



*A Happy and a Holy Christmas to all!*



# Christ Church *Link*

December 2015 ● Number 44 ● 50p where sold

## Christmas at Christ Church

*What's happening this Christmastide...*

There's a packed calendar of services at Christ Church this Christmas. Our Christmas Carol Service takes place on Sunday 20 December at 6:30pm. Come and celebrate the coming of Jesus into our world with traditional music and readings. This year this is a joint service with our neighbours from St Mary's Roman Catholic church.

On Christmas Eve, Thursday 24 December, our customary Crib Service is at 4:30pm. This is a short, relaxed service designed for families and children of all ages.

Our "Midnight Mass" that night at 11:30pm is the traditional start to Christmas. Then, our Family Eucharist is at 10am on Christmas Day, Friday 25 December.

Our Roman Catholic neighbours from St Mary's have accepted the invitation we issued following the fire in their church in late July and will be holding three services in Christ Church: a Family Mass at 6pm on Christmas Eve, a Vigil Mass at 9pm, and Christmas Mass at 8am on Christmas Day. **Large numbers are expected for these services, so if you're not actually in church please avoid leaving your car in our car park on Christmas Eve, to help ensure that there is enough space for the disabled, the mobility-impaired and others with a genuine need to park nearby.**

On Sunday 27 December we are all invited to join our Local Ministry Group partners at St Stephen's, Lansdown, to help celebrate their patronal festival at

their Family Service at 10:45am. **There will be no services at Christ Church on that Sunday.**

You'll find a handy summary of all this year's Christmas services in our calendar on page 11. Once again this year, there are also postcards with the details of these services (thanks to Hazel Boyd, who generously stepped in to produce them). If you can help distribute these to the local area, please sign up at the back of the church for the street(s) you can cover. This is one of the key ways we can reach out to our local community, and your help will be greatly appreciated!



## Recruitment update

### **From Sarah Jones, Chair of the Trustees of Christ Church**

After many months of preparation, listening, hard work and a lot of prayer we have made an offer to one of our interviewees to take up the post of Priest-in-Charge of Christ Church (subject to DBS checks, as is usual for all such appointments). We've had a positive response from the candidate and the Trustees have given their approval.

Because of the need to make simultaneous announcements here and in the nominee's present parish, we're not in a position to confirm the name of our new priest until 6th December. There will be an ongoing discussion to confirm the detailed "terms and conditions" as well as a start date. We hope this will be by Easter. This will partly be dependent upon being able to agree a date for the service of licensing and installation.

Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard up to this point, and thank you too for all your prayers. I am confident we can make this last part of our transition period a fruitful one as we continue to support each other and seek to build up the life of Christ Church.

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## Pastoral care

If you or someone you know would like a visit, a pastoral talk or Holy Communion at home or in hospital, spiritual care such as prayer or confidential listening, or if you are aware that someone at church hasn't been with us for a bit and might need following up, please contact either of the following:

- Revd Canon Simon Tatton-Brown (01225 835404, [simontb@christchurchbath.org](mailto:simontb@christchurchbath.org)) or
- Keri Chivers (01225 421265, [keri.chivers@christchurchbath.org](mailto:keri.chivers@christchurchbath.org)).

Alternatively, there is a box at the back of the church (usually on top of the bookcase) in which you can tell us – anonymously if you wish – about anyone who may need support.

## Carols in the Cathedral



This year Wells Cathedral will be holding two Carol Services, which will take place on Tuesday 22 December and Wednesday 23 December (both 6pm to 7:30pm). Both services are open to the general public, but the service on Tuesday will also welcome members of the Cathedral community.

The Cathedral's traditional carol services, led by the Cathedral choir, are always popular, so you're advised to arrive in good time.

More details of all events and services taking place at the Cathedral over the Advent and Christmas period can be found on the website at [www.wellscathedral.org.uk](http://www.wellscathedral.org.uk) or by phoning 01749 674483.

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## Accessibility survey

Your views are wanted on how we should improve accessibility around Christ Church, particularly at the entrance and the toilets. You'll find a short survey form at the back of the church, which can be returned to Hazel Boyd or left in the B pigeonhole. Hazel would welcome any comments or questions.

## Real Advent Calendar

The Meaningful Chocolate Company is hoping to donate £15,000 from sales of its 2015 Real Advent Calendar to help fund a baby clinic in Kenya and support overseas farmers through Traidcraft Exchange.

However, it is not just the charity donation that makes The Real Advent Calendar unique. This year it includes a 32-page Christmas story/activity booklet illustrated by Sophie Allsopp and designed to be used every day in Advent. The new booklet includes all the traditional nativity characters, gives more detail about the Christmas story and has seven Advent challenges. The calendar also comes with 24 Fairtrade Belgian chocolates and a line of the Christmas story behind each of the windows.

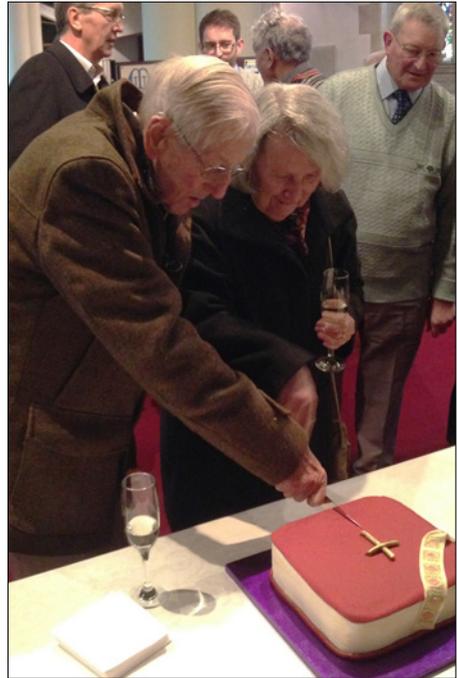
It's not too late to buy! The Real Advent Calendar costs £3.99 and is available from larger Tesco stores and select retailers – but supplies are limited. Churches, schools and groups can buy directly from The Meaningful Chocolate Company by visiting the special website at [www.realadvent.co.uk](http://www.realadvent.co.uk) and take advantage of a free delivery offer.



## Pilgrim Group party

After six sessions following the Church of England Pilgrim course exploring the Beatitudes, our Pilgrim Group are concluding the term with a bring-and-share party, to be held in the Lower Mews at 7:30pm on Thursday 10 December. Everyone is invited! If you'd like to come, please sign up at the back of the church so we have some idea of numbers.

## Last month in Christ Church



On the feast of Christ the King, Sunday 22 November, we celebrated our Patronal Festival in the traditional Christ Church way, with cake and fizz. We also gave heartfelt thanks to Yvonne Morris (cutting the cake with Donald), who has retired as a Trustee after many years of service, including a long term as Chair of the Trustees.

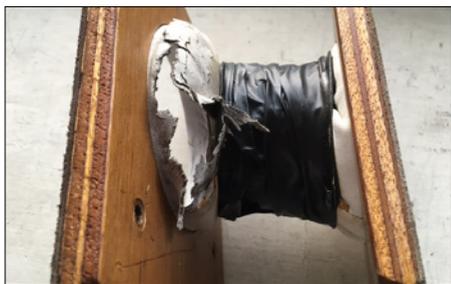


On Sunday 29 November, Advent Sunday, we were delighted to welcome Margaret Burrows back after her stay in hospital. She's pictured here with Antony Claridge, who kindly presided that day. Photo courtesy of Jane Nicholson.

# Organ repairs completed

We reported in October that the organ swell box was being repaired. This work was completed as planned by the end of October, and the organ performed perfectly on the first Sunday of November.

By the following weekend, however – which unfortunately was Remembrance Sunday – the restored pressure seems to have caused a failure further back in the wind supply, producing a noise like a mighty rushing wind.



*You can see the hole that blew in this leather pipework, and the old gaffer tape repair, which seems to have lasted well, all things considered.*

The failure actually occurred in a piece of leather pipework which our former organist David Wrigley had patched up with gaffer tape about ten years ago, so it's not really surprising that it gave in, as shown in the "before" picture below. Luckily the organ repairers were able to make an emergency visit and effect a repair, shown in the "after" photo below, and the organ is now in better condition than it has been for many years.



*Nicholson's, our organ contractors, have replaced the defective part, so it should give many more years of service. Photos courtesy of Nicholson's.*

## Local Ministry Group weekend away 2016

We are invited to a church weekend away with our Local Ministry Group partners from St Stephen's, Lansdown, and St Mary's, Charlcombe. It's on Friday 23rd to Sunday 25th September 2016 at Lee Abbey in Devon.

Lee Abbey is a Christian conference, retreat and holiday centre on the dramatic North Devon coast. The 280-acre estate is located in the beautiful Exmoor National Park.

The weekend will include a programme of activities and workshops; opportunities for

worship, quiet times and pastoral care; lively youth and children's ministry; entertainment and leisure time. It is an occasion for renewal, and for strengthening our relationships with one another and with God.

The cost – including accommodation, all meals and use of facilities – is around £150 per adult, with reduced rates for children, but please talk to one of the churchwardens if you wish to come but the cost is an obstacle.

There's more information on the noticeboards at the back of church. We are asked to sign up in order to confirm numbers and secure our booking. For information about Lee Abbey, see <http://leeabbey.org.uk/devon>



# Bishop's Message for December

*The call of the infant Jesus*



**From the Rt Revd Peter Hancock,  
Bishop of Bath and Wells**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Jane and I have recently become grandparents for the first time and there is something very precious and wonderful about new life. This year there is a new baby in our family. And as Christmas approaches, we all find ourselves thinking about the image of baby Jesus lying in the manger. Our mind's eye paints a picture of an infant asleep in a stable. We might imagine his crying or laughter as he reacts to those around him; a tiny little figure in a fragile world. From the moment of his birth, Jesus is responding to those around him, longing to hear their voice.

In Jesus, God comes to us as an infant: approachable, pure, and eager for us to come close to him. As a child

Jesus reaches out, arms outstretched eager for a response. Thirty-three years later those same arms would reach out on the cross, outstretched and open to the world in love and forgiveness.

As we enjoy Christmas with our friends and family let's be reminded of this image. Let's pray for God's blessing and peace for all those in troubled parts of the world and pray they hear God's call and respond with love. Let us also pray for God's peace and blessing to fill our own lives and the lives of those around us.

Amidst all the noise and distraction of Christmas let's find a moment to be still and listen again to the call of Jesus. The Christmas message is as loud and clear today as any baby's cry: Jesus, the Saviour of the World, is here and he's yearning to hear our voice. May we respond by saying: "O Come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!"

With warm best wishes,

**+Peter Bath and Wells**

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## Your local school needs you!

Have you ever thought of becoming a Church School Foundation Governor? The Diocesan Board of Education (the DBE) appoints over 400 foundation governors to be part of the governing body of its family of 180 Church of England schools across the Diocese. As a new initiative, the DBE is looking to develop a "pool" of volunteers who would be willing to serve as foundation governors to fill existing and future vacancies. You can find out more at the Bath and Wells Diocese website [www.bathandwells.org.uk/2015/11/your-local-school-needs-you/](http://www.bathandwells.org.uk/2015/11/your-local-school-needs-you/)

# Bath Gospel Choir “Big Sing” for Christian Aid

On Tuesday 15 December, 7:30pm to 8:45pm, Bath Community Gospel Choir and the Sunrise Choir will be singing Christmas carols and Gospel Songs to raise money for Christian Aid’s Christmas Appeal. There is no need to buy a ticket – just come along and have fun! The organisers hope people will have an enjoyable evening and make a donation to support the work of Christian Aid.

All donations are being match-funded by UK Aid, so if you give £5 this will be worth £10 to the Christian Aid projects, particularly

the provision of mosquito nets and anti-malaria programmes in Nigeria.

The concert is being held at Manvers Street Baptist Church, Manvers Street, Bath BA1 1JW. Everyone is welcome!

Parking is available in the Southgate shopping centre carpark, a minute’s walk from the church, or please use the Park and Ride, train or bus where possible. There is no parking available at the church.

For more information about the choir and event, [www.bathcommunitygospelchoir.com](http://www.bathcommunitygospelchoir.com)

## This month’s charities: Bath homeless

*The loose collection in the plate every Sunday in December will be divided between Julian House and The Genesis Trust to help Bath’s homeless. (Donations in collection envelopes will continue to go to Christ Church.)*

The Genesis Trust acts as an umbrella body enabling churches and Christians throughout Bath to demonstrate the love of Christ in practical ways to those in greatest need through its nine different projects.

These include a daily drop-in centre at Bath Abbey and two food projects, Lunchbox and Soup Run. At its Lifeline drop-in Genesis helps over 50 people a day, providing them with hot drinks, emergency clothing and bedding, and much needed emotional support and practical advice. Benefit cuts and mental health issues are big issues for its clients. The Lifeskills project, which provides courses aimed at enhancing well-being, provides much needed help with budgeting and cookery skills as well as helping people develop emotionally via creative writing, art and gardening.

Julian House was set up to offer direct support to some of the most marginalised people in Bath – the homeless. Users of its

services include rough sleepers, women escaping domestic violence, ex-offenders, the long-term unemployed, and people with learning difficulties and mental health issues. At any time over 100 clients are being helped – men and women who are homeless, have recently been homeless or who are at risk of becoming homeless.

Projects include the Manvers Street Hostel, which provides not only beds but a specialist outreach service and a support service that offers people a pathway out of rough sleeping. Julian House runs the only supported housing project in B&NES to support offenders on release from custody, prevent them falling into homelessness and attempt to break the patterns of substance abuse and other causes of crime. Julian House also runs three social enterprises: Bath Soup Company, Bath Bike Workshop and Turnkey Housing Solutions, which it sees as crucial in enabling “move-on” for clients who may be partially or wholly dependent on benefits or live on a low wage.

For more, visit [www.julianhouse.org.uk](http://www.julianhouse.org.uk). For more about the work of Genesis, visit [genestrust.org.uk](http://genestrust.org.uk)



## Her Majesty The Queen opens 10th General Synod

Her Majesty The Queen officially opened General Synod at Church House, Westminster on Tuesday 24 November, following a service held at Westminster Abbey. In her address at the inauguration ceremony, Her Majesty spoke about the importance of drawing “deeply on your faith, judgement, and life experiences, as well as that precious Anglican tradition of unity in fellowship, to discern the future path of the Church of England.”

“The last Synod will be particularly remembered for the way in which, after prolonged reflection and conversation, even in the midst of deep disagreements, it was able to approve the legislation to enable women to be consecrated as bishops.”

Her Majesty also spoke of the Church’s role in working with all those across the country, whether Christians or non-Christians,

“St. Paul reminds us that all Christians, as ambassadors for Christ, are entrusted with the ministry of reconciliation. Spreading God’s word and the onerous but rewarding task of peace-making and conflict resolution are important parts of that ministry. So too is the Church of England’s particular vocation to work in partnership with those of other faiths

and none, to serve the common good in this land.”

“The presence among us today of the Preacher to the Papal Household would not have been possible but for the notable advances since 1970 in co-operation across the great Christian traditions. There are many other examples. The Covenant between the Church of England and the Methodist Church; the recent visit of the Ecumenical Patriarch; the participation in this Synod of observers from so many Christian traditions; the newly created ecumenical community of St Anselm at Lambeth. Each of these serves as a reminder both of the progress already made and of the journey that still lies ahead in the pursuit of Christian unity.”

Her Majesty finished by offering a prayer to the new Synod and their next five years of work together,

“At the beginning of this new Synod, as you put your hand into the hand of God, my prayer is that, as we sang in that joyous hymn this morning, “His glorious light may shine ever on our sight, and clothe us round, the while our path illuming”.

**To read Her Majesty The Queen’s full speech or to watch the video, visit [bit.ly/HMQueenSpeech](http://bit.ly/HMQueenSpeech)**

## Archbishop of Canterbury gives Presidential Address to new Synod

The Archbishop delivered his presidential address to the 10th General Synod. He began the address by speaking about a discover made whilst renovators were working at the Great Hall at Lambeth Palace,

“A few months ago those renovating the Great Hall, part of the library at Lambeth Palace, found this – it’s a plumb line. It’s beautifully shaped and goodness knows how old. It was found behind a wall, it could for all we know be several hundred years old and it’s unbelievably heavy.

“But a plumb line’s chief purpose isn’t to draw attention to what it says about itself, but what it enables. A plumb line is used to test verticality and depth.

“It is, of course, the prophet Amos who has the vision of the Lord holding a plumb line against the people of God. And as we start this Synod, I offer this image of a plumb line being held against what we have and what we will build, what we stand for and how we conduct ourselves.

“Amos uses it to warn the people that God is serious about both justice and judgement.

“With the formal Inauguration of Synod, we now stand at the brink of another five year period of the work that the General Synod carries out.”

The Archbishop went on to thank all those involved for serving the Church at Synod and praising their commitment and sacrifice of time. He went on to say,

“If you’re anything like me you come to this experience of a new Synod – whether you yourself are new or returning – with a certain amount of apprehension. How do we best take responsibility for the household of God which is the Church of England?

“For me this is the first time that I have seen a new Synod, but I know that Synod has some tried and tested ways of building.

“Having learned to like some of the ways of the old Synod, I feel like those in my parish church did when we suggested getting rid of the pews and putting in chairs. The pews may have been beautiful or ugly, comfortable or uncomfortable, there was even a suspicion – which I have to say I may have helped create – that they had been designed by an osteopath who was short of business. But whatever one’s opinion, they were the pews we knew.”

“In five years’ time we can look at ourselves as people who have built together, who have listened and heard and although not agreed, have done our best to be faithful to Jesus Christ.

“Human beings, being sinners, will never be tidy in the way they disagree, or in the nature of their relationships. We will be an untidy Synod because we are a human Synod.

“Untidiness in relationships is normal, not fearful: it expresses the richness of who we are.

“The last Synod changed its way of working and achieved much.

“If we are consumed with desire for each other’s flourishing. If we can celebrate rather than resent the work of the Spirit in each other’s lives, which expresses not so much who we are but above all whose we are; if we are willing to discover new ways of listening and loving; then this next Quinquennium, meeting at its beginning in the shadow of Paris, will achieve even more. Amen. “

**The full text of the Archbishops’ address can be ready by visiting [bit.ly/ABCSynod](http://bit.ly/ABCSynod)**

# Just Pray advert reaches over 1 million views online

*Just Pray*, the campaign from the Church of England launched on Sunday 22 November, has been making headlines in the news. Digital Cinema Media (DCM), the company that manages advertising for Odeon, Cineworld and Vue, said they would not show the advert, which was planned for release on December 18 as part of the ad-reel for *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*.

The three cinema chains, which make up 80% of cinema screens around the country, have been criticised by a range of public figures including Prime Minister David Cameron, Mayor of London Boris Johnson, Richard Dawkins and Stephen Fry for not showing the advert, despite it receiving clearance from both the Cinema Advertising Authority and British Board of Film Classification.

The 60 second advert features Christians from all walks of life praying one line of the Lord's prayer and includes weight lifters, a police officer, a commuter, refugees in a support centre, school children, a mourner at a graveside, a festival goer and the Archbishop of Canterbury.

On YouTube, the advert has been watched over 450,000 and on Facebook, that number jumps to 638,000. This does not take account of a number of unofficial videos posted online, as well as views on television as part of news reporting.

The Rev. Arun Arora, Director of Communications for the Church of England, said:

"The prospect of a multi-generational cultural event offered by the release of "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" on 18 December – a week before Christmas Day – was too good an opportunity to miss and we are bewildered by the decision of the cinemas.

Prayer permeates every aspect of our culture from pop songs and requiems to daily assemblies and national commemorations. For millions of people in the United Kingdom, prayer is a constant part of their lives whether as part thanksgiving and praise, or as a companion through their darkest hours.

"In one way the decision of the cinemas is just plain silly but the fact that they have insisted upon it makes it rather chilling in terms of limiting free speech. There is still time for the cinemas to change their mind and we would certainly welcome that.

"In the meantime people should visit the site, see the film themselves and make up their own minds as to whether they are upset or offended by it."

**To watch the advert online & see the website visit [www.justpray.uk](http://www.justpray.uk)**

## Previous Chief Executive of Tearfund leads working group on Lay Leadership

Matthew Frost, previously Chief Executive of Tearfund, has been appointed Chair of a new working group looking at Lay Leadership in the Church.

Matthew, a new member of the Archbishops' Council, gave a presentation during the Renewal and Reform discussion at General Synod. During this presentation, he identified four key areas they would be addressing:

- Reviewing and reporting on the role and place of lay leaders
- Considering what changes in culture, practice and resource allocation are required to facilitate lay leadership
- Liaise with House of Bishops to consider how to enhance the quality and collaboration between clergy and lay leaders
- Make specific proposals on how the NCIs should change the service they provide to

encourage and resource lay leadership

He explained that the working group was in the very early stages of its mission and would begin more formally in January 2016.

The overall purpose of the working group is 'to increase the effectiveness and confidence of lay people in leading where they are called to serve - in wider society, in local community and within the Church - in ways that extend God's Kingdom and transform society'.

Progress updates will be made to General Synod when they meet in February and July 2016, with a final report being made to the Archbishop's Council in September 2016. The implementation and reviews will then begin in 2017.

**You can watch the whole Renewal & Reform discussion at General Synod by visiting [bit.ly/LayLeadership](http://bit.ly/LayLeadership)**

## Pilgrimage2Paris reaches destination

After fourteen days and over 200 miles of walking forty pilgrims have arrived in the French capital as part of the Pilgrimage2Paris ahead of COP21, the UN Climate Change Conference which starts on Monday.

The pilgrims have been walking to call on COP21 to reach a fair, ambitious and binding climate deal. On Saturday the pilgrims will be taking part in an

interfaith gathering, followed by a hand-in of campaign petitions to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

**For more information, and to read what the pilgrims got up to as they travelled, visit [www.pilgrimage2paris.org.uk](http://www.pilgrimage2paris.org.uk), or follow @pilgrims2paris on Twitter and Instagram.**

# Christ Church calendar Dec. 2015

**Dec** 4 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

**6 Sun** *Second Sunday of Advent*  
6:30pm Advent Carol Service

10 Thu Pilgrim Group bring-and-share feast, 7:30pm

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11 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

**13 Sun** *Third Sunday of Advent*  
8am Holy Communion (BCP)  
Christ Church rostered to assist at Genesis Sunday Centre

18 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

**20 Sun** *Fourth Sunday of Advent*  
6:30pm Christmas Carol Service

24 Thu *Christmas Eve*  
4:30pm Crib Service  
(6pm Roman Catholic Family Mass)  
(9pm Roman Catholic Vigil Mass)  
11:30pm Midnight Eucharist

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25 Fri *Christmas Day*  
(8am Roman Catholic Christmas Mass)  
10am Christmas Eucharist

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26 Sat *Stephen, the first martyr*

**27 Sun** *John, Apostle and Evangelist*  
10:45am Family Service / Patronal Festival, St Stephen's  
NO SERVICES AT CHRIST CHURCH

28 Mon *The Holy Innocents*

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**Jan** 1 Fri *New Year's Day / Naming and Circumcision of Jesus*

**3 Sun** *Epiphany*

**Got something you want to let everyone know about? Pop a note in the "Magazine Editor" pigeonhole at the back of church or send an e-mail with all the details to [magazine@christchurchbath.org](mailto:magazine@christchurchbath.org). For the weekly notice sheet, e-mail [notices@christchurchbath.org](mailto:notices@christchurchbath.org)**

# Prayer Cycle for December 2015

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<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>1</b>	For our Church Council
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>2</b>	That we may be stewards of creation
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>3</b>	For those who have suffered as a result of terrorism
<b>Friday</b>	<b>4</b>	For the work of the Cedar Tree
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>5</b>	For those recently baptised or preparing for baptism
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>6</b>	For Mark, Keith and the choir
<b>Monday</b>	<b>7</b>	For those in the legal profession
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>8</b>	For our neighbours at St Mary's Catholic Church
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>9</b>	We give thanks for artists, poets and musicians
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>10</b>	For our Pilgrim Group, meeting tonight
<b>Friday</b>	<b>11</b>	For the lonely and depressed
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>12</b>	For those who work in the transport industry
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>13</b>	For the ministry of our new priest-in-charge
<b>Monday</b>	<b>14</b>	For shopkeepers and shop workers
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>15</b>	For Angela our Verger
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>16</b>	For Dorothy House and other hospices
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>17</b>	We give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy
<b>Friday</b>	<b>18</b>	For the unemployed
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>19</b>	For the Local Deanery Synod
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>20</b>	For new members to be added to Christ Church
<b>Monday</b>	<b>21</b>	For the elderly
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>22</b>	For the bell-ringing team
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>23</b>	For those in slavery or bonded labour

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<b>Thursday</b>	<b>24</b>	That we may have the gift of kindness
<b>Friday</b>	<b>25</b>	Thanksgiving for the Incarnation
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>26</b>	For peace
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>27</b>	For those on our Church rotas
<b>Monday</b>	<b>28</b>	For those who work in medicine
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>29</b>	For children and their families
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>30</b>	For former members of Christ Church who have moved away
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>31</b>	We give thanks for the blessings of the past year

## Long-term Prayer List

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

Rachel Sillett  
 Cyril Selmes  
 Marjorie Nicholson  
 Ned Townshend  
 Joyce Fairburn  
 Val Curtis  
 Martin Palmer

Rosemary Bethel  
 Derek Wrigley  
 Katharine  
 David Slater  
 David Lavis  
 Louise and family

**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 let the Verger or one of the Churchwardens know.**

### **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](mailto:magazine@christchurchbath.org)

# Rotas for December 2015

*Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist*

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
<b>6 Dec</b> Advent 2	<b>Rebekah Cunningham</b> Malachi 3:1-4	<b>Lewis Boyd</b> Philippians 1:3-11	<b>Rowena Hall</b> Luke 3:1-6
<b>13 Dec</b> Advent 3	<b>Daphne Radenurst</b> Zephaniah 3:14-end	<b>Jane Fletcher</b> Philippians 4:4-7	<b>Judith Anderson</b> Luke 3:7-18
<b>20 Dec</b> Advent 4	No reading	<b>Junior Church</b> Hebrews 10:5-10	<b>Junior Church</b> Luke 1:39-45
<b>Thu 24 Dec</b> Midnight Mass	<b>Morny Davison</b> Isaiah 52:7-10	<b>Georgina Bowman</b> Hebrews 1:1-4	<b>Malcolm Wall</b> John 1:1-14
<b>Fri 25 Dec</b> Christmas Day	<b>Penny Edwards</b> Isaiah 9:2-7	No reading	<b>Judith Bishop</b> Luke 2:1-14
<b>3 Jan</b> Epiphany	<b>Mark Elliott</b> Jeremiah 31:7-14	<b>Rowena Hall</b> Ephesians 1:3-14	<b>Brenda Wall</b> John 1:10-18

*Laity rota, Sunday 10am Eucharist*

	Chalice assistants	Sidespeople	Intercessions
<b>6 Dec</b>	Janet Mahto, Clive Tilling	Margaret Heath, Jane Nicholson	Mark Elliott
<b>13 Dec</b>	Keri Chivers, Jane Fletcher	Margaret Silver, Morny Davison	Penny Edwards
<b>20 Dec</b>	Andrew Sillett, David Rawlings	Rowena Hall, Janet Mahto	Sarah Jones
<b>Thu 24 Dec</b> Midnight	Janet Mahto, Brenda Wall	Ken Ayers, Sylvia Ayers	TBC
<b>Fri 25 Dec</b>	Clive Tilling, Andrew Sillett	Jane Nicholson, Andrew Sillett	Mark Elliott
<b>3 Jan</b>	David Rawlings, Janet Mahto	Margaret Silver, Morny Davison	Rebekah Cunningham

# Who's who at Christ Church

<b>Priest-in-charge</b>	(Position vacant)	<b>Concert bookings, weekly notice sheet</b>	Judith Bishop 01225 869409 concerts@christchurchbath.org notices@christchurchbath.org
<b>Supporting clergy</b>	Revd Prof. Cliff Burrows Revd Preb. Angela Berners-Wilson Revd Canon Simon Tatton-Brown	<b>Pastoral care coordinators</b>	Keri Chivers 01225 421265 keri.chivers@christchurchbath.org Revd Canon Simon Tatton-Brown 01225 835404 simontb@christchurchbath.org
<b>Reader, Director of Music</b>	Mark Elliott 01225 445360 mark.elliott@christchurchbath.org	<b>Organist and Assistant Director of Music</b>	Keith Pigot 01225 723801 keithpigot@gmail.com
<b>Churchwarden, Council Treasurer</b>	Malcolm Wall 01225 864933 malcolm.wall@christchurchbath.org	<b>Laity rotas</b>	Sarah Cade
<b>Churchwarden, Secretary to Trustees</b>	Alex Soboslay 07769 655927 alexs@christchurchbath.org	<b>Prayer cycle</b>	Virginia Knight
<b>Verger</b>	Angela Soboslay 01225 333297 angela.soboslay@christchurchbath.org	<b>Cedar Tree café, Publicity co-ordinator</b>	Janet Mahto
<b>Chair of Trustees</b>	Sarah Jones 01225 443284 sarah.jones@christchurchbath.org	<b>Junior Church</b>	Emma Elliott
<b>Treasurer</b>	David Bishop 01225 869409 david.bishop@christchurchbath.org	<b>United Society, Traidcraft stall</b>	Rebekah Cunningham
<b>Chair of Church Council</b>	David Rawlings	<b>Mothers' Union</b>	Margaret Burrows 01225 334743 Sylvia Ayers 01225 463976
<b>Secretary to Council</b>	Judith Bishop 01225 869409	<b>Churches Together in Bath</b>	Margaret Heath 01225 428272
<b>Safeguarding officer</b>	Lewis Boyd 07739 989639 lewis.boyd@christchurchbath.org	<b>Mission to Seafarers</b>	Sylvia Ayers
<b>Tower Captain</b>	Ian Hay Davison 07932 160482 bells@christchurchbath.org	<b>Deanery Synod Reps</b>	Morny Davison Andrew Sillett Brenda Wall
<b>Ringing Master Steeple Keeper</b>	Will Willans David Kelly		



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, the Archbishop of Canterbury; William Wilberforce, the great evangelical and campaigner against slavery; and Martin Stafford Smith, godfather of John Keble, a founder of the Oxford Movement.

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 normal 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. There is the option of separate activities for children in Junior Church groups during our 10am Sunday service.

As well as worship on a Sunday morning, there are many other activities going on in our community. We support the Genesis Sunday Centre and have our own community café. The musical tradition of the church continues to thrive, and we have an active choir. New singers of all ages are always very welcome. Our ecumenical Home Group provides a space for exploration and discussion of faith in an open and non-judgemental setting.

## Regular Sunday services

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|--------|--|
| 8am    | Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)<br><i>On the second Sunday of every month</i>                               |
| 10am   | Sung Eucharist with Junior Church activities for children and young people<br><i>Every Sunday (except 27 Dec.)</i> |
| 4:30pm | Choral Evensong<br><i>Usually the first Sunday of every month, but see website or notice board for details</i>     |

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



## Contacting us

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Bath BA1 2RH  
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(answer phone)  
Email: [admin@christchurchbath.org](mailto:admin@christchurchbath.org)  
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