



A Happy and a Holy Christmas to all!



Christ Church *Link*

December 2019 ● Number 92 ● 50p where sold

Waiting with hope

From the priest-in-charge...

Revd Lore Chumbley writes:

Advent is a time of waiting with hope. This year the waiting is particularly poignant as we wait not only for the joyful celebration of the incarnation, but also for Levi Swaby's funeral on Monday 23 December. Our love and prayers are with the bereaved family at this time, and the hope of the incarnation in which life, birth, tragedy, death and resurrection are caught up in the presence and even the very existence of God seems particularly necessary.

A few days ago a member of the congregation shared with me with the insight that hope has "double vision". Hope sees both the reality of what is happening in the present on earth, as well as what will be in heaven and can be on earth if we co-operate with the Holy Spirit. So hope sees death but also eternity, creation and also heaven, brokenness and also healing. Hope sees the world as it will be when "Thy will be done" becomes a reality.

We need to keep that sense of double vision. To do so, we need to see clearly the reality of this life. If we allow injustice to be called "expediency", or believe those with wealth and privilege to be above the law, or explain inequality as part of God's plan – and the church has done all those things in the past – then our vision is blurred and we don't see things on earth clearly. Equally seriously, our heavenly vision also goes awry and we no longer know where we are going. We have seen the appalling

consequences of the church's loss of vision in our newspapers.

But the Biblical call of Advent is "Keep Watch!" We are to keep our eyes open – inwardly and outwardly. If we see injustice and inequality, then we will also find God's will for judgement and generosity. On Thursday 12 December we will have a very specific need for insight or "double vision". Most of us will be called upon to vote, and all of us will have to live with the results of the election. If we use all our insight and intelligence, all the knowledge and advice at our disposal in a genuine attempt to look for the earthly and heavenly truth of the choices on offer, then whatever the outcome we can look to the future with hope.



The splendid cake made by Jude Bishop and iced by Jo Palmer for Keith's last service as Organist and Assistant Director of Music on the feast of Christ the King, Sunday 24 November. We look forward to seeing Keith and Marie occasionally, if not quite as regularly, when he returns to play as an "associate" organist from time to time. See p3.

East end reordering – final scheme

Charles Rice, Chair of the Trustees of Christ Church, writes:

The planning and consultative work relating to the East End Project has now been completed and we are in the final stage of applying for a faculty from the Diocese granting approval for our plans. This is a summary of the key features of the proposed scheme.

Council and Trustees have agreed that the faculty should cover Phases 1 & 2 of the overall East End reordering scheme at this stage. Phase 3 – which involved the removal of the current Lady Chapel to make way for a permanent disabled ramp linking the nave level to the chancel – has not been included. Based on current levels of need, it is considered that improved disabled access to the chancel area can be adequately provided by means of fixed handrails at either end of the chancel steps and by use of a temporary ramp if needed. Budget pressures have also played a part in this decision, with the overall cost of Phases 1 and 2 likely to be over £100,000.

Phase 1 Key Features:

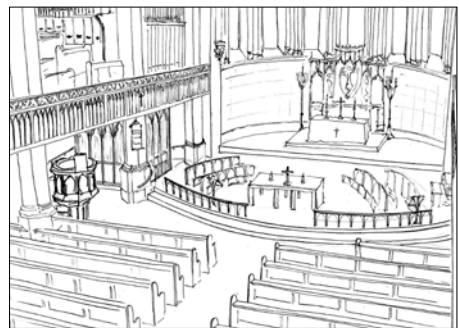
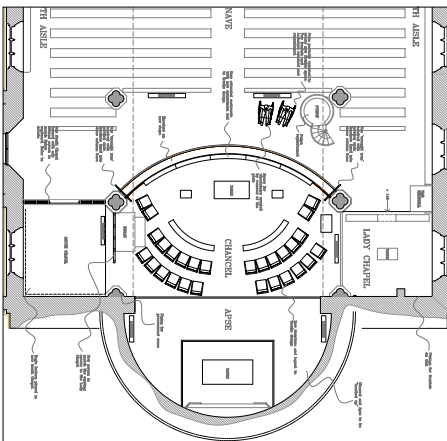
- Enhancement of the overall aesthetics of the East End by creating a curved step up to the chancel reflecting the main curve of the apse.
- Creation of a more usable space for choir and communion celebrants and for commu-

nity use in line with our outreach commitment by setting the chancel and sanctuary on a single floor level.

- Improved access to the chancel by a simplification of the number of steps and levels and installation of handrails to the side.
- Improved lighting for the chancel and apse, helping to lift the overall effect of the apse tiles.
- Relocation of pulpit westward to the first pillar in the nave; removal of one or possibly two of the front rows of pews in the main aisle to create an appropriate amount of space and improved wheelchair access in front of the chancel steps.
- Chancel and apse floors to be re-stained (lightened) and decorations touched-up.
- Installation of new bespoke altar rail, altar table and furnishings for sanctuary and choir.

Phase 2 Key Features:

- Creation of a new south side-chapel and private space for prayer on the curtained sacristy behind the organ console
- Redecoration of new chapel and installation of improved lighting.
- Restoration (if possible) of original wooden flooring; relocation of one memorial plaque to south aisle; removal of fixed side bench.
- Removal of existing curtain and curtain



A rough sketch of the reordering, although the planned design of the altar and choir seating will be different from those shown and the Lady Chapel is not being altered in this phase.

Last month...

frame (Innes Moore commemoration).

- Installation of carved wooden screens on north and west sides to match existing south screen to Lady Chapel.

Main Contractors:

- Building works and project co-ordination: Ellis & Co. (Ellis are a specialist church contractor and have carried out a number of successful pieces of work at Christ Church, principally the West Porch project.)
- Lighting and Electrical: Hussey Electrical Ltd. (Hussey Electrical specialise in lighting projects including work at Wells Cathedral.)
- Sacristy and Choir Furniture: Treske Ltd. (Treske specialise in ecclesiastical furniture; Holy Trinity, Bradford on Avon, is a local example of their work.)

Cost and Timing:

- Cost: The trustees have agreed to pay for the building, new altar rail, electrical and redecoration works for Phases 1 & 2 based on a final budget of £35,000. The cost of the sanctuary furnishings (£15,930) and choir furniture (£37,560) will be paid out of appeal funds (see appeal brochure). To date, more than 50% of the target has already been received or pledged. The future cost of the South Chapel wooden screens (£32,700) will be the subject of a separate fundraising.
- Timing: Provided that the consultation and faculty process can be completed in a normal timescale, it is hoped that the Phase 1 & 2 building works will be completed by the end of March 2020. Treske are also planning to deliver the new sanctuary furniture by Easter and the choir furniture by October 2020 provided the progress of the appeal enables orders to be placed in good time. The wooden screen walls for the new South Chapel will follow later when funding is available.

Questions or Comments:

If you have any questions or comments please speak to Charles Rice, Lore or any of the trustees, or write/e-mail Charles (charles.rice@btopenworld.com).



Keith cuts the cake on Sunday 24 November. This month we also said au revoir to Narinder Tegally, who is continuing as chaplain at the RUH but will now be affiliated with Bath Abbey. She is also taking up the post of Assistant Diocesan Director of Ordinands. In addition, we bade farewell to Cliff Burrows, who is moving to be nearer his family. Cliff has been participating in ministry at Christ Church since 1988, when he took up his professorship at the University of Bath. Our prayers and best wishes to Keith, Marie, Narinder and Cliff.



Seeking descendants

Do you know anyone related to either of the following, whose memorials will be affected by the planned work at the east end of the church? Please put them in touch with Lore.

- William Stirling Bannatyne, Lieut-Col, 1st Battalion the King's (Liverpool) Regiment, killed in action near Ypres 24 October 1914.
- Innes Moore (1887–1968).



#FollowTheStar is the Church of England's Advent and Christmas campaign, encouraging everyone to follow in the footsteps of the Wise Men on their journey to meet Jesus.

As in 2018, there will be Christmas reflections available in print, e-mail, app and audio formats, plus resources and daily reflections.

Churches are invited to display a star on the building and tag this on A Church Near You, the Church of England's church finder website (www.achurchnearyou.com). 81% of those who use the site are first-time visitors, making it a great place to promote services.

Families and children can tackle the Advent challenge for home, church or school: find, identify, make, bake, discover or create 25 different stars during Advent.

Resources are available to download to help publicise Christmas events, some free.

The Follow the Star 2019 booklet has a reflection for each of the 12 days of Christmas with a short Bible passage, a simple prayer and a challenge. Full reflections will be available in the #FollowTheStar app.

Find resources, information and links at <http://bit.ly/follow-the-star-2019>.

Services at Christ Church

- Sunday 8 December: Advent Carol Service, 7pm: a contemplative, atmospheric candlelit celebration of Advent.
- Sunday 22 Dec.: Family Eucharist with Nativity Play, 10am.
- Sunday 22 Dec.: Christmas Carol Service, 6:30pm: celebrate the coming of Jesus into the world with readings and music.
- Tuesday 24 Dec.: Crib Service 4:30pm.
- Tuesday 24 Dec.: Midnight Mass, 11:30pm: the traditional start to Christmas.
- Wednesday 25 Dec.: Christmas Day Sung Eucharist, 10am, followed by a glass of fizz.

Coming events

Inclusive Carol Service

What is it? Oasis Church, Christ Church and St Stephen's, Lansdown, welcome everyone to an LGBT+-affirming carol service.

When is it? Sunday 8 December, 5pm

Where? Oasis Church (formerly Hay Hill Baptist Church), Bath BA1 5DU

Christmas Jethro Tull Concert

What is it? Over the last 12 years, Ian Anderson has performed in many of the UK's great Cathedrals and churches, helping to raise much-needed funds for their preservation.

This Christmas-themed concert features the work of Jethro Tull as written and recorded by Ian since 1968, plus several pieces of re-worked Classical repertoire and traditional pieces from the musical liturgy of the Church of England with Wells Cathedral's choristers.

When is it? Friday 13 December, 7:30pm

Where? Wells Cathedral, Wells BA5 2UE

Tickets £30–£50 from <http://bit.ly/wells-xmas-jethro-tull>

Opus Anglicanum: Mediaeval Carols

What is it? Opus Anglicanum present their atmospheric candlelit Christmas programme of wonderful medieval music and readings, Gregorian chant, and polyphony. Opus Anglicanum is a quintet of unaccompanied male singers with narrator.

When is it? Monday 16 December, 7:30pm

Where? Wells Cathedral, Wells BA5 2UE

Tickets £20 from Wells Cathedral Shop Box Office (01749 672773) and at the door.

Wells Cathedral Carols by Candlelight

What is it? The annual service with Wells Cathedral Choir. James Gough, organ; Jeremy Cole, conductor. Proceeds support the choir. Early booking is advised.

When is it? Thursday 19, Friday 20, Saturday 21 December, 7:30pm

Where? Wells Cathedral, Wells BA5 2UE

Tickets £15–£30 from Wells Cathedral Shop Box Office (01749 672773) and at the door, if not sold out before – early booking is advised.

Bishop's Message for December

It is your responsibility



**From the Rt Revd Peter Hancock,
Bishop of Bath and Wells**

So it has been decided. There is to be a General Election on 12 December, and much has been made of the fact that this is the first December election since 1923. Things could be worse, however: the 1885 General Election took place over three weeks from 24 November to 18 December 1885. It was nonetheless an important milestone in social history, as it extended voting rights so that for the first time a majority of adult males could vote and most constituencies returned only a single member to Parliament. These were quite radical developments, and at that election large numbers of men voted for the first time.

It saw the Liberals, led by Gladstone, win the most seats but not an overall

majority, with the Irish Nationalists holding the balance of power and the Unionist MPs having a significant voice. The 1885 election also saw the first socialist party, the Social Democratic Federation, participate.

So significant was this election that my predecessor, Bishop Arthur Hervey, wrote an open letter on 2 October 1885 suggesting that “all Christian subjects of the Queen had a duty of special prayer to Almighty God that He will be pleased to guide the minds of the Electors to make such a choice of representatives as shall tend most to the glory of God, the honour and welfare of our Sovereign, and the happiness of the people”. In his view Parliament was responsible for establishing “peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety” and the “welfare of all people”. In asking people to pray as well as to vote, he made it clear that whilst people would have different “political leanings”, they needed to come together to pray for the “peace and happiness of the nation at large”.

I think we all know that this General Election before us now will similarly be critical in helping to determine the future of the United Kingdom – at least for the immediate future. In writing this article I am therefore seeking to follow Bishop Arthur Hervey by reminding us all of the responsibility we have to pray for our country and to work with all people for the welfare and the well-being of everyone.

With my prayers and very best wishes,

+Peter Bath and Wells

This month's charities: Bath homeless

The loose collection in the plate on the second and fourth Sunday of the month – 8 and 22 December – will be divided between Julian House and The Genesis Trust. (Donations in collection envelopes will continue to go to Christ Church.)

Julian House offers direct support to some of the most marginalised people in Bath – rough sleepers, women escaping domestic violence, ex-offenders, the long-term unemployed, and people with mental health issues or learning difficulties. At any time over 100 clients are being helped – men and women who are homeless, have recently been homeless or are at risk of becoming homeless.

Projects include the Manvers Street Hostel, which provides not only beds but a specialist outreach service and a support service that offers people a pathway out of rough sleeping. Julian House runs the only supported housing project in B&NES to support offenders on release from custody, prevent them falling into homelessness and attempt to break the



patterns of substance abuse and other causes of crime. Julian House also runs three social enterprises: Bath Soup Company, Bath Bike Workshop and Turnkey Housing Solutions, which it sees as crucial in enabling “move-on” for clients who may be partially or wholly dependent on benefits or live on a low wage. For more, visit www.julianhouse.org.uk.

The Genesis Trust acts as an umbrella body enabling churches and Christians throughout Bath to demonstrate the love of Christ in practical ways to those in greatest need through its nine projects. These include a daily drop-in centre at Bath Abbey and two food projects, Lunchbox and Soup Run.

At its Lifeline drop-in Genesis helps over 50 people a day, providing hot drinks, emergency clothing and bedding, and much-needed emotional support and practical advice. Benefit cuts and mental health are big issues for clients. The Lifeskills project, which provides courses aimed at enhancing well-being, provides much-needed help with budgeting and cookery skills as well as helping people develop emotionally via creative writing, art and gardening. For more, visit genesistrust.org.uk.



Advent lunches

Again this year we are holding joint lunches in Advent with our neighbours at St Mary's Roman Catholic church to build ecumenical links and raise money for those in need. Meet at midday for home-made soup and bread, followed by home-made puddings, on Thursday 5 December at St Mary's, then Thursday 12 December in Christ Church Lower Mews. Donations are made at the end of the meal, and split between the two churches for their chosen charities. If you can provide soup or a pudding or help with serving on Thursday 12th, please speak to Angela Soboslay.

Magi and Epiphany Tea

Jewish Astronomers? Persian Philosophers? Magicians? Princes? On Sunday 5 January at 2:15pm in the Lower Mews, Lore will give an illustrated talk by Margaret Barker on “Legends and Traditions of the Magi” accompanied by an Epiphany tea. Donations, if wished, to Open Doors charity.



Christ Church calendar Dec. 2019

5	Thu	11am Eucharist, followed by coffee Advent Lunch with St Mary's RC, at St Mary's, 12 noon
6	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm
8	Sun	<i>The Second Sunday of Advent</i> 8am Holy Communion (BCP) 7pm Advent Carol Service
12	Thu	11am Eucharist, followed by coffee Advent Lunch with St Mary's RC, at Christ Church, 12 noon Pilgrim Group meeting, 7:30pm
13	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm, in the Lower Mews
15	Sun	<i>The Third Sunday of Advent</i> 4:30pm Choral Evensong
19	Thu	11am Eucharist, followed by coffee
20	Fri	Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm
22	Sun	<i>The Fourth Sunday of Advent</i> 6:30pm Christmas Carol Service
23	Mon	11:30am Levi Swaby's funeral
24	Tue	<i>Christmas Eve</i> 4:30pm Candlelit Crib Service 11:30pm Midnight Mass
25	Wed	<i>Christmas Day</i> 10am Sung Eucharist
26	Thu	<i>Stephen, the first martyr</i> 11am Eucharist, followed by coffee
27	Fri	<i>John, Apostle and Evangelist</i> Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm
28	Sat	<i>The Holy Innocents</i>
29	Sun	<i>The First Sunday of Christmas</i>
Jan	1	Wed <i>New Year's Day / Naming and Circumcision of Jesus</i>
	2	Thu 11am Eucharist, followed by coffee
	3	Fri Cedar Tree café, 11am–1:30pm
	5	Sun <i>The Epiphany</i>

Prayer Cycle for December 2019

Sunday	1	For Lore our priest in charge
Monday	2	For those who work in the hospitality industry
Tuesday	3	That we may have grace to love
Wednesday	4	We give thanks for family and friends
Thursday	5	For those who have been baptised, married or confirmed at Christ Church
Friday	6	For the sick and suffering
Saturday	7	For Mark and the choir
Sunday	8	For our neighbours at St Mary's Catholic Church
Monday	9	For those who work in medicine
Tuesday	10	For countries which have recently experienced forest fires
Wednesday	11	For those who organise and attend events at Christ Church
Thursday	12	That we may have the gift of joy
Friday	13	For those who use and run food banks
Saturday	14	For good relationships between the nations
Sunday	15	For Angela our Verger
Monday	16	For the Queen and all heads of state
Tuesday	17	For those who work in dangerous conditions
Wednesday	18	For our plans for the church building
Thursday	19	For the elderly
Friday	20	For countries experiencing civil unrest
Saturday	21	For the work of Julian House
Sunday	22	For those on the church rotas

Monday 23 For those who work in the transport industry

Tuesday 24 For our charity of the month

Wednesday 25 Thanksgiving for the Incarnation

Thursday 26 For Colin and other clergy spouses

Friday 27 For the mentally ill

Saturday 28 For children and their families

Sunday 29 For Churches, Cathedrals and communities
named Christ Church

Monday 30 For Bible scholars and theologians

Tuesday 31 We give thanks for the blessings of the past year

Long-term Prayer List

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

Joyce Fairburn
Nick Johnson
Hilary and Mary Faulkner
Amber
Sister Catherine
Demelza King
Zayad
Joe Street
Mrs Wright
Gill
Joyce Gabe

Zareb
Fred Matthews
Judith Rogers
Nancy Kiddie
Revd John Brown
Harold Holmes
Alan White
Ian Muir
Angela Morris

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

Rotas for December 2019

Readers and readings, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
1 Dec Advent 1	Isaac Elliott Isaiah 2:1-5	Morny Davison Romans 13:11-end	Charles Rice Matthew 24:36-44
8 Dec Advent 2	Jude Bishop Isaiah 11:1-10	Rebekah Cunningham Romans 15:4-13	Jane Fletcher Matthew 3:1-12
15 Dec Advent 3	Janet Mahto Isaiah 35:1-10	Zoë Bushell James 5:7-10	Penny Edwards Matthew 11:2-11
22 Dec Advent 4	Robin Kerr Isaiah 7:10-16	Nick Wells Romans 1:1-7	Judith Anderson Matthew 1:18-end
29 Dec Christmas 1	Jonathan Stead Isaiah 63:7-9	Alex Soboslay Hebrews 2:10-end	Jude Bishop Matthew 2:13-end
5 Jan Epiphany	Mark Elliott Isaiah 60:1-6	Thomas Wolker-Darley Ephesians 3:1-12	Sylvia Ayers Matthew 2:1-12

Laity rota, Sunday 10am Eucharist

	Chalice assistants	Sidespeople	Intercessions
1 Dec	Angela Soboslay, David Rawlings	Ken Ayers, Sylvia Ayers	Rebekah Cunningham
8 Dec	Keri Chivers, Clive Tilling	Jane Nicholson, Morny Davison	Penny Edwards
15 Dec	David Rawlings, Jonathan Stead	Ken Ayers, Sylvia Ayers	Ian Hay Davison
22 Dec	Janet Mahto, Angela Soboslay	Jonathan Stead, Morny Davison	Mark Elliott
29 Dec	TBC	TBC	TBC
5 Jan	Janet Mahto, Angela Soboslay	Ken Ayers, Sylvia Ayers	Sarah Jones

Who's who at Christ Church

Priest-in-charge	Revd Lore Chumbley 07595 294146 lore.chumbley@me.com	Tower Captain, Ringing Master	Will Willans
Supporting clergy	Revd Canon Simon Tatton-Brown 01225 835404 simontb@christchurchbath.org	Tower Secretary	Ian Hay Davison 07932 160482 bells@christchurchbath.org
Reader, Director of Music	Mark Elliott 01225 445360 mark.elliott@christchurchbath.org	Steeple Keeper	David Kelly
Churchwarden, Safeguarding officer	Lewis Boyd 07739 989639 lewis.boyd@christchurchbath.org	Publicity co-ordinators	Janet Mahto Lewis Boyd
Churchwarden, Cedar Tree café organiser	Janet Mahto 01225 424860 janetmahto@gmail.com	Laity rotas	Judith Bishop
Verger	Angela Soboslay 01225 333297 angela.soboslay@christchurchbath.org	Prayer cycle	Virginia Knight
Chair of Trustees	Charles Rice 01225 332915 charles.rice@btopenworld.com	Junior Church	Emma Elliott
Treasurer	David Bishop 01225 869409 david.bishop@christchurchbath.org	Churches Together in Bath, USPG	Rebekah Cunningham
Christ Church Link editor	Alex Soboslay 07769 655927 alexs@christchurchbath.org	Traidcraft orders	Judith Bishop
Event/concert bookings, weekly notice sheet	Judith Bishop 01225 869409 concerts@christchurchbath.org notices@christchurchbath.org	Mission to Seafarers	Sylvia Ayers
		Deanery Synod Reps	Sarah Kerr Jane Nicholson Brenda Wall

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 normal 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. There is the option of separate activities for children in Junior Church groups during our 10am Sunday service.

As well as worship on Sunday and Thursday mornings, there are many other activities going on in our community. We have our own weekly community café every Friday. The musical tradition of the church continues to thrive, and we have an active choir; new singers of all ages are always very welcome. Our ecumenical Pilgrim Group provides a space for exploration and discussion of faith in an open and non-judgemental setting.

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
- 4:30pm Choral Evensong
Usually on the third Sunday of every month, but see website or notice board for details

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



Contacting us

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(answer phone)
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