

# NewsLink

1st August —15 August, 2021



Churches of North  
Bradford on Avon  
& Villages

## Happy Lammas Day!

I had never heard of Lammas Day and it was Richard Mann that mentioned it to me a while ago. When I saw that we were holding a joint service with our Methodist friends on 1<sup>st</sup> August, the day when Lammas was traditionally celebrated – it seemed just right to celebrate something different.

So, what is Lammas Day?

Lammas is an Anglo-Saxon word meaning Loaf Mass, and Lammas Day is an ancient English tradition celebrated on the first day of August to mark the beginning of the harvest, and especially the wheat crop to provide for the making of bread.

The early church converted the festival to Christian usage, given our belief that God is our creator and provides for us through the abundance of the natural world. Traditionally on Lammas Day, loaves of bread were baked from the first-ripened grain and brought to the churches to be blessed. On Sunday, 1st August there is a procession travelling from Turleigh Cross via Winsley Methodist Church and the Seven Stars to St Nicholas Church, collecting four freshly baked loaves enroute, ready to be blessed and broken during our service as we share in Holy Communion.

Although our loaves are not made from the wheat of the new harvest, we have baked in thankfulness and celebration of the bounty of God's harvest. We hope that our service, and our remembering of the Christian tradition of Lammas remind us of all that we have to be grateful to God for, and make us appreciate anew the abundance of God's world.

It is also a timely reminder for us to remember the urgent need for us to take better care of all that God has granted us, recognising the damaging effects of climate change and the loss of living creatures that we are causing. We trust that this reminder and celebration of Loaf Mass, Lammas Day will be an opportunity for us to reflect on what part we, our communities, and our country can play in reducing the effects of climate change and an opportunity to renew our commitment to God and his Creation. The practice of celebrating Lammas Day died out with the Reformation, and was later redeveloped into our well-known celebration of Harvest Festival.

Ann, Rector

### ***Prayer: God of the Ripe Corn***

*God of the ripe corn,  
on Lammas Day our ancestors  
brought you bread  
made from the first fruits  
of the wheat harvest.*

*Today we bring you  
the fruits of our labours;  
our joys and our achievements,  
our hopes and our disappointments,  
our plans and our dreams.*

*We ask you to accept  
the work of our hands  
and our minds  
and our hearts.*

*God of the ripe corn,  
bring us safe home  
to harvest.  
Amen*



***Ruth Burgess. Taken from Iona Community Wild Goose Publication 'Bare feet and butter-cups'. Used with permission.***

## Upcoming Events and Notices

### Upcoming Services

**Booking is no longer required but please continue to wear a face mask in church.**

#### Sunday August 1st

10am HC at St James, South Wraxall (SW, MF)  
10am HC at St Nicholas, Winsley joined with Winsley Methodist Church. All Welcome. See details below.

#### Sunday August 8th

10am HC at St Nicholas, Winsley  
10am Open Air, HC service at MF (MF, SW)  
10.30 am HC at Christ Church, Bradford on Avon

#### Sunday August 15th

10am HC at St Nicholas, Winsley (CC)  
10am HC at St James, South Wraxall (MF)

### Lammas Day

**Sunday, August 1st, Winsley**— Family Friendly Communion Service for Lammas Day (Loaf Mass) with a procession starting at 10am from Turleigh Cross.

Activities for children during the service of approximately 45 minutes.

Everyone welcome, please join us. Any queries, contact Tessa or Zoe.



#### Ministry Team:

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

#### Benefice Office:

Caroline Brydon (865046),  
nboabenefice@gmail.com  
Website [www.nboachurches.co.uk](http://www.nboachurches.co.uk)

#### Church Wardens:

**Winsley:** Roy Ludlow (868779) Linds Batson (720069)

**Christ Church:** vacant, Contact Rev Ann Keating

**South Wraxall:** Dave Wyper (865384) Valentine Thornhill (862552)

**Monkton Farleigh:** Vacant. Contact Rachel Exley PCC Secretary (851485)

#### Lay Pastoral Assistants:

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)

### Monkton Farleigh Street Market

**Saturday August 28th, 2pm - 5pm**

Make money for yourself and St. Peter's Church

**How :** Have a stall at your garden gate-  
**What:** Cakes, Jams, Plants, Bric a Brac, Toys, Books, Table Top Game for all to try their luck. The choice is yours!

Flyers will be distributed around Monkton Farleigh this weekend with information on how to book your spot.

### Information about NewsLink

Due to several Benefice staff taking leave in mid August and early September, the next edition of NewsLink will be from the 15th August to the 11th September, so covering nearly four weeks instead of the usual two weeks. Please send any relevant contributions for this edition to the email below by August 10th latest. Any events and news of groups re-starting in early September will be in this edition.

You can read the full version of NewsLink and access this week's online service and details of future services on the website [www.nboachurches.co.uk](http://www.nboachurches.co.uk). If you require a hard copy please email or leave a message at the Benefice office on 01225 865046.

## The National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast...

The National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast is an annual recognition of the contribution that Christianity makes to the national life of the UK. This year, due to the coronavirus pandemic, the National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast took place online again and was live-streamed on Friday 25 June.

The event was chaired by The Rt Hon Andrea Leadsom MP and the main speaker was The Rt Revd Professor NT Wright, who addressed the theme of 'Life Beyond Covid: A Renewed Hope'. For more information, please visit [www.christiansinparliament.org.uk/prayer-breakfast/](http://www.christiansinparliament.org.uk/prayer-breakfast/)

## A thank you from Winsley Primary School...

Winsley Open The Book Team, led by Angela Symonds, provided a delicious cream tea for staff at Winsley School during the last week of the school term.

For much of the year, the Open the Book Team, supported by others in the community, provided cakes every Friday for the staff. This has been hugely appreciated.

Open the Book has continued throughout the last 18 months in video form. This has been filmed in Angela's garden.

Thank you Open the Book Team for being so creative and supportive to the school.



## Here is the July 2021 Update from our Mission Partners, Colin and Audrey Gibson...

What can we say? Where do we start? What is to become of Lebanon? This month we thought we could not do better than produce (with kind permission) extracts from the English translation of a Lament for Lebanon by Rabih Hasbany. Rabih, who is Lebanese, works at the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary and the lament is based on his reflection of David's position in the Psalms when he faced difficulties and enemies, looking to God and praising him. Circumstances did not change, but David was the one who changed (translation from the original Arabic by Teresa Sfeir).

### **Please pray for mercy and a way forward for Lebanon.**

*Astray in my homeland, estranged I cry. My voice isn't heard by those passing by. Children have lost their brighter tomorrow. Young ones have no more visions to follow. Ill Fathers no remedy can they find. The bellies of the new born remaining hollow. The tankers have no more fuel in store. We turn to candle light just like before. Our streets are deserted, their lamps are out. As a boat in a storm, we're tossed about.*

*Shall power thirsty rulers be our aid—They who have sketched a Lebanon that is maimed. —They who have tightly shut windows. Lord I come to you with so much to speak, and bitter tears are streaming down the cheek.*

*We look to you, Mighty One alone. Our tongues can't tell of all the works You've shown. And in the wilderness. You've been my help. In trials, I was never on my own.*

*All power and authority are Thine. To every plea Lord, Your ear You incline. Have mercy on my stubborn people, and grant us the grace of salvation at hand.*

*Away from you, O Lord, peace has no trace. But in Your arms, we rest in Your embrace. Involve us in Your new covenant grace, so that we live with You for all your days.*

*In our nation, though we are hard pressed--- There are oppressors and then the oppressed—How can we ask ourselves "What's next?" When You're the keeper of Your promises.*