



A season of celebration

From the priest-in-charge...

Revd Lore Chumbley writes:

I write this at the very beginning of May, wrapped up against the cold in an English orchard as a charm of gold-finches squabble in a maple tree overhead, a pair of (I think) swallows swoop past, and on this patch of Cornish coast the snails – who, like me, are feeling the cold – are still dug in for winter, hugging themselves shut against the unforgiving weather and stuck tight to shrubs and branches. The unpredictable glory of an English summer is just round the corner... But it's cold and the international situation is still giving concern. Inflation is rising and incomes are not keeping up.

And in all this we are still in the season of Easter and called to rejoice. Simply getting together with friends for lunch after two years of missing out on social gatherings and hospitality is ample cause for rejoicing. But Christ Church is looking towards several other reasons to celebrate.

God willing, the Queen will reach her Platinum Jubilee on Thursday 2 June, and Christ Church is planning to mark the occasion by sharing a traditional afternoon tea together immediately after our 10am service on Sunday 5 June. There will also be an exhibition in the Lower Mews of paintings by Zi Ling and by Colin Chumbley to enjoy during that weekend. Then, on 19 June we will mark Windrush Day at our Sunday Eucharist with representatives of the Caribbean community followed by an outdoor BBQ and Jamaican cookout.

The celebrations will continue as Kara is priested along with her fellow local Deacons at 10:30 on Saturday 25 June in Bath Abbey. I hope many of us can be there to support her and celebrate, on Saturday in the Abbey and again on Sunday 26 June as Kara presides at her first Eucharist. Jesus was known for his delight in feasting, so it's fitting we will follow that first Eucharist by sharing lunch together in the Lower Mews on Sunday 26 June. We have lots of reasons to celebrate, whatever the news.

Alleluia!



The first-ever performance of Richard Gabe's moving Choral Requiem took place in Christ Church on Saturday 9 April, sung by the combined choirs of Christ Church Choir and Canzona. The newly-written piece is a response both to personal loss and to the losses we have all experienced over the past two years. This first performance was dedicated to the memory of Sharon Rawlings, a lifelong and much-missed member of Christ Church choir, who died in November 2021.

Farewell to John



On the last Monday in April a group from Christ Church joined a small congregation at Haycombe Crematorium to say farewell to John Metcalfe, who died on 31 March, aged 90. The service was conducted by Revd Antony Claridge. John served for many years as a churchwarden at Christ Church and was known for being willing and very able to tackle any small repair jobs, and often larger ones. Long-standing members of the congregation will also remember the lunches put on by John and June, and the active part both played in the life of the church before they moved to Keynsham as a result of June's ill-health. Our prayers and condolences to all of John's family.

Sam Sweeney Solo

What is it? Nationally-renowned folk fiddle player Sam Sweeney, described as “one of the defining English fiddle players of his generation,” has been nominated four times for Musician of the Year at the BBC Folk Awards and won in 2015. He is a veteran of the folk group behemoth Bellowhead and inaugural director of the National Youth Folk Ensemble. He is at the forefront of the revival in English traditional music. This is a rare opportunity to hear him at his most intimate, playing a completely solo concert of fiddle tunes. Ticket proceeds are being split with Christ Church.
When is it? Saturday 18 June, 7:30pm
Where? Christ Church
Tickets £16 adults, £10 students, £5 under-18s, available from Mark Elliott

The Platinum Jubilee

From 2 to 5 June, the whole nation will be celebrating Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. HOPE Together is working in partnership with the Church of England, the Methodist Church, Youth for Christ and other bodies to help churches mark the occasion and, in particular, to celebrate the Queen's 70 years of faith and service. There's a range of ideas and resources available for communities, schools, churches and youth organisations.

A website, theplatinumjubilee.com, focuses on six ways to mark the occasion:

- Celebrate – ideas and action plans to put churches at the heart of local celebration;
- Sing – a newly-commissioned anthem, “Rise Up and Serve,” written by Graham Kendrick, Mal Pope and a contemporary worship band;
- Gift – available to order on the website is a 64-page illustrated book on the Queen's life and Christian faith, with “rarely-seen prayers” the Queen prayed as she prepared for her coronation (below), and an animation and book to introduce under-5s to the Queen and her Christian faith;
- Learn – ideas and resources for schools, youth groups and children;
- Service – 70 suggestions for acts of service in local communities;
- Invite – how to make local churches the focus on the final day of the four-day Platinum Jubilee celebration, Sunday 5 June, which is also Pentecost Sunday.



Services live and online

Our weekly 10am Sunday Eucharist is open to all in person and also live streamed at www.facebook.com/christchurchbath. Masks are optional and the choir now sing without masks. For the time being, alternate pews continue to be cordoned off to help us to distance from each other, but restrictions are gradually being relaxed and, in line with guidance from the Church of England, we have re-introduced the common cup at Communion. The wine has a higher alcohol content than usual, and the rim of the chalice is cleaned between communicants. Receiving the wine is entirely optional – theologically, there is no requirement to take the wine in order to receive both the body and the blood of Christ. They are both fully present in the bread.

Our weekly Thursday 11am Eucharist takes place live in the church, and is not broadcast.

Our choir will sing BCP Evensong on the third Sunday of each month except August at 4:30pm. This service will be live streamed.

An informal reflective service is held on the fourth Sunday of each month at 5pm. This is led by members of the congregation and uses 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. There is also a short service of silent contemplation on alternate Sundays – contact Kara Maylor for information on this.

For anyone concerned about the health risks of congregational singing, we will not sing at the weekly 11am Thursday Eucharist or at the 8am BCP Communion on the second Sunday of each month.

Do add prayer requests to the list in church or post to Christ Church, Julian Road, Bath BA1 2RH. Bear in mind that some services will be online, so be mindful of the privacy of friends and loved ones. We will not use full names in any public prayers that are live streamed.

Every weekday morning at 8am a group of us are saying Morning Prayer together on Zoom. If you would like to join us, please request an invitation from Lore.

Hello from Angela



Here is Revd Prebendary Angela Berners-Wilson in Wells Cathedral on the Tuesday of Holy Week, waving to all at Christ Church. Angela retired from her post as incumbent of Quantock Towers Benefice on Easter Sunday and will be moving to Bristol to a house she bought with Andrew. She intends to have six months away from ministry for well-deserved rest and recuperation including a cruise, but after that she will accept invitations to preach from time to time. We wish her well and hope to see her in Christ Church in 2023. Photo courtesy of Revd Lore Chumbley.

Christ Church ACM

The Annual General Church Meeting of the Christ Church congregation will be held on Sunday 8 May after the 10am service – so starting at about 11:15am. Come along to elect Churchwardens and members of Church Council, and receive reports on the activities of all the groups in the church. Anyone can attend, but you must be on the Electoral Roll of Christ Church to vote.

New Bishop of Bath and Wells announced

Downing Street has announced that the Rt Revd Michael Beasley, 54, will be the 80th Bishop of Bath and Wells. He is currently the Bishop of Hertford. Prior to taking a full-time role with the Church, Bishop Michael was an epidemiologist, a background he was called on to use during the pandemic as a member of the Church of England's Covid taskforce.

Bishop Michael is already familiar with Somerset. His wife Lizzie, a deputy head teacher, is from a Somerset farming family and grew up in the Diocese of Bath and Wells. Prior to Bishop Michael being interviewed for the role of Bishop of Bath and Wells, they both undertook a 60-mile walk around the county. They have two young children, Charlie (10) and Connie (8).

Bishop Michael grew up in rural Staffordshire, and was educated at a state school in Stafford. He did his BSc at Imperial College London and completed his DPhil at Oriiel College, Oxford. He then studied theology at St John's College, Durham, and was ordained as a deacon in 1999 and as a priest in 2000.

For the next decade, Bishop Michael combined his ministry 50-50 with scientific work in epidemiology at Imperial College London, specialising in infectious diseases of children in low-income countries. He undertook pro-

jects with the World Bank, USAID, UNICEF and UNESCO, working extensively in Tanzania, Eritrea, Zambia and other countries. In the same period he was chaplain of Westcott House, Cambridge, an Anglican theological college, from 2003 to 2007, then a tutor in mission and the college's vice-principal from 2007 to 2010.

In 2010, he was appointed Director of Mission for the Diocese of Oxford, then in 2015 was consecrated as Bishop of Hertford, a suffragan bishop of the Diocese of St Albans.

As well as being a member of the Church of England's Covid taskforce, Bishop Michael also worked with UNICEF, the NHS, the Government and leaders of different faiths to launch vaccinaid.org, which has raised more than £10 million in support of vaccination for low-income countries.

Commenting on his work on the taskforce, he says, "I thought I'd left science behind, but God never wastes anything! So in the last few years the skills I gained before have been of use to the Church now."

The diocese has not yet announced the date on which Bishop Michael will take up his post. However, he said: "We have strong family connections with Somerset and I'm very much looking forward to working alongside its people, communities and churches.

"We have all been through a challenging few years. The Covid pandemic pushed us all apart. Now is the time to come back together. Our churches have an essential role in helping us rebuild communities and in facing the challenges present to us both internationally and at home."



Bishop Michael with his wife Lizzie.

Pilgrim Group meeting

The Pilgrim Group will continue on Thursday 12 May at 7:30pm in the Lower Mews and on Zoom. Our theme this term is "Life-changing Books". All are welcome! If you're interested in taking part, either in person or remotely, please let Lore know.

Bishop's Message for May

Life in abundance



**From the Rt Revd Brian Castle,
Honorary Assistant Bishop for
Bath and Wells**

It all happened so quickly. I went to A&E with severe back pain which affected my mobility. The NHS was outstanding. Within a dizzying few hours, I heard I would need an immediate MRI scan and possibly rods to support my spine. I dreaded the thought of going into the scanner, let alone the surgery. As I was being wheeled along the corridor, Lauren, my godson's 10-year-old daughter, came into my mind.

Lauren is a talented girl passionate about football. Just over a year ago, it

was discovered that she had a growth at the base of the spine which would need radical treatment to prevent spinal curvature. She would also require rods in her back, which could be regularly extended by surgery as she grew into adulthood. In addition, this 10-year-old would be spending lonely hours in a soul-less scanner. Lauren is lovingly supported by her wonderful family and magnificently treated by NHS professionals but, while it can be shared, the load is ultimately hers to carry. Parents bear the agony of powerlessness. In the middle of this painful dilemma, young Lauren is instinctively grabbing the God-given gift of abundant life which is for all and which lies at the heart of the Gospel. As we get older, less passionate and more cynical, we can lose faith in this gift. Despite all she faces, Lauren continues to play football.

As I was being taken to the radiology department, I realised that I was being strengthened and inspired by this young girl, six decades my junior, facing far greater challenges than me. My own fears were being transformed by Jesus Christ's gift of life mediated through Lauren's courage. Life may turn out differently from what we expect, but that does not restrict its abundance.

The young are an inspiration. It is the role of the older generation to ensure they can grow into the special people God has created them to be so that they can release the gifts they have for us all.

Thanks, Lauren.

+Brian

This month's charity: USPG Malawi project

The loose collection in the plate on the second and fourth Sunday of the month – 8 and 22 May – will go to USPG's ongoing Malawi project. (Donations in collection envelopes will continue to go to Christ Church.)

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.

USPG's support has also enabled five mission referral hospitals operated by the Anglican Church in Malawi to increase their capacity to respond to Covid-19. The Church has purchased and delivered PPE and other medical supplies to frontline healthcare workers to help prevent the spread of the virus. Only about 3.5% of Malawians have been fully vaccinated against Covid.

You can donate here: <https://uspg-donation-form.raisely.com/>. Make sure you specify it is for the Partners in Mission programme in Malawi and that you are giving on behalf of Christ Church. If you write **RE103, Christ Church Bath** on the form, USPG can collate all donations sent from Christ Church, both loose change and individual direct debits, and will send us an annual total.



Help and welcome for Ukrainian refugees

USPG and the Church of England Diocese in Europe have launched an emergency appeal to aid people in desperate need because of the invasion of Ukraine. Funds raised will support Christian charities and churches doing humanitarian work in Ukraine and responding to the arrival of refugees in neighbouring countries. Partners on the ground are providing food, medicine, shelter, and care for children and people displaced in Ukraine.

Please support them with your prayers and, if you feel able to donate to this appeal, visit <https://ukraine-emergency-appeal.raisely.com/>.

Local charity Bath Welcomes Refugees is working with BANES Council on how best to support both refugees and their host families. To help, you can join BWR – individual membership is free. To learn what support is being given to refugees and what practical help is

needed, visit www.bathwelcomesrefugees.org.uk. Donations will also be gratefully received.

The charity is looking to recruit volunteers, particularly in the following areas:

- Interpreters and Translators (Russian, Ukrainian, Polish)
- Befriending and Resettlement volunteers
- Benefits advisors (no specific knowledge of the benefits system required)
- English language teachers
- Creche helpers and social activity helpers

To apply, please request a volunteer application form from Issy at volunteering@bathwelcomesrefugees.org.uk.

If you want to know more about how you can help those fleeing Ukraine, either visit the St Michael Chapel in Christ Church or see www.churchofengland.org/resources/community-action/war-ukraine-responding.

Christ Church calendar May 2022

2	Mon	<i>Philip and James, Apostles</i>	
5	Thu	11am Eucharist	
6	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm	
8	Sun	<i>The Fourth Sunday of Easter</i> 8am Holy Communion (BCP) 10am Eucharist Christ Church Annual Church Meeting (about 11:15am)	
12	Thu	11am Eucharist Pilgrim Group meeting, 7:30pm	
13	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm	
14	Sat	<i>Matthias the Apostle</i>	
15	Sun	<i>The Fifth Sunday of Easter</i> 10am Eucharist 4:30pm Choral Evensong	
19	Thu	11am Eucharist	
20	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm	
22	Sun	<i>The Sixth Sunday of Easter</i> 10am Eucharist 5pm Contemplative Service (Iona)	
26	Thu	<i>Ascension Day</i> 11am Eucharist Pilgrim Group meeting, 7:30pm	
27	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm	
29	Sun	<i>The Seventh Sunday of Easter</i> 10am Eucharist	
31	Tue	<i>The Visitation (Visit of Mary to Elizabeth)</i>	
Jun	2	Thu	11am Eucharist
	3	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm
	5	Sun	<i>Pentecost (Whit Sunday)</i> 10am Eucharist

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

Prayer Cycle for May 2022

Sunday	1	For Kara our curate
Monday	2	For scientists and engineers
Tuesday	3	We give thanks for those who inspire us
Wednesday	4	For former members of Christ Church who have moved away
Thursday	5	For our link Dioceses in Zambia
Friday	6	For the ministry of the Cedar Tree
Saturday	7	For those who have been forced to flee their homes
Sunday	8	For our servers and others who assist at the altar
Monday	9	For our armed forces and police
Tuesday	10	That we may be good stewards of creation
Wednesday	11	For those newly elected to our Church Council
Thursday	12	For our Pilgrim Group, meeting tonight
Friday	13	For the unemployed
Saturday	14	For peace
Sunday	15	For our Archbishop, bishops and clergy
Monday	16	For volunteer organisations
Tuesday	17	For those on our long-term prayer list
Wednesday	18	For good relations between different faiths
Thursday	19	We give thanks for our blessings
Friday	20	For all who face tragedy
Saturday	21	For our Charity of the Month, USPG in Malawi
Sunday	22	For Mark our Lay Reader

Monday 23 For those who work in the hospitality industry

Tuesday 24 For the chaplaincies at Bath's Universities

Wednesday 25 For those who care for the sick

Thursday 26 For all who produce publicity for Christ Church

Friday 27 For victims of natural disasters

Saturday 28 That we may have the gift of faith

Sunday 29 For all clergy taking services at Christ Church

Monday 30 For those who work in local government

Tuesday 31 For adoptive and foster families

Long-term Prayer List

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

Tilly
Revd John
Jean
David G
Amber
David
Joyce W
Roger and Frances
Joyce K
Hannah
Dillon
Evelyn
Mylene

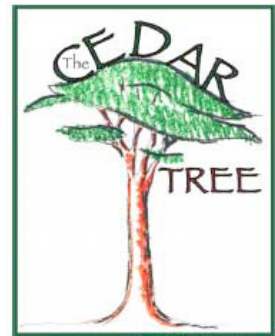
Chris
Thomas
David
Patrick

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 chat, a cup of coffee, home-made cake or a light snack, 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, then please contact Janet Mahto.

Your offers will be very gratefully received.



'Under it every kind of bird will live'

Bath
Julian Road

Rotas for May 2022

Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel	Intercessions
1 May 3rd Sun. of Easter	Rebekah Cunningham Acts 9:1-6	Malcolm Wall Revelation 5:11-14	Virginia Knight John 21:1-19	Peter Bowes
8 May 4th Sun. of Easter	Judith Anderson Acts 9:36-end	Nick Wells Revelation 7:9-17	Janet Mahto John 10:22-30	Mark Elliott
15 May 5th Sun. of Easter	Peter Bowes Acts 11:1-18	David Bishop Revelation 21:1-6	Ian Hay Davison John 13:31-35	Rebekah Cunningham
22 May 6th Sun. of Easter	Jude Bishop Acts 16:9-15	Beryl Bowes Revelation 21:10,22 - 22:5	Robin Kerr John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9	Simon Tatton- Brown
29 May 7th Sun. of Easter	Emma Elliott Acts 16:16-34	Sylvia Ayers Revelation 22:12- 14,16,17,20,21	Jonathan Stead John 17:20-26	Ian Hay Davison
5 June Pentecost	Brenda Wall Acts 2:1-21	Jane Hoe Romans 8:14-17	Mark Elliott John 14:8-17,25-27	Jonathan Stead

Who's who at Christ Church

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

Curate Revd Deacon Kara Maylor

Supporting clergy
Revd Canon Simon Tatton-Brown
01225 835404
simon@tattonbrown.myzen.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
01225 424860
janetmahto@gmail.com

Churchwarden Jane Nicholson
07990 552413
jane@janemnicholson.com

Vergers Angela Soboslay
01225 333297
angela.soboslay@christchurchbath.org

Chair of Trustees Nick Wells
07774 104584
nicholaswells5@btinternet.com

Treasurer David Bishop
01225 858816
david.bishop@christchurchbath.org

**Organist and Assistant
Director of Music** David Winters

Safeguarding officer Virginia Knight
07896 916840
safeguarding@christchurchbath.org

**Event/concert bookings,
weekly notice sheet** Judith Bishop
01225 858816
concerts@christchurchbath.org
notices@christchurchbath.org

Christ Church Link editor Alex Soboslay
07769 655927
alexs@christchurchbath.org

**Tower Captain,
Ringing Master** Will Willans

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

Steeple Keeper David Kelly

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*

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



Contacting us

Christ Church,
Julian Road,
Bath BA1 2RH
Phone: 01225 338869
(answer phone)
Email: admin@christchurchbath.org
Website: www.christchurchbath.org

