



Suspended in time

From the priest-in-charge...

Revd Lore Chumbley writes:

In Bath on Christmas Day the rain set in after lunch. I met three friends drenched through and so wrapped up in wet waterproofs that I failed to recognise them. The rain drummed on the roof throughout the night, but by Boxing Day it had cleared. The world smelled of rain and green things and even the birdsong sounded different, as if the birds had already noticed the strengthening of the light and the lengthening of days.

In his poem “Little Gidding”, TS Eliot wrote: *Midwinter spring is its own season | Sempiternal though sodden towards sundown, | Suspended in time...*

As we wait to find out what effects the Omicron strain will have, it feels as if we have been suspended in time for nearly two years. And yet, in spite of restrictions and regulations and justifiable concerns about infection, Christ Church had a glorious celebration of Christmas. Thank you to all of you who came together to decorate the church; to make sure that no-one was left out on Christmas Day; to prepare the glorious music and liturgy we shared; and to broadcast our services for those unable to attend.

Our Advent and Christmas Carol services were breathtaking as the church reverberated to the sound of the refurbished organ. The sight of Kara dressed as a blue donkey hand in hand with Mary leading a dozen or so overexcited children round the church to Bethlehem on Christmas Eve will stay with

us for a long time. Later that night the celebration of Midnight Mass had a very special atmosphere. There have been innovations too. In the week before Christmas a Christ Church group sang carols on St Andrew’s Green. On one side of the green is the Royal Crescent and on the other side Phoenix House. It felt appropriate to sing of the joy and hope of Jesus’ birth to everyone in the surrounding dwellings. We have also begun to hold regular Sunday evening reflective services with an Iona flavour, which are a source of refreshing at the start of a new week

So in spite of economic and health threats in this odd season, suspended in time, Christ Church has come through another year. We mourn those whom we have lost – as I write we are preparing for Sharon’s funeral. But we do not lose hope. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8) and it is our privilege to be, and to continue to be, his church.



Carols on the Green – see page 3.

Living in Love & Faith

Church communities are being encouraged to take part in a process of learning and praying together as part of discerning a way forward for the Church in relation to matters of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage, using resources titled Living in Love and Faith (LLF).

Canon Nigel Rawlinson led an LLF course at Christ Church in 2021. There is now a range of resources to help facilitate conversations on a dedicated LLF Learning Hub at www.churchofengland.org/resources/living-love-and-faith/living-love-and-faith-learning-hub. They include two versions of a five-session course for local groups – one for youths and young adults and one for general use. They are designed to facilitate open, honest, and gracious learning and discussion among churchgoers across the country.

Churches have been asked to take part in the course by the end of April 2022 and to share their learnings, reflections and insights via the online hub or e-mail. Individuals can also respond the same way. This is understood to be the most extensive undertaking of any church to hear and articulate as wide a range of voices, experiences and theological understandings as possible on these issues.

The course examines the six roadblocks – prejudice, silence, ignorance, fear, hypocrisy and power – that impair relationships, hinder our personal growth as Christians, and create barriers that stop churches from growing into communities of welcome and belonging. It draws together the Bible, theology, science and history with powerful real-life stories.

Churches can go through the course themselves or, if they wish, utilise one of the 21 Bath and Wells facilitators. Find out more about LLF and how you can take part at bathandwells.org.uk/living-in-love-faith.



LIVING
IN LOVE
& FAITH

God calls everyone

In February, everyone is invited to join the Diocese of Bath and Wells for a week of exploring the many and varied ways in which God calls us during our lives.

The week will start on Sunday 6 February with an online launch service at 3pm with Bishop Ruth, and from Monday to Friday in the following week there will be on-demand video content featuring people across the diocese talking about how God calls them wherever they are. The week will close on the Saturday with online gatherings to reflect and celebrate all that the week has held.

Julia Hill, the Diocese's discipleship team leader, explains: "God has given each and every one of us our own personal gifts. Sometimes it can feel as though God only calls 'special people' but God calls us both in our everyday lives and sometimes to particular roles. We hope that by sharing the stories of how people have recognised their gifts and responded to God's call to use them, it will help others reflect on what their gifts are and how God might be calling them. And that might be as simple as telephoning a friend in need or praying for a neighbour."

Find out more at www.bathandwells.org.uk/god-calls-everyone-everywhere.

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.



Carols on the Green

Kara Maylor writes:

Tuesday 21 December saw the inaugural gathering for “Carols on the Green”. A group of us from Christ Church together with friends from the Cedar Tree Café wrapped up warm in the frosty evening and gathered together on St Andrew’s Green on Julian Road. Led tunelessly by Mark we regaled the community with a joyful rendering of 40 minutes of popular carols. We took requests from one esteemed resident who was isolating but listening out of his window (our very own Jonathan), and received applause from people passing through.

My reflection on this event:

The thing about Jesus

Is he was seen, and heard, he was out and about...

And this is the point of Carols on the Green.

*We mostly gather inside – people may think we want to hide and keep our joy to ourselves
But we are called to go out and share the love of Jesus*

And this is the point of the Carols on the Green.

On a cold frosty night when many were cwtched up inside,

*We had a bay tree with bright coloured lights,
A beacon of hope in a world feeling a bit broken,
from the scourge of that cunning Virus Covid.*

*We raised up our voices so all around could hear
A message of resounding cheer.*

And this is the point of Carols on the Green.

We will keep returning each year until our message becomes clear

To our community that we are here

To share the love of Jesus, to listen, to be present.

*And then we will spill over as far as the Crescent,
And this is the point of the Carols on the Green.*

Last month...



In December, in addition to Advent and Christmas services, Christ Church celebrated two weddings: Abbi and Neil (top) and Charlie and Imogen. Congratulations to both couples! The Pilgrim Group also marked the season with a Christmas Supper (below; photo courtesy of Malcolm Wall).



High Sheriff's award to Pauline and BEMSCA

During the early lockdown in April 2020, Bath Ethnic Minority Senior Citizens Association (BEMSCA) applied for funds from the Bath Boules Charitable Trust to support staff to keep in contact with members at home, carry out home visits (socially-distanced and outdoors) and offer important support including activities packs, food and help with shopping and other tasks as necessary.



Pauline Swaby-Wallace (seated at the left of the front row) after the presentation by the High Sheriff of Somerset, Tom Sheppard (back row, centre, wearing glasses). The Lord Lieutenant of Bristol, Peaches Golding OBE, is seated at the right of the front row (wearing a yellow jacket).

When BEMSCA submitted its End of Grant report, Bath Boules trustee Tom Sheppard was impressed with the work that was done with the fund. In his new role as High Sheriff of Somerset he made contact with BEMSCA and Fairfield House for a visit, which took place on Friday 26 November 2021 along with the Lord Lieutenant of Bristol, Peaches Golding OBE, and the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Somerset, Edward Bayntun-Coward DL.

A day of events was planned for them to meet with the user groups and trustees of both BEMSCA and Fairfield House, with entertainment by Hallam Ifill of Rainbow Steel Band (who was recorded playing the steel pan as he was unable to attend), the Rastafari drummer and a local poet.

The High Sheriff presented an award to BEMSCA's Pauline Swaby-Wallace and all those who sustain the organisation by their work and presence each day, "in recognition of great and valuable services to the community. The award also recognises the appreciation of the residents and people of the County for activity and contribution in enhancing the life of the community." Long may it continue!

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The story of the Magi visiting the Holy Family in Bethlehem is very familiar. The Magi have sometimes been seen as a symbol of the world's diversity – different religions and cultures – coming to pay homage to the Christ-child. The story might therefore represent the unity of all created that God desires.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from 18 to 25 January – the octave of St. Peter and St. Paul. This year's resources have been prepared by the churches of the Middle East, the history of which was, and still is, characterised by conflict and strife. The Christians of the Middle East offer these resources conscious that the world shares many of their travails and yearns

for a light to lead the way to the Saviour who is the light that overcomes darkness.

Serving the Gospel today requires a commitment to the human being, especially the poorest, the weakest and the marginalised. It requires from the churches transparency and accountability in dealing with the world, and with each other. This means churches need to cooperate to provide relief to the afflicted, to welcome the displaced, to relieve the burdened, and to build a just and honest society.

This is a call for churches to work together to build a future in which all human beings can experience life, peace, justice and love.

Download resources from <https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2022/>.

Bishop's Message for January

The light of a star to guide us



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

What will 2022 bring, I wonder? Two years ago, Covid was just a vague murmur coming from the East. How could we have known it would have such an impact or for so long?

How might this year be different? Well, there is much to look forward to. We expect to have a new diocesan bishop joining us. We will be celebrating 70 years of the Queen's reign. The World Cup is on... and we have a chance! And then there are all the other excitements of anniversaries, milestones and hopes and dreams we all have.

As we begin this new year my mind turns to those Eastern travellers long ago who saw a star in the sky, set out on an uncharted journey which took maybe up to two years, and eventually

found a King. Not the sort of king expected but One who opened up new horizons for the whole world. One who offers us love, forgiveness and a way back to God.

At this time when we are asking questions that search for deeper meaning, this seems a story which resonates. What sort of journey will you take this year? At a recent clergy pre-Advent retreat we were reminded that it is not so much us walking with God but rather God walking with us. So, no matter what twists and turns the road takes, or even if we slip from following in God's Way, He will never give up on us and will never let us walk alone.

This year, as last, we shall be seeking to dwell on some words from scripture and allow them to permeate into our being. The following verses from that passage seem to offer us the light of a star to guide us as we navigate our journey in the year to come.

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:4-7

May you know God's presence and grace as He walks with you into this New Year!

Yours with the love of Christ,

+Ruth Taunton

This month's charity: Bath Welcomes Refugees

The loose collection in the plate on the second and fourth Sunday of the month – 9 and 23 January – will go to Bath Welcomes Refugees. (Donations in collection envelopes will continue to go to Christ Church.)

Rebekah Cunningham writes:

At this time of year, when most if not all of us have been enjoying good food, warmth, our own homes, security and freedom from persecution, it's timely to remember those who do not have those blessings or who have fled to this country to escape hardship of many kinds. We remember too that the Holy Family fled persecution when Jesus was still an infant, and became refugees. So our charity this month is Bath Welcomes Refugees (BWR).

Founded in 2015, BWR became a registered charity in 2017, and is staffed almost completely by volunteers. They believe that ordinary people can make a difference and they harness the goodwill of the Bath community to help refugees and asylum seekers feel welcome, access resources and find a new home and community.

They find, furnish and renovate homes and gardens, provide help with finding employment, give language tuition, and offer friendship, social activities and emotional support.

Read more at www.bathwelcomesrefugees.org.uk and donate at <https://localgiving.org/charity/bathwelcomesrefugees/>



Photo: Bath Welcomes Refugees

Services live and online

Our weekly 10am Sunday Eucharist is open to all in person. For the time being, we will maintain social distancing, and will encourage people to wear masks but will not insist. The congregation is still permitted to sing, but it will show care for others to remain masked as you do so. The service is live streamed at www.facebook.com/christchurchbath.

Our weekly Thursday 11am Eucharist takes place live in church, not online or on Zoom. The church also remains open for private prayer on Wednesday afternoons 2pm – 4pm for anyone local who wants to drop in.

An informal reflective service takes place on the fourth Sunday of each month at 5pm, resuming 23 January. This is led by members of the congregation and will be using the form of evening service in *A Wee Worship Book (Fifth Incarnation)* compiled by the Iona Community and published by their Wild Goose Resource Group. All are welcome. If you'd like further information, please contact Jonathan Stead.

For anyone concerned about the health risks of congregational singing, we will not sing at the 11am Thursday Eucharist, 8am BCP Communion on the second Sunday of each month or the 5pm Quiet Service. All services continue to be socially-distanced.

Do send prayer requests – by e-mail to 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!

Christ Church calendar January 2022

1 Sat *Naming and Circumcision of Jesus / New Year's Day*

2 Sun *The Epiphany / The Second Sunday of Christmas*
10am Eucharist

6 Thu 11am Eucharist

7 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm
Sharon Rawlings' funeral, 1pm

9 Sun *The Baptism of Christ / The First Sunday of Epiphany*
8am Holy Communion (BCP)
10am Eucharist

13 Thu 11am Eucharist

14 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

16 Sun *The Second Sunday of Epiphany*
10am Eucharist
4:30pm Choral Evensong

18 Tue *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins (ends Tuesday 25th)*

20 Thu 11am Eucharist

21 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

23 Sun *The Third Sunday of Epiphany*
10am Eucharist
5pm Contemplative Service (Iona)

25 Tue *The Conversion of Paul*

26 Wed *Timothy and Titus, companions of Paul*

27 Thu 11am Eucharist

28 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

30 Sun *The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)*
10am Eucharist

Feb 3 Thu 11am Eucharist

4 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

6 Sun *The Fourth Sunday before Lent*
10am Eucharist

Our Sunday 10am Eucharist, and other services as advertised, continue to be live-streamed at www.facebook.com/christchurchbath

Prayer Cycle for January 2022

Saturday	1	For the Local Deanery Synod
Sunday	2	For our bell-ringing team
Monday	3	For our armed forces and police
Tuesday	4	For former members of Christ Church who have moved away
Wednesday	5	For good relationships between the nations
Thursday	6	We give thanks for those who inspire us
Friday	7	For those with addictions
Saturday	8	That we may have the gift of patience
Sunday	9	For all clergy taking services at Christ Church
Monday	10	For those who work in local government
Tuesday	11	For those who live and work in the streets around Christ Church
Wednesday	12	For prisoners and prison workers
Thursday	13	For our Pilgrim Group
Friday	14	For the homeless
Saturday	15	We give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy
Sunday	16	For the ministry of our Junior Church
Monday	17	For scientists and engineers
Tuesday	18	For the Queen and other heads of state
Wednesday	19	For our own personal ministry
Thursday	20	For the Trustees of Christ Church
Friday	21	For those affected by disasters at sea or in the air
Saturday	22	For Christian unity

Sunday	23	For all who produce publicity for Christ Church
Monday	24	For farmers
Tuesday	25	For our Charity of the Month
Wednesday	26	For those who travel
Thursday	27	We give thanks for beauty in creation
Friday	28	For those who lack food, water or warmth
Saturday	29	For those who have been baptised, confirmed or married at Christ Church
Sunday	30	For our servers and others who assist at the altar
Monday	31	For those who live or work in care homes

Long-term Prayer List

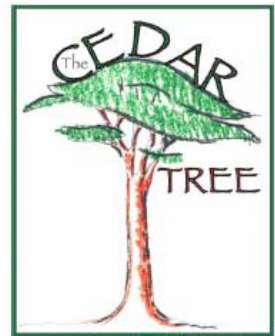
Please remember those we've been asked to pray for...

Jean
 Joyce K
 Revd John
 Amber
 David
 Nick Johnson
 Jenny
 Joyce W
 Hannah
 Dillon
 Evelyn
 Tom
 Tilly
 Patrick

Want to add a name to the prayer list, long-term or short-term, or remove one? Please use the lists at the back of the church, or speak to Lore, the Verger or one of the Churchwardens.

Cedar Tree is open

The Cedar Tree community café is open every Friday from 11am to 1:30pm. All are welcome! If you live or work in the area, do consider dropping in for a cup of tea, home-made cake and a chat, to support this important part of our outreach to the local community. If you can help on a Friday or make a cake we can sell, please contact Janet Mahto.



'Under it every kind of bird will live'

Bath
Julian Road

Rotas for January 2022

Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel	Intercessions
2 Jan Epiphany	Isaac Elliott Isaiah 60:1-6	Angela Soboslay Ephesians 3:1-12	Robin Kerr Matthew 2:1-12	Rebekah Cunningham
9 Jan Baptism of Christ	Morny Davison Isaiah 43:1-7	Judith Anderson Acts 8:14-17	Sylvia Ayers Luke 3:15-17,21-22	Nick Wells
16 Jan Epiphany 2	Georgina Bowman Isaiah 62:1-5	Rebekah Cunningham 1 Cor. 12:1-11	Peter Bowes John 2:1-11	Ian Hay Davison
23 Jan Epiphany 3	Beryl Bowes Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10	Zoë Bushell 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a	Nick Wells Luke 4:14-21	Georgina Bowman
30 Jan Candle-mas	Ian Hay Davison Malachi 3:1-5	Carol Hussey Hebrews 2:14-18	Simon Tatton-Brown Luke 2:22-40	Peter Bowes
6 Feb 4th before Lent	Janet Mahto Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13]	Kara Mayor 1 Corinthians 15:1-11	David Bishop Luke 5:1-11	Beryl Bowes

Who's who at Christ Church

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

Curate Revd Deacon Kara Maylor

Supporting clergy
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Revd Beryl Bowes
Revd Dr Peter Bowes

Reader, Director of Music Mark Elliott
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Publicity co-ordinator Janet Mahto

Laitie rotas Judith Bishop

Prayer cycle Virginia Knight

Junior Church Emma Elliott

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

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



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. New singers of all ages are always very welcome.

For anyone concerned about the health risks of congregational singing, we will not sing at the 11am Thursday Eucharist, 8am BCP Communion or 5pm Quiet Service. For now, all services continue to be socially-distanced.

As well as worship on Sundays and Thursday mornings, there are many other activities going on in our community, including our weekly community café every Friday. Visit the website to check service times and events.

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 – also streamed at www.facebook.com/christchurchbath*
- 4:30pm Choral Evensong – *Usually on the third Sunday of every month – also streamed*
- 5pm Contemplative Quiet Service (Iona) – *On the fourth Sunday of every month from 23 January*

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

Contacting us

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(answer phone)
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Website: www.christchurchbath.org

