



Leaving our comforts behind

From the priest-in-charge...

Revd Lore Chumbley writes:

On the anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine, Christ Church was given a picture by artist and illustrator George Butler. The framed print shows a massive statue of the Archangel Michael which stands in Kiev. The stone plinth below the figure has been damaged by the invasion, and it is surrounded by women and men, some of whom stand on the plinth. There is a skip, half filled with rubble, and two earth movers all attending to the damage. From the picture it is impossible to judge whether the plinth is being destroyed by the machines or repaired. Only the context of the war and George Butler's history of drawing war damage tells us that this is an image of repair following destruction.

In Lent we can feel unsure whether we are being destroyed or repaired. If we have chosen to give up some minor comfort, whether alcohol or chocolate or sugar, it can be disconcerting to discover quite how much we had relied on it. I remember my mother speaking of dark chocolate with feeling as "one of the major, minor pleasures of life." Going without the habitual comfort of a cup of tea, or biscuits at coffee time, can be surprisingly hard. The subtle but repeated sense of dislocation may remind us of starting school or moving to a strange town. It's difficult. We have left behind our comfortable normality. But as a result we grow and we learn.

Fred Kaan was a Dutch hymn writer who knew war and destruction like

the people of Kiev. He lived through the twentieth-century German occupation of the Netherlands. His parents were in the resistance, and three of his grandparents starved. Yet out of that experience he became an ordained minister in the United Reformed Church and a writer of great hymns. In one of them he writes, "Lord, as we rise to leave this shell of worship, called to the risk of unprotected living... we ask for courage." It may be that it is only when we do leave behind our familiar comforts that we can become available to each other and to the Holy Spirit.

The hymn ends, "Lift from our life the blanket of convention. Give us the nerve to lose our life to others."

May you have a blessed and holy Lent.



The George Butler print in the St Michael Chapel.

Funding Christ Church

Christ Church, like all Anglican churches, receives no government funding. Unlike most Anglican churches, it also employs its priest directly, and is entirely self-financing. This means congregational giving is vital. If you are a UK tax payer and able to give regularly by Direct Debit, this makes it possible for Christ Church to claim Gift Aid, increasing the value of your giving. Forms are available at the back of the church.

We have also added a link on the home page of the Christ Church website, <https://christchurchbath.org>, to our GiveALittle page. This enables people to make donations to Christ Church online.

Recognising that fewer and fewer people now carry cash, there is also now a card donation machine at the back of church. If you need any help with any of these methods of giving or have any questions, please ask!



A contactless card donation machine is now available at the back of the church.

Earthquake appeal

The Disasters Emergency Committee, which brings together 15 leading UK aid charities, is working with partners on the ground to aid those affected by the series of devastating earthquakes that hit southern Turkey and north-west Syria, killing more than 50,000 people and injuring many more. To find out about the DEC's work and donate: www.dec.org.uk/appeal/turkey-syria-earthquake-appeal.

This month's charity

Marcus, Toby, Tim and Vienna write:
The Charity of the Month for March and April is the children's choice.

We have decided to raise money for the Spafford Children's Center.

We spent time finding out more about the centre, and the region where it's based, during one of our Junior Church sessions. The centre is in East Jerusalem and was founded in 1925 as an orphanage by Bertha Spafford Vester. Today, it provides all sorts of support to children and families. Some of the things the centre provides are art classes, English classes, speech therapy and summer camps. They also provide support for children's mental health.

We found out that the centre is in a very troubled region of the world. There is lots of fighting and it is an unstable place to grow up.

We are planning a quiz sheet and a cake sale to raise funds. Look out for more details of these in the notice sheet. You can also donate to the charity via the collection plate on the second and fourth Sunday in the month (12 and 26 March). We hope you will join us in raising an impressive total for the charity. You can also donate online (with the option of a Gift Aid declaration) at <https://spaffordcenter.org/support-us/donating-from-the-uk>.



Taking Communion

Church of England guidance is that we should not intinct – that is, dip the wafer in the wine at Communion. It's important we enforce this since we have members of the congregation who are gluten sensitive – because of this, the wine must not be exposed to a wafer. Theologians are clear that if you choose to take only the wafer, you will still receive both the body and blood of Christ. Thank you for your co-operation.

Curate's corner

Revd Kara Maylor writes:

Hope you are all enjoying the wonder of spring springing. Last Friday on our Cedar Tree walk we had to be careful not to step on the beautiful crocuses peeping through on the green in the Circus. We were fortunate to be joined by Jenny's lovely family. Her grandchildren made sure the four dogs we had with us got some extra exercise as they chased them across the Crescent in the glorious sunshine.

That same afternoon at the University two of the first year students walking with Barney dog and I were thrilled to experience their first close-up encounter with newborn lambs... So joyful!

And many thanks for your prayers for our new Young Adults group. They will be meeting every Wednesday evening in term time. Please continue your prayers for them to develop relationships with each other enabling growing relationships with God and many fun times together.

And this spring, if you can get out into God's glorious creation, breathe deeply and slowly, perhaps taking time to reflect on a quotation from Martin Luther: "God writes the Gospel not in the Bible alone, but also on trees, and in the flowers and clouds and stars."

Good Friday reflection

Keep your ears open for this year's Good Friday Reflection on Radio 4. Even better, suggest to your non-churchgoing friends and relations that they might want to listen to it. It will probably be broadcast around 3pm. The working title is "The Wounded Surgeon" and it will be a meditation on the wounded hands of Christ the healer. It is planned to include a recorded discussion between Revd Lore and a working hand surgeon on the tenderness, complexity and strength of hands – mirroring the tenderness, complexity and strength of Christ's wounded hands.

Last month...



On 8 February the Christ Church community came together to celebrate the wedding of Denise and Paul. Congratulations to them both!



On 11 February the church was packed for a memorial service for Margaret Heath, who was for many years a stalwart member of Christ Church. Condolences to her family and friends.



Also in February, we received a kneeler dedicated to the memory of Sharon Rawlings, handmade by her friend and fellow choir member Ali Nourse.

Diocesan vision

In response to God's immense love for us we seek to be God's people living and telling the story of Jesus. This vision for us all in Bath and Wells encourages us to live out our everyday faith, responding to Jesus' life, teaching and work and to tell his story, in word and deed.

But what does this look like where you are? That's the question that Bishop Michael, as our relatively new diocesan bishop, is asking everyone to consider.

During three Zoom sessions held earlier in the year, he shared his thoughts on the diocesan vision and four key areas of focus he has identified as important [see page 5]. He wants to hear what people think about them and encouraged everyone to play their part to help shape how we can, together, live out our vision in the future.

Julia Hill, the diocesan Head of Deanery and Parish Support, says: "Please share your views on how we move forward together. We will be holding Zoom sessions for people to join the conversation, but we are also encouraging people to have conversations in their own setting and then share those views using a simple online form.

"We are very keen to hear a diversity of voices, including those of children and young people, and have produced some guidance notes for those facilitating discussions."

The consultation closes on 30 April 2023. The responses will be collated and reviewed so that the diocese can determine its next steps. Find out more about how you can get involved at [www.bathandwells.org.uk/who-are/vision](http://www.bathandwells.org.uk/who-are/who-are/vision).



Photo: Jason Bryant

Faith conversations

Bath Abbey is hosting a series of evening conversations for anyone who is interested in exploring faith with others.

This is not a course but an opportunity for us to learn together from one another, from God and from the Bible, talking with others about our experiences of God and understanding of the Bible. No prior experience needed – just a curiosity and openness to others and to God.

There will be five conversations in March and April, Monday or Tuesday evenings (dates and venue to be confirmed), 7-8:30pm. To find out more or register your interest (and which evening you prefer), e-mail Revd Stephen Girling, Area Dean: missioner@bathabbey.org.

There will also be an opportunity, for those who wish, to affirm or confirm their faith at a service with Bishop Michael at the Abbey, on Easter Eve, 8 April at 6:30pm.

A prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of
weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near
to them.
We pray for those with power over war or
peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion
to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious
children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of
Peace.
Amen.

Archbishop Justin Welby
Archbishop Stephen Cottrell

Bishop's Message for March

"When we hoe a field"



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

"When we hoe a field, we all start in this corner and we go this way" – this is my favourite *Zambian* proverb. I've been sharing its words with people from our parishes, schools and chaplaincies as a way of inviting us all to think about how our diocesan vision can be refreshed and developed to help us look towards the future with confidence and joy [see page 4].

Our vision calls us to "live and tell the story of Jesus". It speaks of faith in action. It makes clear that all we do is in the name of Jesus. And it's full of aspiration; living out its words is a life-long task.

But what might our vision mean in terms of what we'd like to focus on specifically? This is where my *Zambian* proverb comes in. For my sense is that in our common life we would be strengthened if we had a greater focus of what we're all working towards together.

To help us think about this, I'm suggesting four themes that I hope

we can all get behind. The aim is not to generate a new initiative, rather it's to identify priorities for our common life upon which we can all focus. Our diverse communities of course mean that anything we do needs to fit local contexts. But I hope the four themes can provide a common framework that will help us all.

Under our overall vision of "living and telling the story of Jesus", the themes are:

- (1) Valuing and cherishing the people we already have,
- (2) Offering worship and sharing our faith together in new and different ways,
- (3) Developing our own faith and the faith of others,
- (4) Sharing in ministry and leadership.

I'm inviting everyone to have their say about how these could be developed, adapted or altered. Please do speak with each other and your local church, school and chaplaincy leaders about how this can happen where you are. More information to enable feedback is available on our website at www.bathandwells.org.uk/vision.

Please be part of the conversation! Your insights, thoughts and experience are invaluable in helping us think together what it means to "live and tell the story of Jesus".

+Michael

Maundy Thursday Agape

There will be a Maundy Thursday Passover and Agape meal in Christ Church on the evening of Thursday 6 April. Look out for the chance to sign up to attend and/or help with providing the meal.

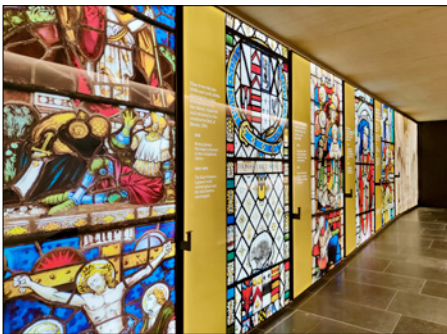
Bath Abbey opens new Discovery Centre

Bath Abbey has announced the opening on Tuesday 7 March of its new Discovery Centre, the final phase of the Footprint Project.

The Discovery Centre is a custom-built area constructed within the ancient vaults beneath the Abbey building. Its opening was pushed back because of the effects of the pandemic, but it will now enable visitors to view objects from the Abbey's archives. Fascinating videos, replica period costumes and exciting interactive exhibits will immerse visitors in the history of this extraordinary building and explore the stories of people connected to the Abbey.

Alongside a timeline of the Abbey's history, historical artefacts will be on display, some of which have never been seen by the public. These include: Anglo-Saxon crosses; Medieval carved stone fragments; historic silver; and the Benefactors' Book, a record of money and materials given to the Abbey for its reconstruction after the Reformation.

At the same time as the opening of the Discovery Centre, the Abbey will be introducing free 30-minute guided tours for visitors throughout the day. These tours are distinct from the popular Tower Tours, which are paid guided tours to the top of the Bath Abbey tower. Additionally, bespoke guided tours for school pupils can be booked (ideal for Key Stage 1-4 classes).



Illuminated panels detail the stained glass of Bath Abbey in the new Discovery Centre opening in the building's vaults. Photo: Bath Abbey

Admission fee for Abbey visitors

When the Discovery Centre opens, the Abbey will be moving from its suggested £5 entry donation to a £6.50 admission fee. It says it is introducing a new business model to cope with the demands of enhancing and maintaining the Abbey for current and future generations of visitors, and to help with the adverse impact that the pandemic has left upon the tourism industry.

However, there will be no charge for those wishing to attend church services, to pray, or to light a candle; no charge for local residents in the BA1 and BA2 postcode areas, with proof of address; and no charge for Discovery Card holders.

"Bath Abbey remains primarily a dedicated place of worship for its congregation and the international Christian community," a release says. "Those who visit to worship will be welcomed, at no charge, and will continue to be offered access to areas for private prayer and pastoral care from chaplains. Regular prayers throughout the day will remain, as will the current roster of services.

"Every visitor can now contribute to the preservation, conservation, and continued work of an important site of living history within the city of Bath. With the Discovery Centre and guided tours offering an enriched experience and understanding of the Abbey, Bath Abbey can continue to fulfil its mission of 'Living and Telling the Good News of Jesus with the City of Bath and its visitors'."



Some of the carved stone fragments on display in the Discovery Centre, which is next to the Learning Room used by schools. Photo: Bath Abbey

Christ Church calendar March 2023

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

9 Thu 11am Eucharist
Christ Church Trustees meeting, 7:30pm

10 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

12 Sun *The Third Sunday of Lent*
8am Holy Communion (BCP)
10am Eucharist

16 Thu 11am Eucharist

17 Fri *Patrick, patron of Ireland*
Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

19 Sun *Mothering Sunday / The Fourth Sunday of Lent*
10am Eucharist
4:30pm Choral Evensong

20 Mon *Joseph of Nazareth*

23 Thu 11am Eucharist

24 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

25 Sat *The Annunciation*

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

30 Thu 11am Eucharist

31 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

Apr 2 Sun *Palm Sunday*
10am Eucharist

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

Prayer Cycle for March 2023

Wednesday	1	That we may be open to encounters with God
Thursday	2	For Genesis
Friday	3	For countries in conflict
Saturday	4	For the King and other heads of state
Sunday	5	For Angela our Verger
Monday	6	For those who work in social services
Tuesday	7	For our church environment group
Wednesday	8	We give thanks for family and friends
Thursday	9	For vocations to the ministry
Friday	10	For the unemployed
Saturday	11	For countries affected by recent earthquakes
Sunday	12	For all clergy taking services at Christ Church
Monday	13	For those who work in education
Tuesday	14	For the ministry of hospices
Wednesday	15	That we may have the gift of kindness
Thursday	16	For our charity of the month
Friday	17	For those who are confined to their homes
Saturday	18	For former members of Christ Church who have moved away
Sunday	19	For Jane and Janet our churchwardens
Monday	20	For those who work in the hospitality industry
Tuesday	21	We give thanks for those who enrich our lives
Wednesday	22	For those on our long-term prayer list
Thursday	23	For those who organise and attend events at Christ Church

Friday	24	For those with addictions
Saturday	25	For our neighbours at St Mary's Catholic Church
Sunday	26	For our Archbishop, bishops and clergy
Monday	27	For our government and politicians
Tuesday	28	For the Trustees of Christ Church
Wednesday	29	For those who care for the sick
Thursday	30	For adoptive and foster families
Friday	31	We give thanks for the blessings of the past month

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
Mary Elizabeth Bull
Natalia Bull

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 Jenny Hesketh. Your offers will be very gratefully received.



Rotas for March 2023

Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
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		
12 March 3rd of Lent	Morny Davison Exodus 17:1-7	Virginia Knight Romans 5:1-11	Nick Wells John 4:5-42
	Intercessions: Mark Elliott		
19 March Mothering Sunday	Junior Church 1 Samuel 1:20-end	Junior Church Colossians 3:12-17	Junior Church John 19:25b-27
	Intercessions: Junior Church		
26 March 5th of Lent	Rachel Preston Ezekiel 37:1-14	Georgina Bowman Romans 8:6-11	Jonathan Stead John 11:1-45
	Intercessions: Kara Maylor		
2 April Palm Sunday	Bob Siderfin Isaiah 50:4-9a	-	Dramatised reading Matthew 26:14 - 27:end
	Intercessions: Georgina Bowman		

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

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(answer phone)
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