

NewsLink

28th June - 5th July 2020



Churches of North
Bradford on Avon
& Villages

Dear friends,

It is wonderful that we can start opening our churches for individual and private prayer. Thank you to all our volunteers who are welcoming, cleaning and ensuring those who come feel safe.

You will see in our service on Sunday how our churches have prepared, and are preparing to welcome people back into our buildings.

You will have heard from the news that our churches can start to plan to open from 4 July. It will take time to prepare Risk Assessments, put in place all the recommendations and to consult with each PCC. More news will follow in the weeks to come but in the meantime, some of our churches will continue to be available for personal prayer.

We have had a wedding booked for 4 July in St Nicholas, Winsley and have been waiting to see if the government lifted the restrictions in time for them to get married. Fortunately the government announcement came and the couple are going ahead with seven of us present. Do please hold Carrie and Dwayne in your prayers on their special day.

God Bless you.

Stay safe and stay well.

Reminder from Derek Robins, Chair of the Mount Pleasant Centre

The private company managing parking in the Centre and Club are in operation so please do not park in the car park unless you are attending an organised session in the Centre or visiting the Club in the evening.

Benefice Online Service and Resources

The link to this Sunday's service 'Welcome as Christ' is now available below.

<https://youtu.be/pOUVD00hT24>

It will also be available on the Benefice Website www.nboachurches.co.uk along with additional resources.

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.

If you know someone who can not access Newslink online and who would prefer a hard copy, please send their name and postal address to Ann Keating. We will post a copy to them by Royal Mail in line with the C of E guidelines for safe distribution

From Daphne Cox

This wee prayer I keep in my Bible and it is helpful especially when I feel I'm in the middle of a lockdown or at anytime.

God of Peace, grant us the energy, passion and determination to do the work of peace. May we be those who sow in peace and reap a harvest of righteousness. Not an easy peace, not an insignificant peace, not a half hearted peace, but the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Funeral of Rowland (Ron) Rae

Formerly of Christ Church,
Wednesday 1 July at 13.45 at Semington
Please pray for Ron's family

From Denise Leigh

Friday 19 June. Christ Church folk were not able to gather under one roof to say goodbye to our much loved friend and brother in Christ, Gordon Messer.

Our Verger, Tony Green, had the idea that we could gather - not under one roof - but on the pavement outside the church to show our love and respect for a dear man as he made his final earthly journey. And Bobbie had the presence of mind to take photographs!



So here we are, sad, but together.....

And a message from Gordon's wife Joy

“Joy and family wish to thank everyone for the many messages, cards and phone calls received since losing Gordon. They have been overwhelmed by all the caring shown to them.”

Welcoming people into our churches.....

Christ Church decorated their trees in the churchyard with butterflies and hearts. As I came out of the church I met a couple who were absolutely delighted to see them blowing in the wind. It really cheered them up.



From Alison Wells, Christian Aid link in Winsley

DFID/FCO Proposed merger

Christian Aid are asking that people write as soon as possible to their MP to ask that they write to the PM to:

- Express your opposition to the proposed merger, which was not in the 2019 Conservative manifesto
- Let him know that you wish to see the Government retain an independent department focussed on eradicating poverty
- Ask that he consults with leaders of the world's poorest countries who are recipients of DFID funding and get their views on whether a proposed merger will help or hinder the battle against extreme poverty in their country
- Ask that he takes particular note of the views of the 46 Commonwealth nations who receive DFID funding and with whom he has pledged to 'forge strong links'

Anthony Matthew (Bradford Deanery Synod Rep.)

has kindly forwarded to me for circulation the attached from Jeanne Blowers.

To find out more about the Quiet Garden movement here is their website: <https://quietgarden.org> and details for Great Chalfield can be found here: <https://quietgarden.org/gardens/great-chalfield-quiet-garden/>

Blessed are the poor in Spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven

I turned to the empty ones.
“What does it mean to be poor in spirit,” I asked?
The poor in spirit replied,
“Can God fill anyone who is full?
And how sad if you should suddenly discover that
you are full
Of illusions instead of filled with truth.
Being poor in spirit means,
Having nothing to call your own, except your
poverty
It is a joyful awareness of your emptiness
It is the soil of opportunity for God has space to
work
in the emptiness that is owned.
Being poor in spirit means
Knowing that you are so small and dependent,
Needy and powerless
That you live with open hands and an open heart
Waiting to be blessed.
For only then can you be blessed if you know that
you need blessing.
Being poor in spirit means
That you have time, you are not oppressed by
deadlines,
There is always time for waiting for the one who is
poor.
Being poor in this way frees you from the prison
Of having to have everything planned and
structured,
As though there was no tomorrow.
And finally being poor in spirit means being able to
say without embarrassment humbly, and yet with
passion: “I need you.”

*From Seasons of the heart by Macrina Wiederkehr
O. S. B*

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

Barrington Times

We are pleased to have received the next edition of the Barrington Times, the newspaper that our young crucifer Henry Barrington has been producing during the lockdown.



You can view his news in the resource section of the Benefice website. As before we have edited it to remove identifiable photos of the children in line with safeguarding guidelines