



## Giving thanks and praise

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

**Revd Lore Chumbley writes:**

As Bath emerges from the restrictions of the pandemic into the sunlight of early summer, optimism and change are in the air. In April, our return to the church building on Easter Sunday was a joyful celebration of resurrection hope and of fellowship. This month, as the rules on congregating indoors begin to relax, our bells will peal out for the first time since Christmas Day as six ringers are allowed back into the ringing chamber on Sunday 23 May. Our new swift nesting box is in place on the church building [see page 2], and we are anxiously awaiting the arrival of new inhabitants.

Several members of Christ Church are in the process of moving house or have just moved, and we wish them all well – but sadly, Charles and Carol Rice’s move will take them away from Bath and from the friendships they have made here.

Carol has been a staunch friend of the church. Her passion for flowers has been part of the driving force for the glorious church flowers we have enjoyed over the past few years, while as Chair of Trustees Charles has been quietly efficient, always loyal to Christ Church’s ideals but bringing a cool, intelligent realism to the role. Under his leadership we have been able to complete the current phases of our East End reordering in a timely fashion, and we are very grateful for the time and energy he has given to Christ Church. Charles has generously agreed

to oversee the last details of the installation of the north screen in the South Chapel. We will say a final goodbye and thank you to Charles and Carol on Sunday 27 June.

By that date the South Chapel should be finally complete and, to mark that and our return to worshipping together after many months of restrictions, we will hold a service of thanksgiving and celebration. The words of the song of praise often called the Te Deum – “We praise thee, O Lord, We acknowledge thee to be the Lord...” – are inscribed on the walls of Christ Church beginning under the window in our new South Chapel. Those words of praise will be

*Continued on page 2*



*As life returns to something more like normal, live services resumed in Christ Church on Easter Sunday, 4 April. Another traditional service also took place on that day – the Dawn Service at the Holy Well at St Mary’s, Charlcombe. Several members of the Christ Church congregation attended.*

# Giving thanks

*Continued from page 1*

- ▶ an appropriate way to celebrate a new phase in the life of the church.

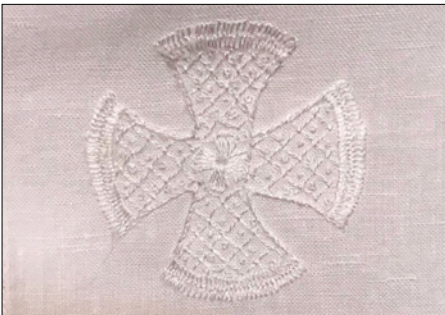
As well as celebrating and looking towards the future with hope, we cannot move forward without remembering and lamenting those whom we have lost since March 2020. We are planning an appropriate service of remembrance to take place in the summer, in which I hope the church and the local community will come together.

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## Around Christ Church



*A nesting box for swifts, a declining species, has been attached to the north side of the building.*



*This is one of the hand-embroidered crosses on our new altar cloth, skilfully made by Rebekah Cunningham. As is traditional, there's one cross at each corner and one in the centre.*

# Services online or live

Our weekly 10am Sunday Eucharist, once again open to all in person, also continues to be live streamed at [www.facebook.com/christchurchbath](http://www.facebook.com/christchurchbath). Our weekly Thursday 11am Eucharist is now taking place live in the church, not online or on Zoom. The church will also remain open for private prayer on Wednesday afternoons from 2pm to 4pm for anyone local who may want to drop in.

Do send prayer requests – by e-mail to [lore.chumbley@me.com](mailto:lore.chumbley@me.com) or phone or text to Lore on 07595 294146, 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.

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

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## Christ Church ACM

The Annual Church Meeting of the Christ Church congregation will be held on Sunday 23 May after the 10am service. The postponement from April follows advice from the Archdeacon and enables us to meet in person as restrictions are eased. The meeting will elect Churchwardens for the coming year and members of Church Council, as well as receive reports on all the activities in the church. The agenda will be published a week beforehand on paper and on our website.

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

# Living in Love and Faith Taster Day

## **Daniel Berry writes:**

Firstly, I should introduce myself, as I only started coming to the main Sunday service relatively recently. I am the big middle-aged guy with a ponytail, who dresses mostly in black. I also usually wear a purple, pink and blue Bisexual Pride wristband, which might explain why I was keen to attend a “Living in Love and Faith Taster Day” organised by the Diocese, on Zoom.

If you haven't heard of Living in Love and Faith, or LLF as it is more conveniently known, it is a national project by the Church of England looking at issues of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. After 17 official church reports over many years covering these issues didn't get us any further forward, the bishops have decided to try to get church members themselves, many with strongly opposing views, talking to each other and learning from each other. There is an LLF website ([www.churchofengland.org/LLF](http://www.churchofengland.org/LLF)) with a wide range of resources, from short films to podcasts and documents. Church House Publishing has produced a book, entitled *Living in Love and Faith*, which is pretty hefty but can be dipped in and out of. There is also a course, using a much, much slimmer book.

So, I turn to the LLF Taster Day. Over 250

people from across the Diocese attended, typically one member of the clergy and one layperson from each church. The day was intended to clarify what LLF is all about, to introduce the resources, to offer participants a chance to try parts of the LLF course and to get us thinking about how we might engage with LLF in our home churches. In my view, it succeeded in these aims.

It was a full-on day, lasting nearly seven hours, with a mixture of speakers, interviews, film clips, many of them from the LLF website, and plenary sessions with questions. There were sincere efforts to create a safe environment for learning together in a healthy way, when dealing with such controversial subjects. I imagine the groups varied from one to another quite a bit, but in the group I was in, there was a mixture of people with a more traditional approach and people who were more liberal. The discussions went smoothly, although I did feel sometimes people were holding back their full opinion.

Questions at the end were answered well by a panel, including Bishop Ruth, who had opened the day and then closed it in prayer.

Lore is hoping to run an LLF course at Christ Church in the summer and I hope you will consider taking part!

## Madge is 100 years old – let's celebrate!

On Monday 3 May, Madge North turns 100. Unfortunately, Covid restrictions are still in place at Bridgemead Care Home, where she is living, so it will not be possible to hold a big party. However, Bridgemead have agreed that we can see Madge through the window from the car park and wave to her to wish her a happy birthday between 2:30pm and 3:30pm on the day. Madge's daughter Angela Morris says Madge would be delighted to see anyone from Christ Church at any time throughout this hour. The address is Bridgemead Care Home, 81 St John's Road, Bathwick BA2 6PZ. (This is the end of St John's Road near Cleveland Bridge, not far from London Road.)



*Madge pictured in Christ Church some years ago, closer to her 90th birthday than her 100th.*

# Book review: Helgoland

*Helgoland* by Carlo Rovelli, translated by Erica Segre and Simon Carnel. Published by Allen Lane, RRP £20.

**Canon Simon Tatton-Brown writes:**

“If you think you understand quantum mechanics, you don’t understand quantum mechanics” (Richard Feynman). It’s a century or so since Einstein and his collaborators upended Newtonian physics. It’s also been a century which has seen the Christian faith in retreat across the western world.

The Italian scientist Carlo Rovelli has just published a book in which he gives the general reader a brief and accessible tour of quantum theory. He begins with the story of Werner Heisenberg going on holiday to Helgoland (Heligoland in English) off the coast of Jutland. The name means “Holy Isle”, and it was there that Heisenberg formulated the ideas which came to be known as his Uncertainty Principle. Rovelli goes on to introduce us to his collaborators such as Paul Dirac and Erwin Schrödinger. Rovelli doesn’t expect us to understand what they are telling us. (He quotes Richard Feynman more than once.) But he does point us to the many con-

sequences that flow from these scientists’ observations. What consequences follow for Christian faith?

Quantum theory is so at odds with the way we normally view the world that it’s full of paradoxes and contradictions. How can Schrödinger’s cat be both alive and dead at the same time? What does it mean when electrons “jump” orbits, or that the position of a photon is determined by the observer watching it?

But quantum theory is also remarkably successful, and its insights have led us to developments in atomic energy, computing, lasers and much else besides. So far it shows no signs of being superseded.

Towards the end of his tour Rovelli suggests that one way we might resolve these seeming contradictions is to view reality less as matter than as a network of relationships. I know nothing about Rovelli’s personal beliefs, but reading *Helgoland* two thoughts struck me. The first was the sense of mystery, and the insistence of the Church Fathers that Christianity is a mystery. Christianity thinks of life as a journey, and in his book Rovelli is telling us about the journeys these scientists were making as they explore the mysteries of the world around them.

Next I was reminded of the biblical notion of Covenant. The idea of Covenant runs right through the Bible. (In 16th century English it was translated as “Testament”, as in the New and Old Testaments.) The idea so permeated Hebrew thought that the Bible rarely explains what it means by Covenant. At the Last Supper, for instance, Jesus did not feel it necessary to say what he meant when he talked about his blood “of the New Covenant”.

Covenant means relationship. Not just special relationships like that of Abraham and God. The Covenant of Creation refers to all relationships, between God, humankind, and everything that exists in Creation. I’m glad I read *Helgoland* during Holy Week, because the end-point of the biblical story of Covenant shows us the nature of the very best in all relationships: Love.



# Bishop's Message for May

*Called to serve and care*



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

There are many things I shall miss when I retire. One is writing these brief articles. After some 41 years of writing articles and editorials you might think I would be pleased to stop. However, over the years this is one way I have been able to keep in touch with people and offer encouragement and support to all that is happening in the life of our churches and communities.

In the ordination service for bishops the liturgy begins with the words: "Bishops are called to serve and care for the flock of Christ. Mindful of the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life for the sheep, they are to love and pray for those committed to their charge, knowing their people, and being known by them." These monthly articles are one way in which I seek to "be known" across the diocese.

As I prepare to retire, I want to express my huge appreciation for the wel-

come I have received in all the parishes and places that I have visited. It has been an enormous privilege to join the churches of the diocese to see what you are doing, to preach and to share in your worship. I am conscious that despite getting out and about across the whole diocese there are still some churches which I have not visited, and I am sorry about that.

Reading the ordination service, I see that as disciples we are all called to "witness to the resurrection and to preach the good news of salvation in all the world." That is a calling and a privilege which will not stop as I lay down the See of Bath and Wells. It is at the heart of what it is to be part of the Body of Christ. So, as I say my farewells, I send you my blessing. Please know that my prayers will continue to be with you.

Yours with the love of Christ,

**+Peter Bath and Wells**

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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.



# This month's charity: USPG Malawi project

Assuming we can continue to hold services with a congregation present, the collection in the plate on the second and fourth Sunday of the month – 9 and 23 May – will go to USPG's Malawi project. (Donations in collection envelopes will continue to go to Christ Church.) Otherwise and in addition you are invited to donate online.

## **Rebekah Cunningham writes:**

This month we are again supporting USPG's project in Malawi as we do on a quarterly basis, through loose change giving and also through individuals setting up direct debits.

This is a national church programme supported by USPG, across all four dioceses of Malawi. There are four areas of focus, which also take into account issues relating to gender equality and HIV/AIDS.

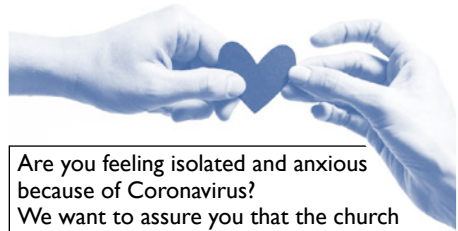
- education for girls,
- protecting livelihoods,
- management of the environment,
- hygiene and sanitation.

We are expecting an up-to-date report on the project imminently – more info to follow.

You can give by visiting USPG's donations page at <https://donations.uspg.org.uk/>. If you would like to set up a direct debit, do specify that you are part of Christ Church, supporter number RE103, or ask Rebekah for a direct debit form. USPG are able to collate all our donations and give us a yearly total.



# 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).

# Christ Church calendar May 2021

1 Sat *Philip and James, Apostles*

**2 Sun** *The Fifth Sunday of Easter*  
10am Eucharist

6 Thu 11am Eucharist

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8 Sat *Mother Julian of Norwich*

**9 Sun** *The Sixth Sunday of Easter*  
10am Eucharist

11 Tue Christ Church Council meeting, 7:30pm

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13 Thu *Ascension Day*  
11am Eucharist

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14 Fri *Matthias the Apostle*

**16 Sun** *The Seventh Sunday of Easter*  
10am Eucharist

20 Thu 11am Eucharist

**23 Sun** *Pentecost (Whit Sunday)*  
10am Eucharist  
11:15am Christ Church Annual Church Meeting

27 Thu 11am Eucharist

**30 Sun** *Trinity Sunday*  
10am Eucharist

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31 Mon *The Visitation (Visit of Mary to Elizabeth)*

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**Jun** 3 Thu *Corpus Christi*  
11am Eucharist

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

**Our Sunday 10am Eucharist, and other services as advertised, continue to be 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). For the weekly notice sheet, e-mail [notices@christchurchbath.org](mailto:notices@christchurchbath.org)**

# Prayer Cycle for May 2021

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>1</b>	For those who are confined to their homes
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>2</b>	For Mark and the choir
<b>Monday</b>	<b>3</b>	For those who work in the transport industry
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>4</b>	That we may have the gift of joy
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>5</b>	For all at school
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>6</b>	For the Queen and other heads of state
<b>Friday</b>	<b>7</b>	For the sick and suffering
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>8</b>	For good relationships between the nations
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9</b>	For Lore our priest in charge
<b>Monday</b>	<b>10</b>	For journalists and those who work in the media
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>11</b>	For the Church Council, meeting tonight
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>12</b>	That we may show mercy and compassion
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>13</b>	For the ministry of hospices
<b>Friday</b>	<b>14</b>	For those who work in dangerous conditions
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>15</b>	We give thanks for those who enrich our lives
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>16</b>	For our link dioceses in Zambia
<b>Monday</b>	<b>17</b>	For shopkeepers and shop workers
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>18</b>	For countries experiencing civil unrest
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>19</b>	For the elderly
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>20</b>	For our Pilgrim Group
<b>Friday</b>	<b>21</b>	For the unemployed
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>22</b>	For Christ Church's compassion fund



<b>Sunday</b>	<b>23</b>	That we may have the gift of the Holy Spirit
<b>Monday</b>	<b>24</b>	For scientists and engineers
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>25</b>	For adoptive and foster families
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>26</b>	For those who live or work in care homes
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>27</b>	For our government and politicians
<b>Friday</b>	<b>28</b>	For those who are persecuted for their faith
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>29</b>	For our charity of the month
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>30</b>	For those recently baptised or preparing for baptism
<b>Monday</b>	<b>31</b>	We give thanks for the blessings of the past month

## Long-term Prayer List

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

Revd John Brown  
 Joyce Knight  
 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 the Verger or one of the Churchwardens know.**

# Rotas for May 2021

*Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist*

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel	Intercessions
<b>2 May</b> Easter 5	<b>Brenda Wall</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>
<b>9 May</b> Easter 6	<b>Beryl Bowes</b> Isaiah 55:1-11	<b>Richard Gabe</b> Acts 10:44-end	<b>Sylvia Ayers</b> John 15:9-17	<b>Mark Elliott</b>
<b>16 May</b> Easter 7	<b>Malcolm Wall</b> Ezekiel 36:24-28	<b>Peter Bowes</b> Acts 1:15-17, 21-end	<b>David Bishop</b> John 17:6-19	<b>Simon Tatton-Brown</b>
<b>23 May</b> Pentecost	<b>Mark Elliott</b> Ezekiel 37:1-14	<b>Rebekah Cunningham</b> Acts 2:1-21	<b>Janet Mahto</b> John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15	<b>Jonathan Stead</b>
<b>30 May</b> Trinity Sunday	<b>Morny Davison</b> Isaiah 6:1-8	<b>Virginia Knight</b> Romans 8:12-17	<b>Clive Tilling</b> John 3:1-17	<b>Georgina Bowman</b>
<b>6 June</b> 1st after Trinity	<b>Jonathan Stead</b> Genesis 3:8-15	<b>Ian Hay Davison</b> 2 Corinthians 4:13 - 5:1	<b>Zoë Bushell</b> Mark 3:20-end	<b>Rebekah Cunningham</b>

# Who's who at Christ Church

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lore.chumbley@me.com

**Supporting clergy**  
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simon@tattonbrown.mzyen.co.uk

Revd Beryl Bowes  
Revd Dr Peter Bowes

**Reader, Director of Music** Mark Elliott  
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**Churchwarden,  
Cedar Tree café organiser** Janet Mahto  
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**Churchwarden** Jane Nicholson  
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Ringing Master** Will Willans

**Tower Secretary** Ian Hay Davison  
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**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

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