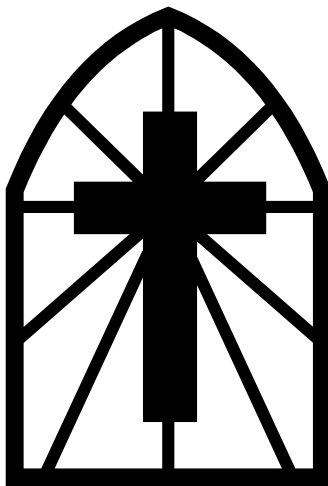


CHRIST
CHURCH
CHALLENGE



April 2009

CHRIST CHURCH, JULIAN ROAD

DIOCESE OF BATH AND WELLS IN THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

SUNDAY SERVICES

8.00am	Holy Communion
10.00am	Family Communion, Junior Church & Crèche
First Sundays & Festivals	Choral Evensong and Sermon at 4.30pm
Other Sundays	Said Evening Prayer at 5.30pm

*There is amplification to assist the hard of hearing***CHOIR**

Junior Choir Practice	Friday 6.30pm - 8.00pm
Adult Practice	Friday 7.30pm - 9.00pm

*New singers always welcome - please contact Director of Music 01225 445360***BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES, FUNERALS**

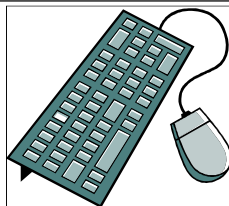
By arrangement. Please 'phone the Vestry 338869 / Officiating Minister 427462

*Angela and Chris, the churchwardens, would like to know about people who are ill, or of any circumstances in which the ministry of the Church would be welcome.***We wish you a blessed and joyful Easter**

God the Father,
 by whose love Christ was raised from the dead,
 open to you who believe the gates of everlasting life.
 God the Son,
 who in bursting the grave has won a glorious victory,
 give you joy as you share the Easter faith.
 God the Holy Spirit,
 whom the risen Lord breathed into his disciples,
 empower you and fill you with Christ's peace.
 And the blessing of God almighty,
 the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
 be among us and remain with us always. Amen.

Forum...

At a Diocesan Clergy Meeting we were challenged to name three sermons that we could remember hearing. We were invited to say what made these memorable. The obvious intention was to help us to make our own sermons more helpful and stimulating, but why try to change the practices of a lifetime?



As somebody who cannot recall many of my own sermons, it surprised me that I started to reflect on a sermon I heard forty years ago. It was preached by a Priest well known for his extempore sermons that did not always have a recognisable theme running from the beginning to the end.

His sermon aids on that Sunday consisted of a collection of newspapers. His theme was that we should use the newspapers as a springboard for prayer. He illustrated the point by thumbing through each paper in turn and selecting an article and relating each to some aspect of prayer.

Newspapers are certainly a good source for prayer material, although the images we see on television are often even more stimulating as we confront the realities of war, poverty and much else. I should like to develop that line of thought and share the effect of something I read in a newspaper. It was triggered by an arresting headline "The unfinished business of Good Friday". Although we were in the middle of Lent, it did not relate to the events of Holy Week, it was a comment on the Good Friday agreement in Northern Ireland and was triggered by those recent tragic events that saw the death of two soldiers and a policeman. That certainly provided material for prayer, but it also led me back to those words of Saint Paul in his First Letter to the Corinthians

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing,
but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (Ch1 v18)

The events of Good Friday, the agonising death on the cross, was indeed unfinished business that was brought to fruition on Easter Day. Many people have no problem understanding the agony of a crucifixion and would probably not challenge the literal truth that Christ was crucified. Where they part company with us is in accepting the Resurrection. This mystery is one of the topics covered in Bishop John Robinson's book, "But That I Can't Believe". He says that if you don't believe in the Resurrection "You do not know the thing that "hit" the first disciples, and that transformed a bunch of frightened, disillusioned men into a community capable of changing the world". He considers briefly the story of the empty tomb because "This, I find, is what most people mean when they

ask “Do you believe in the Resurrection?” Robinson notes that St. Paul never once specifically mentions the empty tomb because it was not central to him. “What was central to him and for all the early Christians was the compelling conviction that Christ was alive in them... What happened to His body we shall never know”.

Robinson concludes that “the key matter for those first disciples, as for succeeding generations of Christians, was that Christ made himself known in the breaking and sharing of bread”.

I said that I have trouble remembering my own sermons, but one I do remember was when I suggested that a miracle takes place at every Eucharist, when Christ becomes present and makes himself known in the consecrated elements. That is the very essence of the joy we share on Easter Day. This we express in the acclamation:

Alleluia. Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

*Have a happy Easter
Cliff*

Lectionary for April

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
Apr 5	Palm Sunday		
	Isaiah 50.4-9a	No Reading	John 12.12-16
12	Easter Day		
	No Reading	Acts 10.34-43	Mark 16.1-8
19	Easter 2		
	Acts 4.32-35	1 John 1.1-2.2	John 20.19-31
26	Easter 3		
	Acts 3.12-19	1 John 3.1-7	Luke 24.36b-48
May 3	Easter 4		
	Acts 4.5-12	1 John 3.16-24	John 10.11-18

Church Calendar for April

Apr	5	Sun	PALM SUNDAY	
			4.30pm	Choral Evensong
~ Please see pages 10 and 11 for details of our Holy Week Services ~				
	9	Thur	MAUNDY THURSDAY	
	10	Fri	GOOD FRIDAY	
			The Cedar Tree Community Café closed for Good Friday	
	11	Sat	EASTER EVE	
	12	Sun	EASTER DAY	
	16	Thur	11.30am	MU Deanery Prayers at Wells Cathedral
	17	Fri	11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café
	18	Sat		Genesis Canal Challenge
	19	Sun	SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER	
	21	Tues	St Anselm of Canterbury	
	23	Thur	St George, Patron Saint of England	
	24	Fri	11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café
	25	Sat	St Mark, Evangelist	
	26	Sun	THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER	
			Christ Church Duty at Genesis Lunchbox	
	28	Tues	CTB Committee	
	29	Wed	St Catherine of Siena	
May	1	Fri	11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café
	3	Sun	FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	
			4.30pm	Choral Evensong

.org...see our website for latest details...www.christchurchbath.org...see o

Laity Rota for April

		OT Readers	NT Readers	Gospel
April	5	Emma Elliott	Richard Gabe	Bev Pont
	12	David Marles	Eileen Selmes	Martin Palmer
	19	Nicky Gladstone	Bob Siderfin	Esme Buss
	26	Morny Davison	Penny Edwards	Georgina
May	3	David Bishop	Jane Fletcher	Margaret Heath
	10	Mark Elliott	Sylvia Ayers	Matthew Jones

Chalice Assistants

April	5	Margaret Burrows	Margaret Heath
	12	Janet Mahto	Jane Fletcher
	19	Penny Edwards	Bob Siderfin
	26	Andrew Sillett	Tessa Claridge
Ma	3	Bev Pont	Margaret Burrows
	10	Margaret Heath	Janet Mahto

Intercessors

April	5	Rev Cliff Burrows
	12	Georgina Bowman
	19	Rev Antony Claridge
	26	Mark Elliott
May	3	Martin Palmer
	10	Penny Edwards



Sidespeople		8am	10am	
April	5	Arthur Jones	Morny Davison	Tessa Claridge
	12	Clive Tilling	Margaret Silver	Frank Twissell
	19	Arthur Jones	Ken and Sylvia Ayers	
	26	Clive Tilling	Andrew Sillett	Janet Mahto
May	3	Arthur Jones	Margaret Heath	Morny Davison
	10	Clive Tilling	Margaret Silver	Frank Twissell

~ Bath & Wells celebrates 1100 years ~

- ✚ Sunday 5th April - 9th April
Youth Pilgrimage from Sherborne Abbey to Wells Cathedral
- ✚ 4th May - 4th July
Peter's Progress—Bishop Peter (Bath & Wells) will walk the bounds of the Diocese.
- ✚ Saturday 20th June, Wells Cathedral
6pm - Choral Festival
Over 300 singers from about 40 choirs, with the cathedral choir. The music will reflect 1100 years of daily worship in the diocese.
- ✚ Saturday 4th July
A Day of Celebration in and around the grounds of Glastonbury Abbey. Free entry.
- ✚ 16th September
1100th Anniversary Lecture at Bath Abbey from Mrs Mary Robinson, former President of the Irish Republic and UN Human Rights Commissioner.
- ✚ Saturday 19th September
Sponsored Walk to Wells, in aid of Zambia Link projects and The Children's Society. Open to all.
- ✚ Monday 21st September (note new date)
Diocesan Cricket Match at Taunton's County Ground. A special Clergy XI v President's XI to which everyone is invited.
- ✚ Friday 25th September
Radio 4's Any Questions from Wells. Don't forget to tune in!
- ✚ Saturday 21st November, 2.00pm
Songs of Praise at Wells Cathedral, a service to formally bring to a close our year of celebration.



..as apes our grandsires..

At this point a dreamy pupil woke up and said brightly, "but surely Pope was long before Darwin?" It has been not been necessary to rove far from Bath to hear more of Professor Richard Dawkins and to hear him shot down, not by bishops but fellow scientists.

Dr James Le Fanu, for example, in his talk at the Literature Festival he said that scientists realised the theory of natural selection could not explain everything. When I asked if he thought he, rather than a bishop, might win over Professor Dawkins I was told from the platform that Dawkins would only shout more loudly.

Professor William Gosling, who spoke to the Ecumenical Study Fellowship and others at Ammerdown, is both a physicist who studied under G P Thomson and a Quaker who enjoys Anglo-Catholicism. He suggested that we were entering a sixth paradigm shift, referring to Kūng, who, I understand, got the idea from Kuhn. Our speaker was a great Teilhard de Chardin enthusiast and linked theology and science. I gather it is thought that whereas in science a paradigm shift is total rejection of previously held theories, in religion there is a tendency to cling on to old beliefs and a less complete and sudden change. P6 will take much more account of science.

A C Grayling, another speaker at the Literature Festival, also talked a great deal about science and the importance of understanding science if we were to make informed ethical decisions on, for example, climate change or medical ethics. He harped back to C P Snow's two cultures and to Tom Henn of "the Apple and the Spectroscope", reminding me of facing an essay on "Ignorance of the arts renders a person uncivilised, ignorance of science causes no reproach." Discuss.

In Christ Church we are fortunate in having science so well represented. Lewis told us in the Lent group there was a York Course on science and religion. Perhaps we should attempt it later? It is helpful to try to be able to counter the Dawkinses of the world with some understanding.

Margaret Heath

There is an old Jewish joke that when he finished creation God turned to the Archangel Michael and said, "I just hope it works".



Genesis Trust Sunday Centre



Christ Church takes its turn on the Genesis Sunday Centre later this month.

If you are able to help, please sign up at the back of church.

The Sunday Centre is based at Nexus Methodist Church and is open from 1pm-5pm every Sunday. It offers low cost Sunday lunches in a warm and friendly environment and Sunday papers and games are available.

Two or three of our congregation help for shifts of an hour or so at a time. If you've never helped before and are able to spare some time on Sunday, why not look on the noticeboard and see if there's still a slot free?

Our Calendar Correspondent Explains...

“St Anselm of Canterbury” (21st April)

Since Lesser Festivals are omitted when they clash with Principal Feasts and Holy Days, this year we lose handful of commemorations to Holy Week and Easter including Dietrich Bonhoeffer, William Law and William of Ockham (yes, the one with the razor). As their dates fall later in the month, a brace of Archbishops of Canterbury are spared this year, Alphege, one-time Abbot of Bath Abbey, and Anselm.

The agnostic and Christian buses, together with Darwin's centenary have rattled the cages of Dawkins and other fanatics on all sides of the debate. In truth, anyone who thinks they've got a knock-down argument for or against the existence of God should take a look at the list of people who disagree with them, and learn a little humility.

St Anselm had his own proofs of God, which probably sounds a little strained to modern ears. Roughly, he defined God as the greatest thing you can think of. Now, since it is better to exist than not exist, and you are thinking of the greatest thing, that thing must exist. Therefore God exists.

However, Anselm did not attempt to deduce Christianity from first principles. He clearly wanted his beliefs to be built on solid foundations, but he also saw that the belief came first. “Blind unbelief is sure to err and scan his works in vain.”

Or, as St Anselm put it :

Nor do I seek to understand that I may believe, but I believe that I may understand. For this, too, I believe, that, unless I first believe, I shall not understand.

~ **Easter at Christ Church** ~

During Holy Week you are invited to join us on the pilgrimage of the cross, the destination of which is the celebration of Easter Day.



Palm Sunday - 5 April

8:00am Holy Communion
10:00am Sung Eucharist
4:30pm Choral Evensong

On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week a Eucharist will be celebrated at one of the three churches in the Local Ministry Group. Each service will include a reflection on the theme “Signs of Life” given by Brother Colin Wilfred SSF, a Franciscan Friar and Anglican priest from Canterbury.

Monday 6 April

8:00pm Holy Communion with meditation
St Stephen’s Church, Lansdown

Tuesday 7 April

8:00pm Holy Communion with meditation
Christ Church

Wednesday 8 April

11:00am Holy Communion with Lent Lunch
Christ Church
8:00pm Holy Communion with meditation
St Mary’s Charlcombe

~ Easter at Christ Church ~

Maundy Thursday - 9 April

7:30pm Agape Meal
We share a simple meal and hear the story of Jesus' Last Supper

Good Friday - 10 April

12:30pm The Gardener's Tale
A child-friendly service telling the Good Friday story - followed by hot cross buns

1:15pm Music and Meditations
Choral music with sacred and secular readings

2:00pm An Hour at the Cross
Prayer and meditation

Easter Eve - 11 April

8:00pm The Easter Vigil
A short service followed by a reflective vigil

Easter Day - 12 April

5:45am Service at the Break of Day
A simple service in the garden of St. Mary's, Charlcombe

8.00am Holy Communion

10:00am Family Communion
A sung service followed by the Great Christ Church Egg Hunt!



Prayer Cycle for April

April

- Sun* 5 We pray for the safety of those who are travelling.
- Mon* 6 That the Holy Spirit may guide all our prayers and meditations this Holy Week and prepare us for Easter.
- Tues* 7 For those who dedicate their lives to the service of others.
- Wed* 8 For those who attending the “Signs of Life” talks this year. For those unable to attend church during a working Holy Week.
- Thurs* 9 For the fellowship of our Church community.
- Fri* 10 For those who feel abandoned or betrayed.
- Sat* 11 For those who wait for healing and peace. For those who sit with them.
- Sun* 12 Alleluia! The Lord is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!
- Mon* 13 .For our friends, for feasts, for all the blessings poured upon us
- Tues* 14 For our Clergy Team. For Antony’s continued good recovery.
- Wed* 15 For Chris and Angela, our church wardens.
- Thurs* 16 For the work of Dorothy House, for those benefiting from its care and for their families.
- Fri* 17 For Mark, our Director of Music and David, our Organist. For our choir.
- Sat* 18 For Rowan our Archbishop and for Peter our Bishop. For all Anglican Bishops and Primates.
- Sun* 19 In the Churches Together in Bath rota, we pray for the clergy and congregation of St John’s RC and St Mary’s RC.

- Mon* 20 For Judith, who prepares our weekly notice sheet.
- Tues* 21 For Angela, our Verger.
- Wed* 22 For all our readers, chalice assistants, intercessors and sidespeople.
For Sarah, who draws up the Laity Rotas.
- Thurs* 23 For our LMG partners, St Stephen's and St Mary's Charlcombe.
- Fri* 24 For the work of the Cedar Tree. For Nicky and all the helpers.
- Sat* 25 For all who help to run our Junior Church, for Sarah who co-ordinates the rota, and for all our children.
- Sun* 26 For Cyril and Mark our Readers; for Sarah's ministry at Batheaston.
- Mon* 27 For our hospitals, nursing homes and local surgeries and for those who work for the emergency services.
- Tues* 28 For Margaret, Sarah and Lewis, our Deanery Synod representatives.
- Wed* 29 For David, our Treasurer and magazine editor.
- Thurs* 30 Let us thank God for the blessings of the month now ending.
- May*
- Fri* 1 For those whose income or job is insecure in the economic crisis.
- Sat* 2 For civilians caught up in wars and violence throughout the world.
- Sun* 3 For the work of the Mission to Seafarers.
- Mon* 4 For those suffering from depression, and for those who love them; that they will find the strength to continue each day.
- Tues* 5 That leaders of the rich nations will realise that endless growth can't happen in a finite world.

The Bath Interfaith Group programme for 2009 includes the following event.

Tuesday 21 April at 7.30pm
Minerva Centre, Bath

Sarah Sheppard will talk on
Every picture tells a story
Christian Art: the Narrative of Faith

Phone 01225 315591 for details.

All Bath Interfaith group meetings are free.

The full programme is available at

www.re-bathnes.org.uk/attach/interfaith_2009.pdf

A number of friends of Christ Church are involved with the Interfaith Group. Sarah is a Reader and a Trustee of Christ Church.

A Friend



In Deed

The Christ Church Friends in Deed scheme is designed to provide a network of good neighbours who have volunteered to do the neighbourly things we used to do for each other when we lived closer together. When the need arises, they are prepared on request to:

- make friendship visits or telephone calls
- do shopping at times of illness or infirmity
- offer or find sources of advice
- handle occasional non-specialist odd jobs

All areas in which church members live are covered by the Friends in Deed scheme. If you need or know of someone else who needs help, you should in the first instance contact the Friends in Deed Co-ordinators, Jane Fletcher (01225 463758) and Yvonne Morris (01225 425555). They will then get in touch with the local contact best able to provide the help that is needed.

Officiating Minister	The Rev Antony Claridge, 62 Cranwells Park, Weston, Bath BA1 2YE 01225 427462
Assistant Clergy	The Rev Cliff Burrows, Stonecroft, Entry Hill Drive, Bath BA2 5NL 01225 334743
Reader / Director of Music	Mark Elliott, 32 Charlcombe Lane, Larkhall, Bath BA1 6NS 01225 445360
Reader / Magazine Distributor and Editor Emeritus	Cyril Selmes, 10 Daffords Buildings, Larkhall, Bath BA1 6SG 01225 420039
Churchwarden	Chris Gladstone, 5 Westwoods, Box Road, Bath BA1 7QE 01225 859969
Churchwarden / Verger	Angela Soboslay, 285 Newbridge Road, Bath BA1 3HN 01225 333297
Church Council Secretary	David Bishop, The Old Tannery, Turleigh, Bradford on Avon, BA15 2HG 01225 869409
Treasurer to the Trustees / Magazine Editor	David Marles, 5 Westwoods, Box Road, Bath BA1 7QE 01225 859969
Chairman of the Trustees	Yvonne Morris, 3 Summerhill Road, Sion Hill, Bath BA1 2UP. 01225 425555
Secretary to the Trustees	Nicky Gladstone, 5 Westwoods, Box Road, Bath BA1 7QE 01225 859969
Deanery Synod / Laity Rotas / Junior Church	Sarah Hiscock, 2 Mortimer Close, Bath BA1 4EN 07983 556759
Deanery Synod / Churches Together in Bath (CTB)	Margaret Heath, St Lawrence, Lansdown Road, Bath BA1 5TD 01225 428272
Deanery Synod / Christian Aid	Lewis Boyd, 5 Jesse Hughes Court, Lower Swainswick, BA1 7BE 01225 329190
Mothers' Union (MU)	Margaret Burrows, Stonecroft, Entry Hill Drive, Bath BA2 5NL 01225 334743
CTB / MU Secretary & Treasurer / Missions to Seafarers / Calendar	Sylvia Ayers, 5 Forester Avenue, Bath BA2 6QD 01225 463976
USPG	Adrian Pegg, 68 London Road West, Bath BA1 7DA 01225 858809
Children's Society	
Organist	David Wrigley, 3 Haydon Gate, Radstock, BA3 3RB 01761 439355
Concert and Bookings Co-ordinator / Weekly Notices	Judith Bishop, 01225 869409 Email concerts@christchurchbath.org

CHRIST CHURCH, JULIAN ROAD

DIOCESE OF BATH AND WELLS IN THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

PAST HISTORY

Christ Church was built at the end of the 18th Century by the socially concerned clergy and lay people for those excluded from worship by the system of pew rents. It was probably the first church of that time to provide seating free of charge. Early supporters included the Archbishops of Canterbury and York; the great evangelical campaigner against slavery, William Wilberforce; Philip Pusey, the father of E B Pusey; and Martin Stafford Smith, the godfather of John Keble, who were both founders of the Oxford Movement. The building was designed by the famous Bath architect John Palmer, who was responsible for the completion of the Great Pump Room, Lansdown Crescent and St Swithin's, the parish church of Walcot. In November 1998, the congregation, friends and well-wishers from all over the world celebrated the bicentenary.

MINISTRY

Christ Church is unusual in not being a parish church. Much of the vitality of its life and worship derives from the fact that the congregation comes from all areas of the city and the surrounding districts. Whilst there is no full-time paid vicar, there is a non-stipendiary priest-in-charge, who leads a ministerial team of ordained and lay people. Worship at Christ Church largely reflects the traditions of those responsible for its foundation and the rich diversity of the Church of England as a whole. Thus, preaching and Bible-based teaching is firmly set within a liturgical setting which is best described as liberal and catholic.

SERVICES

The 8am Holy Communion is either Book of Common Prayer (1662) or Common Worship. At 10am the Eucharist is celebrated according to Common Worship. On the first Sunday of each month, there is a full Choral Evensong. A Junior Church and a Crèche cater for the children and young people who attend the 10am service. We hold special all-age services once a month and at festivals such as Easter, Christmas, Mothering Sunday and Harvest.

There are a variety of mid-week activities including Holy Communion at 11am every Wednesday during Lent, followed by lunch). The notice board and the weekly notice sheet provide details of discussion and prayer groups which are held at different times throughout the year. An all-age choir, which rehearses on Friday evenings maintains the much-admired music tradition at Christ Church.

CHURCH COMMUNICATIONS

Published on the first Sunday of every month, Christ Church Challenge brings news of the church locally, in the Diocese, and throughout the world. Our website is constantly updated and can be found at www.christchurchbath.org

**The deadline for articles for the magazine is the
15th of the preceding month.
Thank you.**