

# **OUTREACH**


**MARCH 2019**



**Christ Church Cheltenham**

**guide price 50p**

**PARISH OFFICE:** Open Mon, Wed & Fri 9.30am-12.30pm;  
Tues 9am-1pm, Thurs 9am-5.30pm

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**Christ Church Parish Office, Malvern Road, Cheltenham, GL50 2JH**

**Church Complex Manager:** Cherie Skidmore [9.30-12.30 Mon-Fri]    578163

**Parish Administrator:** Rev Julia Hook    578163

**Licensed Readers:**

Andrew Judge    236930  
David Laszlo    581593  
Angela Smith    238232  
Amanda Thiselton    690319

**Pastoral Co-ordinator:** currently vacant

**Weddings Administrator:** Angela Smith    238232

**Team Leader: Youth and Children:** Anna Laszlo    581593

**CHURCHWARDENS**

Barbara Lucas    07912 345056 / 228616  
Sarah O'Meara    513067

**CHRIST CHURCH C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL** (Voluntary Aided)

Malvern Road. Headteacher: Duncan Cook    523392

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL:**

*Treasurer:* Phil Whitefield    511919

*Secretary:* Jennie Preece    518048

*Electoral Roll Officer & Vicar's Secretary:* Virginia Mullan    231006

**CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER:** Sarah Harrison    237463

**MAGAZINE EDITOR:** Susan West    517116

**FLOWER SECRETARY:** Penny Kirkwood    581883

*Front cover:* Tim and Sue Mayfield as they prepare for their new adventure

# THE VICAR WRITES . . .

Dear Christ Church,

Fifteen years and more have simply flown by. It's an odd sensation, but it feels like hardly any time has elapsed since Sue and I, Frank, Jonah and George arrived in July 2003. Yet here I am, well over fifteen years later, sitting down to write in this one hundred and fifty-sixth 'Outreach' of our time here.

It's tempting to blow the dust off diaries and review the past. But faith is a forward-looking thing. The slaves under Moses, set free from their Egyptian yoke, sometimes yielded to the temptation to view the past through rose-tinted spectacles. They did this even though in Egypt they cried out to God under the lash of their slave-drivers. Moses had to keep re-focusing God's people on the *future* – the sometimes-perilous journey through the wilderness to the Promised Land.

In this forward-looking focus *faith* is the twin of *hope*. Hope, too, is a way of thinking that moves expectantly forward into the future. Our Lent Course for 2019 has as a memory verse Jeremiah 29.11...

‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the LORD,  
‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you,  
plans to give you hope and a future’.

So let me sign off this fifteen year series of Outreach letters with some personal hopes for the future of Christ Church.

Firstly let me hope that the period of vacancy you are about to enter will be a seed-time of growth. This is already beginning to happen. Andrew Judge has kindly offered to convene the Clergy/Readers group and David Laszlo to convene the Worship Committee. Tina Benney, Chris Eddershaw and Anne Chapman have kindly offered to hold the Pastoral Team together. Angela Smith has agreed to co-ordinate baptism bookings, and Carolyn Franks is joining the home communion team - she shadowed me recently and it was her first experience of a home communion visit. Please pray for everyone I've named, alongside everyone else continuing ministry already established.

Secondly let me hope that Christ Church's worshipping life remains inclusive of the gifts of a wide range of people. In 2003 I inherited a tense stand-off between choir and worship group. I'm delighted that this now feels like ancient history. May choir under Tim, group under Beck

and all the complementary voices in our preaching team continue to cook up a rich casserole honouring to God.

Thirdly let me hope that the appointments process to begin shortly after our departure will lead – in God’s good time – to the right appointment of the right woman or man to act as your next vicar. They will undoubtedly bring gifts and skills I don’t have – not least in the area of developing the building. It’s a matter of regret to me that we haven’t been able to make more progress on the reordering project. I continue to pray that all the time and energy that has gone into this conversation will yield a building fit for purpose in the twenty-first century.

Finally let me hope that Christ Church becomes/remains a place where many men, women and children who don’t yet know God might be drawn to living faith. I try to root everything I do in the fathomless love of God for God’s creation. May you, and many like you, come to know *how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge*.

Yours with love, and a ‘fare well’ as we journey on,

Tim

## **A PRAYER FOR THE VACANCY**

Guiding God,  
we pray for Christ Church.  
During the vacancy,  
we pray for those who will preach and lead our worship.  
Please be drawing to living faith many who don’t yet know you.

Then we submit to you the appointments process.  
We pray for the Church Council  
as it appoints Parish Reps.  
We pray for the Trustees, in their special role  
We pray for Bishop Rachel,  
for Archdeacon Phil,  
and for Area Dean Gary.

In your time, and in your way,  
please raise up the right woman or man  
to be the next vicar of Christ Church.  
In the name of Jesus. Amen.

## FROM SUE MAYFIELD...

Dear Christ Church,

I wanted to share some thoughts as Tim and I prepare to leave Cheltenham after nearly 16 years and the process of sorting, decluttering and packing our things gets underway in earnest. Moving prompts looking both backwards and forwards and brings many mixed emotions.

We arrived in Cheltenham during the baking hot summer of 2003 with three loud and lively sons – Frank (then 15), Jonah (then 13) and George (then 11) and a border collie (Moss) in his prime. We leave as a couple of dogless fifty-something empty nesters for what will likely be our last job before retirement. How did that happen?!

It's certainly been a rich and rewarding period of our lives and we've loved living in Cheltenham. I've especially enjoyed the Festivals, the lido and walking in the Cotswolds (which we've done most Fridays). I value the many friends we've made and all we've travelled through together. It's been a time of change and development for me in my professional life. I arrived as a writer of children's books, moved into work using writing as a tool for wellbeing and then re-trained as a Counsellor and Psychotherapist. For the last five years I've been practising from a lovely room in Tivoli, and also at Maggie's Centre, helping people talk and write about their lives. I hope to do similar work in the North East and look forward to new opportunities unfolding there in due course.

As many of you know my elderly parents are in the North East. Dad has been poorly for the last couple of years and I'm looking forward to being able to offer more practical support to him and Mam. Earsdon, the village where we will be living (pronounced 'Urs-dun') is just 10 minutes away - an improvement on a six hour journey time! I'm also looking forward to being by the sea, getting another dog and rediscovering a part of the world that was home until I left aged 18.

But as well as all the things I'm looking forward to there are many sadnesses in moving on and much that I will miss. I will greatly miss being part of the church family here at Christ Church. I love our music, the depth and intelligence of the preaching and communal praying and the friendly hospitality that is a Christ Church hallmark. There have been many changes in our church life during our time here. New people have arrived and dear people have moved on or died. It's been a privilege to share in joys and sorrows, to celebrate all that's gone well, puzzle over

things that have foundered or not come to fruition and seek God's face as we move forward together. A highlight for me has been being part of the Youth and Children's team, co-leading the 14+ group Living Room for seven years, first with our former curate Linda Flewker Barker and then with Mandy and Phil Whitefield, and working with Pathfinders (our 11-14 year olds) for long enough to see babies grow into remarkable young adults! I've loved the energy and curiosity of our young people as they grapple with following Jesus in a complex and fascinating world.

I've got many good memories of church life here – exquisite Christmas services, hilarity and shared meals at Parish weekends, hymn singing at the bandstand in Montpellier Park, 'Soul Space' quiet days and Lent groups - as well as the weekly rhythm of meeting for worship and breaking bread together. I've enjoyed initiating and being part of creative projects such as making the *Tree of Life* batik that hangs in the Harwood Hall, the *All Are Welcome* wooden spoon puppets we made of ourselves back in 2009 and the Holy Week Film Festival we had at the Vicarage in 2008. Thanks for your willingness to join in and be inventive and adventurous in thinking and speaking about faith.

Thank you, indeed, for many things. Thank you for your care, support and prayers. I was so moved when one member of Christ Church told me once that she prayed every day for our three sons. That's means a lot. Thanks for respecting my privacy and especially for being so respectful of our Fridays – this day off together has been precious and sacrosanct and we are grateful for it. Thank you for all the generous bottles of wine and boxes of goodies that have appeared on our doorstep at Christmas. Thanks most of all for allowing me to be me, for giving me space and letting me do only the things I've felt called to do. I appreciate that.

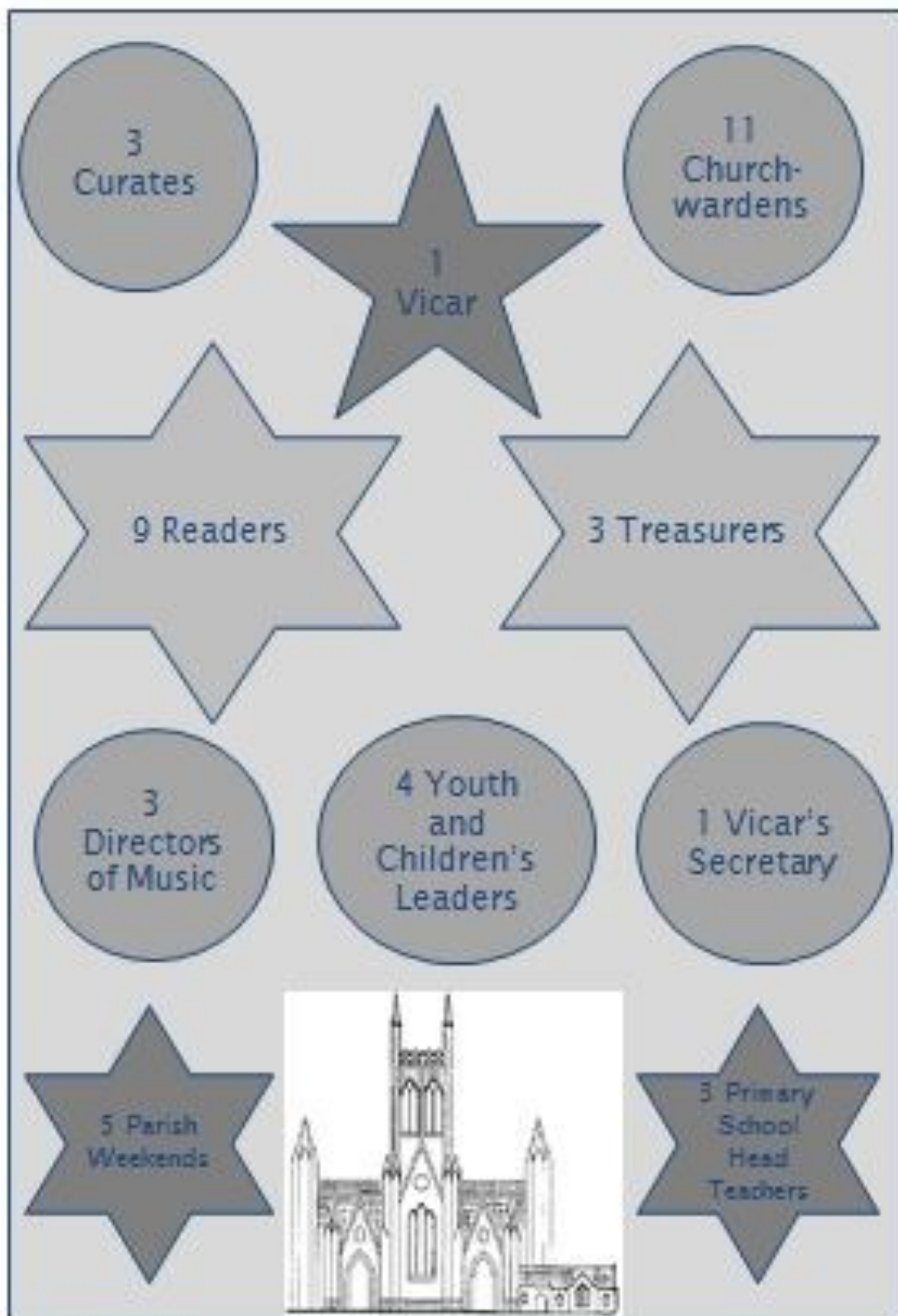
I know there will be time to say goodbye on 30th March as we gather socially and on 31st at our last service but – in case I don't get to speak to everyone – I'd like to say goodbye, God Bless and I will miss you.

With all good wishes,

Sue Mayfield



# CHRIST CHURCH IN NUMBERS: 2003-2018



# A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHURCHWARDENS, BARBARA AND SARAH

Dear Congregation

Just a reminder that Tim and Sue's leaving 'do' is on Saturday 30th March in the Parish Centre. The first session is over lunchtime, 12.00pm – 2.00pm. The evening one is from 6.00pm – 9.00pm. Food will be served on both occasions. Please feel free to come for a whole session or just a part of it.

If you would like to offer your help in any way, please talk to Sarah regarding the lunchtime session and to Barbara for the evening one.

Above all, please make sure you have signed up! There will be a list at the back of church so you can do this. If you wish to contribute to a leaving gift, please see Barbara as soon as possible.

Regarding Tim and Sue's last service with us on 31st March, Tim has made it known that he would like this to be a communion service in conjunction with Mothering Sunday. We anticipate a large congregation that day so we hope you will understand that it will be rather longer than usual. Please also be aware that this may result in there not being quite enough Mothering Sunday flowers for everyone, so we may have to ask you to take just one pot per family.

Thank you.

## FROM THE REGISTERS

### Funeral

**Tim Jenner** died on Christmas Day 2018. Revd Tim Mayfield led a funeral for Mr Jenner in Christ Church exactly a month later, on 25th January 2019.

A member of Christ Church, of its choir and of its Friendship Club **Terry Barnard** died on the 20th January. Terry's funeral took place on 14th February at Cheltenham Crematorium. His brother-in-law Rev Tony Street led the service, and long-standing friend Will Halse gave the sermon.

**Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone who is grieving**



## ASH WEDNESDAY – 6TH MARCH

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent – the church's journey towards the pain of Holy Week and the astonishing joy of Easter.

This year, Ash Wednesday falls on 6th March. There will be two opportunities to worship together. At 10.30am there will be a Prayer Book communion service with hymns, and at 7.30pm a communion service with contributions from Christ Church choir. Both acts of worship will feature the opportunity [for those who would welcome it] of receiving the sign of the cross in ash on the forehead,

## LENT COURSE 2019 – THE PROPHECY OF JEREMIAH

We had already set our minds on living with Jeremiah during Lent 2019, before it was announced that I would be leaving, and that Christ Church would be entering a time of vacancy.

Then as I wrote the Lent Course, and lived with these wonderful extracts from scripture, it occurred to me that they speak very naturally to a church about to enter vacancy. So each session of the course contains an opportunity to think about where Christ Church is in the light of God's living word.



God bless you as you journey through Lent with Jeremiah. In the second session of the course, God prompts Jeremiah to go and watch a potter at work... *Then the word of the LORD came to me. He said, 'Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does?' declares the LORD. 'Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand...* May God the divine potter mould and shape you in His love, both individually as a faith-community.

You can join a Lent Group by signing up at the information table at the back of church.

Revd Tim Mayfield

## **FAITH: FINDING A NEW SHAPE FOR YOUR LIFE**

Through the five weeks of Lent, the Diocese of Gloucester is inviting everyone to explore how faith influences what we do every day. Each week will have a different theme - relating, praying, working, playing and growing and the aim is to help us get our lives back in balance.

There are resources for people who want to look at deepening their faith with their church. There are fun activities, reflections and prayers for every week for families and for our schools. Bishop Rachel has made a series of videos about each week to help guide you through the themes.

The first week's focus is on how we relate to others and talks about welcome and hospitality. "Where would you go if you needed help? If you needed somewhere to stay or a hot dinner? Back in medieval times everyone knew that if they ran into problems and had nowhere to stay or nothing to eat, they could go to the monks at the monastery who would always give them food and shelter for a day and night. It was part of the shape of their life that they wouldn't turn anyone away and said, 'Let everyone be welcomed as Christ'. They would bow their heads to people as a sign that they recognised the presence of God in them. How would you like to be welcomed, especially somewhere new? How do you welcome people to your home, school, uniformed organisations, music group, or Friendship Club? Are there ways you can think of helping people who need somewhere to stay or some food, to feel welcome?"

Downloadable resources for each week are available on the diocesan website [www.gloucester.anglican.org/your-ministry/shapes-for-living/](http://www.gloucester.anglican.org/your-ministry/shapes-for-living/).

Taken from the Messenger, published by the Diocese of Gloucester:

<https://www.gloucester.anglican.org/parish-resources/communications/>

## **FRIENDSHIP CLUB**

On Wednesday 13th March we welcome a new speaker. Malcolm Lewis will be introducing us to "The Rogers and Hammerstein Story". A musical afternoon as he tells us all about the wonderful music they created. Then on Wednesday 27th March the afternoon will start with a short AGM when we review the last year and plan for the next. We are then pleased to welcome Jean Ford who will entertain us with "A Poetic Look at Life".

We also offer a free keep fit class. The class is only available to people who also attend Friendship Club. The class starts at 11.30 am and lasts for 45 minutes. Come along and have fun and get fit!

## **CHRIST CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING – 6.30PM SUNDAY 24TH MARCH**

The Annual Meeting is always a significant event. It gives us the opportunity to review where we've come from, take stock of where we are, and set the compass for where we're going.

This year's Annual Meeting will be especially telling, in that it will fall exactly seven days before Christ Church enters a period of vacancy. Let's turn out in force to support those who are standing for office, and to elect the Church Council that will help steer Christ Church through this next leg of the journey.

## **CHRIST CHURCH CRÊPERIE OPEN FOR CAP**

On Sunday 10th March the Christ Church Crêperie will be opening its hatch, as part of Christians Against Poverty's (CAP) annual Flipping Marvellous Pancake Party.

Many of you will already be aware of the work of CAP, some of our congregation already work for this charity. CAP aims to free people from the crushing weight of debt and poverty, bringing hope and peace of mind – and perhaps the first good night's sleep for years. This is achieved through debt support, as well as delivering the CAP Money Course to tackle some of the root causes of poverty. They are “committed to stepping into the most desperate situations as a beacon of God's light and showing his heart for the poor and needy”. CAP invite regular givers, who they fittingly call “Life Changers”.

Last year Christ Church donated £1,000 to CAP as part of our annual budget spending. This year that isn't possible so events like this are really important to show our support for CAP's work.

The Crêperie team (Alessandra, Amanda, Annette, Chris, Jordan and Sara) will be selling pancakes with a selection of sweet and savoury fillings after the 8am and 10.30am services on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March. Come along and join the fun and let's make ourselves a whole congregation of Life Changers for the day!

Sara Hicks

# LIFE AT CHRIST CHURCH AND BEYOND 2003-2018

In 2003 Tim wrote in this very publication, “We are looking forward to journeying forward together with you into all that God has for Christ Church”. 15½ years later Outreach highlights just some of the events that have happened on that journey.

Year	Christ Church	Elsewhere
2003	6 September Tim Mayfield inducted as Vicar of Christ Church	Tony Blair was Prime Minister England beat Australia to win the Rugby World Cup
2004	Fire at Christ Church School due to electrical fault Rev Linda Flewker-Barker joins Christ Church as curate	Very Rev Michael Perham became Bishop of Gloucester Facebook founded Boxing Day tsunami kills 300,000 people in 11 countries
2005	Phase 3 of Project 2000: the Music Room and the Hub foyer completed Parish weekend at Cefn Lea Christ Church website launched Tim visits diocese of Dornakal in S. India	England win the Ashes after a 16 year losing streak Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans
2006	Project 2000 is dedicated by the Bishop of Gloucester. The New Hall becomes known as the Harwood Hall. Phil Whitefield and Alison Vlach visit Dornakal in South India with funds for a new church building in Kompelly	Pluto is downgraded from a planet to a dwarf planet
2007	Rev Linda Flewker-Barker leaves to travel overseas before joining the RAF. Launch of three year plan: Belonging Julia Hook appointed Parish Administrator Sue and George Mayfield visit CMS Link Missionaries, Adrian and Jane Shutt, in Uganda	Gloucestershire floods; no drinking water from 23-31 July Apple releases the iPhone
2008	Rev Janet Faull joins Christ Church as curate	Financial crash West Bromwich Albion win the Championship
2009	Parish weekend at Sidholme Final Ascension Day service on the tower Tim appointed Chair of Cheltenham Borough Council's Homelessness Forum Tim helps Palestinian farmers bring in the olive harvest	Barak Obama becomes President of USA West Bromwich Albion relegated from Premiership for the third time since 2003
2010	Andrew Judge licensed as Reader First peregrine falcon chicks hatch on Christ Church tower Launch of three year plan: Reaching Out Rev Tim and Rev Janet both turn 50, a quiz night is held to celebrate	Coalition government formed by Conservative Party and Liberal Democrats Earthquake in Haiti

<b>2011</b>	Tim has a sabbatical to learn Biblical Hebrew Tim appointed as Mayor's Chaplain by Barbara Driver Parish weekend at Hothorpe Hall	'Arab Spring' uprisings in North Africa and Middle East
<b>2012</b>	Rev Janet Faull leaves to become Vicar at St Barnabas in Gloucester Tim Ingold appointed as Director of Music	60 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of accession of Queen Elizabeth II London Olympics
<b>2013</b>	Parish weekend at Hothorpe Hall Regular 6.30pm Sunday services ended Amanda Thiselton licensed as Reader Dave Brae undertakes short curate placement	Right Rev Justin Welby enthroned as Archbishop of Canterbury Andy Murray wins Men's Singles at Wimbledon for the first time
<b>2014</b>	Rev Kalebu visits from the diocese of Western Tanganyika, Tanzania David Laszlo licensed as Reader Cherie Skidmore appointed Church Complex Manager	Ebola virus in West Africa Crisis in Crimea Scottish referendum, vote to remain part of the UK
<b>2015</b>	Mike Smith joins Christ Church as curate Janie Fenten retires as Head Teacher at Christ Church Primary School Rev Tim Mayfield attends 10 day clergy consultation at St Georges Windsor and preaches at Choral Evensong at Westminster Abbey	Right Rev Rachel Treweek becomes Bishop of Gloucester Burton Albion champions of League Two
<b>2016</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Christian Arts Festival OFSTED rated Christ Church Playgroup as Good	UK votes to leave European Union Launch of 'Life' new diocesan vision
<b>2017</b>	Soul Spark Duncan Cook appointed Head Teacher at Christ Church Primary School Anna Laszlo appointed Team Leader Youth and Children	Donald Trump sworn in as 45 <sup>th</sup> American President Grenfell Tower fire
<b>2018</b>	Resolve Mission without Borders and Matilda Project become Mission Partners Parish weekend at Hothorpe Hall	Burton Albion relegated from League One France wins the FIFA World Cup, England reach the semi-finals
<b>2019</b>	Happiness Lab Lent course: Jeremiah 31 March Tim and Sue Mayfield's last Sunday	

## GOVERNORS NEEDED AT GLOUCESTER ROAD

Gloucester Road Primary School is looking to recruit two new Governors. It is a small school with a big heart(!), rated 'Outstanding' by OFSTED in its recent 2017 inspection and one that aims to be at the forefront of educational best practice in all areas. We would particularly welcome interest from those with experience of buildings, finance, HR, IT, business or marketing, but anyone willing to join our dedicated team and give of their time would be greatly appreciated! For further information or for an informal conversation about the role(s), please contact: Kit Perona-Wright, Chair of Governors at [kitperonawright@btinternet.com](mailto:kitperonawright@btinternet.com), 07740 477114 or alternatively, Pat Hopkins, Governor, at [patemhopkins@gmail.com](mailto:patemhopkins@gmail.com) or call 07762 770715.

## EARTH HOUR

Saturday 30th March: 8.30pm – 9.30pm

For the past 10 years, people around the world have come together every Earth Hour to support efforts to tackle climate change. This has created a powerful movement that helped deliver strong global commitments to tackling this threat. Climate change remains a big challenge for us all. But another urgent threat now demands our attention: the loss of nature. These two combined threats mean we must act - and now.

Starting as a symbolic lights out event in Sydney in 2007, WWF's Earth Hour has grown to become the world's largest grassroots movement for the environment, inspiring individuals, communities, businesses and organisations in more than 180 countries and territories to take action for our shared home.

As a church, we will be participating in Earth Hour by switching off the church floodlights for an hour. We will be joining similar switch-off events on major public buildings in the UK and around the world, including Buckingham Palace, Canterbury Cathedral, the Eiffel Tower, Sydney Opera House and many others. We encourage members of the congregation to do the same at home. We have registered our participation as a switch-off event at [earthhour.org](http://earthhour.org).

For more information, visit the Earth Hour website at [earthhour.org](http://earthhour.org) or the Environment Committee website at [chchenv.uk](http://chchenv.uk).



## WORLD MISSION COMMITTEE NEWS

Historically, the PCC had the aim of providing 10% of its general income (tithing your donations & collections) and 100% of the Summer Fete, towards World Mission - the spreading of God's Love and Good News. Due to the economic pressures of rising costs and the down turn in giving to Christ Church this amount has had to be reduced – last year we received 8.5% of the collections plus £1,000 earmarked for CAP (Christians Against Poverty) as well as the profit of the fete. The budget for this year allocates just 5% of income plus the money raised by the fete. CAP is to be supported by a special fundraiser this year, see page 11.

We are extremely grateful to everyone who puts so much effort into the Summer Fete. We are relying on this money to enable us to continue to support the vital work of our mission partners and contribute to charities making a difference to people at home and abroad.

The report for the Annual Parish Church Meeting will include a full list of the charities and missions we have supported financially in 2018.

### OUR MISSION PARTNERS:

**Corrie Verduyn CMS (Church Mission Society)** – Corrie visited us last February. She expressed her gratitude for our continued financial backing and especially for our love and prayers. She told us about the continued challenges for the Hospital and district and that she needed some prayers for decisions she was facing regarding her own future. She has now informed us that her time at the Hospital in Kiwoko, Uganda will be ending in March 2019. Her Mission there has been a great success and she will be leaving with the hospital in good hands. The difference she has made to the provision of medical support for women's health, in particular, has been immense. We shall therefore be finishing our financial support for Corrie in April.

**Philbert Kalisa – REACH (Reconciliation, Education and Christian Healing) for Rwanda.** Philbert was moved to create this movement in the aftermath of the genocide in Rwanda in the 1990s. He sent us an email recently thanking us for our prayers and long term support. He explained how the work of REACH has been blessed over the last 20

years. They have been able to train over 30,000 people for healing and reconciliation, over 9,000 have been genuinely reconciled and over 2,000 are working in various unity groups through joint projects. He explained that they have built a centre for Unity and Peace to host training events and workshops – a youth community development centre that is used by REACH members from different denominations together. REACH for Rwanda UK has now closed as the main goal has largely been achieved.

REACH is now getting involved with community development and discipleship. Philbert told us: *“The Rwandan people now need development in all aspects – spiritual, social-economic and leadership. Such development goes hand in hand with peacebuilding and sustainability.”*

*We are now focussing on a new programme - **Gender equity, equality and reconciliation**, helping families to understand that God created both men and women equal. Helping reconciled communities to form unity groups and cooperatives in order to come up with different projects that help them to fight poverty and promote social justice and sustainability. You are most welcome to partner with us and we thank you for the long partnership and support that Christ Church has been providing over the years.”*

As a result of the UK closure The World Mission Committee is currently reassessing the terms of our relationship with Philbert and REACH. The long-term challenges of such historical and cultural differences can threaten peace and cause hatred and division to reappear. It would be very helpful to have your prayers so that we can do God's Will on this issue.

**Joss Downey, Mission Without Borders** – Joss visited us in October. He described how the money given to MWB makes a difference in the poorest area of Europe. After the break up of the Soviet Union the Russians removed all the industrial infrastructure and took everything of value, leaving Moldova destitute. MWB is supporting families – to help fight the causes of people trafficking and the exploitation of vulnerable young girls.

MWB runs an annual programme called Operation Christmas Life, OCL, which comprises delivering vitally needed food and supply packages to poor and vulnerable families.

**Wendy, at Matilda Project** in Zimbabwe, is working with orphans of HIV/AIDS. Here are some headlines from the October newsletter: 30,000 per year still dying of HIV AIDS. Orphans are still being made. The economy is still a challenge with spiralling inflation and political unrest. A cholera outbreak also a concern. The school breakfasts have been able to continue despite this. Medicines have been scarce – even paracetamol.

Due to the political unrest Wendy has asked us to be careful not to name the Matilda Project operatives online. 11 villages now have support groups set up supporting 216 members with monthly meetings to help them to take their medications, making and selling crafts from local materials. Food packs are being funded in smaller allocations to try to cope with the financial situation. It costs 15,000 Zimbabwe dollars to fund 40 secondary level students, 594 for 36 primary students (those that don't even have grandparents).

If you would like to know more or would like to inform us of a cause that you are passionate about, please contact Chair of World Mission Committee, Mandy Whitefield, on [amandawhitefield2@hotmail.com](mailto:amandawhitefield2@hotmail.com). We really appreciate your prayers and promise to do our best to keep you informed.

## **FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT, 25 YEARS OF FAIRTRADE IN THE UK**

Monday 25 February to Sunday 10 March

The Fairtrade Foundation works with 1.6 million farmers and workers across 74 developing countries, ensuring them a living income, protected from changing market prices. This year, the She Deserves a Living Income campaign is focusing on women who grow the cocoa for our chocolate treats. Without a living income, basic human rights like decent food, accommodation and schooling will not be achievable. Read more at <http://www.fairtrade.org.uk/get%20involved//Current-campaigns/Fairtrade-Fortnight>.

# CHRISTIAN ARTS FESTIVAL LAUNCH

The Christian Arts Festival was delighted to launch its 2019 brochure on Wednesday 13th February in the Harwood Hall. The event was a huge success with people spilling out of the doors as we ran out of chairs! Our guest speaker was the internationally acclaimed writer and theologian Paula Gooder, (below) whose appointment as Canon Chancellor of St Paul's Cathedral had just been announced. Referring to her recently published novel, Phoebe, she spoke of the need to use our imaginations more, to tell more stories and engage with our communities by sharing faith in this way. Speaking to BBC Radio Gloucestershire at the event, Paula gave the Festival her enthusiastic endorsement - "spectacular, absolutely amazing: it communicates what is important about our faith in ways that excite people."

Pick up your Festival brochure from church or download from [christianartsfestival.org](http://christianartsfestival.org), from where you can also buy your tickets.



## CHRISTIAN ARTS FESTIVAL - WE NEED YOU!

Stewards wanted - would you like to be part of a great team? Come to one of our information evenings: on Tuesday 26th March or Tuesday 9th April 7.30 – 9.30pm, The Music Room, Christ Church. If you would like to know more, please contact Nikki Seville at [nikki@christianartsfestival.org](mailto:nikki@christianartsfestival.org) or 01242 898403.

## **WILD + FIT: A HEALTH AND WELLBEING EVENT, FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY**

Saturday 9 March, 10am to 12.30pm in Gloucester Cathedral

Zumba, pilates, body weight fitness session in the Cathedral. Funds raised will go to Gloucester City Mission to support their work with people affected by homelessness in Gloucestershire. Tickets £10 adults, £5 children, £7 teens and concessions, £25 family. Book in advance at <http://www.gloucester.anglican.org/wild>.

## **BBC TO RUN A 'YEAR OF BELIEFS'**

The BBC is going to 'shine a light' on faith and spiritual values in Britain today by running a year of programmes dedicated to religion and ethics.

The move comes a year after the BBC promised to raise its game in the way that it treated religion. That promise followed a year-long review of its religious and ethics output.

Here are some examples of what is planned.

On BBC 1, *Earth's Sacred Wonders* will look at the rituals and monuments of faith around the world; *Medical Ethics* will be a documentary filmed at Great Ormond Street Hospital; and *Pregnant and Platonic* will be a documentary on people who have children without being in a romantic relationship.

On BBC 2, *Inside the Vatican* will show a year in the life of the Vatican community, including Pope Francis; and the popular *Pilgrimage* series will return.

The Bishop of Repton, the Rt. Revd. Jan McFarlane, who chairs the Sandford St Martin Trust, welcomed the BBC's plans. Especially "bringing issues of faith, belief and ethics to as wide an audience as possible."

Source: *Parish Pump*



*Christ Church Cheltenham*

*Malvern Road*

*The Passion of Our Lord  
according to Saint Mark*

*Charles Wood*

*Christ Church Choir*

*Directed by Timothy Ingold*

*Tenor: Deryck Webb*

*Bass: Brian Pursey*

*Organist: Fiona Brown*

*Palm Sunday*

*14<sup>th</sup> April 2019*

*7.00pm*

*Admission free with a retiring collection*





March  
2019

### 3rd SUNDAY - The Sunday before Lent

		8.00am	Holy Communion BCP: Rev Tim Mayfield
		10.30am	Parish Communion [organ/choir/group]: Rev Tim Mayfield
4th	Mon	1.30pm	Baby & Toddler Group in the Harwood Hal
5th	Tues	7.30pm	Fabric & Organ Committee in the Music Room
6th	Wed		<b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b>
		10-12	Coffee Morning in the Alstone Porch
		10.30am	<b>Holy Communion BCP with Ashing</b>
		7.30pm	<b>Holy Communion for Ash Wednesday</b>
9th	Sat	9.30am	Clergy/Readers' Meeting in Lansdown Room

### 10th SUNDAY – The First Sunday of Lent

		8.00am	Holy Communion CW: Rev Tim Mayfield
		10.30am	All-age Worship [group]: Rev Mike Smith
		12 noon	Shortened Holy Communion
		6.30pm	<b>Music &amp; Readings for Lent</b> [organ, choir]
11th	Mon	1.30pm	Baby & Toddler Group in the Harwood Hall
		6.30m	PCC Meeting in the Music Room
13th	Wed	10-12	Coffee Morning in the Alstone Porch
		10.30am	Holy Communion BCP
		12.30pm	Friendship Club Soup & Cheese Lunch: Harwood Hall
		2.30pm	Friendship Club, Harwood Hall: The Music and Story of Rogers and Hammerstein - Malcolm Lewis

### 17th SUNDAY – The Second Sunday of Lent

		8.00am	Holy Communion BCP: Rev Tim Mayfield
		10.30am	Parish Communion [organ/choir/group]: Rev Tim Mayfield
		12noon	Welcome Event in the Lansdown/Bayshill Rooms
18th	Mon	1.30pm	Baby & Toddler Group in the Harwood Hall
		7.45pm	Pastoral Team Meeting in Music Room
19th	Wed	10-12	Coffee Morning in the Alstone Porch
		10.30am	Holy Communion BCP

## **24th SUNDAY – The Third Sunday of Lent**

8.00am Holy Communion CW: Rev Tim Mayfield  
10.30am Morning Worship [organ/choir]: Andrew Judge  
6.30pm **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** in the  
Harwood Hall

25th Mon 1.30pm Baby & Toddler Group in the Harwood Hall

27th Wed 10-12 Coffee Morning in the Alstone Porch

10.30am Holy Communion BCP

12.30pm Friendship Club Soup & Cheese Lunch: Harwood  
Hall

2.30pm Friendship Club in the Harwood Hall: A Poetic  
Look at Life - Jean Ford

28th Thur 10.00am Christ Church School Easter Service in church

30th Sat 12noon Farewell to the Mayfields (first sitting - til 2pm)

6.00pm Farewell to the Mayfields (second sitting - til 9pm)

## **31st SUNDAY – The Fourth Sunday of Lent**

8.00am Holy Communion BCP: Rev Tim Mayfield

10.30am Special Service for Mothering Sunday  
[organ/choir/group]: Rev Tim Mayfield

## **APRIL**

1st Mon 1.30pm Baby & Toddler Group in the Harwood Hall

3rd Wed 10-12 Coffee Morning in the Alstone Porch

10.30am Holy Communion BCP

## **7th SUNDAY – The Fifth Sunday of Lent**

8.00am Holy Communion BCP: Rev Julia Hook

10.30am Parish Communion CW [organ/choir]: David Laszlo

8th Mon 1.30pm Baby & Toddler Group in the Harwood Hall

10th Wed 10-12 Coffee Morning in the Alstone Porch

10.30am Holy Communion BCP

12.30pm Friendship Club Soup & Cheese Lunch: Harwood  
Hall

2.30pm Friendship Club in the Harwood Hall:  
Laughter the Best Medicine - David Howe

# ORGANISATIONS AND LEADERS

## For young people:

**Playgroup:** 9am - 3pm Monday to Friday.

[christchurchplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:christchurchplaygroup@hotmail.co.uk) or phone 243021 / 07989 124492

**Crèche:** Sundays from 10.20am in the Alstone Porch

**Sunday Morning Children's Groups** Anna Laszlo 581593

## Uniformed Organisations:

**Rainbows:** Thursday 5.00pm in Bayshill/Lansdown Maureen Jones  
517183

**Brownies:** Thursday 6.00pm in Harwood Hall Maureen Jones 517183

**Guides:** Thursday 6.15pm in Bayshill/Lansdown Maureen Jones 517183

## For adults:

**Baby & Toddler Group** for Mums (& Dads!) with pre-school children

Monday 1.30pm-3.15pm in the Harwood Hall

Sarah O'Meara 513067

**Coffee Morning** every Wednesday, 10am - 12noon in the Alstone Porch

Dee Rice 231764

**Friendship Club** - Lunch Club & Afternoon Tea Meetings on 2nd & 4th

Wednesdays in the Harwood Hall

Tina Benney 512246

## Music for Worship:

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC:** Tim Ingold 01452 524199

**Trebles and choir practice, in the Music Room**

Friday 6.30-8pm Trebles rehearsal

7.30-9pm Choir rehearsal

**Worship Group:** Beck Donaldson: 01451 860561

## Our Mission Partners:

Philbert Kalisa (REACH for Rwanda)

Corrie Verduyn (CMS) Kiwoko Hospital, Uganda

Wendy Phillips (The Matilda Project) [matildaproject@gmail.com](mailto:matildaproject@gmail.com)

Mission Without Borders, Contact: Jos Downey, [jdowney@mwbuk.org](mailto:jdowney@mwbuk.org)

### **OUTREACH APRIL 2019**

Copy to Susan West at [susan.blackett1@btinternet.com](mailto:susan.blackett1@btinternet.com) or to the Parish Office by no later than Sunday 17th March please.

# WORSHIP AT CHRIST CHURCH

## ***Sunday***

8.00am      **HOLY COMMUNION** - a said service  
1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays (Prayer Book)  
2nd & 4th Sundays (Common Worship)

10.30am    1st Sunday      **PARISH COMMUNION CW**  
              2nd Sunday    **FAMILY SERVICE** and  
                                 at 12noon **HOLY COMMUNION**  
              3rd Sunday    **PARISH COMMUNION CW**  
              4th Sunday    **MORNING WORSHIP**  
              5th Sunday    **MORNING WORSHIP**

The children are in church for the first few minutes of each service, and then leave for their Sunday teaching groups.

***Scramblers (Key Stage 1), Explorers (Key Stage 2) and Pathfinders (Years 7-9)*** meet during each 10.30am service except Family Service.

**CRECHE** available each Sunday morning for the under 3s.

6.30pm      Christ Church hosts occasional 6.30pm evening services  
The next 6.30pm Sunday evening service will be Music & Readings for Lent on 10th March

## ***Monday to Friday***

8.45am      **MORNING PRAYER**  
This is a wonderful way to start the day. You'd be very welcome to join the small group who enjoy the benefits of Morning Prayer. We meet for about half an hour.

## ***Wednesday***

10.30am    **HOLY COMMUNION BCP**

### **HOMEGROUPS for Bible Study & Fellowship**

meet regularly on different days of the week.  
Newcomers are always welcome. Please speak to  
Rev Tim Mayfield.