



Dear friends,



Last week, my daughter and I were very fortunate to spend a few days in Florence. A visit to the Uffizi Gallery is almost essential for anyone visiting as it hosts works of art by great Italian artists such as Botticelli, Giotto, Cimabue, Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci and Raffaello, just to name a few of the most famous.

As we wandered through the different rooms, we were constantly surrounded by paintings of religious art, the majority from the Renaissance period. so, it was easy for me to remember that we, as the church, are in the period of Lent.

Returning to everyday life and daily news, it would be easy to forget this so I wondered how you are spending this time.

Have you been able to build in time for reflection, join one of the study groups or join the Wednesday lunchtime Zoom meetings?

Some of you will be exploring faith in music, through your prayer life or through faith and our environment. Perhaps social justice is something you are passionate about, so you may be following the political debates on asylum seekers and refugees.

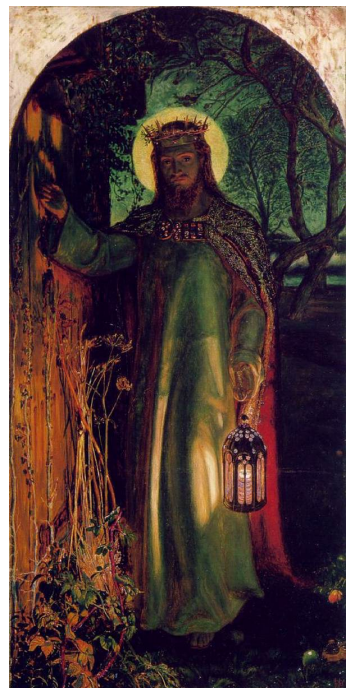
I find exploring my faith and prayer life through something visual helps me reflect. A famous painting that I'm sure many of us know is that of Holman Hunt based on the verse from *Rev 3.20* 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if you open the door, I will come to you and eat with you, and you with me.'



In response to that verse *Meister Eckhart* wrote 'You need not seek him here or there; he is no further than the door of your heart; there he stands, patiently awaiting whoever is ready to open up and let him in. No need to call him from afar; he can hardly wait for you to open up. He longs for you a thousand times more than you long for him.'

We all have different ways of responding to God's call through prayer. Whether you enjoy praying with Scripture, praying through the Eucharist, praying for a list of people, whilst walking in the countryside or perhaps by being taken into silence beyond words and images into contemplation, Lent is an opportunity to perhaps explore a different way of praying. Praying outside of our comfort zone can be challenging, but it can also be very liberating.

I read an interesting article recently on what happens when we pray. It was explaining the latest findings from neurotheology. What is clear from this is how habitual practice alters our brains. Singing worship songs and hymns or meditating regularly are all ways by which the brain develops its temporal lobes. We develop these, and in doing so, in collaboration with other parts of our brains, we increase our capacity for spiritual experience.



However you are spending Lent, my prayer for you is that you will enjoy and yet be challenged by the journey, that your faith may deepen, and that you will feel truly blessed.

Ann, Rector

Sunday 12th March 2023

10.00am Refresh Service at St Nicholas Church, Winsley. Led by Alison Wells and Zoe Yeomans. IT Geoff.

10.00am Holy Communion Service at St Peter's Church, Monkton Farleigh. Led by Revd. Paul Batson.

10.30am Holy Communion Service at Christ Church, Bradford on Avon. Led by Revd. Tim Hawkings, Tricia and the music group.

3.00pm Bell commissioning Service at St James' Church. Led by Revd. Ann Keating and Bishop Andrew, organist Keith B.

Wednesday 15th March 2023

6.00pm Compline Service at St Nicholas Church, Winsley. Led by Revd. Tessa Mann.

Sunday 19th March 2023

10.00am Holy Communion Service at St Peter's Church, Monkton Farleigh jointly with St James Church, South Wraxall. Led by Revd. Tessa Mann.

10.00am Holy Communion Service at St Nicholas Church, Winsley. Led by Revd. Tim Hawkings, organist Keith B, IT Geoff.

10.30am Holy Communion Service, Christ Church, Bradford on Avon. Led by Revd. Ann Keating, organist Richard Thompson.

Wednesday 22nd March 2023

6.00pm Compline Service at Christ Church, Bradford on Avon. Led by Revd. Tessa Mann.

Funeral of the late Jackie Rice

12.30pm 17 March 2023 at St James' Church, South Wraxall

Led by Revd. Paul Batson and Revd. Ann Keating

Private cremation at
Semington Crematorium

Lent Course at home

**Tuesday evenings 7.30pm—9.30pm
Led by Bernard and Judith Hughes**

At 6, Priory Park,
Bradford on Avon
14th March and 28 March.

For further details, please contact them by ringing
868679

Funeral of the late Mrs Sheila Blethryn

**11am 30th March 2023 Christ
Church, Bradford on Avon**

Led by Fr Tom

Volunteers needed

for our King Charles III coronation events

Are you able to volunteer at one of our coronation events over the Bank holiday weekend? If so please do speak to your church wardens.

NewsLink

The next edition of NewsLink will be on **Sunday 26th March 2023**. Please email any relevant contributions to the Benefice Office at nboabenefice@gmail.com by **9.30am Tuesday 21st March 2023**. You can read the full version on our website at www.nboachurches.co.uk

Ministry Team:

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

Benefice Office:

Bridge Duncombe (865046),
nboabenefice@gmail.com
Website www.nboachurches.co.uk

Church Wardens:

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

Christ Church: Hilary and Stephen Pike (782537)

South Wraxall: Dave Wyper (865384)

Valentine Thornhill (862552)

Monkton Farleigh: Rachel and Colin Exley: (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

STREET PASTORS

Further to David Goldstone's talk at the St Nicholas Refresh service earlier this month, if anyone would like more information about becoming a Street Pastor, have a conversation or would like to go out on an observation visit then please contact their local co-ordinator Julia Wade on juliawade8@gmail.com or 01380 870137.

Revision of the Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll is a list of members who are entitled to participate in the government of the church and to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

If anyone who attends Christ Church, St James', St Nicholas', or St Peter's churches in our benefice who is not already on the roll, and who would like to be added to the 2023 Electoral Roll, please complete an application form. Blank copies are available at the back of some churches and from the church wardens listed in this NewsLink. Once completed, please give them to one of the churchwardens or the clergy. Completed forms should be returned by 4th April, ready for Annual Church Meetings occurring in April.

Who can be on the electoral roll? To be on the electoral roll a person needs to have been baptised, be at least 16 years old and either:

- Living in the parish and a member of the Church of England or a Church in communion with the Church of England
- Not resident in the parish but is a member of the Church of England (or a Church with which the Church of England is in communion) and has regularly attended worship in the parish during the six months prior to enrolment
- A member in good standing of a Church which subscribes to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity and they are prepared to declare themselves a member of the Church of England, having regularly attended worship during the six months prior to enrolment.

South Wraxall Village Breakfast

Our next Village Breakfast will be on **Sunday 19th March**, Mothering Sunday. Do come and join us in South Wraxall Village Hall from 9:00am onwards.

We will be serving all the usual fare: a Full English Breakfast, fruit juice, tea and coffee, toast and marmalade.



You are welcome to take pot luck and turn up on the day, but it does help us to know how many people to expect. So, if possible, please reserve your table by email-

ing southwraxall@outlook.com.

All proceeds will go towards the upkeep of St James's Church. We look forward to seeing you again or meeting you for the first time.

Serenata Guitar Trio

John Mills - Wendy Partridge - Cobie Smit



"An Afternoon of Beautiful Music"

St. Nicholas' Church, Winsley BA15 2HN

Saturday 25th March, 2023 at 3 p.m.

Free admission - donations welcome which will go entirely to the Church
(Refreshments available following the performance)

Works by Mozart, Schubert, plus music from Spain and Latin America

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John Mills is a former student of John Williams, Julian Bream and Andres Segovia -
Wendy Partridge attended the Royal Academy of Music, London and also studied with
Julian Bream - Cobie Smit studied at the Rotterdam Conservatorium and the
Royal Conservatorium of the Hague, Holland.

Children & Families News

Christ Church Ark Toddler Group

Unfortunately the Ark toddler group will be cancelled on Thursday 30th March 2023 but the group will be back to welcome you on Thursday 20th April 2023.

Walking together in the afternoon sunshine reflecting on Creation story. 'It's all good!'

A bit of natural history. Did you know Snipe were once in the fields but now their habitat is lost- just as in many places in the world. Yet, Horseshoe Bats thrive in Murhill and Mistletoe boosts wildlife where it is found. Fundamentally, if we take proper care of God's Creation: 'It's all good!'

Lots of laughter, observations, conversations and connections made going along and over tea and cake at the finish. 'It's all good!'

Kids and grown ups having fun and dogs hurtling across the fields with sticks. Such a joy! 'It's all good!'

Thank you so much to all who came and all who were involved in our successful first Forest Church Walk! Look out for the next one coming soon.

Zoe Yeomans Children and Families Worker

Winsley School would like to have a whole school Easter Service on **Thursday 30th March at 2.00pm**. They will be processing from school to church.

How wonderful to have the school in church at this very special time of year.

It would be lovely to have lots of **welcomers and helpers** on the day. Could you let me know if you are around to support this special service - thanks.

Rev. Tessa Mann

