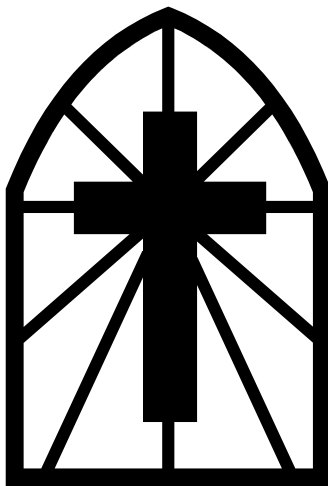


CHRIST
CHURCH
CHALLENGE



February 2010

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.

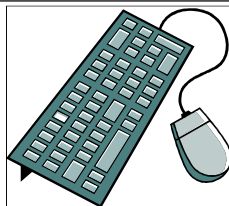
As memories of this year's snow start to fade and we start our journey through Lent towards the new life of Easter, have you considered going to a Lent course? Christ Church's regular Home Group will become a weekly fixture, studying "A Way Through the Wilderness". Details can be found on page 14.

Also, please take a look at Sarah Jones' article on page 7, discussing the future of Christ Church Challenge.

Many thanks to Sarah and to all of our contributors.

Forum...

Cold and Heat



February is normally the coldest month of the year—let us hope that this year that proves not to be the case, we have had quite enough ice and snow and cold winds in December and January to last until next winter. It is also the month of Valentines Day, Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent, as well as being the beginning of the second Semester here at the university. A time of new beginnings, Lenten abstinence, and the first signs of spring.

Just recently Andrew and I have had our own time of contrast—after the bitter cold of the New Year we finally (after a four and a half hour delay, two and a half of which were spent on the plane, awaiting the Canarian Air Traffic Control System to come back on line after crashing!) flew off to Lanzarote for a week in the sun—and rain as it happened, but no complaints, the temperature was 20 degrees warmer than Bath! We had never been there before, and basically it was like living on a Volcano for a week. The terrain was very moon like, especially in the South of the island in Timanfaya National Park, where the larva-flows resembled acres of porous pumice stone, and the only vegetation was minute lichen. In a couple of thousand years, plants will grow from the lichen. At various places it was possible to pour water into vents in the earth, which within less than a minute resulted in hot steam escaping with a very loud whoosh which made us jump in spite of being warned about the noise! We also saw plant stalks being thrown into a crevice resulting in instant fire. Not quite Moses at the burning bush, but not far off. Although you could not really describe the scenery as pretty, there was a stark beauty to the many different colours to be found in the volcanic rocks, and the lunar like terrain.

When the main volcano erupted 280 years ago, and the whole of the south of the island was evacuated to the North, the Parish Priest from Yaiza—a small town that was almost totally destroyed—decided to stay behind and document the volcanic eruption which lasted nearly 6 years—the longest recorded eruption ever recorded. He said that God would protect him, and this proved to be the case.

Seeing such fascinating landscapes and hearing about the history, geology and vulcanology of the island certainly helped to put things in perspective. The farmers have to make semi circular walls of stones to shelter each individual vine planted in the many dark volcanic-soiled vineyards, in order to protect them from the wind which blows straight off

the Sahara in nearby Africa, as well as the Trade Winds just north of the Canary Islands. There is so much that we in the West take for granted in the way of lights that work, shops that are full, fresh drinking water that materialises out of our taps—in Lanzarote all the tap water comes from the sea by way of the desalinisation plant, but it is not suitable for drinking.

In contrast my Orthodox colleague at the University, Mother Sarah, spent three weeks over Christmas in Kenya, staying with 2 of her former lodgers who live in Nairobi. Despite the fact that they live in a newly built house with a very modern kitchen, the only water came daily by donkey.

Travelling to other continents and countries helps us to gain a wider understanding of life, and a better knowledge of the conditions that our fellow brothers and sisters have to live with. At the start of a new year it is good to be reminded of how much we have to be grateful for, and to be challenged to think how we can simplify our own life styles, and learn, like that Priest in Yiaza, to live more by faith. Also to remember how insignificant and short-lived each one of us is in the total scheme of things, yet at another level we are not insignificant for each and every one of us is loved by, and beloved of, God. A belated Happy New Year to you all.

Angela

PS This article was written before the appalling earthquake in Haiti. Since seeing all those pictures of devastation on our TV screens and in the newspapers, and the terrible sufferings being endured by the people of Haiti, it makes us even more aware of the fragility of the planet, and our need to be grateful for all our many blessings.

In Lent I shall be doing a sponsored slim to raise funds for the orphan slum kids in Nairobi that are dependant on two daily meals given by the Orthodox Church there. If you would like to sponsor me, please do. I aim to lose a stone. Please sponsor me £1 per lb you think I will actually lose!

Church Calendar for February

Feb	7	Sun	SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT	
	12	Fri	11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café
	14	Sun	SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT	
	17	Wed	ASH WEDNESDAY	
			11.00am	Holy Communion
			7.30pm	Holy Communion
	19	Fri	11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café
	21	Sun	FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT	
	23	Tues	Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, Martyr	
			Deanery Synod Meeting	
			Start of Fairtrade Fortnight	
	26	Fri	11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café
	27	Sat	George Herbert, Priest, Poet	
			MU Deanery Service, Holy Trinity, Combe Down	
	28	Sun	SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT	
Mar	1	Mon	ST DAVID, Patron Saint of Wales	
	5	Fri	11.00am	The Cedar Tree Community Café
	7	Sun	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT	
			4.30pm	Choral Evensong

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

See page 10 for this month's lectionary

Laity Rota for February

		OT Readers	NT Readers	Gospel
February	7	Emma Elliott	Richard Gabe	Bev Pont
	14	David Marles	Eileen Selmes	Martin Palmer
	21	Nicky Gladstone	Bob Siderfin	Esme Buss
	28	Morny Davison	Penny Edwards	Rosanne Gabe
March	7	David Bishop	Mark Elliott	Jane Fletcher
	14	Sarah Cade	Margaret Heath	Sylvia Ayers

Chalice Assistants

February	7	Tessa Claridge	Bev Pont
	14	Margaret Burrows	Janet Mahto
	21	Jane Fletcher	Penny Edwards
	28	Bob Siderfin	Andrew Sillett
March	7	Tessa Claridge	Bev Pont
	14	Margaret Burrows	Janet Mahto

Intercessors

February	7	Penny Edwards
	14	Bev Pont
	21	David Marles
	28	Rev Cliff Burrows
March	7	Rev Antony Claridge
	14	Mark Elliott



Sidespeople		8am	10am	
February	7	Arthur Jones	Tessa Claridge	Emma Elliott
	14	Clive Tilling	Margaret Silver	Frank Twissell
	21	Arthur Jones	Ken & Sylvia Ayers	
	28	Clive Tilling	Andrew Sillett	Janet Mahto
March	7	Arthur Jones	Morny Davison	Margaret Heath
	14	Clive Tilling	Tessa Claridge	Emma Elliott

All Change!

As Cliff pointed out to us all in a recent sermon, things are going to change around here. As most people will be aware Chris, Nicky, David, Josh and Lizzy are leaving us this summer to begin a new stage in their lives as they move to Yorkshire. There are so many ways in which they contribute to the life of Christ Church, and we know we will miss them greatly, not least for their friendship and fellowship.



One of the many tasks [ahem! Ed] currently undertaken by David Marles is the editorship of Christ Church Challenge, and this too will require a new volunteer upon his departure. Matthew and I have been asked whether we would take on this role as part of our "publicity brief" and we have thought about it carefully.

After discussion with others (including the current editorial team) we feel that the future of the publication may lie in a new direction. We think that fewer editions (perhaps a quarterly format) would mean each issue would be full of high quality content without fatiguing our regular writers. We would also try and bring a more external outlook to the content, while still producing something of interest to the existing congregation of course.

Change is, of course, something that Anglicans are known to be allergic to! However, Matthew and I cannot commit to continuing the magazine in its current form. If you want the existing format to remain, then please step forward. Likewise, we're not trying to develop a monopoly on producing church publications. If you think you would like to take on this project and develop it, then now is your opportunity.

We will continue to coordinate other publicity efforts aimed at our external audience and we see this as a priority. Without such publicity, it is hard to see how Christ Church will grow and develop as a Christian community. Within this context, we'd be delighted to work alongside someone else who wants to become magazine editor. If you'd like to discuss this with me or with David, then do get in touch or have a chat after church, it would be great to hear other people's ideas about what the magazine should become, and how this could be achieved.

Sarah Jones (mrsjones11@btinternet.com or 01225 443284)

Nearly in Lent

Let's do something about it

As you read this Lent will be just two weeks away. Perhaps a timely reminder of what it means would be a good thing, as would a resolution about what you should do about it...

Forty days

Lent is the period of six weeks leading up to Easter, the most important festival in the Christian calendar. It starts on Ash Wednesday and climaxes during Easter Week. It lasts a total of 40 days and ends on Holy Saturday or Easter Eve. The forty days does not include Sundays, which are always days on which we celebrate the Resurrection.

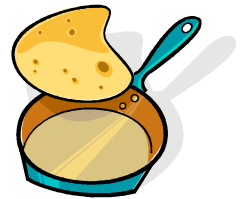


Temptation in the wilderness

Lent started in the 4th Century: it was introduced to encourage a return to self-discipline. At that time, baptisms normally took place on Easter Day and members of the church would join those preparing for baptism by fasting for several weeks beforehand. Gradually Christians began to associate the fast with the forty day period when Jesus went into the desert to fast and pray in preparation for his ministry. During this time he was tempted several times by Satan, but was able to resist.

Start with pancakes

The day before Lent starts is Shrove Tuesday, also known as Pancake Day. Traditionally, Christians gave up meat, fat, eggs and dairy products for Lent. This was the last chance to use up some of these foods before Lent began.



Today people often give up chocolate or alcohol. If you decide to do this, you might consider donating the money saved to the church or a charity of your choice.



Last chance for a party

Shrove Tuesday is the last day for a party before submitting to the discipline of Lent starting on the

Lent. Festivities take place in many cities all over the world, including Mardi Gras (which means Fat Tuesday) in New Orleans, Carnival in Rio de Janeiro and Venice. People dress up, wear masks, parade and dance in the streets.

Sign of penitence



On Ash Wednesday our church, in common with many, will hold a Eucharist during which worshippers will be marked on the forehead with a cross of ashes as a sign of penitence and mortality. Traditionally, the ashes come from burning the palm crosses from Palm Sunday of the previous year.

Doing something about it

Lent is for doing as well as not doing. It is not a time simply to sit back and do nothing. It is a time for spiritual activity. Try spending just half an hour a day reading this year's Lent Book (see page 14), join people from our local churches in our Lent group called *A Way Through the Wilderness* and learn something about experiencing God in times of crisis (see details on page 14). Alternatively, you could drop into Bath Abbey for an hour on Mondays for the Lent lectures (see page 11). In these ways and with a just a few minutes more prayer or quiet time, you could keep a good Lent.

With the start of Fairtrade Fortnight this month (fairtrade.org.uk) there is a campaign to get people to swap their usual purchases for Fairtrade items. If you buy Fairtrade bananas, or tea, or socks, you can register your swap online. They're aiming to get one million and one swaps by the end of the Fortnight.

Or why not "Buy What You Believe" and try out the ethical superstore (ethicalsuperstore.com). All of their products are Fairtrade, Organic, Eco Friendly or allow the consumer to purchase in line with their beliefs, and are committed to providing as much information as possible. You can read lots more online.

Lectionary for February

	Old Testament	New Testament	Gospel
Feb 7	Second Sunday before Lent		
	Genesis 2.4b-9, 15-25	Revelation 4	Luke 8.22-25
14	Sunday next before Lent		
	Exodus 34. 29-35	2 Corinthians 3.12-4.2	Luke 9.28-36
21	First Sunday of Lent		
	Deuteronomy 26.1-11	Romans 10. 8b-13	Luke 4. 1-13
28	Second Sunday of Lent		
	Genesis 15.1-12, 17,18	Philippians 3.17-4.1	Luke 13.31-35
Mar 7	Third Sunday of Lent		
		1 Corinthians 10.1-13	Luke 13.31-end

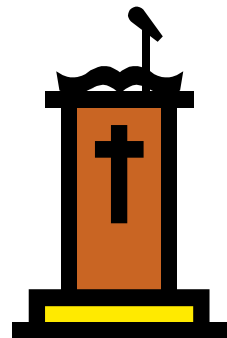
Bath Abbey Lent Lectures

Matters of Death and Life

Mondays in Lent at 7.30 pm

Sometimes death is at the very centre of our public discourse, as it has been over the question of assisted suicide and stem cell research. More commonly, however, death is little discussed, even in churches. This series of Lent Lectures represents an opportunity to engage in ethical debates that have hit the headlines, at the same time as considering some of the pastoral, psychological and spiritual issues that arise in our personal encounter with matters of death and life.

See the page opposite for details of the lectures.



Bath Abbey Lent Lectures—Matters of Death and Life***Mondays in Lent at 7.30 pm***

February 22nd Preparing for Death Nigel Rawlinson

Nigel Rawlinson is an Anglican priest and member of All Saints, Weston, works in a “workplace ministry” as a doctor, both in A&E at the Bristol Royal Infirmary and in Dorothy House Hospice.

March 1st Assisted Suicide Andrew Goddard

Andrew Goddard is Tutor in Ethics at Trinity College, Bristol. He is also editor of the Anglican theological journal *Anvil* and a member of the Church of England’s Faith and Order Advisory Group.

March 8th Living with Loss Linda Blair

Linda Blair is a secular clinical psychologist who has written columns in *The Guardian* and in *Psychologies* magazine. Alongside her work as a writer and broadcaster she maintains a practice as a cognitive therapist in Bath.

March 15th Loss and God David Runcorn

David Runcorn is an Anglican priest who has worked at different times as a vicar, theological trainer and, most recently as Ministry Development Director in the Diocese of Lichfield. He now works ‘free range’ as a writer, spiritual director, retreat leader and conference speaker.

March 22nd IVF & Stem Cells Lee Rayfield

Lee Rayfield is an ordained scientist who has been Bishop of Swindon since June 2005. He was a member of the UK Gene Therapy Advisory Committee from 2000-2009 and, as a Bishop, has assisted the Church of England to reflect on its response to a range of challenging ethical issues.



Prayer Cycle for February

February

- Sun 7** For those who are depressed, or wrestling with other mental health problems. For those who love and watch over them.
- Mon 8** For our Clergy Team.
- Tues 9** For Rowan our Archbishop and for Peter our Bishop. For all Anglican Bishops and Primates.
- Wed 10** For Judith, who prepares our weekly notice sheet.
- Thurs 11** We pray for all forms of fellowship in our congregation, particularly the Home Group, meeting tonight.
- Fri 12** For the work of the Cedar Tree. For Nicky and all the helpers.
- Sat 13** For David, our Treasurer.
- Sun 14** For all the children in our congregation. For those who lead the Junior Church.
- Mon 15** For Margaret, Andrew and Lewis, our Deanery Synod representatives.
- Tues 16** For the abundance of the earth; for our ability to enjoy it.
- Wed 17** As we start our Lenten journey, we pray for a spirit of discipleship.
- Thurs 18** For all our readers, chalice assistants, intercessors and sidespeople. For the witness they bear. For Sarah, who draws up the Rotas
- Fri 19** For Mark, our Director of Music and David, our Organist. For our choir.
- Sat 20** For Chris and Lewis, our church wardens.

-
- Sun 21** In the Churches Together in Bath rota, we pray for the congregation and ministers of Bath Abbey.
- Mon 22** For Angela, our Verger.
- Tues 23** For fairness and justice in global trade.
- Wed 24** For those who mourn.
- Thurs 25** For the staff, pupils and governors of St Andrew's and St Stephen's schools.
- Fri 26** For Cyril and Mark our Readers.
- Sat 27** We pray for the work of the Mothers' Union, in our own Deanery and throughout the world.
- Sun 28** Let us thanks God for the blessings of the month now ending.
- March**
- Mon 1** For those who watch over and care for the sick and the dying.
- Tues 2** For children being bullied at school. For parents who worry about them and do not know how to help.
- Wed 3** For our next-door neighbours; for our colleagues at work, college or school.
- Thurs 4** For the witness of all the churches in the city of Bath.
- Fri 5** For those who have been injured or bereaved by wars and violence.
- Sat 6** For the work of Dorothy House, for those benefiting from its care and for their families.
- Sun 7** For resolve in our Lenten observance; for faithfulness in our public and private worship.

O Lord hear my prayer

A Way Through the Wilderness Experiencing God's Help in Times of Crisis

This year's Lent group is planned to be a joint venture with the three LMG churches (St Stephen's, St Mary's and Christ Church) together with St Mary's Roman Catholic church. We will be following a five-session course based on Isaiah 40, which explores God's promise to comfort his people as they struggle through life's wildernesses.

Lewis Boyd will lead the group, which will meet at the home of Sarah and Matthew Jones:

77 Brookfield Park, Weston, BA1 4JJ
Thursdays in Lent, 7.30pm—9.00pm

If you would like to know more, speak to Lewis, Sarah or Matthew. We can provide more comprehensive travel directions and transport can be arranged. Please ask if you need a lift.

†	18 February	Welcome and introductions. A chance to get to know each other over a glass of wine and some nibbles.
†	25 February	Embracing comfort
†	4 March	Stepping out (a summons into the wilderness)
†	11 March	Becoming messengers
†	18 March	Encountering God
†	25 March	Receiving fresh strength

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 / Chairman of the Trustees / 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 / Christian Aid / Deanery Synod	Lewis Boyd, 5 Jesse Hughes Court, Lower Swainswick, BA1 7BE 01225 329190
Verger	Angela Soboslay, 285 Newbridge Road, Bath BA1 3HN 01225 333297
Treasurer to the Trustees / Church Council Secretary	David Bishop, The Old Tannery, Turleigh, Bradford on Avon, BA15 2HG 01225 869409
Magazine Editor	David Marles, 5 Westwoods, Box Road, Bath BA1 7QE 01225 859969
Deanery Synod / Laity Rotas / Junior Church	Sarah Cade, 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	Andrew Sillett
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
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.**