



Glorifying God

From the priest-in-charge...

Revd Lore Chumbley writes:

“What is the purpose of mankind?” asks the Westminster Catechism, and the answer echoes with the confidence of 350 years of history: “The purpose of mankind is to glorify God and to enjoy him for ever.”

The Westminster Catechisms were written by 17th Century Protestant reformers trying to bring the Anglican and Scottish churches together. Three hundred and fifty or so years later it is disconcerting to realise that our two countries may be soon be moving further apart as a result of recent political changes.

“The purpose of mankind is to glorify God” is a sound theological point. The Bible, in particular the Psalms and John’s Gospel, are full of references to the glory of God, and Paul exhorts us: “Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”

In Christ Church we live out that command to glorify God in our worship; in attempts to live in love and fellowship with each other; in our social outreach; in our celebrations of the great festivals – and through our music. We are grateful to Mark and the choir for keeping music at the centre of our worship through lockdown, delighting us with recordings of our choir singing hymns and anthems. On Facebook the “performances” are crystal clear, but the church loudspeakers can’t do justice to the singing. The news that choirs are to be allowed to sing in church again is cause for celebration. We are hopeful

that the choir will return to Christ Church later this month. Clearly this depends on the stabilisation of local levels of infection and on appropriate social distancing. The choir will look different and may sound different as a result of social distancing in a chancel with an altered acoustic – but it will be a joy to have them back with us leading parts of our worship and glorifying God with their singing. We may even, by then, have taken delivery of the new choir chairs and readers for them to sing from.

The Westminster Catechisms were written during the Civil War which resulted in the execution of Charles I. To many the king was God’s representative on earth. His shock of his execution must have produced the same sense of dislocation from normal life which we are feeling. But out of those strange times came a revelation which still illuminates our faith and lives. They were able to glorify God in their strange times and circumstances, and by the grace of God, so can we.



The choir on Remembrance Sunday 2019.

Bishop Peter being treated for leukaemia

Bishop Peter Hancock, the Bishop of Bath and Wells, is undergoing chemotherapy for acute myeloid leukaemia. He stepped back from work as his treatment began at the start of August, just days after his diagnosis.

In a letter to the diocese, he wrote: "This has been a challenging year for all of us; Coronavirus has meant that many of the things we had planned for this year have either had to change or have been put on hold.

"I too am facing a challenging few months.

"Jane and I are grateful to all our family and friends for their support, encouragement and prayers. I shall continue to pray for you all and would be grateful for your prayers.

"The psalm at Morning Prayer today had the words 'The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts.' As I put my trust in the hospital staff, who I know will provide me with the most wonderful care, I am also trusting in the Lord, knowing that he too will watch over me in the days ahead."

At the start of September Bishop Ruth returned early from a planned sabbatical. She

said: "I realise the news of Bishop Peter's illness will come as a shock to us all and we send him, Jane and the family our love and our commitment to pray for him daily. We trust in the God who holds him in the palm of His hand and whose love is unquenchable."

The Diocesan Healing Advisory Group offer the following prayer, starting with the words from Psalm 28 that Bishop Peter quoted as he shared the news of his illness. *O Lord, you are our strength and our shield. Your love sustains us through all the challenges we face.*

We place into your hands all who are facing challenges,

In this time of such uncertainty.

We hold before you all who are dear to us.

Particularly we pray for our Bishop, Peter, His family and friends and all who love him, As they face these coming months.

May they know your strength and protection, Your healing and your love,

In the name of Jesus,

And in the power of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Children's wellbeing webinars

Christian charity Transforming Lives for Good (TLG) is offering a number of free emotional wellbeing webinars to churches across the diocese from September, with several dates to choose from.

Rob Stevenette of TLG says: "Children and young people have encountered so many challenges through lockdown, so we want to equip churches up and down the country to know how to spot the signs of emotional distress and respond to them effectively. We've taken our experience in equipping churches to understand and walk alongside children and families struggling with their emotional and mental wellbeing and turned it into some easy-to-understand online training."

The topics for the webinars are:

- Emotional First Aid – equips people to support those struggling with their emotional

and mental health as a result of the pandemic. Helps individuals and organisations to see and understand emotional signals, and know how to respond to them effectively. This is open to the whole church who want to feel equipped enough to walk alongside and bring "journey with" support for those who struggle with complex mental health needs. Find out more and sign up at www.tlg.org.uk/your-church/emotional-first-aid

- The Emotional Rollercoaster – for church staff members, schools and volunteers who work one-on-one or with groups of children who have emotional or relational challenges. It covers all of the content in Emotional First Aid, but provides exercises and resources to provide practical help for children and young people. Find out more and sign up at www.tlg.org.uk/your-church/emotional-rollercoaster

Preserving positives

Faith groups in Bath are using relationships and practices forged during lockdown to continue to support those in need in their communities. St Michael's church in Twerton has teamed up with Southside Youth Connect and Bath City Farm to provide cooked meals and food parcels for those who are still unable to get out or are struggling to feed their families.

Using food donated by FareShare and Bath Foodbank, volunteers are cooking 100 meals each week at the Rose Cottage Hub community centre in Twerton. These are then frozen and given to people who are unable to get out and buy the ingredients to cook, or who struggle to cook for themselves.

Alongside this, food parcels are being prepared for families, together with advice on healthy eating and information about the team at St Michael's. Local community police officers are helping to distribute goods to the more isolated members of the community.

Nathan Gale, the Leader at Rose Cottage Hub, says, "Many people are still struggling with loneliness or with their mental health issues. We've seen a rise in depression throughout the Coronavirus crisis. If we can support people through this tough time, then we can help alleviate some of their worries.

"We're also trying to encourage people to get back into the mindset they had at the start of lockdown. As bad as lockdown was, it encouraged such incredible family time for so many people, and people reached out to help each other. We're saying it's okay to keep that going, you don't need the government telling you not to go out to make that happen."



Christ Church AGM

The Annual General Church Meeting of the Christ Church congregation will be held on Sunday 11 October after the 10am service – so starting at about 11:15am. Come along to have your say, elect Churchwardens, Deanery Synod representatives and members of Church Council, and receive reports on the activities of all the groups in the church.

Anyone can attend, but you must be on the Electoral Roll of Christ Church to vote. Please check the printout of the current roll at the back of the church (or if you can't do so, contact Lore, the Churchwardens or Judith Anderson, our Electoral Roll Officer). If you're on the roll, no further action is needed. If you've recently joined us and wish to add your name, or if you need to change any details, forms are available from the Churchwardens or from Judith, and will need to be returned before 26 September.

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?*

Ride+Stride 2020 is on!

Ride and Stride, the annual fundraiser for Somerset Churches Trust, will be taking place this year, on Saturday 12 September, although with some changes because of the pandemic.

The Trust supports churches of all denominations by giving grants for repairs, restorations and alterations to aid greater community use. Since 1996 it has given more than £750,000 to over 400 churches. Much of the charity's income is raised by Ride and Stride, when participants undertake a sponsored cycle or walk between participating churches – as many or as few of them as they wish.

Of the sponsorship raised, half goes to the Trust and half to the church, chapel or charity nominated by the individual participant.

Because of the pandemic, participants are warned: "Do not expect churches and chapels to be open. Plan your trip on the basis that you will only be able to visit the outside of the church. If churches are open, please follow the current rules on face coverings etc. and any other requirements the church may ask."

More information and sponsorship forms can be found at www.somersetchurchestrust.org/ride-stride/overview. You can also make a direct donation to the Somerset Churches Trust through uk.virginmoneygiving.com – search for Charity ID 1017830.



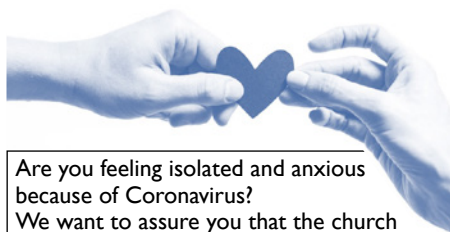
Apple Picking Days in aid of charity

What is it? Janet Mahto is opening her garden again this year in aid of charity. To allow for social distancing, there will be two days, and both will be subject to whatever government guidelines are in place at the time, so please check nearer the date.

When is it? Sunday 6 September, from midday (for children, young people and their parents); Sunday 13 September (mainly for adults)

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

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 September

Courage, faith and the support of prayer



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

I am writing this whilst receiving treatment in hospital, although by the time you read this, I hope that I may be back home, having completed my first course of chemotherapy. The first thing I want to say, and I am sure this is echoed by so many, is what wonderful treatment and care I have received from everyone in the hospital. Their kindness, concern and professionalism are beyond words.

What is an unusual experience for me, however, is that I have not been allowed to leave my room and the doors and windows have been kept firmly shut. Looking out of my window and craning my neck upwards, I am just able to get a glimpse of the sky outside. Without that I would not know whether it was sunny or cloudy or raining outside. Not that I am in any way complaining. I am safe and receiving the best care imaginable. It is also important whatever may happen to keep a sense of proportion. I vividly recall hearing Terry Waite speak when he came to the diocese on one occasion. It is unimaginable what he went through in those 1,763 days in Beirut – the first four years of which were spent in solitary confinement, blindfolded, in a basement room with no windows, with no books or papers, chained to a radiator and sleeping on the floor. His courage and faith are remarkable and

have inspired so many people since. I remember him once being interviewed and being asked what the happiest moment of his life was, one that he would cherish forever. He replied: “When my blindfold was taken off during my release in November 1991. I’d been in the dark – in a basement or blindfolded – for years. For the first time in five years I saw the sky, the grass, the colours, and I felt the wind on my face.”

Terry Waite is also very clear about how the prayers of so many others supported him through those years. As I write I am also very aware of all the prayers that have been and are being said for me. That is both humbling and encouraging, and once I am getting out and about again, I look forward to being able to thank you personally.

With my thanks, best wishes and prayers for you,

+Peter Bath and Wells

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.



Charity of the month: Unseen



This month an optional retiring collection will go to Unseen. (Donations in collection envelopes will continue to go to Christ Church.)

Rebekah Cunningham writes:

Unseen is a national charity based in Bristol working with victims of trafficking. It runs separate “safe houses” for women, men, and children.

The project helps survivors to access a range of services, including:

- Medical care and treatment
- Counselling
- Legal advice and assistance
- Holistic therapy sessions
- Education
- Financial assistance
- Immigration advice
- Assistance to return home or to reside in the UK.

This is the story of one of the charity’s clients. (Her name has been changed.)

My name is Tania, I come from Latvia. Before Latvia became separate from [the Soviet Union] I worked as a factory supervisor, but after Soviet Union was broken the old factory was sold. Some man who was agency boss said I can stay and live in England and I believed him. I sell my flat, he take all the money.

And the reality when I just came to England: they take my passport, said I must pay them ten thousand pounds back and I start working every day. They pay just 30 pence per day, they treat us like we are animals. I not have any winter clothes, just summer clothes, because I came in summer time.

We wake up six o’clock, they bring us back at 11. I remember I can’t pick the lettuce fast because I am scared from tractor that is behind me. Sometimes I broken some lettuce and every broken lettuce costs me £50 or more. So [I owe] this £10,000 and another £50 every day so... I think “that’s it, I can’t do nothing.”

We were a lot of people. People sleep in the bedroom or in the corridor. When the bosses get drunk they have fun thing for

them and they abuse the people. When I can feel that they come back drunk I always sleep out of house, in the bushes where they can’t find me. And they just choose some people and just for them fun can say “you can drink water from the puddle” and if you don’t want to drink they can broken all your body and everything.

And when I have bad teeth, and I said I have pain, they said “never mind you have pain.” And another man have bad teeth too and they said “You have pain?” And they take this hammer and just remove all his teeth with the hammer and it’s all bleeding and I say “I don’t want it!” I go to the toilet and take out this tooth by myself and afterwards I was scared it was gonna be blood infection and I said them, and they said “Ocean is big your body can be food for fish.”

You can read more about the charity’s work at www.unseenuk.org. To donate please go to www.unseenuk.org/support-us/donate

Food Pantry project

Some of the Christ Church congregation have been involved in the delivery of food parcels throughout Bath and beyond to families finding it difficult to feed children while school was out. That initiative has now come to an end, and in its place there will be a Food Pantry opening in Oasis Church (the old Hay Hill Baptist Church). Membership will be available to everyone on a low income living within 15 minutes’ walk of The Paragon. Members will be able to access a range of products at low prices. Volunteers will be needed to staff the new project, so if you would like to get involved please e-mail makelunch@oasisbath.org and mention the Food Pantry.

Christ Church calendar Sep 2020

1 Tue Christ Church Council meeting (via Zoom), 7:30pm

3 Thu 11am Eucharist

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

10 Thu 11am Eucharist
Christ Church Trustees meeting

13 Sun *Harvest Festival / The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity*
10am Eucharist

14 Mon *Holy Cross Day*

17 Thu *Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen*
11am Eucharist

20 Sun *The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity*
10am Eucharist

21 Mon *Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist*

24 Thu 11am Eucharist

27 Sun *The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity*
10am Eucharist

29 Tue *Michael and All Angels*

Oct 1 Thu 11am Eucharist

4 Sun *The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity*
10am Eucharist

8 Thu 11am Eucharist

11 Sun *The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity*
10am Eucharist
Christ Church Annual Church Meeting (about 11:15am)

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 September 2020

Tuesday 1 For countries which have experienced forest fires

Wednesday 2 That we may be pure in heart

Thursday 3 For seafarers

Friday 4 For those finding it hard to earn a living

Saturday 5 For those who live and work In the streets
around Christ Church

Sunday 6 For churches, Cathedrals and communities
named Christ Church

Monday 7 For the emergency services

Tuesday 8 We give thanks for beauty in the world around us

Wednesday 9 For good relationships between the nations

Thursday 10 For our compassion fund

Friday 11 For those in slavery or bonded labour

Saturday 12 We give thanks for family and friends

Sunday 13 For all clergy taking services at Christ Church

Monday 14 For those who work in local government

Tuesday 15 For refugees

Wednesday 16 For all at school

Thursday 17 For former members of Christ Church who
have moved away

Friday 18 For the sick and suffering

Saturday 19 For the Mothers' Union

Sunday 20 For Christian unity

Monday 21 For farmers

Tuesday	22	For victims of violence
Wednesday	23	For hospices
Thursday	24	That we may have the gift of joy
Friday	25	For those who use and run food banks
Saturday	26	For our charity of the month
Sunday	27	For the ministry of our Junior Church
Monday	28	For those who work in the transport industry
Tuesday	29	We give thanks for the fruits of the earth
Wednesday	30	For the elderly

Long-term Prayer List

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

Ray and Meryle Newbegin
 Revd John Brown
 Liza Burdon Baille
 Charlotte
 Jean Warren
 Keith and Marie Pigot
 Joyce Knight
 Bishop Peter
 Nick Johnson
 Tony Buss

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 September 2020

Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel	Intercessions
6 Sep 13th after Trinity	Brenda Wall Ezekiel 33:7-11	Lewis Boyd Romans 13:8-end	Morny Davison Matthew 18:15-20	Peter Bowes
13 Sep Harvest Festival	Sylvia Ayers Deuteronomy 8:7-18	Beryl Bowes 2 Corinthians 9:6-end	David Bishop Luke 12:16-30	Ian Hay Davison
20 Sep 15th after Trinity	Emma Elliott Jonah 3:10 - 4:end	Alex Soboslay Philippians 1:21- end	Charles Rice Matthew 20:1-16	Beryl Bowes
27 Sep 16th after Trinity	Peter Bowes Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-end	Mark Elliott Philippians 1:21- end	Robin Kerr Matthew 21:23-32	Jonathan Stead
4 October 17th after Trinity	Angela Soboslay Isaiah 5:1-7	Isaac Elliott Philippians 3:4b-14	Ian Hay Davison Matthew 21:33-end	Mark Elliott

Who's who at Christ Church

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**Tower Captain,
Ringing Master** Will Willans

Revd Beryl Bowes
Revd Dr Peter Bowes

Tower Secretary Ian Hay Davison
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bells@christchurchbath.org

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

Steeple Keeper David Kelly

**Churchwarden,
Safeguarding officer** Lewis Boyd
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Publicity co-ordinators Janet Mahto
Lewis Boyd

**Churchwarden,
Cedar Tree café organiser** Janet Mahto
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Laity rotas Judith Bishop

Prayer cycle Virginia Knight

Junior Church Emma Elliott

Verger Angela Soboslay
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**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
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Christ Church Link

**Event/concert bookings,
weekly notice sheet** Judith Bishop
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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

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