



A Happy and a Holy Christmas to all!



Christ Church *Link*

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Glimpses of rejoicing to come

Approaching the celebration of Christmas through Advent

Revd Lore Chumbley writes:

At the end of November we celebrated Christ the King, our “Feast of Title”, with glorious music, white and gold vestments and magnificent flowers. A week later we plunge into the penitential purple of Advent.

It is a curiously dislocated time. Shops, schools and choral societies are already celebrating the joy of Christmas with decorations, nativity plays and carols. By Christmas Eve the largest shops will have taken down their Christmas decorations and be moving on to what is in a secular society the next liturgical season – the January sales. But we in the Church are saying, “Rejoice, but not yet.” It’s not unlike the way in which we are called to proclaim the coming of the kingdom of God. It’s on its way but not yet here.

So we catch glimpses of the joy of the incarnation throughout Advent, but they are only glimpses – in our Advent Carol Service (6:30pm on Sunday 10 December); in our Pilgrim Feast, to which everyone is invited; in our services of Compline on the first three Sunday evenings of December; and in our regular Sunday morning Eucharist, particularly on Sunday 17th, when the young people will lead our worship with a nativity play.

But they are only glimpses. The strength of the Advent season is the waiting it imposes on us; and the traditional Advent themes of death, judgement, heaven and hell do not exist to depress us but to remind us

that none of our experiences, not depression nor failure nor ill health nor bereavement nor death itself take us beyond God’s encompassing love.

■ For our Advent and Christmas services, see page 7 or visit www.christchurchbath.org



#GOD with US

Join us this Christmas

Celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, who is God with us, during this wonderful season.

Join the journey at
www.churchofengland.org/Christmas
or text **GODWITHUS** to 88802

 THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

The Church of England’s national Christmas campaign this year is titled #GodWithUs. It includes a social media campaign to drive attendance at Advent and Christmas services and engagement with the seasonal message. Sign up to receive messages as texts or e-mails or on social media.

Around the building Fundraising news



Work has continued behind the scenes on the various building-related matters around Christ Church. Top of the list is tackling the damage caused by plaster falling off the east wall of the north gallery into the organ. The photo above, from the report by Nicholson & Co., our organ specialists, shows some of the pipes damaged by falling plaster. The root cause is thought to be water penetration, and external repairs to the wall and drainage to address this, which have been authorised by the Archdeacon, will commence as soon as the contractors are available after the Christmas break. Plans for repairs to the inside of the wall and remedial work on the organ are being considered by the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) at their December meeting; assuming a favourable recommendation from the DAC, we'll proceed to an application for a faculty (the Church of England counterpart of Listed Building planning consent) as soon as possible. The Trustees have allocated funds to get the work under way, but completing the refurbishment of the organ will depend on fundraising.

As for our reordering of the east end of the church, the Trustees have commissioned some initial concept sketches from our architects, Chedburn Dudley, incorporating some of the ideas and opinions gathered in the course of our consultation and discernment process. Watch for information soon, and your opportunity to provide more feedback and input to help finalise what we want.

Our first major fundraising activity, a wine tasting courtesy of Corney & Barrow, took place on Saturday 2 December in the Lower Mews and (including Gift Aid) raised close to £500. A magnificent result! Huge thanks to Malcolm, Brenda and Alex Wall, all those who provided food, and everyone who supported the event in any way.

Along with our Advent Open Morning on Saturday 9 December, when the church is open 11am – 1pm, Georgina is running a jewelled bauble making workshop. Please let her know if you'd like to come. The cost is £10, to include all raw materials and refreshments. Proceeds will go to our reordering and organ refurbishment projects.

Christmas cards are also on sale at the back of the church, including our own card featuring the nativity scene in one of our stained glass windows.

Bath Foodbank appeal

Bath Foodbank would be grateful for donations to meet food shortages, other items and Christmas gifts.

- **SHORTAGES:** Instant coffee (small jars), sponge puddings, chocolate, noodles, longlife milk, and household items, e.g. washing powder, washing-up liquid, toilet rolls, bleach, cleaning cloths, etc.

You are very welcome to add a Christmas item if you wish. However, if donating only a few items, the items in the shortage list above are the priority.

- **CHRISTMAS ITEMS:** Christmas puddings, chocolate collection boxes (e.g. Quality Street etc), variety packs of chocolate bars, biscuit variety packs, small toys for Christmas presents (e.g. Lego packs or similar), Christmas crackers. **NO MINCE PIES** please, and **NO GIFT SETS** as Foodbank breaks these into single items.

There is a Foodbank collection basket at the back of the church. Thank you for your support. For more information about Bath Foodbank visit <http://bathfoodbank.org.uk>

Our inclusiveness statement

At its November meeting, Christ Church Council agreed the following wording as an explicit statement of our commitment to welcoming everyone:

We are an inclusive church

We do not discriminate, on any level, on grounds of economic power, gender, mental health, age, family configuration, physical ability, race or sexuality. We seek to welcome and serve all people in the name of Jesus Christ; to proclaim the Gospel; and in the power of the Holy Spirit to enable all people to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of God.

You are welcome here

Advent lunches with St Mary's

It has been a tradition for some years to have joint lunches in Lent and Advent with our neighbours at St Mary's Roman Catholic church. The idea is to build ecumenical links and raise money for those in need. Everyone is very welcome. This year our Advent lunches are as follows:

- Thursday 7 December, St Mary's Parish Centre (behind the church, off the car park, entrance from Burlington Street)
- Thursday 14 December, Christ Church Lower Mews

Meet at noon; the meals consist of home-made soup and bread, followed by home-made puddings. Donations are made at the end of the meal, and are split 50/50 between the two churches for their chosen charities.

If you can help by providing a pudding on Thursday 14th, please sign up on the list at the back of the church. Help with serving food etc would be very welcome – please speak to Angela Soboslay.

Last month in Christ Church



On Sunday 19 November, a congregation of about 120 people gathered in Christ Church to remember Martin Palmer. Entirely fittingly, it was an occasion with beautiful music, some tears and some laughter. Thanks to Jo Palmer for the lovely flowers she provided, which were still in place for our patronal festival, the feast of Christ the King, on the following Sunday, 26 November...



We celebrated in traditional Christ Church style with fizz and a cake (which Jo Palmer had found time to decorate) – Lore cut the cake with Tim because it was his birthday earlier in the week. Thanks to Revd Claire Robson, formerly of Bath Abbey, who presided for us and sang the service setting to make the occasion a truly special one.

Carol Services in Wells Cathedral



Wells Cathedral is holding two Carol Services again this year, on Friday 22 and Saturday 23 December (both 6pm to 7:30pm). There will be plenty of congregational carols, as well as beautiful singing from the Cathedral choir, and festive readings. There is no entry charge.

The Cathedral's traditional carol services – named the “top choice in the South West” by ClassicFM magazine – are always popular, so you're advised to arrive in good time. Doors open at 5pm, and the Cathedral request that everyone is seated by 5:40pm.

You can find more details of all events and services taking place at the Cathedral over the Advent and Christmas period by visiting the website at www.wells cathedral.org.uk or by phoning 01749 674483.

Young Vocations Day in Wells this month

Have you ever wondered if God is calling you to work for a church? Be a vicar? Be a pioneer in the church or in the workplace, or something else? The Diocese of Bath and Wells is holding a Young Vocations Day on Sunday 28 January for young people with questions like these.

Aimed at 16- to 30-year-olds, the day will include prayer, worship, workshops, stories and opportunities to ask loads of questions. There is no charge.

The venue is The Old Deanery, Wells BA5 2UG. Doors open at 10am, with refreshments available. The day will start promptly at 10:30am and will finish by 4pm.

To find out more and to book a place, visit www.bathandwells.org.uk/its-your-call or contact vocations@bathwells.anglican.org

Coming events

Christ Church Advent Open Mornings

What is it? The church will be open 11am to 1pm on the first three Saturdays of Advent, serving cakes and other refreshments.

When is it? Saturday 2, 9 and 16 December

Pilgrim Feast

What is it? Nibbles, pudding, and silly (sitting-down) games. Please let Brenda know if you'd like to come, and bring nibbles or pudding.

When is it? Thursday 7 December, 7:30pm

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

What is it? The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed in the octave of St. Peter and St. Paul. This year's theme is “That All May Be Free”, focusing on some of the contemporary issues addressed by the churches of the Caribbean including routine abuses of human rights, human trafficking and addiction. For details visit <https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2018/>

When is it? 18-25 January 2018

Bishop's Message for December

The season of "waiting" shouldn't mean doing nothing



**From the Rt Revd Ruth Worsley,
Bishop of Taunton**

We've been seeing the Christmas decorations in the shops since the summer holidays ended. It starts sooner than ever each year, doesn't it. At the beginning of November a checkout assistant was telling me she already had her decorations up at home due to her daughter's insistence. I remember the time when my parents would put up the tree on Christmas Eve and we weren't allowed into the living room until the next morning. Our excitement knew no bounds!

"Waiting" is something we are not very good at. Many of us are impatient in this world of immediacy. We want our needs, our wishes, fulfilled straight away. We are like that with our shopping online, paying more for next-day delivery. And we can be like that with our prayer too, challenging God as to why He doesn't appear to have heard us when we don't receive the answer we are looking for.

This season of Advent is all about waiting. Waiting and watching, not just

to celebrate the festival of Christmas, the coming of the babe in the manger, but also waiting and watching for his coming again in glory. The early Christians were anticipating that Jesus would return for them in their lifetime. His words in John's gospel about "going to prepare a place for them", "going ahead" of them, caused them to be expectant of another advent or arrival of God, breaking into their world. They couldn't understand why He didn't come back quickly, particularly when they faced persecution for their faith.

I know of people now who live in that expectancy of Jesus' return each day, opening their curtains with the words "Maybe today, Lord". Perhaps you do. I'm aware that I don't do that enough. Not because I'm fearful of life in the "here and now" but rather thinking of each day as potentially the last here on earth and therefore thinking about how to make it count. Thinking about how I might live and tell the story of God's love to friends and neighbours, strangers and family, in a way they might hear that message most effectively. So that they can come to know a God who loves them enough to enter into their world and be present with them.

This Advent perhaps we need to become more aware that it's not only us doing the "waiting" but also God waiting to receive the best from us.

God Waits

*God waits silently
In our inner recesses,
The chambers of our soul,
Gazing lovingly
On our treasure,
Awaiting our response.*
Yvonne Morland

+Ruth Taunton

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 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. For more information about Genesis and its work, visit genesistrust.org.uk.



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 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.

Traidcraft stall to be discontinued

Our Traidcraft stall has been running fortnightly for some years now, staffed by volunteers. Traidcraft was a pioneer of the Fairtrade principle, but in the present economic climate people seem to be less willing to pay its premium prices when Fairtrade goods are now widely available, often at significantly lower prices from supermarkets, whose buying power Traidcraft cannot match.

If people don't want to buy the goods on the stall, the stall is not viable. So the decision has been taken to sell off the current stock

and then discontinue the stall. Traidcraft catalogues will however still be available, and Jude Bishop will be happy to order any goods that people would like.

Christ Church is committed to remaining a Fairtrade church; we'll continue to serve Fairtrade coffee and tea, and to support the principle that the producers of the products we consume should receive a fair return, without exploitation.



FAIRTRADE

Christ Church calendar Dec. 2017

3 Sun *The First Sunday of Advent*
8:30pm Compline

7 Thu Eucharist, 11am
Advent Lunch with St Mary's RC, at St Mary's, 12 noon
Pilgrim Feast (all invited!), 7:30pm

8 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

9 Sat Open Morning, 11am–1pm

10 Sun *The Second Sunday of Advent*
8am Holy Communion (BCP)
6:30pm Advent Carol Service

14 Thu Eucharist, 11am
Advent Lunch with St Mary's RC, at Christ Church, 12 noon

15 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

16 Sat Open Morning, 11am–1pm

17 Sun *The Third Sunday of Advent*
4:30pm Choral Evensong

21 Thu Eucharist, 11am, followed by coffee

22 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

23 Sat 6:30pm Christmas Carol Service

24 Sun *The Fourth Sunday of Advent / Christmas Eve*
4pm Crib Service
11:30pm Midnight Eucharist

25 Mon *Christmas Day*
8am Holy Communion (BCP)
10am Christmas Day Eucharist

26 Tue *Stephen, the first martyr*

27 Wed *John, Apostle and Evangelist*

28 Thu *The Holy Innocents*

29 Fri (NO Cedar Tree café)

31 Sun *The First Sunday of Christmas*

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

Prayer Cycle for December 2017

Friday	1	For countries experiencing civil unrest
Saturday	2	For those who organise and attend events at Christ Church
Sunday	3	For Lore our priest in charge
Monday	4	For those who work in the legal profession
Tuesday	5	We give thanks for beauty in creation
Wednesday	6	For our compassion fund
Thursday	7	For our Pilgrim Group, meeting tonight
Friday	8	For our neighbours at St Mary's Catholic Church
Saturday	9	For those who have suffered from terrorism
Sunday	10	For Mark, Keith and the choir
Monday	11	For our government and politicians
Tuesday	12	That we may have the gift of joy
Wednesday	13	For those who live or work in care homes
Thursday	14	For our charity of the month
Friday	15	For those in hospital
Saturday	16	We give thanks for those who inspire us
Sunday	17	For the Trustees of Christ Church
Monday	18	For those who work in the emergency services
Tuesday	19	That we may show mercy and compassion
Wednesday	20	For those on the Christ Church rotas
Thursday	21	For those who travel
Friday	22	For those who lack food, water or heat
Saturday	23	For carers

Sunday	24	For our Local Ministry Group partners
Monday	25	Thanksgiving for the Incarnation
Tuesday	26	For Colin and clergy spouses
Wednesday	27	For those who are persecuted for their faith
Thursday	28	For journalists and those who work in the media
Friday	29	For refugees
Saturday	30	For those who work at sea
Sunday	31	We give thanks for the blessings of the past year

Long-term Prayer List Other LMG services

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

John Burrows
 David Slater
 Maxine Hobday
 Keith Warren and Jean
 Katharine
 Rose Brown

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.

These are the regular services at our Local Ministry Group sister churches:

Sundays

- 9am Eucharist, Charlcombe St Mary's
- 10:45am Choral Communion or informal communion, St Stephen's Lansdown
- 6:30pm Evensong (BCP), Charlcombe St Mary's – 3rd Sunday of the month

Morning Prayer

- Monday 8:45am St Stephen's
- Tuesday 9am Charlcombe St Mary's
- Saturday 9:30am St Stephen's

Rotas for December 2017

Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
3 Dec Advent Sunday	Emma Elliott Isaiah 64:1-9	Daphne Radenhurst I Corinthians 1:3-9	Jonathan Stead Mark 13:24-end
10 Dec Advent 2	Nick Wells Isaiah 40:1-11	Isaac Elliott 2 Peter 3:8-15a	Penny Edwards Mark 1:1-8
17 Dec Advent 3	Brenda Wall Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-end	Margaret Heath 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	Virginia Knight John 1:6-8,19-28
24 Dec Advent 4	Georgina Bowman 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	Clive Tilling Romans 16:25-end	Charles Rice Luke 1:26-38
31 Dec Christmas 1	Robin Kerr Isaiah 61:10 – 62.3	Mark Elliott Galatians 4:4-7	Judith Anderson Luke 2:15-21
7 Jan Epiphany	Jane Fletcher Genesis 1:1-5	Morny Davison Acts 19:1-7	David Bishop Mark 1:4-11

Laity rota, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Chalice assistants	Sidespeople	Intercessions
3 Dec	Clive Tilling, Janet Mahto	Margaret Silver, Jane Nicholson	Rebekah Cunningham
10 Dec	David Rawlings, Brenda Wall	Ken Ayers, Sylvia Ayers	Sarah Jones
17 Dec	Clive Tilling, Keri Chivers	Janet Mahto, Margaret Silver	Nick Wells
24 Dec	Brenda Wall, Janet Mahto	Morny Davison, Jane Nicholson	Jonathan Stead
31 Dec	TBC	Jane Nicholson, Margaret Silver	TBC
7 Jan	Brenda Wall, Clive Tilling	Morny Davison, Jonathan Stead	Georgina Bowman

Who's who at Christ Church

Priest-in-charge Revd Lore Chumbley
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lore.chumbley@me.com

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Revd Canon Simon Tatton-Brown

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Cedar Tree café organiser Janet Mahto

Publicity co-ordinators Janet Mahto,
Lewis Boyd, Hazel Boyd

**Event / concert bookings,
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notices@christchurchbath.org

**Tower Captain,
Ringing Master** Will Willans

Tower Secretary Ian Hay Davison
07932 160482
bells@christchurchbath.org

Steeple Keeper David Kelly

Laitia rotas (acting) Judith Bishop

Prayer cycle Virginia Knight

Junior Church Emma Elliott

**Churches Together in Bath,
USPG** Rebekah Cunningham

Traidcraft orders Chris Tanner
Judith Bishop

Mission to Seafarers Sylvia Ayers
01225 463976

Deanery Synod Reps Sarah Kerr
Jane Nicholson
Brenda Wall

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, 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 Sunday and Thursday mornings, 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 Pilgrim Group provides a space for exploration and discussion of faith in an open and non-judgemental setting.

Regular Sunday services

- 8am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
On the second Sunday of every month
- 10am Sung Eucharist with Junior Church activities for children and young people
Every Sunday
- 4:30pm Choral Evensong
Usually on the third Sunday of every month, but see website or notice board for details

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



Contacting us

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