



Churches of North  
Bradford on Avon  
& Villages

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## Epiphany Update

8 January 2021

*For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland. (Isaiah 43:19)*

### Dear North Bradford on Avon and Villages Churches family

First of all, a very Happy New Year to you all! I hope your Christmas was blessed, if perhaps simpler and quieter than usual.

In view of the latest national lockdown and rapidly rising COVID infections, along with our church leaders, I have taken the difficult decision to suspend public worship in our churches for the next few weeks or so....for the following reasons:

- 1) Although confident we have been operating safely so far, until more information is available, we cannot be absolutely sure the measures we have in place are adequate to prevent the new, more transmissible, strain of COVID virus.
- 2) Considering the average age of those who've been attending (and, crucially, staffing) our services, it would be unwise to ask many of you to come out at present.
- 3) Given that the public health message is again to *stay at home and protect the NHS*, I believe we should show solidarity with this national effort and, for a short time, forgo the privilege of meeting together... even though it is still allowed in law.

We will keep this under constant review and recommence public worship as soon as it seems the right thing to do.

In these circumstances, it is important to continue taking advantage of every means of sustaining our worship and fellowship in other ways. So, to remind you of some of those:

- 1) **YouTube Services** are posted every week on our website but the link can also be emailed to you direct each Saturday ready to watch together in our homes on Sunday morning. There is also a wealth of other worship available online, for example, from Salisbury Cathedral, from other churches in our Deanery and from the BBC.

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- 2) Our churches will continue to be open for **Private Prayer and Reflection as follows:**

Christ Church, each day from 10.00 am – 4.00 pm

St James, South Wraxall each day during daylight hours

St Nicholas, Winsley each day from 10.00 am – 4.00 pm

St Peter's Monkton Farleigh, Sundays and Wednesdays 10.00 am – 12.00 noon

- 3) **NewsLink** aims to keep you informed (and amused) and provide all the links you need. Contact the Church Office if you would like to receive this by email. It is also available from the website.
- 4) **Home Groups** meet regularly via Zoom and would be happy to welcome new members seeking fellowship at this time.
- 5) Our Benefice has a private **Facebook Group and an Instagram page** as a way of keeping in touch.
- 6) And there is always the simple **Telephone call**. Please remember to ring those who are on their own, and if you would like someone to phone you, let us know.

**If you would like to know more about any of these, please do contact me, or the Benefice Office ([nboachurches@gmail.com](mailto:nboachurches@gmail.com), 01225 865046)**

I know none of this is quite the same as meeting face to face, but please do make use of these and other ways of keeping in touch. Even if you are not personally in need of more contact, others, including young families, will really appreciate hearing from you, going for a socially distanced walk or seeing you online. If you would like to be part of our online services, we would love to include you, so do please get in touch.

Stay safe and stay well.

Every blessing as we journey on into God's 'new thing' for 2021.

Ann

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