

Open again for worship

Work completed during lockdown, the building reopens

After 18 weeks in lockdown, Christ Church reopened for public worship on Sunday 19 July. Our 10am Eucharists have restarted, in our reordered east end and using some of our new chancel furniture, although with some restrictions: no congregational singing, some pre-recorded elements, Communion in one kind only (just the bread, no shared cup), and such safety measures as the government requires. From mid August this includes wearing face masks – if you don't have one, they will be available at the door. Please aim to arrive

10 to 15 minutes early – there might be some delay entering the building while people are asked to use hand sanitiser and are helped to understand the social distancing measures we must observe.

For those not able to come in person, the Sunday Eucharist will continue to be streamed at www.facebook.com/christchurchbath. We hope the service will be an equally meaningful and spiritually uplifting experience whether you are worshipping in the building or online. Other “virtual community” activities will also continue – see page 2.



Our reordered east end, with the communion rail, south chapel screen and the first of the new furniture.

The Virtual Choir – how does it work?

Virginia Knight writes:

If you've returned to Christ Church or been following our services online, you will have heard members of our choir singing anthems, hymns and other service music. The online performances (still available on YouTube) also have videos of choir and conductor, super-imposed on images of Christ Church. How has this been done?

First, choir members are sent a copy of the music, a video of Mark conducting to a backing track (which may be organ and/or voices) and some instructions about interpretation. We've used anthems that we've sung several times in the last few years.

Before making your recording, it helps to watch the backing track at least a couple of times, in order to be prepared for changes in tempo. Then most of us use two devices to record. One device plays the backing track, which you listen to on headphones. The other is placed in front of you in "selfie mode" and records a video of you singing your line. My own set-up involves an iPad on a music stand, a phone held in one hand and the score in the other. I've yet to find a sensible way to turn the pages, but it always seems to work out!

It may require a dozen or more "takes" to get an acceptable version without a dishwasher/child/duff note etc. intruding. This is uploaded to a website for Mark to edit it with the others, which requires a lot of work, especially to synchronise the video. Then it can be integrated into a service. We are sending some of our recordings to Guildford Cathedral for use in a service there in August.

What you hear isn't quite what you'd have

got on a Sunday before lockdown, in various ways. The personnel differs; we've been joined by some former members of the choir and by one of the congregation, and not all the current members of the choir are present. The acoustic is sometimes warmer than the dry one in Christ Church (now improved by the new platform); for some pieces it's been enhanced to resemble that of the Lady Chapel in St Alban's Cathedral. There is also some balancing between different voices to compensate for varying recording levels.

I've found this quite an instructive process, even though it is no real substitute for singing together. There's nowhere to hide on these solo recordings, either aurally or visually. But it is also a worthy showcase for our church. Many others have put together recordings of virtual choirs similar to ours, but few have managed to do it every week as we have. We will take our usual break in August (though our recordings will still be used at services) but expect to return with more recordings in September – unless we've been allowed back to occupy our new choir seating!

Online services

Our 10am Sunday Eucharist is live streamed at www.facebook.com/christchurchbath. Join the Facebook group or our mailing list to receive the readings and weekly notice sheet by e-mail, and follow the links to take part in "virtual coffee" after the service.

Do send prayer requests – by e-mail to lore.chumbley@me.com, by text, or by post to Christ Church, Julian Road, Bath BA1 2RH. Note that services will be online, so be mindful of the privacy of friends and loved ones.

Every weekday morning at 8am a group of us are saying Morning Prayer together on Zoom, or you can phone in. If you would like an invitation, please e-mail Lore.

The Pilgrim Group is taking a break and will restart on Thursday 1 October at 7:30pm to ask *How do we live as Resurrection people?*



Welcome back to Christ Church

Revd Lore Chumbley writes:

Christ Church is back! On Sunday 19 July some residents and passers-by were taken aback as worshippers spilled out of the south door onto the pavement after our first Eucharist since March. People looked tanned with relaxed hairstyles, as if they had been on holiday. The flowers were magnificent, thanks to Sarah Kerr and her team; the organ played, our (recorded) choir sang, and it felt like a family reunion after a long holiday.

As we prepared for the return to the church building I had been intrigued to see the ventilation system built into the window sills. When a hinged wooden flap is raised, air is directed into the interior of the church from external vents hidden by stone carving. The system seems to have been designed to ventilate the church in the days when every service was crowded. Our predecessors were realistic and practical, and in our present era when the government has directed that churches must be ventilated for services, the system has found a new importance.

We hope that the changes we have made to the church will be seen as realistic and practical by our successors. In the middle

of August the choir furniture will arrive and the current phase of our building works will be almost complete. Our vision has been to create something that works for our worship and activities but will also be of value to future generations. We hope that 100 years from now, when the Covid-19 pandemic is not even a footnote in history, people will still kneel at our curved Communion rail to receive Communion, and choristers will sing from the choir chairs and matching readers. Who knows – they may even discover a new need for them as we have for the ventilation system. The designs for the new furniture were scrutinised and prayed over; the work has been done with care and craftsmanship; and creativity and generosity have gone into paying for it. Now we trust the Holy Spirit to work through our reordered east end.

When we blessed our new altar on 19 July we prayed: *“May this table be the centre of our praise and thanksgiving and the heart of our community’s life.”*

My prayer is that it may be so, not only for our church community but also for residents and passers-by, that they too may be drawn into the heart of our community’s life.

Video for University Chaplaincy

Jonathan Stead writes:

Recently Christ Church was approached by the University Chaplain, Nigel Rawlinson, to prepare a short two-minute video about ourselves and our outreach to students. This will form part of the Chaplaincy’s website and will assist students registering for the next year to find a church in Bath that suits their worship needs.

Lore, Mark, Ling, Matthew and Jonathan contributed to the text and it was recorded in our building towards the end of July. It covered an inclusive and warm welcome to all students, Ling’s own experience of being a newcomer, an introduction to the choir, and how much (or little) students could become involved in our community at Christ Church.

We are excited that Nigel Rawlinson has included us in this initiative and pray that God will lead more young people to share in our life in the Christ Church community. Thanks go to Mark, who filmed and edited the video. Watch it at <https://tinyurl.com/y3swj8wm>.



Remembering Andrew

Ken and Sylvia Ayers forward this tribute from Bath Railway Society:

“It is with sadness that I have to announce the passing of former BRS member Andrew Sillett. He died from cancer in Taunton on Tuesday 16 June, and a private funeral service was held on Thursday 25 June. Andrew was a BRS member for several years while his wife Angela was chaplain at Bath University. He was always so enthusiastic and friendly, and was happy to have a chat and tell you what he had been doing at the Avon Valley Railway, where he volunteered in the locomotive department. He and Angela moved from Bath when she took up duty as the Rector of the Quantock Towers Benefice in West Somerset, and Andrew then started working in the locomotive department of the West Somerset Railway, where he was highly thought of. He did come back to attend our 60th Anniversary Dinner at the Avon Valley Railway and we know he appreciated the camaraderie he had found at BRS.



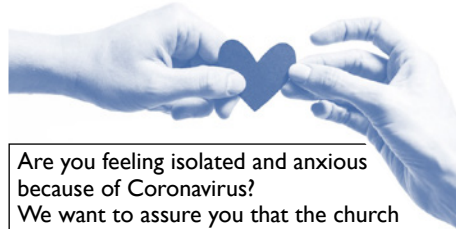
“Angela is planning to hold a celebration for Andrew’s life when circumstances permit. He was a true gentleman and will be missed by all those who knew him.”

Daily Hope

A free national phonenumber offers a simple way to bring worship and prayer into people’s homes while church buildings are closed. It will be particularly welcome to those who do not have internet access to watch streamed services. Daily Hope offers hymns, prayers, daily reflections and a choice of church services over the phone, 24 hours a day.



Need pastoral care?



Are you feeling isolated and anxious because of Coronavirus?

We want to assure you that the church community remembers and prays for those who are in any kind of need.

If you would like prayer, conversation or support, please call

Rebekah Cunningham on 07821 251956 or e-mail rebekah.spanner@gmail.com.

If you have any concerns about anyone you feel would like some support, either members of our church or people in the area of Christ Church, please get in touch. The pastoral care group are regularly phoning the elderly and housebound, and along with some other volunteers will try to help with practical needs such as shopping.

Community Hub

The Compassionate Community Hub works closely with food banks and volunteers to ensure people can access direct support when they need it. Visit www.3sg.org.uk/pages/compassionate-community-covid-19.

- If anyone needs support with buying food or medicines, send an email with the subject “Support” to compassion@3sg.org.uk and they will pick up the query within 24 hours.
- Alternatively, telephone the Compassionate Community hotline **0300 247 0050**. It is open seven days a week from 9am to 5pm.
- To volunteer with the Compassionate Community Hub, complete the form via <http://bit.ly/communityvolunteersignup>.
- For people in need of food and looking for an alternative to going into the shops during the pandemic, there is a list of local businesses offering food delivery: www.3sg.org.uk/pages/sustainable-food-partnership.

Bishop's Message for August

Time for a rest



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

I'm tired! I don't know about you? And yet I am getting up later and going to bed earlier than I was accustomed to before the pandemic struck. I'm travelling less – indeed I still have an almost full tank of petrol and have had to call out the AA three times because the battery has died! I'm at home principally, but my working day has got fuller and more demanding as time has gone on.

So, I'm planning a holiday! A retreat and some study leave. Having been ordained 24 years I have yet to have a period of sabbatical and I'm looking forward to it! It is not going to take the

form I would have planned. There will not be the opportunity of a trip overseas or a residential conference to attend, but there will be plenty of time for family, rest, reading and reflection.

What about you? I know some people might be feeling that our children have had one big holiday at home since lockdown but I can assure you that they, their parents and their teachers have all been working hard to ensure that learning can continue even though the normal patterns have been disturbed. Whether we have been working from home, furloughed or feeling alone in isolation, each of us will I expect have experienced something of the sense of weariness that heightened anxiety, change of routine and uncertain expectation brings.

So I want to encourage you to take some time off. There's a fabulous little children's story called *Jesus' Day Off*, which you might like read as an example of the need for even the Creator to have some recreation. The example of Sabbath rest which our Creator God offers us in the opening chapters of the Bible speaks to us of the need for taking time to put down the tools of work and take space to reflect and rest.

We have spent the past few months in lockdown in order to keep ourselves physically healthy. Let's make sure that in these next few months we attend as much to our spiritual and emotional health, by discovering Sabbath rest!

With every blessing,

+Ruth Taunton

Charity of the month: USPG Malawi project

This month an optional retiring collection will go to the USPG Malawi project, which we support quarterly in this way and also through individuals setting up direct debits. (Donations in collection envelopes will continue to go to Christ Church.) If you would like to set up a direct debit, please ask for a form. These contributions are marked as coming from Christ Church, so that all our giving can be totalled by USPG at the end of the year.

On 24 July we received this update from Gwen Mtambirwa of USPG about the situation in Malawi, which is also in the grip of the Coronavirus pandemic.

On 20 March, the Malawi government declared Coronavirus a national disaster and announced a number of preventive measures to curb the spread of the virus. On 7 April, further directives included the banning of church gatherings and reducing funeral attendance to less than 50 people.

At the time of writing borders are still open, with large numbers of people crossing daily from neighbouring countries (Zambia, Tanzania and Mozambique). These countries all have increasing cases and it is likely that infections in Malawi will therefore increase exponentially. The sharing of information began late, mostly using electronic media, with the result that it largely reached only the

urban population. The majority of the rural population is yet to receive the necessary information on Covid-19, although this has improved slightly in the last few weeks.

Despite the increase in public awareness, the challenge remains of a lack of resources to curb the spread of virus. The cheapest, most effective measure for protecting against the virus is hand washing, yet only 13% of the population practise this. For many, especially the rural poor, this basic measure is out of reach as there is no access to soap or hand-washing facilities at home.

Malawi's very fragile public health system is not ready to respond to the pandemic. Hospitals are congested, there is a critical drug shortage and there are not enough health workers.

The Anglican church in Malawi has five hospitals and 15 health centres, which are facing similar issues. In some parts of the country the church health services are the only health facilities available to the local community, due to the distance between public health centres. There are serious financial implications in order to ensure that proper infection control measures are in place, that isolation centres and personal protective equipment (PPE) are available, and that communities are educated on the spread and preventive measures to control Covid-19.

USPG has supported the Anglican Council in Malawi to be able to supply PPE – including gowns, aprons, N95 face masks, goggles, and biohazard bags – as well as an isolation tent, and basic drugs such as paracetamol and amoxycillin for the treatment of symptoms. In your prayers, please remember this situation and all involved in this important ministry.

On behalf of USPG and the Anglican Council of Malawi, thank you once again for being a Partner In Mission.



Christ Church calendar August 2020

2 Sun *The Eighth Sunday after Trinity*
10am Eucharist

6 Thu *The Transfiguration*
11am Eucharist

9 Sun *The Ninth Sunday after Trinity*
10am Eucharist

13 Thu 11am Eucharist

15 Sat *The Blessed Virgin Mary*

16 Sun *The Tenth Sunday after Trinity*
10am Eucharist

20 Thu 11am Eucharist

23 Sun *The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity*
10am Eucharist

24 Mon *Bartholomew the Apostle*

27 Thu 11am Eucharist

29 Sat *Beheading of John the Baptist*

30 Sun *The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity*
10am Eucharist

Sep 3 Thu 11am Eucharist

6 Sun *The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity*
10am Eucharist

Sunday Eucharist is also streamed at www.facebook.com/christchurchbath

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 2020

Saturday	1	For children and their families
Sunday	2	For our bell-ringing team
Monday	3	For those who work in social services
Tuesday	4	We give thanks for those who inspire us
Wednesday	5	For our link Dioceses in Zambia
Thursday	6	For those on holiday
Friday	7	For those who work in dangerous conditions
Saturday	8	For those who are confined to their homes
Sunday	9	For Lore our priest in charge
Monday	10	For our armed forces and police
Tuesday	11	That we may show mercy and compassion
Wednesday	12	For our Church Council
Thursday	13	For volunteer organisations
Friday	14	For those who have suffered from terrorism
Saturday	15	For our neighbours at St Mary's Catholic Church
Sunday	16	For our flower arrangers and others who look after the church
Monday	17	For the Queen and other heads of state
Tuesday	18	We give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy
Wednesday	19	For good relations between different faiths
Thursday	20	For carers
Friday	21	For the unemployed
Saturday	22	For our charity of the month

Sunday	23	For those on our Church rotas
Monday	24	For those who work in the hospitality industry
Tuesday	25	For countries experiencing economic problems
Wednesday	26	For the Trustees of Christ Church
Thursday	27	That we may have grace to love
Friday	28	For those with addictions
Saturday	29	For new members to be added to Christ Church
Sunday	30	For our Diocese of Bath and Wells
Monday	31	We give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy

Long-term Prayer List

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

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

Judith Rogers
 Nancy Kiddie
 Revd John Brown
 Alan White
 Ian Muir
 Liza Burdon Bailey
 Maureen Barker
 David Slater
 Ned Milne

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 2020

Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
2 August 8th after Trinity	Robin Kerr Isaiah 55:1-5	Zoë Bushell Romans 9:1-5	Ian Hay Davison Matthew 14:13-21
9 August 9th after Trinity	Judith Anderson 1 Kings 19:9-18	Beryl Bowes Romans 10:5-15	Thomas Wolker-Darley Matthew 14:22-33
16 August 10th after Trinity	Rebekah Cunningham Isaiah 56:1,6-8	Judith Bishop Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32	Jonathan Stead Matthew 15:10-28
23 August 11th after Trinity	Janet Mahto Isaiah 51:1-6	Nick Wells Romans 12:1-8	Richard Gabe Matthew 16:13-20
30 August 12th after Trinity	Virginia Knight Jeremiah 15:15-21	Malcolm Wall Romans 12:9-end	Clive Tilling Matthew 16:21-end
6 Sep 13th after Trinity	Brenda Wall Ezekiel 33:7-11	Lewis Boyd Romans 13:8-end	Morny Davison Matthew 18:15-20

Intercessions, Sunday 10am Eucharist

2 August (Trinity 8): Georgina Bowman
9 August (Trinity 9): Mark Elliott
16 August (Trinity 10): Nick Wells
23 August (Trinity 11): Jonathan Stead
30 August (Trinity 12): Simon Tatton-Brown
6 September (Trinity 13): Peter Bowes

Who's who at Christ Church

Priest-in-charge Revd Lore Chumbley
07595 294146
lore.chumbley@me.com

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

Supporting clergy
Revd Canon Simon Tatton-Brown
01225 835404
simontb@christchurchbath.org

**Tower Captain,
Ringing Master** Will Willans

Revd Beryl Bowes
Revd Dr Peter Bowes

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

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

Steeple Keeper David Kelly

**Churchwarden,
Safeguarding officer** Lewis Boyd
07739 989639
lewis.boyd@christchurchbath.org

Publicity co-ordinators Janet Mahto
Lewis Boyd

**Churchwarden,
Cedar Tree café organiser** Janet Mahto
01225 424860
janetmahto@gmail.com

Laity rotas Judith Bishop

Prayer cycle Virginia Knight

Junior Church Emma Elliott

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

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

Traidcraft orders Judith Bishop

Chair of Trustees Charles Rice
01225 332915
charles.rice@btopenworld.com

Mission to Seafarers Sylvia Ayers

Deanery Synod Reps Sarah Kerr
Jane Nicholson
Brenda Wall

Treasurer David Bishop
01225 869409
david.bishop@christchurchbath.org

Christ Church Link

**Event/concert bookings,
weekly notice sheet** Judith Bishop
01225 869409
concerts@christchurchbath.org
notices@christchurchbath.org

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

choir and organist (pre-recorded for the time being, until singing is once again permitted in church services).

As well as worship on Sunday and Thursday mornings, there are many other activities going on in our community. Our weekly community café will resume when safety restrictions permit. Our musical tradition continues to thrive, with our choir active even during lockdown; 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 – resumption date TBC
- 10am Sung Eucharist with Junior Church activities for children and young people
Every Sunday – also streamed at www.facebook.com/christchurchbath
- 4:30pm Choral Evensong
Usually on the third Sunday of every month – resumption date TBC

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



Contacting us

Christ Church,
Julian Road,
Bath BA1 2RH
Phone: 01225 338869
(answer phone)
Email: admin@christchurchbath.org
Website: www.christchurchbath.org

