



Green shoots and beginnings

From the priest-in-charge...

Revd Lore Chumbley writes:

In the church's year the ancient feast of Candlemas on 2 February marks the end of the season of Epiphany and a return to "Ordinary Time". The green vestments and hangings of Ordinary Time remind us that in spite of the cold and gloom of winter, the earth is stirring and

"as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations."
(Isaiah 61:11)

It seems that Christ Church is stirring and growing too. This month we are delighted that Paul and Denise, long-term supporters of the Cedar Tree café, are to be married in Christ Church. We wish them every blessing in their married life, and many of us will be celebrating with them on the day. In addition to that, we have recently welcomed several students and young people into Christ Church. Together with Kara they will be forming a new group specifically for those aged between 18 and 30. It isn't always easy being a Christian in your teens and twenties, and we hope the group will be a source of support, fellowship and fun. If you or someone you know would like to join it, please get in touch with Kara.

In February we will resume our discussion of the sermon on the first Sunday of every month – so come and join us in the Lower Mews at 11:30 on

Sunday 5 February to have your say. The following discussion will be on Sunday 5 March. And if you are interested in baptism or confirmation later in the year, have a word with Lore.

Ash Wednesday on 22 February marks the beginning of the season of Lent. We will have a selection of Lent books available in church at cost price from 12 February. We hope you will choose one to read and then either recommend it to a friend or pass it on in exchange for another. As well as that, we have been asked to provide a "Sunday school for adults" – that is, an introduction to faith for those who feel they stopped learning about faith in childhood and would like to grow and learn. It will start as a ten session course based on the life of Jesus. From that, who knows what will spring up!



This year's atmospheric "Service of Light" for the Feast of Candlemas, when we remember the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple and the faithful witness of Anna and Simeon, who declares that Jesus will be "a light to lighten the Gentiles".

Curate's corner

Revd Kara Maylor writes:

Despite the chilly times in this month we've had some beautiful walks in sunshine and blue skies with us all bundled up in a number of layers... Even Barney the ministry dog has his own thermal fleece. Walking at the Uni at 4pm on Fridays, we're already celebrating the nights growing steadily longer and have witnessed some stunning sunsets over the city.

We have been happy to welcome a number of newcomers to Christ Church this month. There are now a significant number of students and young adults. A new group for the 18-30 age group begins on Wednesday 15 February. Please pray for this group, led by the wonderful Carol, that they grow in God's love and feel welcomed and an intrinsic part of our Christ Church community.

Threads through Creation



Bath Abbey is hosting "Threads through Creation", a stunning exhibition of 12 enormous embroidered silk panels that explore the story of Creation. Inspired by Genesis, textile artist Jacqui Parkinson re-imagines this ancient story in a vibrant combination of layers of silk, hand-dyed materials, metallic leathers and gold leaf, miles of thread – and more than eight million stitches. The exhibition runs until 19 March. More details at www.bathabbey.org/threads-through-creation.

Ringin' in the changes

A set of church bells from St Peter and St Paul's, North Curry, Somerset, are the first to be cast with the new cypher of King Charles III. The community raised £150,000 for the bells to be recast and some visited the foundry – John Taylor & Co., Loughborough – to witness the recasting, including the church's vicar, Revd Simon Bale. He says: "To see the bells actually poured into the cast is quite something. It's quite emotional, frankly. I was able to say a prayer of thanksgiving and of hope and gratitude as well for all this being done." The bells won't return to Somerset until later in the year.



The octagonal tower of the parish church of St Peter and St Paul housed a 16cwt ring of eight bells dating from 1811, 1894 and 1953, hanging in an oak frame dating from about 1811 with a steel extension of 1894. A new 15cwt ring of eight bells is being cast, and a new galvanised steel bell frame and new belfry floor and ringing chamber ceiling will also be installed. Photo: John Taylor & Co., Loughborough.



The cypher of King Charles III on one of the new bells. Photo: Diocese of Bath & Wells.

Youth mentors needed

Do you have a heart for young people? Find out how you could get involved in supporting young people by becoming a trained volunteer mentor to work in your local secondary school. Come to a presentation and information meeting with Youth For Christ at 7pm on Tuesday 7 February at Roundhill Hub, Mount Road, Bath BA2 1LG.

Bath's secondary schools need volunteer mentors who can spend time with students and listen to them once a week during school time. Volunteers don't need to be trained youth workers, but experience of working with young people is vital, as is a willingness to have training and support.

Bath Youth For Christ are keen to grow their schools work team. Most young people won't step inside a church building, but most are at school and want to talk. They crave space and time to talk about their issues. Many would actively choose to have a mentor. BYFC want to encourage people that schools work (like mentoring) is God's work and can be an incredible blessing on young people's lives. If you're interested in attending the meeting please RSVP: rachel@bathyfc.co.uk.

Cedar Tree is open

The Cedar Tree community café is open every Friday 11am – 1:30pm. All are welcome! If you live or work in the area, do consider dropping in for a chat, coffee, home-made cake or a light snack, to support this key 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 Jenny Hesketh.



Margaret Heath RIP



Above: Margaret as many at Christ Church may remember her, about ten years ago.

A reminder that there will be a memorial service for Margaret Heath, who died in December, at Christ Church at 2pm on Saturday 11 February – an opportunity to share prayers and condolences with her family and friends.

Another for the diary: the memorial service for Mary Braybrooke is at 2pm on Monday 27 February in Dorchester Abbey, High Street, Dorchester, Wallingford OX10 7HH.

This month's charity

Our Charity of the Month for January/February, **Burlington House**, a neighbour in the Julian Road community, is a supported home for people wanting to recover from addiction in a stable environment with workers on hand to support them. It also has a detox suite where people can safely detox from drugs and alcohol in a controlled way with medical support at hand. Burlington House is run by Bath DHI – Developing Health and Independence – and you can find out more at www.dhi-online.org.uk/get-help/housing-provision/bath-north-east-somerset-supported-housing.

The loose collection in the plate on the second and fourth Sundays of the month – 12 and 26 February – will go to Burlington House. (Donations in collection envelopes will continue to go to Christ Church.)

Holy Land fundraiser at Christ Church

A fascinating illustrated talk on the book *Nine Quarters of Jerusalem* by its author Matthew Teller takes place at Christ Church on Tuesday 14 March starting at 6pm. Included in the ticket price of £25 is a delicious buffet mezze of Middle Eastern food with wine and soft drinks. You can buy a copy of Matthew's book and he will sign it for you if you wish. Jonathan Dimbleby, author and broadcaster, says: "What a good book this is – a refreshing portrait of the Holy City that is vibrant and engaging".

Books, cards, olive wood and Holy Land products will also be on sale. All proceeds from the evening will go to support the Spafford Children's Center in Jerusalem's Old City, which Matthew visited in the course of writing his book.

This Center was founded almost 100 years ago by an American named Bertha Spafford Vester. It first served as a hospital for children but since 1970 has refocused towards providing vitally needed therapies for vulnerable children with learning disabilities, emotional disorders and traumatic stress. Educationally

deprived women also get help to improve their confidence and self-esteem. Specialists at the Center help about 500 to 1,000 families a year from East Jerusalem and surrounding towns. Funding this work annually is a huge challenge and help is badly needed. Join us at the event and meet members of the founding family who continue to actively support the Spafford Children's Center. For more information about the Center please visit <http://spaffordcenter.org>.

Tickets – £25 including all refreshments – are available on the door or online at www.jumblebee.co.uk/spaffordtellerbookmar2023.

Shared local ministry

What does ministry look like where you are? Does it look the same as it did five years ago? The Diocese of Bath and Wells has been encouraging the bubbling up of a variety of ministries – lay and ordained – as we seek to release the gifts of all and, in the process, help to give life to the Church.

Suse Osmond, Vicar of St Mary's, Bridgewater, says: "Everybody has a gift to bring to their church, and when people are encouraged to use those gifts, that's when church works best. There are a million and one things that I am not gifted with and I welcome those with the gifts to support me – we all need others to support us."

In St Mary's, Suse has been challenging the perception that only the vicar can lead worship by asking others to lead Café Church worship, think of creative ways to pray or develop a theme for a particular service. Those blessed with other gifts are also recognised, including café volunteers, who offer pastoral care and not just a hot drink, and a church member with a passion for positive mental health who is being encouraged to explore ways the church can offer a combination of mental health and spiritual support.

To encourage a conversation about what church looks like where you are, find resources at bathandwells.org.uk/enabling-ministries.

Fundraising Book Presentation
with Palestinian Buffet Mezze, Wine & Soft drinks
The Spafford Children's Center
Supporting disadvantaged children & families in East Jerusalem

Matthew Teller presents his acclaimed
NINE QUARTERS OF JERUSALEM
A new biography exploring the myths of the Old City
Copies available at £16.99 for Matthew to dedicate and sign
"What a good book this is" - Jonathan Dimbleby

Tuesday 14 March 2023 6:00 to 8:30 pm
Christ Church, Julian Road, Bath BA1 2RH
Parking: Charlotte Street Car Park BA1 2NE

Tickets £25 including all refreshments
<https://www.jumblebee.co.uk/spaffordtellerbookmar2023>
www.spaffordcenter.org
Enquiries Djemila Cope 07879 844744 or Susie Partridge 07974 916444

Bishop's Message for February

A better way



**From the Rt Revd Michael Beasley,
Bishop of Bath and Wells**

Culture, it's said, is "how things get done around here". This suggests that our understanding of the world is largely formed by our experiences and what we're accustomed to. That's all fine until everything around us, as it does, keeps on changing. We're then set on a collision course between how we think things should be, and how they actually are. Anybody aged over 40 who's had to ask a nine-year-old how to use their new phone will understand this dilemma perfectly.

Cultural collisions aren't just restricted to technology. They affect churches too. Many of us grew up with a model of church set up by the Victorians. This mostly meant that each parish had one church building with its own vicar, who took responsibility for most aspects of the ministry needed in a particular place. Yet even this was new in its day. Look much further back and things worked very differently. The New Testament speaks of churches where lots of

different people played many different roles, each operating out of the particular skills and gifts given them by God. In Ephesians the writer describes a church where "some [are] apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers".

So what would be the right model of church for our day? The Victorians' assumption that the vicar would do almost everything would seem to be a crying waste of the gifts and passions that together we share. And as more of our clergy care for three, six or more parishes, the nineteenth-century model is increasingly leaving our vicars tired, overstretched and liable to burn out.

We need a better way – one that draws on the rich talents, abilities and skills that our church members have. Here in Bath and Wells we're calling this "shared local ministry". Examples of what that can look like exist in many places around our diocese, neither first-century nor nineteenth-century, but an emerging twenty-first-century way of how we want "to get things done around here" [see page 4] – a better way to inhabit well the faith we've inherited in our time and generation.

+Michael



Bishop Michael with Revd Suse Osmond (right) and St Mary's café volunteers (see page 4).

Blessings proposed for same-sex couples

A release from the Church of England:

The Church of England has published prayers asking for God's blessing on same-sex couples as they give thanks for their civil marriage or civil partnership.

The draft texts, proposed by the bishops of the Church of England, will be considered by General Synod this month alongside other proposals in response to *Living in Love and Faith*, a six-year process of listening, learning and discernment on questions of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage.

The bishops have also made a direct public apology to LGBTQI+ people for the way in which the Church has rejected or excluded them. The apology is set out in a pastoral letter from the bishops which also recognises that they disagree over same-sex marriage and proposes a way forward which could be put in action within months.

The bishops' proposals and recommendations for further work are set out in a report, *Living in Love and Faith: a response from the Bishops of the Church of England about identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage*.

There is also a book of draft worship resources, *Prayers of Love and Faith*. It is a range of prayers and readings which could be used in a church service, such as a Service of the Word or a Service within a Celebration of Holy Communion.

There are prayers of thanksgiving and dedication and a prayer for God's blessing, as well as prayers for use with specific elements of a service, such as a Prayer when Rings are Worn and Prayers at the lighting of a candle.

Opening the letter the bishops write: "We want to apologise for the ways in which the Church of England has treated LGBTQI+

people – both those who worship in our churches and those who do not.

"For the times we have rejected or excluded you, and those you love, we are deeply sorry. The occasions on which you have received a hostile and homophobic response in our churches are shameful, and for this we repent.

"We have not loved you as God loves you, and that is profoundly wrong. We affirm, publicly and unequivocally, that LGBTQI+ people are welcome and valued: we are all children of God."

Describing the prayers and readings, they explain: "This resource will offer clergy a variety of flexible ways to affirm and celebrate same-sex couples in church, and will include prayers of dedication, prayers of thanksgiving and prayers for God's blessing.

"This resource will represent a significant move that is intended as a loving and celebratory response to same-sex couples who are cherished and deeply valued by the Church."

They explain that the prayers will be entirely discretionary and that the formal teaching of the Church of England as set out in the canons and authorised liturgies – that Holy Matrimony is between one man and one woman for life – would not change.

"While there is a range of convictions held by the bishops about this important matter, we have not found sufficient consensus to propose a change in doctrine at the present time," they write.

The bishops' proposals will be discussed at General Synod, which meets on 6–9 February.

The Bishop of London, Sarah Mullally, who chaired the group which led the process of discernment and decision making, said: "We are so grateful to the thousands of people across the Church of England who have taken part in this unique exercise in listening and learning together. We have taken all of those responses to heart and they have been vital in helping shape the proposals we are putting forward today."

■ Read Lore's sermon about the Bishops' position at <https://bit.ly/same-sex-sermon>.



LIVING
IN LOVE
& FAITH

Christ Church calendar Feb. 2023

2 Thu *The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)*
11am Eucharist

3 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

5 Sun *The Third Sunday before Lent*
10am Eucharist

9 Thu 11am Eucharist
Pilgrim Group meeting, 7:30pm

10 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

11 Sat Margaret Heath memorial service, 2pm

12 Sun *The Second Sunday before Lent*
8am Holy Communion (BCP)
10am Eucharist

16 Thu 11am Eucharist

17 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

19 Sun *The Sunday next before Lent*
10am Eucharist
4:30pm Choral Evensong

22 Wed *Ash Wednesday*
7pm Eucharist with Ashing

23 Thu 11am Eucharist
Pilgrim Group meeting, 7:30pm

24 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

26 Sun *The First Sunday of Lent*
10am Eucharist
5pm Contemplative Service (Iona)

Mar 1 Wed *David, patron of Wales*

2 Thu 11am Eucharist

3 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

5 Sun *The Second Sunday of 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 February 2023

Wednesday	1	For refugees
Thursday	2	For all at school
Friday	3	For those who lack food, water or warmth
Saturday	4	We give thanks for those who inspire us
Sunday	5	For Kara our curate
Monday	6	For farmers
Tuesday	7	For the elderly
Wednesday	8	For good relationships between different faiths
Thursday	9	That we may have the gift of patience
Friday	10	For the ministry of the Cedar Tree
Saturday	11	For victims of violence
Sunday	12	For our flower arrangers and those who look after the church
Monday	13	For those who work in medicine
Tuesday	14	That we may be good stewards of creation
Wednesday	15	For peace
Thursday	16	For the chaplaincies at Bath's Universities
Friday	17	For those finding it hard to earn a living
Saturday	18	For our charity of the month, Burlington House
Sunday	19	For our link Dioceses in Zambia
Monday	20	For those who work in financial services
Tuesday	21	For the mentally ill
Wednesday	22	That we may have a spirit of penitence

Thursday	23	For those on our long-term prayer list
Friday	24	For those who work in dangerous conditions
Saturday	25	We give thanks for our blessings
Sunday	26	For our Junior Church
Monday	27	For shopkeepers and shop workers
Tuesday	28	For the Fairtrade movement

Long-term Prayer List

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

Chris
David
Hui Tao Ling
Jean and John
Joyce K
John K
Kat
A J Kninchi
Roger and Francis
Evelyn

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.

Modern Church conference

What is it? After a long break Modern Church is delighted to resume meetings of the South West Group with a Day Conference on the topic *How to read the Bible without switching off your brain* with Rev Dr Simon Taylor. Following a time as Priest in Charge of St Mary Redcliffe in Bristol, Simon moved to Derby as Canon Chancellor. He returned to Bristol in 2019 as Director of Ministry Development. Amongst his publications is a book with the same title as this address. Modern Church encourages open, respectful debate on Christian faith – for details, visit modernchurch.org.uk.

When is it? Saturday 25 February, 11am – 4pm (coffee from 10:30am)

Where? Manvers Street Baptist Church, Bath
Admission £5 per person, payable on the day.

Please bring a packed lunch, or there are many local outlets which provide food.

To book please email dj455475@hotmail.com and your booking will be acknowledged.

Please include a phone/mobile number for contact purposes.



Modern Church
faith in the world

Rotas for February 2023

Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
5 Feb. 3rd before Lent	Angela Soboslay Isaiah 58:1-9a	Judith Anderson 1 Corinthians 2:1-12	Nick Wells Matthew 5:13-20
	Intercessions: Mark Elliott		
12 Feb. 2nd before Lent	Jude Bishop Genesis 1:1 – 2:3	Carol Hussey Romans 8:18-25	Mary Nyota Matthew 6:25-34
	Intercessions: Simon Tatton-Brown		
19 Feb. Next be- fore Lent	Jane Hoe Exodus 24:12-18	Virginia Knight 2 Peter 1:16-21	Brenda Wall Matthew 17:1-9
	Intercessions: Kara Maylor		
26 Feb. 1st of Lent	Peter Bowes Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7	Robin Kerr Romans 5:12-19	Isaac Elliott Matthew 4:1-11
	Intercessions: Beryl Bowes		
5 March 2nd of Lent	Malcolm Wall Genesis 12:1-4a	Beryl Bowes Romans 4:1-5, 13-17	David Bishop John 3:1-17
	Intercessions: Peter Bowes		

Who's who at Christ Church

Priest-in-charge	Revd Lore Chumbley 07595 294146 lore.chumbley@me.com	Organist and Assistant Director of Music	David Winters david.winters@christchurchbath.org
Curate	Revd Kara Maylor	Event/concert bookings, weekly notice sheet	Judith Bishop 01225 858816 concerts@christchurchbath.org notices@christchurchbath.org
Supporting clergy	Revd Canon Simon Tatton-Brown 01225 835404 simon@tattonbrown.myzen.co.uk	Christ Church Link editor	Alex Soboslay 07769 655927 alexs@christchurchbath.org
	Revd Beryl Bowes Revd Dr Peter Bowes	Tower Captain, Ringing Master	Will Willans
Reader, Director of Music	Mark Elliott 01225 445360 mark.elliott@christchurchbath.org	Steeple Keeper	David Kelly
Churchwarden	Janet Mahto 01225 424860 janetmahto@gmail.com	Cedar Tree café organiser	Jenny Hesketh jenny.hesketh@me.com
Churchwarden	Jane Nicholson 07990 552413 jane@janemicholson.com	Junior Church	Emma Elliott
Verger	Angela Soboslay 01225 333297 angela.soboslay@christchurchbath.org	Laity rotas	Judith Bishop
Chair of Trustees	Nick Wells 07774 104584 nicholaswells5@btinternet.com	Prayer cycle	Virginia Knight
Treasurer	David Bishop 01225 858816 david.bishop@christchurchbath.org	Charitable Giving co-ordinator	Jonathan Stead
Deanery Synod Reps	Brenda Wall Pauline Swaby-Wallace	Mission to Seafarers	Sylvia Ayers
Safeguarding officer	Virginia Knight 07896 916840 safeguarding@christchurchbath.org		

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 do not sing at the 8am BCP Communion or 5pm Quiet Service.

As well as worship on Sundays and Thursdays, there are many other activities going on in our community, including our weekly community café every Friday. Our ecumenical Pilgrim Group provides a space for exploration and discussion of faith in an open and non-judgemental setting. 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 each month*
- 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,
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(answer phone)
Email: admin@christchurchbath.org
Website: www.christchurchbath.org

