

# NewsLink

10 January – 23 January 2021



Churches of North  
Bradford on Avon  
& Villages

Dear friends,

A very Happy New Year to you all. I hope you had a very blessed, if rather different Christmas in 2020.

A very big thank you from me, my family and from all the clergy for your cards, presents, flowers and for your good wishes. It is always a joy to know that you remember and appreciate us at this time. Thank you so much.



I have some sad news and good news to share with you. The sad news is that Tess, our wonderful Benefice Administrator, will be leaving us at the end of this month. We have all benefitted from her vision, creativity, flexibility, sense of humour and her sheer warmth of personality. We shall miss her very much but wish her every success as she pursues her counselling qualifications to enhance her bereavement co-ordinator role at Dorothy House.

Sadly in this time of lockdown we are unable to say farewell to her in person, so will be arranging a Zoom coffee morning on Tess's last Wednesday morning, 27 January. If you would like to join to say farewell to her, do please let us know.

The good news is that Denise Button has volunteered to cover Tess's administration role, mainly from home, until Easter to give us time to recruit. Many of you know Denise from Winsley already; she worked with me during the summer to prepare NewsLink whilst Tess's role was furloughed. We are very grateful to Denise for offering her time and talents in this way. The office email and telephone numbers remain the same.

As I write, we are now in lockdown again and I am liaising with churchwardens and church leaders to consider whether or not to continue with church services. We will continue to produce online services for each Sunday and hopefully our churches will remain open during these winter months for private prayer and reflection. I know that this is very much appreciated by members of our communities.

We cannot deny that this is a difficult time for most of us. We are missing seeing family and friends and the routine of the 'normal'. We are unable to plan. We can only take one day at a time. In the church calendar we are in the period of Epiphany which means 'revelation' or 'showing'. In these darkest of days we are looking for the light that shines through as we remember every Christmas listening to the promise in the spine-tingling reading from the beginning of John's Gospel.

We are reminded again that God is with us in the storms and joys of life. If you have had an epiphany, a sense of God revealing himself to you in whatever way, do please share that with me. I would love to hear your story. And if you would just like to talk, please ring me or Tessa, message us and say hello. We would love to hear from you. And if you are struggling, I hope you find this prayer blesses you.

Ann, Rector

**A BLESSING FOR ANYONE STRUGGLING AT THIS TIME**

When you can take some time to rest and unwind a bit,  
may you know God is with you and loves you.  
In any moments of distress or darkness,  
may you see the light that Jesus is holding for you  
and remember that he knows how hard things  
can get sometimes.  
And if, as the new year dawns, it's hard to find  
the energy,  
hope, and confidence that you need,  
may God's Holy Spirit lift you up, strengthen you,  
renew you, encourage you,  
and remind you that your future is safely in God's  
hands.  
Amen.

**Funerals:**

**Lilian Staton** (Former Avon Park resident and member of St Nicholas church) - Friday January 8<sup>th</sup> 11am, St Nicholas Church Winsley (Paul)

**Margaret Williams.** Service at Christ Church Wednesday 13th January at 12.00 followed by burial at Bradford on Avon Cemetery (Ann)

**Nina Wright.** Service at St Nicholas Church, Winsley Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January at 12 followed by a Natural burial at Midford (Ann)

Please remember all their families in your prayers,

Attendance at all funerals is limited due to Covid restrictions.

**NOT EVERYTHING IS CANCELLED.....**  
sunshine is not cancelled  
love is not cancelled  
relationships are not cancelled  
reading is not cancelled  
naps are not cancelled  
going for a walk is not cancelled  
kindness is not cancelled  
imagination is not cancelled  
conversations are not cancelled

**HOPE** is not cancelled.

**Ministry Team**

Rector Rev Ann Keating  
Rev.ann.keating@btinternet.com (722230)  
Rev Tessa Mann (309374)  
LLM: Rachel Pound (862223)

**Benefice Office**

Tessa Stacey (865046)  
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[www.nboachurches.co.uk](http://www.nboachurches.co.uk)

**Church Wardens**

Winsley:  
Roy Ludlow (868779) Linds Batson (720069)  
Christ Church:  
Denise Leigh (863916)  
South Wraxall:  
Dave Wyper (865384) Valentine Thornhill (862552)

**Lay Pastoral Assistants**

Denise Leigh (863916)  
Stephen Pike (782537)  
Denise Davies (863678)  
Gill Fairhurst (867560)  
Daphne Cox (868224)  
Elizabeth Bush (866624)  
James Middleton (920564)

**Children's and Families Worker**

Zoe Yeomans - [zyeomans3@gmail.com](mailto:zyeomans3@gmail.com)

*Do check the website as resources are added regularly and check Instagram and Facebook for all our latest news.*

Our weekly services are available on the Benefice website as is a full copy of this Newslink [www.nboachurches.co.uk](http://www.nboachurches.co.uk)

Some memories of Christmas in our Churches.....

**Christmas at St Peter's, Monkton Farleigh** was a packed full fortnight of celebration that we created to bring pleasure and fun for all after such a difficult year.

Many enjoyed the Christmas trees beautifully decorated by our sister churches and village groups. Floral arrangements adorned our church with wonder and light. Children discovered the nativity story trail in the churchyard and families joined together for a Christmas Eve lantern procession through the village.

A fabulous raffle raised over £650 and bells were rung out after months of silence. We celebrated an unforgettable Christmas Day Morning Family Service seated amongst the trees.

Finally, a massive thank you to everyone who contributed to all the events and made our Christmas a special one after all.

***Rachel Exley.***



**Carol singing at Christ Church, images from Gillian Ellis-King**



**Congratulations** to **Avril Clarke** of The Hub who has been awarded the BoA Town Council 'Citizen of the Year Shining Light Award'. Also to **Christine Giles** of Christine's Sustainable Supermarket who was presented with an award for her community service during the pandemic, as was **Paul Robertson** of the Community Emergency Volunteers. Well done all of you.

And in other news...

A prize should go to Josie Griffith who ate her last 6 tomatoes from our lockdown tomato plants .... on Boxing Day!! Congratulations to Josie!!



Gillian Ellis-King

And finally, from the Church Times...

