



## Turning from darkness to light

*From the priest-in-charge...*

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

It's now a year since the beginning of the first lockdown. It's a time for remembering all we have lost to Covid-19, primarily those who have died in the past year and for whom we have not been able to mourn as we would have wanted. But there is more – lost educational and employment opportunities; deteriorating mental health for many; economic loss and the closure of favourite shops, cafés and venues both in Bath and our own locality. It feels like a long list of loss. But we are not the first generation to experience loss on this scale. Psalm 77 is a list of woes. It is written from the depths of depression. The writer complains of troubled sleep, an unhealed sore; "Has God forgotten to be gracious? Has he abandoned his people? Does his promise fail?" You may find it helpful to read the psalm and add your own complaints to the list. But then in the depths of despair the mood changes – "I will remember the works of the Lord," and the psalm turns from despair to hope.

On Sunday 4 April as we are able to return to the church building for worship on Easter day we will re-experience the women coming in despair to the tomb "before it was yet light" to find the stone moved from the entrance and the tomb empty and to hear the words "He is not here, he has risen." At that moment the darkness of their present was lit by the hope of eternity.

However dark our lives, resurrection hope is at the heart of our faith. A

member of our congregation has put into words something of the hope and joy and holiness of resurrection morning. In the poem resurrection morning, when the present meets eternity, is also the experience of the Second Coming.

### **One morning** by Rebekah Cunningham

One morning (and we won't know when until it happens),  
We will wake before dawn  
On tenterhooks.

The house will feel like a cathedral,  
Full of space, resonance, infinity, holiness.

Outside in the garden, the world will smell  
new, fresh and green,  
Like dry ground after rain.

The air will be full of birdsong, fuller than  
we've ever heard it,  
Birds from English gardens, from tropical  
islands, from southern continents.

*Continued on page 2*



*Our last Easter Garden at the altar, from 2019.*

# Turning to light

*Continued from page 1*

- ▶ There will be other voices too, from invisible throats.  
Some, voices from the past, family and friends, long silent.  
Others, unfamiliar, unearthly, on the edge of hearing.

Then the light steals in, almost imperceptibly,  
Haloing every leaf and flower.  
We see each others' faces, and recognise each other for the first time.

There is no sadness about the past, no anxiety about the future,  
We are in the present.

And then He comes, and we understand.

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## Christ Church ACM

The Annual Church Meeting of the Christ Church congregation is scheduled to be held on Sunday 25 April after the 10am service. (The Archdeacon has advised that ACMs be postponed until late May, but as we go to press this is still under consideration. Watch for any update in the weekly notice sheet.) The ACM is the opportunity to elect Churchwardens and Church Council, and receive reports on all the activities in the church.

Anyone can attend, but you must be on the Electoral Roll of Christ Church to vote. If you've recently joined us and wish to add your name, or if you need to change any details, then contact Lore, one of the Churchwardens or Judith Anderson, our Electoral Roll Officer; for a form, or download the form from [www.christchurchbath.org](http://www.christchurchbath.org) and return it either by post to Christ Church or e-mail to Lore. If you are on the roll and no changes are needed, then you don't need to do anything. The current Electoral Roll has been circulated by e-mail and is available to check when the church is open – if you cannot visit in person, please contact any of the above.

## Meet the newest Christ Church Trustee

*Hilary Wild has been appointed a Trustee of Christ Church.*



As a child it was clear that Hilary was destined to work in finance and to travel the world. When she left home to work in London, her mother was heard asking why she bought a flat

rather than a caravan at Heathrow airport!

She came to live in Bath in 2015, after a career that took her to London, Greece, New York and Geneva. When she left full time employment, she moved to Italy, where she still spends as much time as possible in her home in Venice and the Dolomites – where she enjoys being in the most beautiful mountains as well as the strong sense of community and resilience that exists in remote mountain villages.

As a Chartered Accountant she has taken full advantage of the breadth of opportunity that this gives and has worked in investment banking, asset management and as the CFO of the World Health Organisation. Since she left full time employment, she has developed a portfolio of non-executive roles which has included on oversight advisory committees of several UN organisations. She is presently actively engaged with the CGIAR, an agricultural research and innovation partnership, as both board and audit committee member where she focusses on governance, risk and change management. She is a trustee of WaterAid UK, chairing the Audit Committee, and also chairs the Church Commissioners Audit & Risk Committee.

Although an inveterate traveller, since lockdown has changed the way we now live, she is enjoying being in Bath and becoming part of the Christ Church community.

# Climate change

This November the UK is hosting the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference, also known as COP26. The Church of England, as well as other organisations including Tear Fund, CAFOD, Christian Aid and Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, have put together a variety of plans and resources to help individual churches and Christians to decide what action they can take about this serious issue.

Christ Church too is thinking about what response it should make. If you're interested in joining a few people to discuss what we can do, then please contact Rebekah Cunningham at [rebekah.spanner@gmail.com](mailto:rebekah.spanner@gmail.com) or on 078221 251956.



Picture: Sepp Photography / Shutterstock

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# Daily Hope

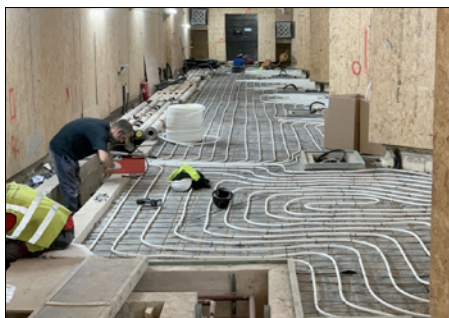
A free national phoneline offers a simple way to bring worship and prayer into people's homes when they can't go to services in person. It will be particularly welcome to those without internet access to watch streamed services. Daily Hope offers hymns, prayers, daily reflections and a choice of church services over the phone, 24 hours a day.



# Abbey's eco-heating is switched on

Bath Abbey's innovative eco-heating system was switched on in mid March. It is the first ever to be powered by sustainable energy from Bath's famous hot spring waters.

As part of the Abbey's £20m Footprint project, new underfloor heating pipework has been laid in the Abbey, and ten custom-built heat exchangers collect heat from the thermal spring water that flows through the drain under York Street from the Roman Baths and down into the river. Every day about 1.1 million litres of water flows through at a constant 40°C. This means there will be enough energy to heat the historic Abbey and its adjacent buildings.



The underfloor heating being laid in the Abbey. Photo courtesy of Bath Abbey.



The Rector, Canon Guy Bridgewater, pictured in the nave after completion of the works in the Abbey. Photo: Ben Birchall / PA Wire.

## Bishop Peter to retire

The Rt Revd Bishop Peter Hancock is to take early retirement on medical grounds as he continues his recovery from treatment for acute myeloid leukaemia, which he has been receiving since last August.

Bishop Peter, 65, became 79th Bishop of Bath and Wells in 2014. He had been hoping to return to work soon, but his consultant said he will initially be unable to lead services in public, use public transport or enter indoor public spaces. "So, after much prayer and reflection," he said, "I believe this means I need to take early retirement on medical grounds."

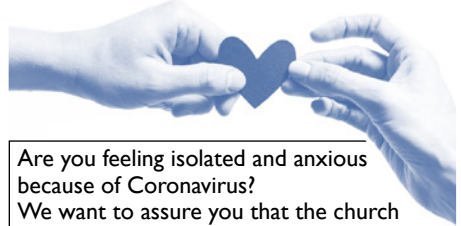
The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, said: "I would like to thank Peter for more than 40 years of dedicated ministry in the Church. Anyone who has spent time with him will know the deep authenticity of his personal faith and pastoral concern. During his nearly four years as lead safeguarding bishop, his commitment to changing the culture and shining a light in dark places was an inspiration to us all."

A farewell service for Bishop Peter is being planned for Pentecost, Saturday 22 May. With Covid restrictions likely to still be in place, details are yet to be finalised and will be circulated in due course. An online message board for anyone who wishes to leave a farewell message now for Bishop Peter and his wife Jane is available at <https://padlet.com/bathwellscomms/ux82f54wqaog5rnj>.

The Bishop of Taunton, Rt Revd Ruth Worsley, will continue to lead the diocese while the process of discernment for a new Bishop of Bath and Wells begins.



## 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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.
- The Compassionate Community Hub currently has enough helpers and is not seeking more volunteers for the time being.
- For people in need of food and looking for an alternative to going into the shops during the pandemic, there is now a dedicated website offering a list of local food providers: [www.banesfoodfinder.org.uk](http://www.banesfoodfinder.org.uk).

# Bishop's Message for April

*Hope for a better future*



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

This month of April begins on Maundy Thursday, the day when we remember the last meal Jesus shared together with his friends before he was arrested and crucified. It was the meal that has become so significant in the life of the Church, where bread was broken and a cup of wine passed round, coming to symbolise for us the brokenness of the body of Christ, the sacrifice he made for love of us.

Many of us will hopefully celebrate something of the Easter feast on Easter Sunday, although restrictions continue for a while longer. We may not yet be able to gather in larger groups of family and friends, but perhaps we can glimpse what is to come?

This has always been the story of the Church, to point to what is but may not yet be fully realised. During this pandemic there has been a need for hope amongst such bleakness and now, as the vaccine is shared and the signs of life appear in the world around us, we begin to see what might again be possible, to hope for a better future.

And yet in the bleakness of this first weekend of April, which takes us into the darkness of the tomb on Holy Saturday, we remember that hope is not cheaply bought. It is not mere optim-

ism, but rather something, though fragile, that is stronger than death.

As some of us break our fast this Easter and share the bread and wine of the Eucharistic feast, may we know both the cost of such love and the hope that it offers.

Easter blessings!

**+Ruth Taunton**

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## From Canon Angela

**Canon Angela Townshend writes:**

Dear Friends at Christ Church,

As some of you may know, I am at present living at Ammerdown Retreat and Conference Centre near Radstock.

I was a trustee of Ammerdown and I was asked to look at the description for a "Flat for Duty" job. I made some comments and then I said, "It's the sort of job I would enjoy." A week or so later I was asked if I would consider coming for six months. This was back in October, when things seemed to be getting to something like normal.

I arrived in January and, of course, there are no conferences or retreats. We have, however, put on some Zoom events, including a challenging day with Padraig O Tuama and a weekend with Malcolm Guite.

I have been enjoying the services and the music online from Christ Church. I had hoped to visit some of you while I was here, and I'm hopeful that in May, Boris Johnson permitting, I might be able to come and see friends in Bath. In the meantime, if any of you would like a walk round the Ammerdown Estate and a cup of tea in the garden before then, please let me know and I will be glad to see you.

Every blessing,

Angela

[angelatownshend@btinternet.com](mailto:angelatownshend@btinternet.com)

# This month's charity: Spafford Center

*Assuming we can continue to hold services with a congregation present, then the collection in the plate on the second and fourth Sunday of the month – 14 and 28 April – will go to Spafford Children's Center. (Donations in collection envelopes will continue to go to Christ Church.) Otherwise you are invited to donate online.*

## **Rebekah Cunningham writes:**

April's charity of the month, the Spafford Children's Center, has a Christ Church link! Djemila, Lady Cope, a friend of Christ Church and wife of one of our bell ringers, is the granddaughter of the charity's founder, Bertha Spafford Vester.

Bertha, while living in Jerusalem almost 100 years ago, was asked to take in a newborn baby whose mother had died following the

birth. Bertha was soon asked to take in more orphans and children in need, which led to her founding a children's hospital. The history of the centre is fascinating and well worth reading – if you are able to, look it up at <https://spaffordcenter.org/about-us/history/>.

With developments in healthcare over the years, the focus of the charity has changed. Today the medical side has transferred to Bethany as an outreach clinic on the eastern side of the notorious Separation Wall, and the Center in the Old City now provides remedial education to children with special needs and those unable to keep up in the overcrowded schools. There are a wide variety of other programmes including Early Child Development, Speech Therapy, psychodrama, music, and cultural activities as well as a summer camp. Mothers are included and attend sessions with their child as well as women's empowerment classes. The centre has been much needed during the pandemic and is currently suffering, like so many charities, from a reduction in donations.

You can now donate through our Sunday collections or online at <https://spaffordcenter.org/support-us/donating-from-the-uk/>. This will of course allow you to add Gift Aid.



## Holy Week and Easter at Christ Church

Services will resume in Christ Church with our 10am Eucharist on Easter Sunday, 4 April. Do join us if you can – but for those who can't we will continue to live-stream services at [www.facebook.com/christchurchbath](http://www.facebook.com/christchurchbath).

When the church reopens we will continue to maintain social distancing. For the time being the guidelines are that neither the choir nor the congregation may sing. The choir will continue to record the hymn and anthem.

Our Holy Week services will be held online and we hope to offer these virtual services:

1. Compline on Monday 29 March, Tuesday 30 March and Wednesday 31 March at 8pm;
2. Maundy Thursday, 1 April:

- weekday Eucharist at 11am, and
- Eucharist with stripping of the altar, 7:30pm;

3. Good Friday service, 2 April, 2-3pm.

You can also attend the Thursday Eucharists virtually on Zoom – if you'd like an invitation, please e-mail [lore.chumbley@me.com](mailto:lore.chumbley@me.com) or phone or text her on 07595 294146. Join the Facebook group or our mailing list to receive the readings and weekly notice sheet by e-mail.

Do send prayer requests – by e-mail or text to Lore, 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.

Morning Prayer on Zoom continues on weekdays at 8am, or you can phone in. If you would like an invitation, please e-mail Lore.

If you need help with accessing any of these services, then please ask!

# Christ Church calendar April 2021

<b>Mar 28</b>	Sun	<i>Palm Sunday</i> 10am Eucharist
29	Mon	8pm Compline
30	Tue	8pm Compline
31	Wed	8pm Compline
<b>Apr 1</b>	Thu	<i>Maundy Thursday</i> 11am Eucharist 7:30pm Eucharist with stripping of the altar
2	Fri	<i>Good Friday</i> 2pm Good Friday service
<b>4</b>	Sun	<i>Easter Sunday</i> 10am Eucharist (live as well as streamed)
8	Thu	11am Eucharist
<b>11</b>	Sun	<i>The Second Sunday of Easter</i> 10am Eucharist
15	Thu	11am Eucharist
<b>18</b>	Sun	<i>The Third Sunday of Easter</i> 10am Eucharist
22	Thu	<i>Earth Day</i> 11am Eucharist
23	Fri	<i>George, martyr, patron of England</i>
<b>25</b>	Sun	<i>The Fourth Sunday of Easter</i> 10am Eucharist 11:15am Christ Church Annual Church Meeting (TBC)
26	Mon	<i>Mark the Evangelist</i>
29	Thu	11am Eucharist
<b>May 1</b>	Sat	<i>Philip and James, Apostles</i>
<b>2</b>	Sun	<i>The Fifth Sunday of Easter</i> 10am Eucharist

**Sunday and Thursday Eucharist, and other services in Holy Week as above, are live-streamed at [www.facebook.com/christchurchbath](http://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](mailto:magazine@christchurchbath.org).**

# Prayer Cycle for April 2021

<b>Thursday</b>	<b>1</b>	For our flower arrangers and those who look after the church
<b>Friday</b>	<b>2</b>	For the homeless
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>3</b>	For children and their families
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>4</b>	Thanksgiving for the Resurrection
<b>Monday</b>	<b>5</b>	For the emergency services
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>6</b>	For refugees
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>7</b>	That we may hunger and thirst after righteousness
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>8</b>	For Mark our Lay Reader
<b>Friday</b>	<b>9</b>	For those with addictions
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>10</b>	We give thanks for our blessings
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>11</b>	For our Archbishop, bishops and clergy
<b>Monday</b>	<b>12</b>	For our armed forces and police
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>13</b>	For countries with economic problems
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>14</b>	For our Local Ministry Group partners
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>15</b>	For those preparing for marriage
<b>Friday</b>	<b>16</b>	For the mentally ill
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>17</b>	For the chaplaincies at Bath's Universities
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>18</b>	For Angela our Verger
<b>Monday</b>	<b>19</b>	For architects and designers
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>20</b>	That we may have grace to love
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>21</b>	For our bell-ringing team
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>22</b>	For good relationships between different faiths



<b>Friday</b>	<b>23</b>	For countries which have experienced storms and flooding
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>24</b>	For our charity of the month
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>25</b>	For all clergy taking services at Christ Church
<b>Monday</b>	<b>26</b>	For workers in social services
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>27</b>	We give thanks for beauty in creation
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>28</b>	For good use to be made of this prayer cycle
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>29</b>	For those who produce publicity for Christ Church
<b>Friday</b>	<b>30</b>	For those who care for the sick

## Long-term Prayer List

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

Revd John Brown  
 Christopher Tatton-Brown  
 Jean Warren  
 Dillon  
 Amber  
 David Slater  
 Nick Johnson  
 Hannah  
 Joyce Wellington  
 Tom Lockington  
 Bishop Peter

**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 Lore, the Verger or one of the Church-wardens know.**

### *Late news*

Laura and Pete Adley are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Francesca Olivia Rose. She was born on Friday 5 March, weighing 7lb 11oz. Many congratulations to them both, to Luke on becoming a big brother, and to Rosanne and Richard Gabe on becoming grandparents again.

# Rotas for April 2021

*Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist*

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel	Intercessions
<b>4 April</b> Easter Sunday	<b>Clive Tilling</b> Isaiah 25:6-9	<b>Judith Anderson</b> Acts 10:34-43	<b>Morny Davison</b> John 20:1-18	<b>Jonathan Stead</b>
<b>11 April</b> Easter 2	<b>Emma Elliott</b> Exodus 14:10-end, 15:20-21	<b>Alex Soboslay</b> Acts 4:32-35	<b>Jonathan Stead</b> John 20:19-end	<b>Rebekah Cunningham</b>
<b>18 April</b> Easter 3	<b>Angela Soboslay</b> Zephaniah 3:14-end	<b>Isaac Elliott</b> Acts 3:12-19	<b>Charles Rice</b> Luke 24:36b-48	<b>Nick Wells</b>
<b>25 April</b> Easter 4	<b>Brenda Wall</b> Genesis 7:1-5, 11- 18, 8:6-18, 9:8-13	<b>Robin Kerr</b> Acts 4:5-12	<b>Thomas Wolker- Darley</b> John 10:11-18	<b>Beryl Bowes</b>
<b>2 May</b> Easter 5	<b>Jude Bishop</b> Genesis 22:1-18	<b>Simon Tatton- Brown</b> Acts 8:26-end	<b>Nick Wells</b> John 15:1-8	<b>Ian Hay Davison</b>

# Who's who at Christ Church

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

**Supporting clergy**  
Revd Canon Simon Tatton-Brown  
01225 835404  
simon@tattonbrown.mzyen.co.uk

Revd Beryl Bowes  
Revd Dr Peter Bowes

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

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

**Churchwarden** Jane Nicholson  
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**Verger** Angela Soboslay  
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angela.soboslay@christchurchbath.org

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Ringing Master** Will Willans

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

**Steeple Keeper** David Kelly

**Publicity co-ordinators** Janet Mahto  
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** Brenda Wall  
Pauline Swaby-Wallace

## Christ Church Link

This magazine is published on the first Sunday of each month. Please send any contributions of news and articles by the 15th of the preceding month to the editor, Alex Soboslay, or by e-mail to [magazine@christchurchbath.org](mailto:magazine@christchurchbath.org)



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND

# About Christ Church

*We're a liberal, inclusive and open church,  
seeking God through beauty in our worship, honesty  
in our faith and doubt, and support in our community*

Christ Church has an unusual history, out of which has developed a distinctive ministry. It was founded at the end of the 18th century by a group of socially concerned clergy and lay people for those excluded from worship through the system of pew rents. It was probably the first church in England since the Reformation to provide seating for all free of charge. Early supporters included: John Moore, the Archbishop of Canterbury; William Wilberforce, the great evangelical and campaigner against slavery; and Martin Stafford Smith, godfather of John Keble, a founder of the Oxford Movement.

Christ Church is not a parish church and does not have a full-time vicar. This has led to the development of a shared ministry where clergy and laity both make important contributions to worship and church life.

Christ Church is part of the Anglican diocese of Bath and Wells, although it still sits outside the 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 (pre-recorded for the time being, until live church services with singing can resume again).

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](http://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,  
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