



Living in the Kingdom of God

From the priest-in-charge...

Revd Lore Chumbley writes:

Three years ago Rebecca and Greg Cunningham, whom many of you will remember, reported that a talk on the Resurrection by the Revd Jacques Desrosiers had made a deep impression. We invited him to visit and he spoke on “Being Resurrection people”. It was during the first October of the pandemic and we were distanced from each other in a cold church but the power of his talk cut through the fear and the cold. Afterwards I spoke to the Archdeacon, who was intrigued and asked me to let him know what we decided it meant for us, as a church, to be “Resurrection people”. I have been pondering it, on and off, ever since.

Bruce Chilton’s visit to Christ Church last month seemed to bring light and air to the question. He is Professor Emeritus of Philosophy & Religion and Director of the Institute of Advanced Theology at Bard College, New York State, and an Anglican priest. In his invited lecture he spoke on the Eucharist and in the sermon he preached for us on Sunday 23 July he spoke about the Kingdom of God, the subject which underlies both his Theology and his Biblical studies research.

“The Kingdom is not only a hope, but a process, a matter of activity, a question both of what we look forward to and of what we do,” he explained. While sin is generally fairly easy to recognise within a community, evil is far more insidious. The Church, like most of eighteenth-century England,

comfortably co-existed with the transatlantic slave trade for generations. Even those who recognised it as evil and spoke out were unable to change the direction of public opinion for decades. Prof Chilton suggested that the Kingdom of God may require us to endure evil within our midst until such time as “the moral arc of the universe ... bends towards justice.”

If the Church is not to become an exclusive sect of self-consciously “good” people then we have to be welcoming and inclusive even to those who would exclude others. That isn’t easy. It is a recipe for dissension and discord, but dissension and discord and living with people with whom we profoundly disagree may be what we sign up to when we accept the invitation to take up our cross and follow. It may even tell us something of what it means to be “Resurrection people”.



Watch the video of Revd Prof Bruce Chilton’s talk at <https://bit.ly/bruce-chilton-talk>. The Sunday Eucharist at which he preached is also available at <https://bit.ly/christ-church-23-July-2023>.

Madge North RIP

The oldest member of the Christ Church family, Madge North, died peacefully on Thursday 27 July at Bridgemoor Nursing Home, aged 102. Joyfully reunited with Albert. Our thoughts and prayers are with Angela, Roy and all her family and friends. Madge's funeral is planned to be at Christ Church at 1:15pm on Monday 21 August.



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

Prayers for Genesis

As summer gets into full swing in Bath, a "Destination City" welcoming visitors



from around the world, the work of Genesis goes on in the background. The disadvantaged and the vulnerable have no holiday from financial hardship, desperation and simple loneliness. We support Genesis with our charitable giving every winter, but in addition we are invited to join in continuing prayer:

- Thanks and praise to God for answers to prayer, and His ongoing financial provision.
- For guests attending the Gateway Centre to know the presence of God as they mourn the deaths of a number of other guests and friends this year.
- For the Holy Spirit's wisdom and guidance as the Trust seek to fill a number of staff vacancies across Genesis.
- For the Furniture Shop team as they seek ways to further increase donations and sales of furniture.

Family activities at Wells Cathedral this month



The face of the famous clock in Wells Cathedral, considered to be the second oldest clock mechanism in Britain, and probably in the world, to survive in its original condition and still be in use.

Looking for something to enjoy together? There's a range of family holiday activities at Wells Cathedral this month.

- 7 and 23 August: Mason's Marks treasure hunt around the Cathedral, followed by the opportunity to create your own mason's mark in a soap carving to take home.
- 8 and 29 August: Watery Wells. Follow the watery trail around the Cathedral, then have fun with water in the Camery Garden.
- 15 and 30 August: Feed the Birds.
- 16 and 31 August: Learn about the Incredible Clock through story and craft.
- 22 August: Bugs and Bees. Learn about the importance of pollinators and help build a bug hotel.

Tickets start at £1.10. Parents/guardians attend for free – no ticket required. Book online at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/cc/family-holiday-activities-2132829>.

Curate's corner

Revd Kara Maylor writes:

Felt so blessed to be part of the team involved in our local Julian Road Community Event in July. It was a joy to meet so many local people, many of whom I had not met previously. We were astounded by the generosity of the donations for the raffle and hope that the people who won the prizes enjoy the treats they offer. It was a delight that our lovely Michael won the beautiful silk scarf and we look forward to seeing him wear it with aplomb!

On Monday I head to Kent to lead a team of stewards at New Wine United 2023. This is a long-standing Christian Festival with the wonderful strapline "local churches, changing nations". Usually I am simply part of the team, not a team leader, so looking forward to the new challenge that this will be – including camping for a week. Hoping it is not too wet. I have memories of this festival when it was in Shepton Mallet of digging trenches around people's tents so the water didn't saturate everything!

At the end of August I have a couple of weeks of holiday followed by my physical challenge for this year, which is swimming around the Scilly Isles. My next Curate's Corner will be in the October issue of the *Link* as we welcome in the new season.

Community Event

Congratulations and warmest thanks to all involved in organising and running the Julian Road Community Celebration, which took place on Saturday 22 July. Despite the poor weather, all the planned activities went ahead, including teas in the Lower Mews and a white elephant sale in the church, and turnout was very good. The event was organised jointly by the Museum of Bath at Work, Christ Church, St Mary's Catholic Church and DHI (Developing Health and Independence), and raised more than £1,700 for BEMSCA, the Bath Ethnic Minority Senior Citizens Association.

Around Christ Church



Our Steeple Keeper, Dave Kelly, has a long association with Christ Church and recently came across this old photo, which has a note on the back saying it shows storm damage at Christ Church in May 1990. In this anniversary year, it is a timely reminder that a building – or, for that matter, an institution – cannot endure for 225 years without a lot of upkeep and dedication behind the scenes. Photo courtesy of David Kelly.



Another photo from Dave Kelly, looking from the church roof over Christ Church Cottages. The lush garden is quite a contrast from today. This is likely to be when Frank and Dorothy Twissell were living in Cottage No. 2 – Frank was a renowned horticulturist. Photo courtesy of David Kelly. Have you got any old photos of Christ Church? Share them with us to help celebrate the 225th anniversary of the consecration of the church, which falls on 7 November.

Christ Church 225

Season of Creation



Photo: Colin Watts, ChurchofEngland.org.

Creationtide or the Season of Creation is the period in the annual church calendar, from 1st September to 4th October this year, dedicated to God as Creator and Sustainer of all life. Many churches choose to use this time of year to hold special services and events to give thanks for God's gift of creation, and to renew their commitment to caring for our one planet home.

The theme for the Season of Creation 2023 is *Let Justice and Peace Flow*.

The prophet Amos cries out: "Let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!" (Amos 5: 24) and so we are called to join the river of justice and peace, to take up climate and ecological justice, and to speak out with and for communities most impacted by climate injustice and the loss of biodiversity.

As the people of God, we must work together on behalf of all Creation, as part of that mighty river of peace and justice.

Find more information and downloadable resources at <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/environment-and-climate-change/season-creation>.



**Let Justice
and Peace Flow**
Season of Creation 2023

A Mighty River
Amos 5: 24

This month's charity: USPG Malawi project

The loose collection on the second and fourth Sunday of the month – 13 and 27 August – 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. This is a commitment we have made over recent years to support USPG's work among women and girls in developing education, health and economic self-sufficiency in 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,
- water, hygiene and sanitation.

To improve literacy among girls, the programme focuses on increasing school enrolment and also works with communities and parents to reduce early marriages, early pregnancies, and the rate at which girls drop out of school.

You can also donate at <https://uspg-donation-form.raisely.com/>. If you specify it is for the Partners in Mission programme in Malawi and write **RE103, Christ Church Bath** on the form, USPG can send us an annual total.



Bishop's Message for August

Glimpses of God



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

As you read this you may well be putting your feet up and having a well-earned rest from school, work or even church! Summer is a time for taking things a little easier and making space for rest and relaxation. But of course, many continue to work hard to make such recreation possible for us! We may want to take a moment to value all those who make our holidays possible. There's always room to say "thank you!"

You will be aware that I recently had the opportunity of taking a little time out for some sabbatical. Howard and I spent a month walking the Via Di Francesco, a pilgrimage walk, in the footsteps of St Francis, in Italy. We walked some 140 miles from Rome to Assisi, using local transport for the other 40 or 50 miles along the way.

We took our time, not least because of the wear and tear on our hips and knees as we went up and down steep gradients. In addition, it gave us room to notice things along the way.

It is often the small, seemingly insignificant things which can get overlooked as we travel through life, isn't it. How many of us make the time to "stand and stare", as William Davies puts it in his poem "Leisure"? So, I found myself discovering new meaning in the unexpected moments of pause that the walk brought us. The brief conversation with Destiny, a refugee, whilst we waited at a bus stop, who generously shared his bus tickets with us. The awareness of the world of creation around us – bird-song; the quill of a porcupine on the path; a family of wild pigs running through wheat fields. The kindness and hospitality of strangers. Encountering God in new people and places.

During this month, when perhaps the business of your life is stilled a little, are you expecting to encounter God? Will he need to break in or interrupt you, or how might you intentionally make time for him? Where might you notice the glimpses of God in the world around and hear his voice speaking into your experience?

I hope that this summer you will experience not only the rest and recreational power of a good holiday but also the space to renew your relationship with God. Along with the writer to the Ephesians, I pray "that you may have the power to comprehend ... what is the breadth and length and height and depth" of God's love for you.

With love and prayers,

+Ruth Taunton

Gaia at Bath Abbey

Bath Abbey is hosting Luke Jerram's touring Gaia artwork from Monday 18 September to Sunday 29 October, as part of the Treasuring Creation Festival, which will focus on appreciating and caring for our planet.

Measuring seven metres in diameter and made up of detailed NASA imagery of the Earth's surface, Gaia provides the opportunity to see our planet in the round, floating in three dimensions.

In Greek mythology Gaia is the personification of the Earth. Over its lifetime, the artwork is being presented in a number of different ways both indoors and outdoors. When presented indoors, the artwork slowly revolves and a specially made surround sound composition by BAFTA award winning composer Dan Jones is played alongside.

The artwork is 1.8 million times smaller than the real Earth, with each centimetre of the internally lit sculpture describing 18km of the planet's surface. By standing 211 metres away from the artwork, the public will be able to see the Earth as it appears from the moon.

Unlike the moon, which we have been gazing at for millennia, the first time humankind got to see the Earth in its entirety as a blue marble floating in space was in 1972 with NASA's Apollo 17 mission. At that moment, our perception and understanding of our planet changed forever. Hanging in the black emptiness of space, the Earth seems isolated, a precious and fragile island of life.

Learn more at <https://my-earth.org/about/>.



The Gaia installation in Taunton Minster in April.

Treasuring Creation

The Treasuring Creation Festival brings together a full and varied programme of events at Bath Abbey for the duration of the Gaia installation, 18 September to 29 October. Events include:

■ Treasuring Creation Art Exhibition – An illuminating exhibition featuring details from the Abbey's stained glass windows and diptychs from the Abbey's collection, paired with a short commentary on the Bible stories they represent. Revd Stephen Girling's commentary shines a light on caring for the planet from a Christian perspective.

■ Wonderful World Trail for schools and families

■ "Playful Planet" family trail and activities, such as craft days and parent-toddler sessions.

■ Treasuring Earth Tour – Join a tour of the Abbey with friendly, knowledgeable guides and learn about the Gaia artwork and about treasuring the Earth from a Christian perspective.

■ Movement and Meditation workshop – Thursday 21 September, 7pm, led by Olivia Shone, founder of Meaningful Meditation & Yoga in Bath. Olivia will use both gentle movement exercises and meditation in the tradition of Christian spirituality to create a space for spiritual awareness and mental well-being. Tickets from Eventbrite.

■ Extraordinary Earth Day – Saturday 30 September, 10am–5pm. A day for residents, visitors and families to see what's going on in Bath and our region to help combat climate change and support the city in living more sustainably. Documentary film maker and eco-champion James Levelle will open the day, followed by four speakers giving motivational talks. Eco-group stalls, family activities, the Climate Choir and exhibitions of Abbey and student artwork, make for a wonderful all-round experience, leaving people better equipped to get involved. Free with admission to the Abbey. No booking required.

Further details and booking information where relevant at www.bathabbey.org/gaia/.

Christ Church calendar August 2023

3 Thu 11am Eucharist

4 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

6 Sun *The Transfiguration of our Lord*
10am Eucharist

10 Thu 11am Eucharist

11 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

13 Sun *The Tenth Sunday after Trinity*
8am Holy Communion (BCP)
10am Eucharist

15 Tue *The Blessed Virgin Mary*

17 Thu 11am Eucharist

18 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

20 Sun *The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity*
10am Eucharist
(No 4:30pm Choral Evensong today – choir away)

23 Wed *UNESCO International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition*

24 Thu *Bartholomew the Apostle*
11am Eucharist

25 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

27 Sun *The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity*
10am Eucharist
(No 5pm Iona Contemplative Service today)

29 Tue *The Beheading of John the Baptist*

31 Thu 11am Eucharist

Sep 1 Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am – 1:30pm

3 Sun *The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity*
10am Eucharist

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

Prayer Cycle for August 2023

Tuesday	1	That we may show mercy and compassion
Wednesday	2	For those who produce publicity for Christ Church
Thursday	3	For peace
Friday	4	For those finding it hard to earn a living
Saturday	5	For countries recovering from or experiencing wildfires
Sunday	6	For our bell-ringing team
Monday	7	For those who work in local government
Tuesday	8	For those who are persecuted for their faith
Wednesday	9	For those on our long-term prayer list
Thursday	10	For our link Dioceses in Zambia
Friday	11	For those who use and run food banks
Saturday	12	We give thanks for artists, poets and musicians
Sunday	13	For Lore and Colin
Monday	14	For those who work in the transport industry
Tuesday	15	For our neighbours at St Mary's Catholic Church
Wednesday	16	For the ministry of Genesis
Thursday	17	For those on our Church rotas
Friday	18	For the sick and suffering
Saturday	19	For those on holiday
Sunday	20	For vocations to the ministry
Monday	21	For those who work in the emergency services
Tuesday	22	For former members of Christ Church who have moved away
Wednesday	23	For adoptive and foster families

Thursday	24	That we may have the gift of joy
Friday	25	For those with addictions
Saturday	26	For our charity of the month, USPG in Malawi
Sunday	27	For Kara our Curate
Monday	28	For our King and other heads of state
Tuesday	29	For the work of Julian House
Wednesday	30	For prisoners and prison workers
Thursday	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
Sheila
Paul and Kate
Jeremy and Roz

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 August 2023

Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
6 August Transfiguration of our Lord	Jude Bishop Daniel 7:9,10,13,14	Beryl Bowes 2 Peter 1:16-19	Jonathan Stead Luke 9:28-36
	Intercessions: Peter Bowes		
13 August 10th Sunday after Trinity	Kara Maylor 1 Kings 19:9-18	Georgina Bowman Romans 10:5-15	Rachel Preston Matthew 14:22-33
	Intercessions: Simon Tatton-Brown		
20 August 11th Sunday after Trinity	Simon Tatton-Brown Isaiah 56:1,6-8	Sue Caden Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32	Brenda Wall Matthew 15:21-28
	Intercessions: Kara Maylor		
27 August 12th Sunday after Trinity	Nick Wells Isaiah 51:1-6	Angela Soboslay Romans 12:1-8	David Bishop Matthew 16:13-20
	Intercessions: Mark Elliott		
3 Sep 13th Sunday after Trinity	Zoë Bushell Jeremiah 15:15-21	Morny Davison Romans 12:9-21	Robin Kerr Matthew 16:21-28
	Intercessions: Beryl 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	Safeguarding officer	Virginia Knight 07896 916840 safeguarding@christchurchbath.org
Supporting clergy	Revd Canon Simon Tatton-Brown 01225 835404 simon@tattonbrown.myzen.co.uk	Deanery Synod Reps	Brenda Wall Pauline Swaby-Wallace
	Revd Beryl Bowes Revd Dr Peter Bowes	Christ Church Link editor	Alex Soboslay 07769 655927 alexs@christchurchbath.org
Reader, Director of Music	Mark Elliott 01225 445360 mark.elliott@christchurchbath.org	Tower Captain, Ringing Master	Will Willans
Churchwarden	Jane Nicholson 07990 552413 jane@janemnicholson.com	Steeple Keeper	David Kelly
Churchwarden	Jonathan Stead jonathanstead20@gmail.com	Cedar Tree café organiser	Jenny Hesketh jenny.hesketh@me.com
Verger	Angela Soboslay 01225 333297 angela.soboslay@christchurchbath.org	Junior Church	Emma Elliott
Chair of Trustees	Nick Wells 07774 104584 nicholaswells5@btinternet.com	Laitia rotas	Judith Bishop
Treasurer (outgoing)	David Bishop 01225 858816 david.bishop@christchurchbath.org	Prayer cycle	Virginia Knight
Treasurer (incoming)	Zoë Bushell zoe.bushell@christchurchbath.org	Charitable Giving co-ordinator	Jonathan Stead
Event/concert bookings, weekly notice sheet	Judith Bishop 01225 858816 concerts@christchurchbath.org notices@christchurchbath.org	Mission to Seafarers	Sylvia Ayers

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 (taking a

break in August) and organist. New singers of all ages are always welcome.

For anyone still 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 – *On the third Sunday of the month, from Sept.*
- 5pm Contemplative Quiet Service (Iona) – *On the fourth Sunday of the month, resuming Sept.*

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

Contacting us

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