



Love and affirmation

Becoming a church that reflects God's love into the world

Revd Lore Chumbley writes:

August is the month of sun, summer holidays, exam results – and Gay Pride marches. I had not recognised that 2019 marks the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall riots, which engendered the Gay Pride movement. This is a significant year for the LGBTI community and perhaps a year in which we should consider our responsibilities as a church. The Anglican church as a whole is in a state of disunity, and those who suffer are not only those committed LGBTI Christians who stay in the church and fight from inside, but also those who would never consider entering an Anglican church because of its poor track record on inclusiveness. If anyone doubts that, Vicky Beeching's book *Undivided* will be a revelation.

However, although I was remiss, a member of our congregation did go to the Bristol Gay Pride event and found the non-inclusive brand of Christianity powerfully represented with microphones and professionally made notices. As you will read [see page 3], for many of the participants the quiet, loving presence of Christians holding rainbow flags and wearing "Christians for Pride" T-shirts spoke louder than the megaphones. The willingness to be vulnerable and powerless witnesses bore the imprints of love.

August is also a time for the receiving of exam grades, and while the results of hard work and worry can be affirming and joyful, they may also be disappointing and the cause of bewilderment and

depression. Siblings, parents and grandparents all have a part to play in providing the quiet, constant affirming love that Paul writes of in 1 Corinthians 13, love that "bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." Paul is thinking not just of earthly love, but of God's love for us – all of us. Over a lifetime through grace we can become people who reflect God's love into the world.

So let's stand in solidarity with our young people not only through the difficulties of exams but through all the difficulties of growing and changing. And next year let's go to the Pride Event as visible Christians to stand in love with brothers and sisters who in the past have not been welcomed into the church. That attitude was never acceptable and we have a responsibility to show that those days are now over.



Our newly restored organ is to be shown off in a rather unconventional recital by internationally renowned organist David Briggs next month – see page 2.

David Briggs Film Improvisation

Mark Elliott writes:

On Sunday 8 September at 7:30pm we're delighted to be welcoming internationally renowned organist David Briggs to Christ Church. However, this is no ordinary organ recital! David brings a spine-chilling screening of the classic 1920 Gothic film *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* to Christ Church with live improvised organ accompaniment on our newly restored organ.

A world-famous concert organist and composer, David is Artist in Residence at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine in New York City, as well as Organist Emeritus of Gloucester Cathedral. He has built a worldwide reputation for making organ music exciting, inspiring, and accessible to a broad and diverse range of listeners, helping ensure that present and future generations will appreciate, be moved and even changed by,



this supreme instrument. He was described by Andrew McGregor of BBC Radio 3 as a “phenomenal improviser” and in addition to more traditional organ recitals David regularly performs improvised accompaniment to classic silent movies of the 1920s. These concerts often bring in audiences ranging from age 5 to 95!

David will start the evening by performing a couple of early 20th century organ pieces in order to get us into the “sound world” of the 1920s. Then, after a short break, he will launch into 80 minutes of unbroken improvisation to accompany the film on a big screen. The new, movable, organ platform will be used to put the organ console “centre stage”, so the audience will be able to see not only the film, but also David playing, as he conjures up exciting and unique music to enhance and heighten the drama on screen.

Do come and be part of this exciting evening, and bring lots of friends! Part of the reason for choosing to “relaunch” the organ with such an unusual event rather than a conventional organ recital is to create an event which is approachable to a wider audience. I'd love to see the church full of people at what I know will be an inspiring evening's entertainment.

Tickets are £12 (£5 for under-18s and students), available from church, or online at Bath Box Office: bathboxoffice.org.uk

Walk for the east end

Last year Richard Gabe and Lewis Boyd walked from Malvern to Bath to raise funds for the organ restoration. This year they will once again be walking, this time along the North Cornwall coast from Thursday 19th to Friday 27th September, covering 100 miles (if they don't get lost). They're aiming to match the incredible amount of £2,000 they raised last year, this time for our reordering and new furniture, but need your support to achieve this. To sponsor them, visit www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/walkfortheeastend

Eileen Selmes RIP

As this issue of the *Link* was going to press we got word that Eileen Selmes has died. Her funeral will take place in Christ Church on Monday 19 August at 1:45pm. Eileen and Cyril, who died in May 2017, were both long-standing, active and much-valued members of the Christ Church community. Condolences to her family and friends.

Love and Power

One of our congregation attended Bristol Gay Pride in July and writes about the experience:

Bristol Pride 2019 started with me nearly not going. Anyway, I decided to go, catching the 9:16am X39 bus.

The “Christians at Pride” gathered at Wesley’s Methodist Chapel for a pre-Pride service. There we sang, prayed and heard accounts of why people support Pride. The service was concluded with the symbolic use of ribbons to connect us all. The point of the ribbons was that it requires effort for us to connect. Not enough is made of the risk and vulnerability required in genuine human connections. Maybe that’s why we so easily give up on ourselves, and each other.

Outside the chapel was a group of fundamentalist Christians, with the pastor stood on a platform with a microphone. He was flanked by (presumably) church members carrying professionally made signs. The group was surrounded by policemen.

We took a while to find the march. I had planned to join in, rather than stand at the side, assuming it would be more exciting! But along the way we came upon the fundamentalist pastor and his group. I immediately felt drawn to stand directly in front of them with 15-year-old Kate, both of us with our signs and “Christians at Pride” T-shirts.

What started in a random, casual way became a truly profound experience. Thousands of people thronged past; many of course were LGBT+. People were visibly moved by our presence and started to hug us, say thank you and high-five us. One particular young man’s face has remained with me. He stood, dead still in front of me, looking into my eyes for a long time, clearly moved, until whispering “thank you” and leaving.

The word that came to me, whilst there and afterwards, was *protection*. I felt we were stood there as a human barrier, protecting the crowd from hate. That day impressed upon me the power of presence, the difference just one person can make, and how love is so much stronger than anything else.

Season of Creation

Creationtide or the Season of Creation is the period in the church calendar (from 1 September to 4 October) dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of all life.



Creationtide is a concept introduced by the late Ecumenical Patriarch Demetrios I in 1989. Since then, 1 September (chosen because it is the first day of the Orthodox ecclesiastical year) has been adopted as the start of Creationtide. This is the season, running to St Francis day on 4 October, when churches and congregations are called to pay special attention to the responsibility of humanity for the Earth and for all that lives upon it. Its start and end dates reflect that it is a shared idea between Western and Eastern Christianity.

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland adopted the Creationtide concept in 2008. In 2016 Pope Francis declared 1 September an annual World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation.

While its adoption was in part driven by the complex environmental crises the human race faces, Creationtide draws on deeper roots in Scripture and in older Christian traditions of the relationship between God, humanity and the created order. The timing of Creationtide means it is an excellent way of rooting traditional harvest festivals in wider issues and firm theological ground.

You’ll find suggested readings, daily reflections, discussion materials, liturgies and other resources at <https://creationtide.com>.

To find ecumenical material and to join with others across the world in celebrating creation, take a look at the Season of Creation site, <https://seasonofcreation.org>.

You can find out more about how to take action on environmental issues and sign up to the quarterly newsletter on the Church of England Environment Programme site, www.churchofengland.org/environment.

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 fifth consecutive year.

Throughout September, you can make or update your will with 14 firms of solicitors at a significantly reduced fee of £100 for a single will or £150 for two standard mirror wills or 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 which may hold special meaning to you, your family or friends."

Simply book an appointment with a participating solicitor and quote "RUH Will Month" – but availability is limited, so don't delay. For a list of participating solicitors, visit www.foreverfriendsappeal.co.uk/make-a-will-month



Coming events

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 8 September, from midday

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

Ability Sunday

What is it? An invitation to mark a day of inclusion and participation in churches, with special consideration for the needs of disabled people. This year's theme is *Unique Gifts*, recognising that each community is richer when everyone is involved. We all have gifts to give, and those in churches have an important role in helping others to share theirs, too. The day encourages us to help remove the barriers that disabled people face in church.

When is it? Sunday 8 September

More details: www.abilitysunday.org.uk

Ride and Stride 2019

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

With other events scheduled around the time, Christ Church is not opening on the day this year, but many churches in the Diocese, if not in Bath itself, are likely to be – so if you have an interest in visiting churches, why not take part and raise some sponsorship?

When is it? Saturday 14 September

More details: www.somersetchurchestrust.org

Eco-Church Day Conference

What is it? A one-day conference on "Helping your church look after God's world". Speakers include: Revd Kevin Durrant, author of *The Earth Will Teach You*, on the theology of caring for creation, and Rob Varley, Senior Consultant at the World Meteorological Organisation, on climate change.

When is it? Saturday 9 Nov., 9:30am – 3:30pm

Where? Christ Church, Weston super Mare

More details: <http://bit.ly/eco-church-nov-2019>

Bishop's Message for August

Always with us



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

On 20 July 1969 the world watched something extraordinary. This was when the Eagle lunar module landed on the Moon's Sea of Tranquility. This was the very first time that anyone had been to the moon. But astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin had to do something hard. After years of preparation and their long and hazardous flight they had to wait. They were about to open the door of their lunar lander and step onto the unknown surface of a completely different world. But for now, their mission ordered them to take a pause, to wait and prepare for that "first step". That hour-long downtime period was designed to let the astronauts recover from their space flight and prepare for their moon walk.

It is now well known that Buzz Aldrin spent his time praying, reading the Bible and taking Holy Communion.

Aldrin was an elder at Webster Presbyterian Church, and before he headed into space in 1969 he got special permission to take bread and wine with him into space and to give himself communion. As the men prepared for the next phase of their mission, Aldrin spoke to the ground crew back on Earth. "I would like to request a few moments of silence," he said. "I would like to invite each person listening in, wherever and whoever they may be, to contemplate for a moment the events of the past few hours and to give thanks in their own individual way."

He then reached for the wine and bread he'd brought to space – the first foods ever poured or eaten on the moon. "I poured the wine into the chalice our church had given me. In the one-sixth gravity of the moon the wine curled slowly and gracefully up the side of the cup," he later wrote. The words he read were those of Jesus: "I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, and I in you, will bear much fruit, for you can do nothing without me."

After the resurrection, as Jesus ascended back to heaven, he gave a promise to his disciples that he would be with them always, wherever they were and wherever they went. As Buzz Aldrin took communion on the Moon he too was aware of that promise. It is a promise that is also true for us today, and so, whatever each day may bring, let us remember to "wait" before we step out into the day and ask that Jesus may indeed be with us. As we say in Communion: *The Lord is here. His Spirit is with us.*

With warm greetings,

+Peter Bath and Wells

This month's charity: USPG Malawi project

The loose collection in the plate on the second and fourth Sunday of the month, 11 and 25 August, plus an optional retiring collection for the rest of the month, will go to the USPG Malawi project. (Donations in collection envelopes will continue to go to Christ Church.)

Rebekah Cunningham writes:

This month we are again supporting USPG's work in Malawi, a project we support quarterly. Rather than relying solely on loose change giving, we're hoping to build up a regular commitment to USPG, through individuals or families making a regular donation by direct debit to this project. Our direct debits can be amalgamated by USPG and recognised as coming from Christ Church, and they will send us a yearly total of all we have given. If you would like to do this please take a direct debit form from the display at the back of church – you just need to note on the form that you are from Christ Church Bath and add the code RE103.

Malawi is one of the world's poorest countries, with an estimated 74% of the population living below the poverty line. Many people have limited access to education and services and may also live in rural areas unreachable by road, further limiting their opportunities. Almost 30% of poor children do not even start primary school, even though it is free, while secondary and higher education is largely confined to those who can afford it.

More than a third of rural households earn an income from farming or fishing. An additional 25% supplement work on their

farms with other jobs, largely as agricultural labourers. Crises such as crop failures, extreme weather and rises in food prices frustrate attempts to escape rural poverty.

In response, the church, with USPG's support, is working with partners to:

- provide training in vocational skills;
- promote table banking, whereby members form groups that meet once a month, place savings and other contributions on a table, then borrow from the table as long- or short-term loans to kick-start livelihood projects;
- provide training in financial literacy and savings and loan management;
- link communities to banking services;
- encourage the formation of income generation co-operatives;
- provide training in business marketing.

We're looking forward to having a speaker from USPG later this year, speaking to us after our 10am service on Sunday 17 November, and will also host one of USPG's Regional Days, 11am–4pm on Friday 8 November – watch for more information nearer the time.

More details about the Malawi project, the issues it seeks to address, and what USPG is doing, at www.uspg.org.uk/worldwide/malawi

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 (1st and 3rd Sundays) or informal communion (2nd and 4th Sundays), St Stephen's Lansdown

Morning Prayer

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

Christian Meditation

- Wednesday 6:45–7:30pm, Charlcombe St Mary's



Christ Church calendar August 2019

1 Thu 11am Eucharist, followed by coffee

2 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

4 Sun *The Seventh Sunday after Trinity*

6 Tue *The Transfiguration of our Lord*

8 Thu 11am Eucharist, followed by coffee

9 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

11 Sun *The Eighth Sunday after Trinity*
8am Holy Communion (BCP)

15 Thu *The Blessed Virgin Mary*
11am Eucharist, followed by coffee

16 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

18 Sun *The Ninth Sunday after Trinity*

19 Mon Eileen Selmes' funeral, 1:45pm

22 Thu 11am Eucharist, followed by coffee

23 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

24 Sat *Bartholomew the Apostle*

25 Sun *The Tenth Sunday after Trinity*

29 Thu *The Beheading of John the Baptist*
11am Eucharist, followed by coffee

30 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm

Sep 1 Sun *The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity*

3 Wed Christ Church Council meeting, 7:30pm

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. For the weekly notice sheet, e-mail notices@christchurchbath.org

Prayer Cycle for August 2019

Thursday	1	For a good harvest
Friday	2	For refugees
Saturday	3	That we may have the gift of faithfulness
Sunday	4	For all clergy taking services at Christ Church
Monday	5	For those who work in financial services
Tuesday	6	For the Fairtrade movement
Wednesday	7	For peace
Thursday	8	We give thanks for our blessings
Friday	9	For the ministry of the Cedar Tree
Saturday	10	For adoptive and foster families
Sunday	11	For our Diocese of Bath and Wells
Monday	12	For those who work in dangerous conditions
Tuesday	13	For our plans for the church building
Wednesday	14	For those on holiday
Thursday	15	For our neighbours at St Mary's Catholic Church
Friday	16	For the unemployed
Saturday	17	We give thanks for artists, poets and musicians
Sunday	18	For Lewis and Janet our Churchwardens
Monday	19	For those who work in local government
Tuesday	20	For those who live and work in the streets around Christ Church
Wednesday	21	For our own personal witness
Thursday	22	For our charity of the month

Friday	23	For countries which have recently had forest fires
Saturday	24	For our link dioceses in Zambia
Sunday	25	For those who have been baptised, confirmed or married at Christ Church
Monday	26	For those who work in medicine
Tuesday	27	For those who organise and attend events at Christ Church
Wednesday	28	For the Queen and all heads of state
Thursday	29	We give thanks for the beauty of creation
Friday	30	For those who use and run food banks
Saturday	31	For the elderly

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
 Nick Johnson
 Hilary and Mary Faulkner
 Amber
 Sister Catherine
 Demelza King
 Zayad
 Joe Street
 Mrs Wright

Gill
 Andrew Clatworthy
 Tom King
 Joyce Gabe
 Zareb
 Fred Matthews
 Judith Rogers
 Nancy Kiddie
 Revd John Brown
 Harold Holmes
 Alan White
 Ian Muir

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.

Rotas for August 2019

Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
4 August 7th after Trinity	Morny Davison Hosea 11:1-11	Rosanne Gabe Colossians 3:1-11	Rebekah Cunningham Luke 12:13-21
11 August 8th after Trinity	Nick Wells Isaiah 1:1,10-20	Janet Mahto Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16	Jude Bishop Luke 12:32-40
18 August 9th after Trinity	David Bishop Isaiah 5:1-7	Thomas Wolker- Darley Hebrews 11:29-12:2	Penny Edwards Luke 12:49-56
25 August 10th after Trinity	Robin Kerr Jeremiah 1:4-10	Bob Siderfin Hebrews 12:18-end	Jonathan Stead Luke 13:10-17
1 Sep. 11th after Trinity	Mark Elliott Jeremiah 2:4-13	Sylvia Ayers Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16	Lewis Boyd Luke 14:1,7-14

Laitry rota, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Chalice assistants	Sidespeople	Intercessions
4 August	Clive Tilling, David Rawlings	Ken Ayers, Sylvia Ayers	Penny Edwards
11 August	Jonathan Stead, Angela Soboslay	Jane Nicholson, Margaret Silver	Sarah Jones
18 August	Janet Mahto, David Rawlings	Jonathan Stead, Morny Davison	Nick Wells
25 August	Clive Tilling, Angela Soboslay	Ken Ayers, Sylvia Ayers	Rebekah Cunningham
1 Sep.	Janet Mahto, David Rawlings	Morny Davison, Jane Nicholson	Gerogina Bowman

Who's who at Christ Church

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Revd Narinder Tegally

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Lewis Boyd

Laity rotas Judith Bishop

Prayer cycle Virginia Knight

Junior Church Emma Elliott

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

Traidcraft orders Judith Bishop

Mission to Seafarers Sylvia Ayers

Deanery Synod Reps Sarah Kerr
Jane Nicholson
Brenda Wall

Christ Church Link

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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 have our own weekly community café every Friday. 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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