

Services and Preachers...

Morning Prayer on Mondays-Thursdays at 8.30am
 Holy Communion on Thursdays at 11.00 am and Fridays at 8.30 am
 No Evening Prayer in December

- 5** 5.30 pm A Ceremony of Carols by Benjamin Britten
Sung by the Abbey Girls' Choir with Ruth Faber, Harp
- 6 Epiphany**
 8.00 am Holy Communion The Revd Jane Mitchell
 9.30 am Parish Communion The Revd Ken Madden
Three Kings - Cornelius arr Atkins
 11.15 am Sung Eucharist The Revd Ken Madden
Three Kings - Cornelius arr Atkins
Stanford in C and F
When Jesus our Lord - Mendelssohn Hymns 94, 95, 98 (i), 99
In dir ist Freude BWV615 - J S Bach
 3.30 pm Choral Evensong
Ecce advenit - Byrd Psalm 100
Sumsion in G Responses: Tallis
Seek him that maketh the seven stars - Elgar Hymn 51
Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern - Karg-Elert
 6.30 pm Informal Evening Service Mr Pete Jones & Mr Tom Grendon
- 10** 5.30 pm Choral Evensong
Sung by the Abbey Choir of Girls and Men
Vidente stellam - Poulenc Psalm 29
Walmisley in D minor Responses: Leighton
Lux aurumque - Eric Whitacre
- 13 The Baptism of Christ**
 8.00 am Holy Communion The Revd Evelyn Lee-Barber
 9.30 am Parish Communion The Revd Evelyn Lee-Barber
Ballulalow, I sing of a maiden & This little babe - Britten
 11.15 am Sung Eucharist The Revd Evelyn Lee-Barber
Vidente stellam - Poulenc Hymns 104, 109, 108, 765
Missa Sancta Nicolai - Haydn
Sortie on 'Forth in thy name' - Rawsthorne
The Spirit of the Lord - Elgar
 3.30 pm Choral Evensong
Omnis de Saba - Handl Psalm 46
Stanford in C Responses: Clucas
Come down, O love divine - Harris Hymn: 526
Variations on Veni Creator Spiritus - Duruflé
 6.30 pm Informal Evening Service Mrs Anne Dowling
- 15** 5.30 pm Choral Evensong
Sung by the Abbey Choir of Boys and Men
Cantate Domino - Pitoni Psalm 46
Dyson in F Responses: Clucas
Omnis de Saba - Handl
- 17** 5.30 pm Choral Evensong
Sung by the Abbey Girls' Choir
Before the ending of the day - Plainsong Psalm 61

- The Short Service - Gibbons Responses: Malcolm Archer*
How shall I keep from singing - arr Scott
- 20 The Third Sunday of Epiphany**
 8.00 am Holy Communion The Revd Ken Madden
 9.30 am Parish Communion The Revd Canon Guy Bridgewater
 11.15 am *Panis angelicus - Franck*
 Sung Eucharist The Revd Canon Guy Bridgewater
O taste and see - Vaughan Williams
Missa Brevis in F K192 Hymns 676, 448 (i), 99, 791 (omit 2, 4, 5, 6, 7)
 3.30 pm *Panis angelicus - Saint-Saëns*
Carrilon de Longport - Vierne
 Choral Evensong
Before the ending of the day - Plainsong Psalm96
Stanford in G Responses: Byrd
O sing unto the Lord - James MacMillan Hymn 346
Final from Sept Pièces Op 27 - Dupré
 6.30 pm No Evening Service
- 24** 5.30 pm Choral Evensong at St John the Evangelist to celebrate the week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Beati quorum via - Stanford Psalm 149
Stanford in G Responses Byrd
O quam gloriosum est - Victoria
- 27 The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany**
 8.00 am Holy Communion The Revd Stephen Girling
 9.30 am Parish Communion The Revd Stephen Girling
 11.15 am Sung Eucharist The Revd Stephen Girling
Beati quorum via - Stanford
Spatzenmesse K220 - Mozart
O salutaris hostia - Tallis Hymns: 2, 387, 390, 603
Prelude and Fugue in C BWV 545 - J S Bach
 3.30 pm Choral Evensong
Heilig, heilig, heilig - Schubert Psalm 33.1-12
Noble in B minor Responses: Ayleward
Blessed be the God and Father - Sumsion Hymn 192
Fantasia in F minor/major K 594 - Mozart
 6.30 pm Informal Evening Service The Revd Canon Guy Bridgewater
- 31** 5.30 pm Choral Evensong
Sung by the Abbey Choir of Girls and Men
Before the ending of the day - Plainsong
Purcell in G minor Psalm 138
Ave maris stella - Grieg Responses: Byrd

Contacting the Abbey...

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(Monday to Friday: 9.00 am - 4.00 pm)

The office is normally open to visitors in the morning.

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Website www.bathabbey.org

Clergy:

Revd Canon Guy Bridgewater, Rector -
gbridgewater@bathabbey.org

Revd Stephen Girling, Acting Rector -
missioner@bathabbey.org

Revd Evelyn Lee-Barber, Associate Priest -
evelyn@bathabbey.org

Revd Jane Mitchell, Curate -
jmitchell@bathabbey.org

Revd Ken Madden, Interim Minister -
office@bathabbey.org

The clergy welcome communication on any matters by letter, email or telephone.

Musical Dates for Your Diary

Evensong at St John's the Evangelist Catholic Church, South Parade - Thursday 24 January at 5.30pm

We are delighted that our connection with St John's has grown from strength to strength over the past year. We were able to join forces for two services, both at the Abbey and at St John's. As a continuation of our flourishing friendship, we're pleased to be joining them once again with the Abbey Girls and Men's Choirs singing Evensong to celebrate the week of prayer for Christian unity. **All welcome.**

Lunchtime choral concert at Bath Abbey - Saturday 9 February at 1pm

Advance notice that the Abbey Girls will be featured in a concert at the Abbey with the Girls of Norwich Cathedral. Founded in 1995 and 1997 respectively, the Norwich Cathedral and the Bath Abbey Girls' Choirs are one of the longest established of their kind in the country and are now widely regarded as among the best in the United Kingdom. This is a fantastic opportunity to hear both choirs perform with music by Handel, Faure, Mendelssohn and Schubert's glorious setting of Psalm 23 in 4 parts. The Abbey Girls visited Norwich Cathedral in April 2018 and are very much looking forward to hosting and singing with the girls from Norwich again. The Norwich girls will also join us for the morning services on Sunday 10 February. **All welcome, admission free.**

BathAbbey

Abbey News

January 2019



“I was glad...

...when they said unto me: we will go into the house of the Lord”

I know henceforth those words from Psalm 122 will ring in my memory, forever conjuring a vision of the Abbey’s great West Door swinging open on a cold November night.

Being greeted by our wonderful joint choirs (from both the Abbey and my former Parish) proclaiming Parry’s magnificent anthem at full volume, at the splendid Licensing Service last month, was a spine-tingling moment indeed. Your magnificent welcome that evening was a moving and wonderful tribute to the warmth and dedication of all the Abbey congregation, churchwardens, musicians and staff - and Jebbs and I are so grateful. It was also of course, all rather gloriously ‘over the top’ ...

Hubert Parry composed his famous piece for a Coronation - and I very much hope (talk of “inter-regna” notwithstanding) that no-one was deceived by all the gorgeous pomp & ceremony, into believing a Rector is to be greeted like some kind of monarch! The true royal precedent to follow and observe is, rather, that of Jesus himself. “*This is our God, the Servant King*”, and our prayer must be that Rectors and their like “*learn how to serve, and in our lives enthrone Him*”.

Please do pray that for me, supremely. There is one other Royal I would boldly seek to echo in prayer: King Solomon from the Old Testament, when he asked for divine wisdom at the beginning of his new role. Especially in these early days, please do join in praying like this with me and for me, for the precious gift of God’s wisdom and discernment:

“*Now, Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David... So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?*” (1 Kings Chapter 3) Who is able, indeed? Parry’s glorious anthem suggests an answer: it continues “**they shall prosper that love thee**”...

So may God give great wisdom to us all, as we faithfully *seek Him and love Him* together. And, as we move into 2019 and beyond, may He pour His rich blessing upon and through this great Abbey Church and congregation - just as Parry and his Psalmist conclude: “**Peace be within thy walls : and plenteousness within thy palaces**”

Amen, and Amen – so be it Lord, to the Glory of God.

Revd Canon Guy Bridgewater, Rector

Shoppers Carols

15 times throughout the Bath Christmas Market the Great West Doors of the Abbey were swung open and a large number of visitors to the market flooded in for what is now a regular series of services for shoppers. We estimate that around 6,000 visitors attended the Shoppers Carols services and enjoyed 20-minutes of carol singing, a chorister’s solo of the first verse of *Silent Night*, a Christmas reading, a talk, prayers and a blessing.

Depending upon your personal preference the highlight of the service varies. For me, I really appreciated the talk by one of the Abbey’s clergy (Ken, Jane and Guy) but I also found the Abbey choirboy’s rendition of *Silent Night* very calming. Not so calming was the ‘challenge’ introduced by Guy on the final Saturday - who could sing *Hark the Herald* and *Silent Night* the loudest? - sung in unison! It did however create a great deal of amusement.

Having the East End of the Abbey closed as part of the Footprint Renovations meant greater pressure on seating. We tried to counter this by increasing the number of Shoppers Carols this year and overall managed very well.

As visitors filed out, their thanks and appreciation were particularly warming and arrangements were in place for those who wanted a candle lit or a prayer. Each visitor was also given a booklet called “How to Have a Happy Christmas”.

Then it was doors closed, tidy up replenishing the service sheets and booklets ready to welcome the next visitors.

This was the second year that my wife, Jacki, and I helped at these services. Together with the other volunteers, we really enjoy the experience as it is an opportunity to share the splendour and warmth of the Abbey community with visitors from all parts of the globe. I thoroughly recommend anyone who is thinking of volunteering next year to do so.

Our thanks must go to the Clergy Team and the Ops Team who put in a great deal of time and effort to lead these services, I hope they enjoy them as much as we, the visitors and volunteers.

John Barnes,
Volunteer Steward

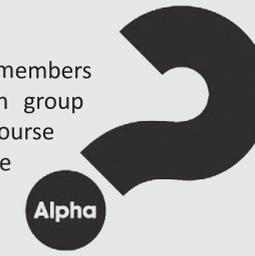
Youth Alpha

Last term between 6 and 14 members of the Abbey Anchor youth group followed the Youth Alpha course exploring Christianity with the youth leaders: Ross, Spina and myself.

Topics included Who is Jesus? Why did Jesus have to die? What about the bible? Who is the Holy Spirit? Plus many more. It takes time to build trust in a group and it was a privilege to see young minds open and the flow of questions come as we explored together. We also had great fun - with food and games run by Ross our youth worker! Thank you to the team.

If you feel called to join the youth leaders team or help with catering in 2019 we would like to hear from you! - please contact Jane jmitchell@bathabbey.org for a chat.

Revd Jane Mitchell
Bath Abbey Youth and Families Chaplain



Footprint Update

Six months in and the building work for Footprint is well underway inside the Abbey at the east end, the vaults and the Jackson Extension. In the Abbey the concrete floor slab and recycled glass insulation have been laid which will be followed by a screed to support the underfloor heating pipes. The ledgerstone repairs are almost complete with the floor relay to start in January. The process of reviewing the ledgerstones and agreeing which stones to repair, and those that will need replacing, has been quite complicated. However, we are confident that we have achieved the right balance between conserving the historic floor for future generations and ensuring the floor will be level and durable.

The pews in the nave and the south aisle will be removed in the last two weeks of January with the new chairs (to match the existing Theo chairs) arriving at the same time. The removal of the pews will give us an open floor for the first time, revealing the remainder of the ledgerstones for recording by volunteers and survey for repair by the contractors. Alongside all this, our research volunteers continue to work hard finding out about the

people commemorated in the Abbey. Cricket lovers may be interested to know that William Draper, whose memorial is in the south aisle, chaired a committee in London to revise the rules of cricket, which included the introduction of the LBW (leg before wicket) rule.

The East End will be completed in mid-March and then we will start the next phase of work. Phase 2 includes the North aisle and the North half of the nave. It will start in mid-March and complete in early 2020. From March, we will use the East end for worship and events, and we will be able to use the new floor for the first time. The Choir Stalls will return at the end of the project. In Kingston Buildings, we have been doing a lot of work in preparation for the double-storey Song School, new stairs and the lift while also opening up spaces in the vaults to the South of the Abbey for the new Learning Space.

However, important though these are, Footprint goes beyond creating new spaces and floor repairs. An equally big part is the new interpretation and activities programme that will reach out to and encourage people to engage with the Abbey in new ways. One of the most rewarding aspects of this has been our work with families and children. Earlier on this year, the archaeologists digging in the east end found a huge cache of Victorian marble fragments, around 1,000 pieces. In October, for Heritage Open Day, Wessex Archaeology gave a training session for Abbey staff and volunteers on how to wash, dry, weigh, label, measure, describe, catalogue, and photograph these fragments. We now understand why archaeology takes a long time! We used our new-found knowledge to run drop-in sessions for families inspiring future archaeologists to produce some brilliant drawings and great descriptions of the pieces. Those who took part loved handling a real piece of Abbey history and thoroughly enjoyed their experience.

On a final note, we were delighted to have been recognised at the recent Bath Property Awards winning the Transformation Category and the overall Winner of Winners. Judges described Footprint as “A highly complex well-executed project that is fully on track to be a major success.” While this was a nice boost, there is still a lot of work to come. We continue to be grateful to everyone for their patience and understanding, and willingness to adapt to the various changes that Footprint has brought with it.

Alix Gilmer,
Footprint Project Director

