collectors.

Please would you therefore cut AROUND the used stamps, leaving a 2cm frame, and leave them in the marked box on the table at the back of the church. I can then send them on to the Missions to Seafarers office in London, who can sell them to collectors to raise funds. Thank you for all your support!

Final autumn concert

This year's series of autumn recitals at Christ Church concludes on Saturday 8 November with a concert of sacred and secular choral music sung by Christ Church Choir.

The church will be open from 2:15pm for refreshments, and the concert will start at 3pm and last about an hour. Admission is free (with a retiring collection).

Please note that parking will be very limited – please consider alternative locations to park or alternative means of transport.

Junior Church RPG



In October, members of Junior Church showed us a role-playing game they have been playing, devised by Jeremy Smith, based on the Acts of the Apostles. Players move around a map of the eastern Mediterranean, visiting the cities visited by the Apostles, working together to discuss which city to approach and whose predetermined skill levels are best suited to each task. At each turn, their message might be accepted or rejected. If it's rejected, they might even be imprisoned and have to escape or be rescued. As they play, they develop their understanding of Acts.

Iona Service

Please note, the start time of the monthly Iona Service at Christ Church is now 4pm. This quiet contemplative service takes place on the fourth Sunday of every month, using the form of evening service in *A Wee Worship Book (Fifth Incarnation)* compiled by the Iona Community. All are welcome!

Bishop announced

Downing Street announced on 22 October that the Venerable Dr Fiona Gibson will be the next Bishop of Taunton. She is currently the Archdeacon of Ludlow in the Diocese of Hereford, a role she has held since 2021.

The suffragan Bishop of Taunton is second-in-command in the Diocese of Bath and Wells. The post was held from 2015 to 2025 by Rt Revd Ruth Worsley, who took an active interest in Christ Church and visited several times.

Bishop-designate Fiona was born and brought up in north London. She studied for a BEd(Hons) in History and Education at Homerton College, Cambridge, and became a primary school teacher. She left teaching to become a lay children's minister between 2002 and 2007. She was ordained deacon in 2011 and priest in 2012, and served her curacy and first incumbency in the Diocese of St Albans. She completed a PhD in divinity at the University of Aberdeen in 2025.

"I am really excited to welcome Fiona's appointment as the 14th Bishop of Taunton," said Bishop Michael. "Her rural experience and educational background will, in particular, be a wonderful gift to us."

Fiona Gibson will be consecrated as a bishop and installed as Bishop of Taunton at a service in Wells Cathedral early in 2026.

Read more about Bishop-designate Fiona and watch a video message from her at <https://bit.ly/fiona-bishop-of-taunton>.



Bishop-designate Fiona Gibson. Photo courtesy of the Diocese of Bath and Wells.

Last month...



Graeme Stacey holds a striking floral tribute to his darling mum, whose funeral was held on 22 October. Condolences to Graeme and all his family and friends. Photo from Jane Nicholson.



Georgina at work crafting her handmade jewellery. It makes a perfect gift for Christmas and birthdays – watch for your next opportunity to buy at church! Photo courtesy of Robin Kerr.

Archbishop welcomed This month's charities

Bishop Michael has welcomed the news that the Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE, Bishop of London, will be the next Archbishop of Canterbury. The first woman to hold the office, she will be installed in a service at Canterbury Cathedral in March 2026.

Bishop Sarah has been Bishop of London since 2018, the first woman appointed to that role, and before that was Bishop of Crediton in the Diocese of Exeter. Prior to her ordination in 2001, she was the Government's Chief Nursing Officer for England, and before that specialised as a cancer nurse.

"This is wonderful news for our Church and the wider Anglican Communion," Bishop Michael said. "Having worked closely with Sarah in her role as lead Bishop for Health I have experienced at first hand her ability, wisdom and empathy. Sarah's nomination also marks a wonderful milestone for our Church. In England, our journey has taken us from the ordination of women as priests in 1994 to the consecration of our first woman bishop in 2015. Now the first woman will serve as Archbishop of Canterbury and her appointment will change our Church and the whole Anglican Communion forever."

- Read more from Bishop Michael at <https://bit.ly/archbishop-sarah-welcomed>.
- Read more about the announcement at <https://bit.ly/archbishop-sarah-mullally>.



Archbishop-designate Sarah Mullally DBE. Photo courtesy of archbishopofcanterbury.org.

The loose collection on the second and fourth Sundays of the next two months – 9 and 23 November, then 14 and 28 December – plus other collections at services in these months as notified will be divided between Julian House and The Genesis Trust. (Donations in collection envelopes will continue to go to Christ Church.)

As a Christian charity, Genesis works with local churches and volunteers in the wider community

in Bath and the surrounding area to help disadvantaged and vulnerable individuals and families to change their lives. Offering immediate practical help with food, clothing and furniture, as well as long-term opportunities, training and work experience, Genesis supports people on their journey from crisis to independence.

For more information on the charity's activities, visit <https://genesistrust.org.uk>.



Julian House is a Bath-based charity working



across the South West to support people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

"We believe that everyone deserves a safe home and the opportunity to build a better life for themselves. We support people in crisis to take their next steps towards independence and security – whether they are sleeping rough, escaping domestic abuse, re-starting their life as a refugee or at risk of homelessness on leaving prison.

"Homelessness doesn't take a break, especially during the festive season. At this time of year we want to raise awareness of the reasons why the people we support have fallen into difficult circumstances. These can include domestic abuse, mental health issues, family breakdown, childhood trauma and addiction." Find out more or donate online at www.julianhouse.org.uk.

Bishop's Message for November

Let's walk into the light



**From the Rt Revd Michael Beasley,
Bishop of Bath and Wells**

A story that's often told in our churches comes from the fourth chapter of John's Gospel. It tells of Jesus, in the blinding heat of midday, meeting a Samaritan woman at the well in a town called Sychar. The woman is hoisting up heavy buckets of water in the hot sun. She's there because she's a woman with "a reputation" and it's the only time of day she can avoid the muttering of her neighbours who meet at the well at cooler hours.

In an extraordinary encounter, Jesus sees deep into the woman's heart. Through their conversation Jesus brings about her healing and restoration into the community from which she is estranged. It's a story of life, possibility, new beginnings and forgiveness.

The woman at the well is not the only Biblical story set in Sychar. There's another, in the 34th chapter of the Book of Genesis. This is a tale of terror that's never heard in our churches: the rape of a girl called Dinah. It's a dark, nasty tale of violence that wrecks the life of individuals, families and the entire community. So we don't speak about

it. We keep it hidden.

Sometimes people say to me of safeguarding: "It's just a tick-box exercise," an onerous compliance requirement. Rather, I would say that our work in safeguarding asks fundamental questions about the kind of places we want our churches to be. Just like Sychar in the Bible passages I've mentioned, we can be places of hiddenness, silence, and hurt – or places of life, new beginnings and restoration.

Accounts like the Makin review have shone light on our story. We've also been working hard to bring about change. While we can't be complacent, I am intensely proud of all that was revealed about safeguarding in Bath and Wells by our independent audit, which happened earlier this year. This told us that we are moving towards a much better story. So let's build on the momentum we have created. Let's walk into the light.

+Michael

Cedar Tree is open

The Cedar Tree community café is open every Friday from 11am to 1:30pm. All are welcome! If you live or work in the area, please consider dropping in for a cup of tea, homemade cake and a chat, to support this important part of our outreach to the local community.



Christ Church calendar Nov. 2025

1	Sat	<i>All Saints Day</i>
2	Sun	<i>All Saints / The Fourth Sunday before Advent</i> 10am Eucharist
4	Tue	Christ Church Council meeting, 7:30pm
6	Thu	11am Eucharist Pilgrim Group meeting, 7:30pm
7	Fri	<i>227th anniversary of the consecration of Christ Church</i> Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm
8	Sat	Christ Church Autumn Concert – Christ Church Choir, 3pm
9	Sun	<i>Remembrance Sunday</i> 10am Eucharist 4pm Open Table Network Holy Communion
11	Tue	<i>Remembrance Day</i>
13	Thu	11am Eucharist Exploring Faith Group meeting, 2pm Christ Church Trustees meeting, 7:30pm
14	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm
16	Sun	<i>The Second Sunday before Advent / Safeguarding Sunday</i> 10am Eucharist 4:30pm Choral Evensong
20	Thu	11am Eucharist Pilgrim Group meeting, 7:30pm
21	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm
23	Sun	<i>Christ the King</i> 10am Eucharist 4pm Iona Contemplative Service
26	Wed	Pastoral Care Service and Tea Party, 11am
27	Thu	11am Eucharist Exploring Faith Group meeting, 2pm
28	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm
30	Sun	<i>The First Sunday of Advent</i> 10am Eucharist
Dec	1	Mon <i>Andrew the Apostle</i>

4 Thu 11am Eucharist
Pilgrim Group meeting, 7:30pm

5 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

7 Sun *The Second Sunday of Advent*
10am Eucharist

Our Sunday 10am Eucharist, and other services as advertised, continue to be live-streamed at www.facebook.com/christchurchbath/live
and www.youtube.com/@ChristChurchBath1798/streams

Got an event you want to let everyone know about? Send an e-mail with all the details to magazine@christchurchbath.org.
For the weekly notice sheet, e-mail notices@christchurchbath.org

Safeguarding Sunday: caring for each other

From the Diocese of Bath and Wells:

Churches should be safe spaces for all, reflecting the values they teach and promote. Sadly, they haven't always done this well. On-going reports of safeguarding failures have led to a decline in public confidence. Some now see churches – of whatever denomination – as unsafe places where abusers can hide.

Safeguarding Sunday, which this year takes place on 16 November, aims to help churches inform their congregations and communities about the measures they are taking to create safer environments for everyone, and to enhance understanding of safeguarding at the local level. It's an opportunity to make people aware of how to raise concerns or get help, recognise the work of all those involved in safeguarding, and reinforce trust and confidence within communities.

Ben Goodhind, Safeguarding Manager for the Diocese of Bath and Wells, says this year's Safeguarding Sunday theme, *Actions Speak Louder*, feels timely. "Safeguarding is about caring for and loving each other, and there is so much the Church can do to help local communities thrive, especially when times are tough. If we all play our part, in awareness, in compassion, and in action, that's

when safeguarding truly works."

Ben notes that safeguarding is not exclusively about children. "The vast majority of referrals into the team are now about adults, often about domestic abuse, sometimes involving dementia or parents experiencing violence from their children. These are big issues in wider society, not just the Church.

"I feel that equipping people in the right way means we can provide support within our communities. The Church can do and is doing positive things. We can build on that."

Defending vulnerable people is integral to Christian faith and teaching. Safeguarding Sunday invites us to recognise all those who work hard to keep others safe, and also acknowledges the role we all play in safeguarding.

■ Find further information and resources at <https://safeguardingsunday.org>.

■ Christ Church's safeguarding officer is Virginia Knight. You can contact her completely confidentially on 07896 916840 or christchbathsafeguarding@gmail.com. Alternatively, if you have any concerns about a safeguarding issue, speak to Heather or one of the Churchwardens at any time.

Prayer Cycle for November 2025

Saturday	1	We give thanks for the fruits of the earth
Sunday	2	For our servers and others who assist at the altar
Monday	3	For lifeboat crews and mountain rescue teams
Tuesday	4	For the work of hospices
Wednesday	5	For peace
Thursday	6	For our flower arrangers and those who look after the church
Friday	7	For those who have been forced to flee their homes
Saturday	8	That we may be genuinely inclusive
Sunday	9	For Sarah our Archbishop designate
Monday	10	For those who work in medicine
Tuesday	11	For those preparing for marriage or recently married
Wednesday	12	For countries with economic problems
Thursday	13	For the Trustees of Christ Church, meeting tonight
Friday	14	For our charities of the month, Julian House and Genesis
Saturday	15	For good relationships between different faiths
Sunday	16	For our link Dioceses in Zambia
Monday	17	For those who live or work in care homes
Tuesday	18	We give thanks for those who inspire us
Wednesday	19	For children and their families
Thursday	20	For the ministry of safeguarding
Friday	21	For those who are unable to keep warm
Saturday	22	That we may have the gift of hope

Sunday	23	For our young adult Lighthouse group
Monday	24	For journalists and those who work in the media
Tuesday	25	For those on our long-term prayer list
Wednesday	26	For those who live and work in the streets around Christ Church
Thursday	27	For those who have lost their faith
Friday	28	For all in hospital
Saturday	29	We give thanks for our blessings
Sunday	30	For Mark, David and the choir

Long-term Prayer List

Please remember those we've been asked to pray for...

Geoff	Margaret
Kat	Sheila W
Daniel	John & Jean
Milo	AJ
Naomi	Chris & David
Frankie	Joanne
John & Sheila	Larry
Paul	Razia
Mike	
Stewart & Lillian	
Debbie & her mum Win	

Want to add a name to the prayer list, either long-term or short-term, or remove one? Please use the lists at the back of the church, or speak to the Verger or one of the Churchwardens.

Coming events

A Remembrance

What is it? Howard Goodall's Eternal Light Requiem, sung by Canzona (director: David Bishop), accompanied by harp, organ and piano.

When is it? Sunday 9 November, 7:30pm

Where? St Nicholas' Church, Winsley, Bradford-on-Avon BA15 2LH

An Interfaith Celebration

What is it? Marking Interfaith Week 2025, Bath Inter Faith Group and Spirit of Peace present an evening of poetry, music, food and conversation on the theme of "Finding beauty in community". All are welcome. If you wish, please bring finger food to share that reflects your community (no meat or alcohol please).

When is it? Monday 10 November, 6:30 – 9pm

Where? Christ Church

Entry free, donations welcome on the night

Further information: info@spiritofpeace.co.uk

Rotas for November 2025

Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
2 Nov All Saints	Virginia Knight Daniel 7:1-3,15-18	Nicky Mathiason Ephesians 1:11-end	Isobel Powell Luke 6:20-31
	Intercessions: Mark Elliott		
9 Nov Remem- brance Sunday	–	Sarah Jones Romans 8:31-35, 37-39	Graham Reaper- Brown John 15:9-17
	Intercessions: Beryl Bowes		
16 Nov Second Sunday before Advent	Jenny Hesketh Malachi 4:1-2a	Jeremy Smith 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13	Judith Anderson Luke 21:5-19
	Intercessions: Pam Hitchins		
23 Nov Christ the King	Robin Kerr Jeremiah 23:1-6	Beryl Bowes Colossians 1:11-20	Simon Tatton- Brown Luke 23:33-43
	Intercessions: Peter Bowes		
30 Nov First Sunday of Advent	Graeme Stacey Isaiah 2:1-5	Mark Elliott Romans 13:11-end	Peter Bowes Matthew 24:36-44
	Intercessions: Sarah Jones		
7 Dec Second Sunday of Advent	Morny Davison Isaiah 11:1-10	Djemila Cope Romans 15:4-13	Zoë Bushell Matthew 3:1-12
	Intercessions: Simon Tatton-Brown		

Who's who at Christ Church

Priest-in-Charge Revd Heather Smith
07435 676475 (Wed, Thu, Fri, Sun)
heather.smith@christchurchbath.org

Safeguarding officer Virginia Knight
07896 916840
christchbathsafeguarding@gmail.com

Supporting clergy
Revd Canon Simon Tatton-Brown
01225 835404
simon.tatton-brown@christchurchbath.org

Revd Beryl Bowes
Revd Dr Peter Bowes

Reader, Director of Music Mark Elliott
01225 445360
mark.elliott@christchurchbath.org

Churchwarden Jane Nicholson
07990 552413
jane@janemnicholson.com

**Churchwarden,
Cedar Tree café organiser** Jenny Hesketh
jenny.hesketh@me.com

Verger Angela Soboslay
01225 333297
angela.soboslay@christchurchbath.org

Chair of Trustees David Bishop
07771 854145
chair@christchurchbath.org

Treasurer Zoë Bushell
zoe.bushell@christchurchbath.org

**Organist and Assistant
Director of Music** David Winters
david.winters@christchurchbath.org

Christ Church Link editor Alex Soboslay
07769 655927
alexs@christchurchbath.org

**Event/concert bookings,
weekly notice sheet** Judith Bishop
01225 858816
concerts@christchurchbath.org
notices@christchurchbath.org

Deanery Synod Reps Nicola Mathiason
Pauline Swaby-Wallace

**Tower Captain,
Ringing Master** Will Willans

Tower Secretary Maggie Willans
07773 244024
maggiewillans@hotmail.com

Steeple Keeper David Guy

Junior Church Emma Elliott

Laity rotas Judith Bishop

Prayer cycle Virginia Knight

Charitable Giving co-ordinator (TBC)

Mission to Seafarers Sylvia Ayers

Christ Church Link

This magazine is published on the first Sunday of each month. Please send any contributions of news and articles by the 15th of the preceding month to the editor, Alex Soboslay, or by e-mail to magazine@christchurchbath.org



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

About Christ Church

*We're a liberal, inclusive and open church,
seeking God through beauty in our worship, honesty
in our faith and doubt, and support in our community*

Christ Church has an unusual history, out of which has developed a distinctive ministry. It was founded at the end of the 18th century by a group of socially concerned clergy and lay people for those excluded from worship through the system of pew rents. It was probably the first church in England since the Reformation to provide seating for all free of charge. Early supporters included John Moore, Archbishop of Canterbury, and William Wilberforce, the great evangelical and campaigner against slavery. We must recognise, however, that much of Bath's wealth at the time derived, directly or indirectly, from the trafficking and exploitation of enslaved human beings, so that inevitably some of the funds donated ultimately derived from this source.

Christ Church is not a parish church and does not have a full-time vicar. This has led to the development of a shared ministry where clergy and laity both make important contributions to worship and church life.

Christ Church is part of the Anglican diocese of Bath and Wells, although it still sits outside the Church of England

parish system. We see ourselves as a traditional and liberal Anglican church. Worship is led by our clergy, and music is provided by our robed choir and organist. New singers of all ages are always very welcome.

As well as worship on Sundays and Thursdays, there are many other activities going on in our community, including our weekly community café every Friday. Our ecumenical Pilgrim Group provides a space for exploration and discussion of faith in an open and non-judgemental setting. Visit the website to check service times and events.

Regular Sunday services

- 10am Sung Eucharist with Junior Church activities for children and young people – *Every Sunday – also streamed at www.facebook.com/christchurchbath*
- 4pm Open Table Network Eucharist for the LGBTQ+ community; refreshments from 3:30pm – *Second Sunday of each month*
- 4:30pm Choral Evensong – *Usually on the third Sunday of each month*
- 4pm Contemplative Quiet Service (Iona) – *On the fourth Sunday of every month*

Baptisms, marriages and funerals by arrangement – please contact us!



Contacting us

Christ Church,
Julian Road,
Bath BA1 2RH
Phone: 01225 338869
(answer phone)

Email: admin@christchurchbath.org
Website: www.christchurchbath.org

