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THE BATH CHRONICLE

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Faith to faith



SIGHT-SEEING: the party next to the Olympic Bird's Nest Stadium in Beijing

## Church-goers take a trip to China

A group from a Bath church have visited an old friend in China.

Thirteen members of St Philip's and St James's Church at Odd Down visited churches in China and dropped in on Ian Russell and his wife Anji.

Mr Russell, a former head at Box CofE and St Philip's Primary School at Odd Down, and his wife are now working at an international

school near Beijing.

St Philip's vicar, the Rev Alan Bain, who was on his second visit, said: "It's said that the 21st century will be China's century and I think we owe it them to understand this nation that has returned so rapidly to the world stage.

"China is one of the oldest civilisations the world has known and Bath also now has many Chinese students.

My visits have really helped me to understand them, their history and their country."

The group visited the Chinese church, emerging after decades of persecution, and an international church catering for the many international business people now in the country.

The Odd Down church has twinning arrangements with six other countries.