

NewsLink

3rd May – 10th May 2020



Churches of North
Bradford on Avon
& Villages

Dear friends

Do ring into the new **free** phone line operated by the Church of England called **Daily Hope**. Callers to the line hear a short greeting from the Archbishop before being able to choose from a range of options, including hymns, prayers, reflections and advice on COVID-19.

The line – which is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044** – has been set up particularly with those unable to join online church services in mind but can inspire us all! The service is supported by the Church of England nationally as well as through the Connections group based at Holy Trinity Claygate in Surrey and the Christian charity Faith in Later Life.

A section called *Hymn Line* offers callers a small selection of hymns, updated daily. An option entitled 'Hymns We Love', provides a hymn and reflection and is based on an initiative by the Connections group. This is led by Pippa Cramer who set up *Connections* and her husband Steve.

This was the section I chose to test the line and I heard the hymn for today. I have just listened to a 20 minute rendition of *Amazing Grace* and a reflection on the parable of the Prodigal Son. The speaker Steve Cramer describes how John Newton who wrote *Amazing Grace* was a rebel throughout his life, how he became a Christian and how he himself rejected God twice and tested the message from the parable of the Prodigal Son. Newton ended up throwing himself on God's mercy, slowly rebuilt his life, became a priest and in 1772, reflecting on the journey of his life, he wrote *Amazing Grace*, a hymn loved by many as many of us can relate to its heart felt lyrics. John Newton joined the anti-slavery movement working alongside William Wilberforce. He knew what God had rescued him from, and for what purpose. God had shown him mercy and lavished him with Grace.

The broadcast ends with listening to the hymn again followed by Pippa leading us in two short prayers.

Other options available include materials also made available digitally by the Church of England's Communications team such as [Prayer During the Day and Night Prayer](#), updated daily, from Common Worship, and a recording of the Church of England [weekly national online service](#).

Do share this with those you know who are not online. And do ring in yourself. It's free and can bless us all!

Finally, this week there are two events I wish to highlight to you, Paul Batson's Quiet Day on Tuesday 5th and suggestions for participating in VE Day tributes. Information on both are in NewsLink below with full details in the Resources Section of the website.

Stay safe, stay well and God Bless you.

Ann,
Rector

Benefice Online Service and Resources

The link to this Sunday's service, 'The Lord is my Shepherd', is now available below. This will take you to the Benefice Youtube channel

<https://youtu.be/dtGN8jNVC0w>

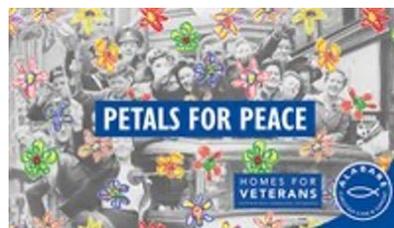
It will also be available on the Benefice Website www.nboachurches.co.uk

Each week we will also publish your photos, Bible verses that have spoken to you, reflections and poems in Newslink or on the website. So please do send these to Ann Keating by the Thursday of each week.

Quiet Day 5th May 2020

A reminder to join in with a Quiet Day that was planned by Paul Batson for Great Chalfield this week but can still take place in our own gardens or surrounding countryside. Paul is hoping we might join him in making it a special day of reflection – 'A Day of Achievement'.

See the Resources Section on the website for Paul's notes. Thank you.



VE Day for children and families

Wiltshire Council have also forwarded 36 pages of activities for children and families. Do go onto our Benefice website and download this pack of resources

VE Day 8th May



Sadly all our events can no longer take place but in the resources section of the website there are various activities you can engage with safely.

The Royal British Legion is calling on people across the UK to join in a moment of reflection and Remembrance at **11am** on Friday 8th May, the 75th Anniversary of VE Day, and pause for a Two Minute Silence. I hope that you will also be able to support this important aspect of VE Day from home too.

We can also all join in with the **3pm** *The Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW2*. In memory of the many millions in the UK and overseas who sacrificed so much to secure the freedom we have today, we are invited to stand at **3pm** and raise a glass or cup of refreshment of your choice and undertake the following toast: "For those that gave so much, we thank you."

The Alabare Community who care for the homeless are also calling upon us to decorate our windows with displays of petals to mark the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day while helping the homeless who are struggling during the present crisis.

CHRIST CHURCH PROJECT – PLANS TO INSTALL TOILETS AND A KITCHEN IN THE CHURCH

As is to be expected Covid-19 has slowed everything down but the ball is still in play. Firstly, let me reassure you all that our architect, George, is still working on detailed drawings for Phase 1A (kitchen and toilets only) and we hope to have detailed drawings and supporting documents available soon prior to submitting an application for a faculty. When we have a faculty from the diocese we shall be able to go out to tender to get some real costs in as only when we have those can we submit bids for grants.

I should like to thank Gillian for her extensive efforts to pursue Heritage Lottery funding. I consider this to be extremely valuable as she saw a potential opportunity to include all the additional work that we acknowledge that we would like to do at little or no extra cost to ourselves, and from the comments received we know that these are important to the community. It is unfortunate that Covid-19 has brought this to a temporary halt just at the time when we were ready to see if this approach would fly.

Next step - request for faculty.
Stephen Pike

**ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH AND CHURCH HALL
FUNDRAISING EVENTS:**

PLANT SALE

Dreen Rees and Heather Parker will be holding a plant sale for the above and would be grateful if you could take plant cuttings/shrubs etc. for sale. We cannot confirm a date due to the Coronavirus.

'COME & BUY' SALE

We will be holding the above sale when we can all socialise together. In the meantime please save all your unwanted items, books, unwanted presents etc. so that we can sell them. Now is a great opportunity to clear out your cupboards, wardrobes and lofts!

If you have any queries please contact:
Dreen 01225 863417 Heather: 01225 866340
Many thanks for your help



View of Christ Church seen by Tricia Burns and Lily on their daily walk



Tricia Burns Dog Lily watching an online service!

***Update on the food bank at the Hub from
Kathy van Griethuysen who collects on behalf
of Winsley***

The Hub is very grateful for the amazing donations from Winsley of dry and tinned food which gets delivered weekly.

I thought the Newslink would like to know about the Hub activities as Winsley's generous gifts have contributed to their work.

The Hub continues to work with two volunteers each morning so that they can keep to the social distancing rules. The door is locked and clients can no longer come into the building but a volunteer will come to the door. Food boxes have gone out to families, boaters and to anyone in need who is referred or makes a direct request by phone, email or at the door. Donations have come in from local businesses, Tesco, Coop, Sainsburys, Fareshare and many others. Orders for more boxes to pack food in have had to be made which reflects the increased need at this time. Money generously donated has been used to buy food, food gift vouchers to buy fresh food and for those sleeping rough some camping equipment (tents, sleeping bags, cookers, saucepans, plates, mugs and water containers). Volunteers are delivering food boxes where needed.

A message from Avril Clarke regarding anyone in need. " If you know of people who are struggling, who are self employed, on zero hours contracts with no hours, lost their jobs, are laid off and now have no income- some may be waiting for help from the government including Universal Credit, dont forget to signpost them to the Hub. We can deliver food parcels."

Hub telephone number 01225 920748 (open 10am -1pm)

Hub email - boacommunityhub@gmail.com

Spring Harvest at Home

If you didn't manage to catch up with Spring Harvest at home, we are so pleased to announce that the material should be available at least until the **end of May**, and **all still for free**. You can find the resources on their website www.Springharvest.org or Youtube.

Life goes on sent in by Denise Leigh

Halfway down my garden path
A shallow dish
A bird bath
Two pigeons land
One jumps in
He splashes
She stands
Respectful
At a distance
He settles in
Lower
He splashes
She says
Can I come in
No
Please
No
She lowers her head
Raises one wing
In supplication
Pretty pleeeeeease
No
She hops
If you let me in
Perhaps, later
We can
He stops splashing
Thinks – for a nano-second
Ok then
He shuffles over
She hops in
It's a squeeze
But
They settle
Bliss !

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)
nboabenefice@gmail.com
Website
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

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

And Finally...

From Denise Davies: "We might not be able to see the light yet, for there are bends in the tunnel. However, there IS light at the end of the tunnel"

