



The meaning of community

From the priest-in-charge...

Revd Lore Chumbley writes:

The decision by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and the bishops of the Church of England to close all Anglican churches even for private prayer has caused understandable concern and even outrage throughout the Anglican communion. Soon after the decision was announced in the latter half of March, several letters to *The Times* expressed concern that churches have not stood out against the effect on church communities of the decision that the country should adopt a social distancing and “stay at home” policy. “But we are the body of Christ,” the counter-argument runs, “and at this time we want to worship in our churches and be seen to worship. We want churches to be open for private prayer, and services to be held in them, and we entrust our heath to God.”

Certainly during medieval outbreaks of plague, many pre-reformation monks, nuns and priests served selflessly providing nursing, pastoral care and the last rites. Many lost their lives.

But in this pandemic we have the benefits of at least partially understanding the pathology of viral infections and the possibility of reducing transmission through contact. If the Church has to take a public and very visible lead in that by sacrificially closing our buildings, then so be it. The Church is more than a collection of buildings and, as the Israelites discovered wandering in the desert for 40 years, provided we are with God, it

doesn't matter where we worship.

So the Christ Church community will continue to worship, but online until we may return to our building. If you have internet access but can't get on to our Facebook page to follow our Sunday worship at 10am, Mark Elliott is happy to help if you e-mail him at mark.elliott@christchurchbath.org explaining your problem.

Meanwhile it is crucial that we keep faith alive – invisibly in our hearts and visibly in our lives. There is a new suggestion supported by Churches Together that on Easter Sunday morning each of us go to our window or open front door at precisely 10am and sing “Jesus Christ is risen today” and then “Thine be the Glory, risen, conquering Son!” We shall be doing that live at the beginning of our online Easter morning celebration of the Eucharist. I can't think of a better way to demonstrate that even without our church buildings we are still Christ's Church.



The Easter Garden at the altar last year.

Know anyone in need of pastoral care?

Rebekah Cunningham writes:

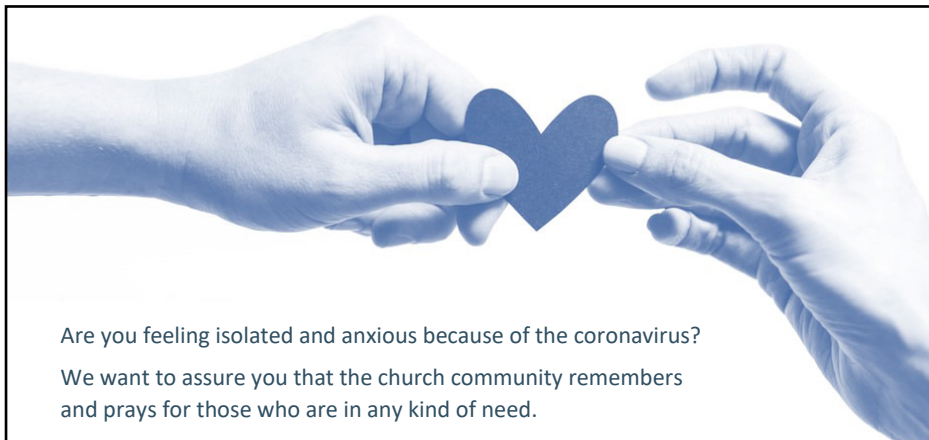
The pastoral care group, which has been in existence many years, was brought together in a more structured way at the beginning of this year. This has proved to be really timely with the current epidemic as we have been able to set up a system for supporting some of the older and more vulnerable members of our Christ Church family, especially those who live alone and those who don't have access to the internet.

Between us we are regularly phoning those who are completely housebound, to ask after their wellbeing and remind them that they are in our thoughts and prayers. We also

try to help with any practical needs and are undertaking shopping for several (we have a few other volunteers for this too).

We (the pastoral care group) keep in touch with each other too, so that together we have an overall picture of how people are coping.

If you have any concerns about anyone, either members of our church or people in the area of Christ Church, who you feel would like some support, please get in touch and we will try to help. This is a time when we all are being daily challenged to show Christ's love to each other in very practical ways and our efforts will bear fruit if we don't lose heart.



Are you feeling isolated and anxious because of the coronavirus?

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

Please call **Rebekah Cunningham**

on this number **07821 251956** or e-mail rebekah.spanner@gmail.com

if you would like prayer or conversation. Do get in touch if you would like support.

Time and Talents

Wondering what to do with yourself over the next couple of months? Got time on your hands and want to take your mind off the current situation? The Time and Talents Challenge is continuing through Lent and extends to the end of October to raise the remaining funds for the east end reordering.

If you have time to craft or embroider or knit or paint or do beautiful calligraphy, or use any of the almost infinite talents that Christ Church folk have, then use the weekly notice sheet to advertise your talents – e-mail notices@christchurchbath.org. Because the notice sheet is weekly, we can respond flexibly to needs.

A prayer in time of Coronavirus

Loving God,

We pray for all those who are suffering because of the coronavirus; may they know your healing power.

When we are afraid for ourselves and our loved ones, give us your strength and courage.

When we feel alone and isolated, reassure us with a sense of your presence.

Give wisdom to those in authority, and may our community work together for the good of all.

We give thanks for those who care for others and ask you to bless them in all they do.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, healer and physician.

Amen

Join a virtual service

Take part in our services at home: the 10am Sunday Eucharist, 11am Thursday Eucharist, and other services as advertised, will be live streamed. Please join us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/christchurchbath. If you have any problems or queries, Mark Elliott is happy to help if you e-mail him at mark.elliott@christchurchbath.org. Join the Facebook group to receive the readings and weekly notice sheet by e-mail in advance, and follow the links on the page to take part in “virtual coffee” after the service.

To make it more of a Christ Church community, send photos of yourself and Lore will put them up in the chapel as a visible sign that we are all worshipping together. You can send them by e-mail to lore.chumbley@me.com or post them to Christ Church, Julian Road, Bath BA1 2RH.

Also, do please e-mail, post or text prayer requests, and we will try to include them week by week. But be mindful that the service will be online, so be careful of the privacy of friends and loved ones.



Christ Church AGM postponed

In view of the current situation, the Bishop has directed that Annual Parish Church Meetings, which normally must be held before the end of May each year, may be held at any point before 31 October. Standing Committee has taken the decision to formally postpone the Annual General Church Meeting of the Christ Church congregation, scheduled for Sunday 26 April 2020, to a date to be decided by Standing Committee when we understand how long the current restrictions are likely to remain in place.

Our Churchwardens, Deanery Synod Representatives and members of Church Council will remain in office for the time being.

Safeguarding changes

Bishop Peter Hancock, the Bishop of Bath and Wells, has stepped down as the Church of England's lead safeguarding bishop after four years in the role. He is succeeded by the Bishop of Huddersfield, Jonathan Gibbs, supported by the Bishop of Southampton, Debbie Sellin.

Archbishop Justin Welby said: "We are truly grateful to Bishop Peter, who as lead safeguarding bishop represented the Church at its three IICSA hearings over the past two years, as well as leading on the response both to the recommendations and the important calls for change from survivors."

Coincidentally, some new members have joined the safeguarding team in the Diocese of Bath and Wells: a new Safeguarding Trainer, a new Safeguarding Adviser and a new Safeguarding Administration Assistant. Any safeguarding issues or concerns can always be referred to the diocesan team if, for example, a church's own safeguarding person is unavailable or for any other reason. You can find the contact details at www.bathandwells.org.uk/diocese/safeguarding.

Compassionate Community Hub

Virgin Care and 3SG (www.3sg.org.uk) have come together alongside BANES Council and the CCG to offer an advice and support hub for those who are self-isolating or shielding and in need of help. They have combined resources to ensure that, as a system, they are able to provide sustainable and appropriate responses to meet community needs. This includes access to over 2,000 volunteers recruited by 3SG.

The Compassionate Community website has information and resources, whether you are in need of food or some form of help, want to offer help, belong to an organisation that needs support or can offer support, among other things.

Simply call the Compassionate Community hotline on **0300 247 0050** or visit www.3sg.org.uk/pages/compassionate-community-covid-19.

If you need support with buying food or medicines, you can also send an e-mail to compassion@3sg.org.uk with the subject "Support" and the team will pick up your query within 24 hours.

To volunteer with the Compassionate Community Hub, complete the form via <http://bit.ly/communityvolunteersignup>.

If you are in need of food and looking for an alternative to going into the shops during the pandemic, 3SG and the Sustainable Food Partnership have also produced a list of local businesses offering food delivery: www.3sg.org.uk/pages/sustainable-food-partnership.



Bishop's Message for April

Time to show our care for all



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

As we reflect on the Easter story this month I'm reminded of the sense of "touch". It was Passover, a religious festival, and as Jesus was laid in the tomb, Sabbath was upon them. So the usual burial rites were not attended to by the women who were closest to Jesus. It would have been improper to touch the dead body. Hence their early arrival on that resurrection morning.

In the following days, in attempts to dispel disbelief, Jesus' followers had opportunity to not only talk with him, eat with him, but also touch him as he came among them. Thomas's doubt was dispelled as he was invited to place his hand in the wounds of Christ.

As I write this we are wondering what Covid-19 might have in store for us in the UK. There will be various responses to the concerns raised by the Government and the media. Some may feel anxiety or fear about the nature of the

virus whilst others may wonder if the emergency planning appears to be an over-reaction. Our response as a Church must be that we do what we can to ensure we stay safe by taking all precautions recommended. And that we do all we can to reassure people who may feel vulnerable and worried by staying calm and showing compassion and care for all.

But how do we express such care? I've realised that touch plays quite an important part in showing we care for someone. When I was training as a nurse for a brief period many years ago, I recall being shown some research on touch. It was an eye-opener! Even the briefest of touches can cause people to feel better, cared for and happier.

But the presence of Coronavirus means we are having to withdraw touch to prevent the possibility of infection. So how might we try to replace touch with other signals of our care and value? What might that look like?

As folk find themselves social distancing or self-isolating because of potential symptoms of the virus, we have the opportunity to find new ways to show our care. Phone calls and cards, food deliveries, creative use of social media and streaming of worship services may all be ways to stay in touch and help people know they are not alone. Rather than finding ourselves paralysed by the situation, let us discover how we can create new opportunities to strengthen our relationships and communities.

May our actions be the reassuring, life-affirming "touch" of the risen Christ this Easter!

Easter blessings,

+Ruth Taunton

Book review: The Book of Dust

**Philip Pullman: *The Book of Dust*
Trilogy Volume II: *The Secret Commonwealth***

Revd Lore Chumbley writes:

In the third and final volume of Philip Pullman's trilogy *His Dark Materials*, Lyra the heroine, together with witches and armoured bears, waged war on God – and won. Pullman's new book, *The Secret Commonwealth*, picks up the story ten or so years later. Lyra has grown up, left behind her interest in magic and is now a student at Oxford. The "Secret Commonwealth" of the title refers to things unseen, inexplicable and ambiguous – precisely those things Lyra believes she has grown out of. In their place she embraces a philosophy of sceptical rationality. But her daemon (the "soul" or alter ego which in Pullman's magical world accompanies one everywhere) has different ideas. Lyra's daemon sets out on a quest to restore to Lyra her "imagination". Meanwhile Lyra has a quest of her own, to research a mysterious building in the desert which has a sinister importance in the rose-oil trade.

Magic, religion and insights into the abuse of power make this a powerful book, and Pullman's approach to religion is becoming more nuanced.

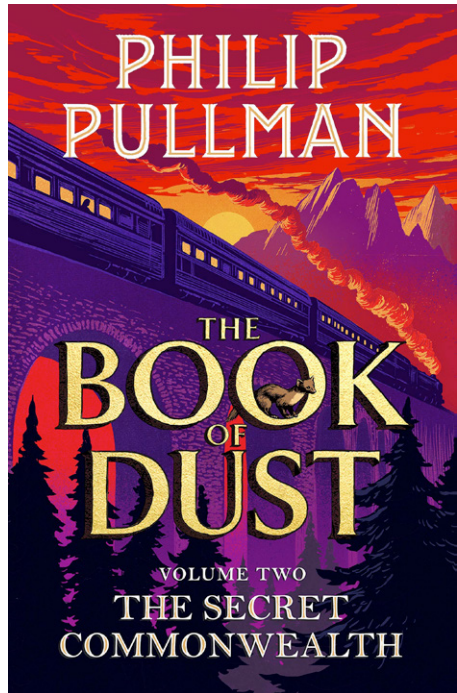
His precise attitude to religion is difficult to pin down: "I'm religious, but I'm an atheist," he has said in an interview. "I think religious questions are the big questions. Where did we come from? What is life about? What is evil?" He is opposed to religiosity and any religion which has become over-powerful. Much of the *His Dark Materials* trilogy centred on the evils of the organised church and the Magisterium, the shadowy, powerful figures of his imaginary world in which the Reformation

never took place and the Church is the most powerful force in the land.

In *The Secret Commonwealth*, the Magisterium is, if anything, even more sinister. But in her journey, Lyra learns that truth and imagination matter more than logic and jargon.

This book stands alone as a worthwhile read even if you haven't read any of Pullman's previous books. It's long – but that may be an advantage in these slow moving times!

■ *The Secret Commonwealth (The Book of Dust Volume 2)* is published by Penguin/David Fickling (RRP £20)



Christ Church calendar April 2020

5 Sun *Palm Sunday*
10am Eucharist

9 Thu *Maundy Thursday*
7pm Eucharist

10 Fri *Good Friday*
12 midday Online Prayer Stations

11 Sat *Easter Eve*
8pm Vigil Service

12 Sun *Easter Sunday*
10am Eucharist

16 Thu 11am Eucharist

19 Sun *The Second Sunday of Easter*
10am Eucharist

23 Thu *George, patron of England*
11am Eucharist

25 Sat *Mark the Evangelist*

26 Sun *The Third Sunday of Easter*
10am Eucharist

30 Thu 11am Eucharist

May 1 Fri *Philip and James, Apostles*

3 Sun *The Fourth Sunday of Easter*
10am Eucharist

Join all services at www.facebook.com/christchurchbath

Got something you want to let everyone know about? 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 April 2020

Wednesday	1	For carers
Thursday	2	For former members of Christ Church who have moved away
Friday	3	For those with addictions
Saturday	4	For our government and politicians
Sunday	5	For the ministry of our Junior Church
Monday	6	For those who work in medicine
Tuesday	7	We give thanks for those who inspire us
Wednesday	8	For good relationships between different faiths
Thursday	9	That we may be stewards of creation
Friday	10	For all who face tragedy
Saturday	11	For Bible scholars and theologians
Sunday	12	Thanksgiving for the Resurrection
Monday	13	For our armed forces and police
Tuesday	14	For the elderly
Wednesday	15	For countries in conflict
Thursday	16	For our Local Ministry Group partners
Friday	17	For the homeless
Saturday	18	We give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy
Sunday	19	For our Archbishop, bishops and clergy
Monday	20	For shopkeepers and shop workers
Tuesday	21	For the work of Julian House
Wednesday	22	For churches, Cathedrals and communities named Christ Church

Thursday	23	That we may be peacemakers
Friday	24	For those who work in dangerous conditions
Saturday	25	For seafarers
Sunday	26	For new members to be added to Christ Church
Monday	27	For those who work in the hospitality industry
Tuesday	28	For children and their families
Wednesday	29	For those who are persecuted for their faith
Thursday	30	We give thanks for the blessings of the past month

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

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.

Lectionary for April 2020

Readers and readings

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
5 April Palm Sunday	Isaac Elliott Isaiah 50:4-9a	–	(Passion reading)
9 April Maundy Thursday	Nick Wells Exodus 12:1-14	Judith Anderson 1 Corinthians 11:23-26	Mark Elliott John 13:1-17, 31b-35
11 April Easter Eve	Zoë Bushell Genesis 1:1 – 2:4a	Janet Mahto Exodus 14:10-end	David Bishop Matthew 28:1-10
12 April Easter Sunday	Virginia Knight Jeremiah 31:1-6	Rebekah Cunningham Acts 10:34-43	Lewis Boyd John 20:1-18
16 April Thursday Eucharist	–	Acts 3:11-end	Simon Tatton- Brown Luke 24:35-48
19 April Easter 2	Alex Soboslay Exodus 14:10-end, 15:20-21	Judith Anderson Acts 2:14a, 22-32	Charles Rice John 20:19-end
23 April Thursday Eucharist	Angela Soboslay Revelation 12:7-12	–	John 15:18-21
26 April Easter 3	Isaac Elliott Zephaniah 3:14-end	Jude Bishop Acts 2:14a, 36-41	Mark Elliott Luke 24:13-35
30 April Thursday Eucharist	–	Acts 8:26-end	Simon Tatton- Brown John 6:44-51
3 May Easter 4	Emma Elliott Genesis 7	Nick Wells Acts 2:42-end	Ben Elliott John 10:1-10

Who's who at Christ Church

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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
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Lewis Boyd

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

Prayer cycle Virginia Knight

Junior Church Emma Elliott

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

Traidcraft orders Judith Bishop

Chair of Trustees Charles Rice
01225 332915
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Mission to Seafarers Sylvia Ayers

Deanery Synod Reps Sarah Kerr
Jane Nicholson
Brenda Wall

Treasurer David Bishop
01225 869409
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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

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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