



## Facing our future

*Reaching a significant point in reordering the east end*

**Revd Lore Chumbley writes:**

Vaughan Roberts and David Simms, who were respectively Priest-in-charge and music director at Christ Church, have written a book together, *Leading by Story: Rethinking Church Leadership*. Their experiences at Christ Church are mentioned from time to time as they argue that leadership of a church is not achieved through management, coercion or persuasion. Rather it is through the re-interpretation and re-telling of their story that the members of a church are able to understand how their past and present lead into a coherent future.

The publication of Vaughan and David's book is timely. We have completed five years of discussion about the reorganisation of the east end of our church and after debate, experiments, questions and more discussion we have come to a point where we can send our proposals to the Diocesan Advisory Committee. It is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end, but it is perhaps "the end of the beginning."

What was the beginning? During the process, more than once someone would ask "Why did we start all this?" Yet even as people asked, there was

• *Continued on page 2*



*A visualisation of the proposal for the east end reordering, based on a sketch by Hugh Conway-Morris.*

## Facing our future (continued)

▶ no appetite to turn back. As I listened to people's views it became clear that there were a number of different beliefs as to why we needed to change our layout. For some it was to bring the communion table closer to the people. For others it was to provide a "performance space" which could be used for community activities. For many the need was to enable the less mobile to come to the communion rail with ease and dignity.

While those were some of the motives which initiated the process – and there will have been others – by the time I arrived in 2016 there had been enough discussion for the church to know what it wanted but not how to achieve it.

Since then we have prayed and discussed and argued. There have been facilitated meetings and unfacilitated meetings. We have experimented and photographed and filled in questionnaires. We have disagreed, but we have done so recognising each other's right to a different opinion. We have, I think, succeeded in disagreeing well. And the result is a plan for a clear, open, sacred space in which will rest a nave altar closer to the congregation. The new curved communion rail will be accessible to all without a change of level,

and the removal of part of the front pews will allow wheelchair users to occupy the front row. The choir, furnished with new choir stalls in a curved configuration, will seem to gather around the communion table while not overwhelming the sacred space. The pulpit will be moved north-westwards to tuck under the gallery, where it will still be able to be used. We will reduce the visual impact of the piece of furniture, but retain its function for proclamation of the word.

In a second phase, the south chapel [the former Sacristy] will be renovated to make a space for private prayer and in particular a space where children will find a welcome. In the third phase, for which we are not raising money at present, wheelchair access to the chancel could be provided.

We are living through exciting times in Christ Church's history. As we raise money for both the reconfiguration and the restoration of the organ, we are preparing Christ Church for its role in the future as a sacred space fit to preach the word of God, to share in the sacraments and, crucially, to welcome all into our church.

• See also "Devil's advocate" on page 3

## Christ Church Open Day, Saturday 8 September

### **Revd Lore Chumbley writes:**

Don't miss the Christ Church Noah's Ark Open Day on Saturday 8 September! For the past couple of years we have opened the church on Saturdays in the summer. This year we have decided to concentrate all our energies on a single open day with an ecological theme. The church and Lower Mews will be open from 10am to 4pm, serving coffee and refreshments all day.

Adults and children will be able to create scenery and animal masks while the more musical among us will rehearse for a scratch

performance of *Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo*. Everyone will come together for a performance in the afternoon.

While all this is going on we'll be welcoming participants in Ride & Stride. There will be a produce and cake stall, and the church will be decorated for harvest festival the following day – so we hope there will be a buzz of activity. There will be plenty of chances to get involved in preparatory work over the summer, so please look out for more information – and come on 8 September, bringing friends, children and grandchildren of any age!

## Devil's advocate

*An alternative view in the interest of open discussion pastoral care*

As the initial allusion to Vaughan and David's book announces, this is a story, a beguiling fiction meant to persuade you to see things a certain way. So buy into it if you like it. Accept its many improbabilities, such as the notion that a space could conceivably function as both a quiet chapel for prayer and at the same time a space for children. But this story just does not reflect the experience of all.

So "the church" knew what it wanted?

Some individuals doubtless did, but claiming we were all in agreement sounds like dismissing our differences, and for some this will only reinforce a feeling that their voices were not being listened to and "consultation" was just a box to be ticked. Still, in the end, thanks to general goodwill and the determination of the Trustees, we have a proposal that does find a way to accommodate divergent views.

However, this plan evolved only bit by bit, with many key details added only piecemeal. Why pretend otherwise? It was not a steady five-year journey but a stop-start thing, begun precipitately and without a clear aim, stalling when Canon Angela left, resuming shakily two years ago, and finally resolved only by an inspired contribution from Simon Tatton-Brown. It's no model for how to do these things.

What's more, it's counterproductive to imagine we succeeded in "disagreeing well." It could have been worse – unlike the Abbey, we have a proposal that almost all of us will be able to live with – but getting here was not without damage and division. The process reopened some old tensions between choir and congregation, with more than one person expressing the perception that "it's all about the choir." Kicking against compromise right up to the eleventh hour, as some did, hardly indicates respect for the validity of other opinions.

So let's not congratulate ourselves too soon. We have not just a building job ahead, but a major pastoral challenge to heal the wounds and divisions, and it won't help to pretend they're not there.

## Coming events

### **Ride and Stride 2018**

*What is it?* A sponsored cycle or walk between churches – just a few, or lots! Money you raise is split between your church and Somerset Churches Trust, which helps fund repairs and improvements to churches and chapels of all denominations.

*When is it?* Saturday 8 September

*Details* See the flyer at the back of the church or visit [www.somersetchurchestrust.org](http://www.somersetchurchestrust.org)

### **Apple Picking Party in aid of Genesis**

*What is it?* Janet Mahto is opening her garden again this year in aid of Genesis Trust.

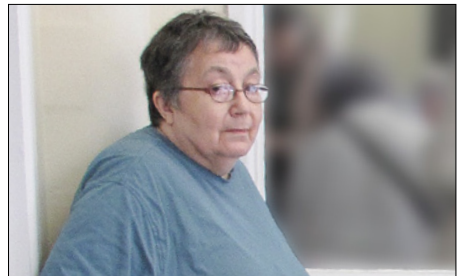
*When is it?* Sunday 9 September, from midday

*Where?* Granville Lodge, Weston Road, Bath BA1 2XU

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## Rowena Hall RIP

As this issue was in preparation, we heard the sad news that Rowena Hall has died. After a career in nursing, Rowena retired to Bath and, seeking a church with a liberal attitude, found Christ Church through our website. She found a warm welcome here and became a much valued member of our congregation. Despite more than her fair share of health problems, she took as active a role as she could in church activities, including serving on Church Council and regularly supporting the Cedar Tree café. In just a few months her health deteriorated rapidly and she passed away in Oakfield Nursing Home on Monday 30 July. Her funeral will be in Christ Church on Tuesday 21 August at 11:30am followed by a cremation at 1pm.





## “Organ donors” wanted

Richard Gabe and Lewis Boyd are planning a sponsored walk from the organ builders, Nicholson’s, near Malvern, to Christ Church, Bath – a total of 92 miles. The walk will take them along the Severn Way and the Cotswold Way from Sunday 9 to Friday 14 September.

They would be delighted if you’d consider sponsoring them at [www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/walkfortheorgan](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/walkfortheorgan)

Please give generously – all proceeds are for the Christ Church Organ Fund.

## Bath Abbey’s new Rector



Revd Canon Guy Bridgewater is to be the new Rector of Bath Abbey, starting at the end of this year. For the last 11 years he has served as Team Rector and Rural Dean of Horsham, West Sussex. Before this, he was Diocesan Missioner and Residentiary Canon in the Diocese of Gloucester. Ordained in the Diocese of Salisbury in 1987, he has also held posts in Dorset, at Lee Abbey in Devon and as Vicar of Cranbrook in Kent. The date of his licensing and induction is yet to be confirmed but it is expected to be in November.

## Make your will and support the RUH

Local solicitors are donating their will-writing fees to the RUH charity, The Forever Friends Appeal, for its fourth consecutive year.

Throughout September, you can make or update your will with 11 firms of solicitors at a reduced fee of £125 for a single will or £175 for double/joint wills. This fee will be donated directly to the charity, supporting the work of the RUH.

The charity organisers say fewer than half the population have an up-to-date will. Having one professionally written helps avoid any confusion over your intentions, ensures that your estate is distributed as you would want, and can make things faster and easier for your executors and beneficiaries.

Jan Witt, In Memory & Legacy Officer for The Forever Friends Appeal, said: “Make a Will month is an opportunity to support your local hospital, and you can request that your fee is donated to a specific area of the hospital if you have a special connection to a ward or department in the RUH.”

Last year’s RUH Will Month raised an impressive £42,000 for the RUH.

Simply book an appointment with a participating solicitor and quote “RUH Will Month”. For a list of participating solicitors, visit [www.foreverfriendsappeal.co.uk](http://www.foreverfriendsappeal.co.uk)



# Bishop's Message for August

*Glimpsing the glory of God*



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

Recently Jane and I made our first trip to Iona, which is accessed by small boat from the adjacent island of Mull. According to tradition, Columba and 12 companions went there in 563AD. The monastery they founded became a centre of mission and teaching and played a crucial role in the conversion to Christianity of Scotland and the Anglo-Saxon Kingdom of Northumberland.

However, during the Viking invasions the monastery was destroyed and abandoned, until 1938, when Revd George MacLeod re-founded a community there and rebuilt the Abbey. MacLeod was an unconventional and at times controversial figure. He became a pacifist, despite having served in the First World War. He saw action in Greece and then at Ypres and Passchendaele, for which

he was awarded the Military Cross and the French Croix de Guerre for bravery.

After ordination he turned his back on prosperous, prestigious parishes to become minister at Govan, a parish in a poor part of Glasgow with considerable social problems. However, he is best remembered for founding the Iona Community as an international ecumenical community which emphasised mission, political involvement, the ministry of healing and worship. Through this he sought to keep the Church connected with an increasingly secular, industrial society.

It is whilst he was on Iona that he is attributed with popularizing the concept of "Thin Places," a concept which comes from Celtic Christianity. Celts believed that in some places God's presence seems more tangible, more accessible than elsewhere. Places where heaven and earth seem to touch, where the holy and the human meet. Places where the Spirit of God is at work in ways that we can sense, where both beauty and brokenness co-exist.

I believe that God can and does meet us everywhere, that he is present with us on every step of life's journey. Nonetheless, for those early Celtic Christians on Iona, looking at where sky and sea met, it must have seemed that they were on the edge of the world, where heaven and earth met. We were only on Iona for a day, but as we left I felt I had glimpsed something of the glory of God and that something of the peace of God was coming back with me.

May the Lord be with us all wherever we are and whatever we do.

With warm Christian greetings,

**+Peter Bath and Wells**

## Celebrating 40 years of the Zambia link

On Saturday 14 July, hundreds of people gathered in Wells to celebrate 40 years of friendship between the Anglican Church in Zambia and the Diocese of Bath and Wells.

Bishop Peter Hancock, Bishop of Bath and Wells, welcomed Archbishop and Primate of Central Africa Albert Chama, Bishop William Mchombo of Central Diocese, Bishop Robert Mumbi of Luapula Diocese and Bishop Derek Kumukwamba of Central Diocese, plus a group of Zambian young adults, as part of an exchange visit arranged by the diocese.

The nave of Wells Cathedral was packed with colour as other guests who had made the journey from Zambia mingled with local dignitaries and representatives from parishes across Somerset.

## Exploring Christianity

New Exploring Christianity and Exploring Spirituality courses will begin in the diocese in the autumn.

Exploring Christianity is for all lay people who want to learn more about the Christian faith and the Bible. It can form the first part of Reader training. The course takes place in small groups wherever there are tutors and sufficient students. There are six core modules to the course, each costing £45. Students meet weekly over 10 weeks per module, after which there is an optional assignment and the opportunity to pursue a further module. Find out more at <http://bit.ly/bath-wells-exploring>.

Exploring Spirituality, which starts on 6 September and runs fortnightly in Wells, is more experiential and gives the opportunity to develop prayer life by engaging in the rich traditions of the church.

## This month's charity: USPG Malawi project

*The loose collection in the plate on Sunday 12 August, plus an optional retiring collection for the rest of the month, will once again go to USPG's Community Development project in Malawi. (Donations in collection envelopes will continue to go to Christ Church.)*

We are supporting a programme promoting education for girls, better hygiene and sanitation in villages, protection of the environment, and income generation in all four dioceses of the Church of Malawi. In addition, there is an across-the-board focus on gender

equality and issues relating to HIV and AIDS. The programme – officially titled the Anglican Church of Malawi Community Integrated Intervention (ACMCI) Project – will operate at parish level among those communities deemed most in need.

Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world, ranking 174 out of 186 nations on the Human Development Index. An estimated 74% of the population lives below the poverty line. What's more, almost 30% of poor children do not even start primary school, even though it is free in Malawi, while secondary and higher education is largely confined to wealthy households due to the cost of fees.

USPG – United Society Partners in the Gospel – is an Anglican mission agency supporting churches around the world in their mission to bring fullness of life to the communities they serve. USPG was founded 1701 by Revd Thomas Bray, who also founded SPCK (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge).

More details about the project, the issues it seeks to address, and what it is doing about them, at [www.uspg.org.uk/worldwide/malawi](http://www.uspg.org.uk/worldwide/malawi)



# Christ Church calendar August 2018

**5** Sun *The Tenth Sunday after Trinity*

6 Mon *The Transfiguration of our Lord*

9 Thu (No 11am Eucharist today)

10 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

**12** Sun *The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity*  
(No 8am Holy Communion today)

15 Wed *The Blessed Virgin Mary*

16 Thu Eucharist, 11am, followed by coffee

17 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

**19** Sun *The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity*  
(No Evensong today)  
Christ Church rostered to assist at Genesis Sunday Centre

21 Tue Rowena Hall's funeral, 11:30am

23 Thu Eucharist, 11am, followed by coffee

24 Fri *Bartholomew the Apostle*  
Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

**26** Sun *The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity*

29 Wed *The Beheading of John the Baptist*

30 Thu Eucharist, 11am, followed by coffee

31 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

**Sep 2** Sun *The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity*

**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 August 2018

<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>1</b>	For a good harvest
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>2</b>	For those affected by disasters in the air/at sea
<b>Friday</b>	<b>3</b>	For the ministry of the Cedar Tree
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>4</b>	For those who mourn
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>5</b>	For all clergy taking services at Christ Church
<b>Monday</b>	<b>6</b>	For our government and politicians
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>7</b>	That we may show mercy and compassion
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>8</b>	For the local Deanery Synod
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>9</b>	We give thanks for those who enrich our lives
<b>Friday</b>	<b>10</b>	For the sick and suffering
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>11</b>	For our Local Ministry Group partners
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>12</b>	For churches, Cathedrals and communities named Christ Church
<b>Monday</b>	<b>13</b>	For prisoners and prison workers
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>14</b>	For volunteer organisations
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>15</b>	For our neighbours at St Mary's Catholic Church
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>16</b>	For our plans for the church building
<b>Friday</b>	<b>17</b>	For those who lack food or water
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>18</b>	We give thanks for the beauty of creation
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>19</b>	For Lewis and Janet our churchwardens
<b>Monday</b>	<b>20</b>	For journalists and those who work in the media
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>21</b>	For our link dioceses in Zambia
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>22</b>	For the elderly
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>23</b>	For good relations between different faiths



<b>Friday</b>	<b>24</b>	For those who have been forced to flee their homes
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>25</b>	For those preparing for marriage or recently married
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>26</b>	For our Diocese of Bath and Wells
<b>Monday</b>	<b>27</b>	For the emergency services
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>28</b>	That we may have the gift of joy
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>29</b>	For those on our rotas
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>30</b>	For the mentally ill
<b>Friday</b>	<b>31</b>	We give thanks for the blessings of the past month

## Long-term Prayer List

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

David Slater  
 Keith Warren and Jean  
 Katharine  
 Harry Pattullo  
 Joyce Fairburn  
 David Jones  
 Ivy Savage  
 Nick Johnson  
 Hilary and Mary Faulkner  
 Amber  
 George Alagiah  
 Marge Gull  
 Pauline Cawadine  
 Sister Catherine  
 Demelza King

**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.**

## Other LMG services

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
- 4pm Scruffy Church (4th Sunday of the month), St Stephen's
- 5:30pm Re:Fresh contemporary worship (1st & 3rd Sunday), St Stephen's Centre
- 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 August 2018

*Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist*

	<b>Old Testament</b>	<b>New Testament</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
<b>5 August</b> Trinity 10	<b>Daphne Radenhurst</b> Exodus 16:2-4,9-15	<b>Jonathan Stead</b> Ephesians 4:1-16	<b>Mark Elliott</b> John 6:24-35
<b>12 August</b> Trinity 11	<b>Georgina Bowman</b> 2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15,31-33	<b>Rebekah Cunningham</b> Ephesians 4:25-5:2	<b>Penny Edwards</b> John 6:35,41-51
<b>19 August</b> Trinity 12	<b>Alex Soboslay</b> 1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14	<b>Lewis Boyd</b> Ephesians 5:15-20	<b>Robin Kerr</b> John 6:51-58
<b>26 August</b> Trinity 13	<b>Nick Wells</b> 1 Kings 8:[1,6,10- 11],22-30,41-43	<b>Sylvia Ayers</b> Ephesians 6:10-20	<b>Zoe Bushell</b> John 6:56-69
<b>2 Sep</b> Trinity 14	<b>Judith Anderson</b> Song of Solomon 2:8-13	<b>Malcolm Wall</b> James 1:17-end	<b>Janet Mahto</b> Mark 7:1-8,14,15, 21-23

*Laity rota, Sunday 10am Eucharist*

	<b>Chalice assistants</b>	<b>Sidespeople</b>	<b>Intercessions</b>
<b>5 August</b>	David Rawlings, Clive Tilling	Sylvia Ayers, Ken Ayers	Penny Edwards
<b>12 August</b>	Janet Mahto, Brenda Wall	Margaret Silver, Morny Davison	Jonathan Stead
<b>19 August</b>	Clive Tilling, David Rawlings	Sylvia Ayers, Ken Ayers	Georgina Bowman
<b>26 August</b>	Malcolm Wall, Jonathan Stead	Janet Mahto, Jane Nicholson	Mark Elliott
<b>2 Sep</b>	David Rawlings, Clive Tilling	Morny Davison, Jonathan Stead	Rebekah Cunningham

# Who's who at Christ Church

<b>Priest-in-charge</b>	Revd Lore Chumbley 07595 294146 lore.chumbley@me.com	<b>Tower Captain, Ringing Master</b>	Will Willans
<b>Supporting clergy</b>	Revd Prof. Cliff Burrows Revd Canon Simon Tatton-Brown Revd Narinder Tegally	<b>Tower Secretary</b>	Ian Hay Davison 07932 160482 bells@christchurchbath.org
<b>Reader, Director of Music</b>	Mark Elliott 01225 445360 mark.elliott@christchurchbath.org	<b>Steeple Keeper</b>	David Kelly
<b>Churchwarden, Safeguarding officer</b>	Lewis Boyd 07739 989639 lewis.boyd@christchurchbath.org	<b>Christ Church Link editor</b>	Alex Soboslay 07769 655927 alexs@christchurchbath.org
<b>Churchwarden, Cedar Tree café organiser</b>	Janet Mahto 01225 424860 janetmahto@gmail.com	<b>Publicity co-ordinators</b>	Janet Mahto, Lewis Boyd, Hazel Boyd
<b>Verger</b>	Angela Soboslay 01225 333297 angela.soboslay@christchurchbath.org	<b>Laity rotas</b>	Judith Bishop
<b>Chair of Trustees</b>	Charles Rice 01225 332915 charles.rice@btopenworld.com	<b>Prayer cycle</b>	Virginia Knight
<b>Treasurer</b>	David Bishop 01225 869409 david.bishop@christchurchbath.org	<b>Junior Church</b>	Emma Elliott
<b>Organist and Assistant Director of Music</b>	Keith Pigot 01225 723801 keithpigot@gmail.com	<b>Churches Together in Bath, USPG</b>	Rebekah Cunningham
<b>Event/concert bookings, weekly notice sheet</b>	Judith Bishop 01225 869409 concerts@christchurchbath.org notices@christchurchbath.org	<b>Traidcraft orders</b>	Judith Bishop
		<b>Mission to Seafarers</b>	Sylvia Ayers
		<b>Deanery Synod Reps</b>	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](mailto: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

Christ Church,  
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