



Dear Friends,

A Time to Remember

This week-end all four of our communities are marking Remembrance Sunday. (Look out for the times later in Newslink to see when we are gathering, and join us if you can.) We are encouraged to look back and value the service of previous generations, and especially of those who died in two world wars. At Monkton Farleigh's War Memorial there are the names of those remembered in the village, helpfully with the additional information of the regiments they belonged to, where they died, and their ages. Behind each name is a story to tell. Underneath are the poignant words of Jesus "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends".



We will listen again to the dream of Micah the Old Testament prophet from almost three thousand years ago. "They shall beat their swords into ploughs, and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." Are these words an impossible and elusive dream? Our world longs to hear that message afresh, and for people committed to making it happen.

The catastrophic situation in the Holy Land at present, and the war in Ukraine which seems to have ground into a stalemate, are ample reminders that humanity has a long way to go if we are to live at peace with one another.

For a while I was involved with the German War graves on Cannock Chase in Staffordshire. Each summer a group of young people from Bremen would come over to tend these graves and repaint the names and reflect on their stories. They also joined in learning about the area, in meeting local youngsters, and in building bridges. The German War Graves Volksbund has a tag line, "Reconciliation over the graves - work for peace."

Remembrance Sunday is not simply an exercise in looking backwards. Our acts of remembrance encourage us to be re-membered (put back together) as the people we were intended to be. As we learn from the lessons of history, we are invited to look forward and commit ourselves again to the cause of peace.

Our Benefice and communities also have much reason to look forward as our new Rector, Revd Katie Jackson, has just been announced. This is indeed wonderful news. Linds Batson has written about the appointment later in this issue of Newslink. We look forward to welcoming Katie in due course, and the exciting next chapter in our life together.

Tim Hawkings

Upcoming Services

Sunday 12th November

10.00am Remembrance Service St James' Church, South Wraxall. Led by Revd. Paul Batson.

10.30am Remembrance Service with Holy Communion Christ Church, Bradford on Avon. Led by Revd. Bernard Hughes.

10.40am Remembrance Service at the war memorial Winsley. Led by Revd. Tessa Mann.

10.50am Remembrance Service with Holy Communion Service St Peter's Church, Monkton Farleigh. Led by Revd. Tim Hawkings.

Sunday 19th November

10.00am Morning Worship St James Church, South Wraxall with St Peter's Church, Monkton Farleigh. Led by Roy Ludlow.

10.00am Holy Communion Service St Nicholas Church, Winsley. Led by Revd. Tim Hawkings.

10.30am Holy Communion Service Christ Church, Bradford on Avon. Led by Revd. Paul Batson.

Sunday 26th November

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

10.00am Home group led Service St Nicholas Church, Winsley. Home group to lead service.

10.30am Refresh Service Christ Church, Bradford on Avon. Led by Denise Leigh and the Refresh group.

Wednesday 29th November

10.30am Holy Communion Service Christ Church, Bradford on Avon. Led by Revd. Bernard Hughes.



Funeral of the late Judith Maxwell

Noon, Saturday 25th November 2023

Christ Church, Bradford on Avon

Revd. Tessa Mann

Burial of Ashes of the late Joan Thorpe

Noon, Wednesday 15th November 2023

Christ Church, Bradford on Avon

Revd. Paul Batson

Please see note below

There will be a short service at noon on 15th November in Christ Church to which all are welcome, followed by the burial of Joan's Ashes in the family grave.

Joan was married to Jim who was a Church Warden at Christ Church many years ago and will be fondly remembered by some members of the congregation. **Revd. Paul Batson**

Our new Rector

I am delighted at the appointment of our new Rector, the Rev Katie Jackson, because I think she is just the person to take us forward at this stage, to build on Ann's work, and help us to 'make Jesus known' in the Benefice.

When members of the four PCCs met with the Archdeacon, the Ven Sue Groom, in June, she told us that because of the shortage of clergy nationally, when parishes advertised for a new Rector they received 0 or 1 applications on average. We were therefore pleasantly surprised to find out that the Bishop knew of a candidate who was interested in applying. We were assured that whilst the Bishop thought that this candidate was suitable, it was up to the four PCCs to decide whether to pursue this candidate or to advertise, which would be a longer timeframe. The PCCs unanimously agreed to go with this candidate – about whom we knew nothing.

Meanwhile, we needed to produce a Benefice Profile, a task undertaken by 7 PCC members, with 17 draft versions. We also consulted with the congregations and incorporated these responses in the Profile. The Archdeacon sent the Profile to the candidate, who duly applied. When the interview panel met with the Archdeacon to consider the application we unanimously agreed to invite her for interview.

On Tuesday 31 October Katie met the PCCs, LPAs, Lay Worship Leaders, Zoe, Bridge, children at Winsley School, and the clergy team. We were without exception impressed with her warm and immediate manner, her life experience, and her breadth of experience as a Christian. The most prevalent theme of the congregational consultation was a need to connect more with children and families. We discovered that Katie has not only been a Children and Families Social Worker, but also a Children and Families Worker in a local church. Things were looking good!

At a rigorous interview on Wednesday 1 November, Katie impressed the panel with her grasp and understanding of the needs of our parishes. Our four parish reps were unanimous in wanting her to be offered the post, and are overjoyed that she has accepted.

I'm delighted – not just because we have a new Rector but because it's Rev Katie, who comes with a deep faith and loving heart.

We look forward to welcoming Katie and her husband Rob, Lottie and Mattie in the new year. In the meantime, in the words of our Benefice Prayer:

May we be open to change and ready graciously to welcome our new Rector, Katie,
on whom we pray your blessing. Amen

Linds Batson, Profile Writing Group and Interview Panel member

NewsLink

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

Ministry Team:

Revd. Tessa Mann (309374)

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

REFRESH AT CHRISTCHURCH

Dear friends, the 26th November is the Feast of Christ the King, and also the birthday (Patronal) of Christ Church. An occasion to CELEBRATE !! (coffee AND cake). To mark this occasion we are asking you to tell us your favourite praise hymn to form part of what we think will be a special REFRESH service. Just drop me an email (deniseleigh2022@gmail.com), or it would be lovely to have a phone call (863916). Suggestions will then be drawn from a hat. If you haven't been to REFRESH before, or not for a long time, why not give it a try it's sowell.....refreshing !!!

Denise Leigh



**Methodist Church,
Winsley**
Carol Service
2.30pm Tuesday 12th December 2023
All welcome

Two straw dolls dressed in traditional attire, holding sheet music, positioned to the left of the text.

Coffee Morning

in aid of The Children's Society

Saturday 18th November 2023

Christ Church, Bradford on Avon

10am—1pm

Do please come along for a cuppa & cake, convivial chat & a sales table.

(Sorry, we are only able to accept cash).

Hope to see you there!



Ann Hilton has the Christmas Card catalogue from which we would love you to order so see her if you are interested!

Coming to a church hall near you
(Opposite St Nicholas')

SOUP'S UP:2 (The Return!)

Starring

A blue bowl of soup with a spoon, inside a circular frame.

Delicious home-made soup
and featuring

A roll and butter on a plate, inside a circular frame.

Roll and butter

A blue bowl of dessert with a spoon, inside a circular frame.

Tasty dessert

**12-3 on Friday's 3rd and 17th November
And 1st and 15th December**

Benefice Advent Group

Judith and Bernard are holding a Benefice Advent Group that will be held at Sue and Jonathan's home at 25 Downs Close, BonA on the following Wednesdays: 29th November; 6th, 13th, and 20th December. If you are interested please contact Bernard and Judith on 01225 868679.

Christmas Toy Collection



St James Church, South Wraxall has for a number of years collected unwrapped, brand new toys for the Salvation Army as part of their Christmas appeal. This year, for the first time, the whole Benefice is taking part in the drive to give a little joy to children at this special time of year with brand new toys and other gifts.

We will be collecting **unwrapped, brand new toys** for children aged 0 to 18 from **November 13th-December 3rd**. These will then be distributed to families by the Salvation Army.

Please could contributions be placed in the collection boxes in the porches of the Churches of the Benefice. For Christ Church, please use the South Porch.

More information about the Salvation Army Christmas appeal can be found via this link: [Christmas Present Appeal | The Salvation Army](#) it is well worth a read!



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www.VectrlySeek.com

MEN'S GROUP - Wednesday 15th November 2023

7.00 pm in Winsley Social Club

SKITTLES EVENING

Our annual test of skill (or lack of it!) is always a popular occasion. All men in the four parishes, whether church members or not, are warmly invited - supper will be Fish and Chips.

**Please book with Paul Billingham as soon as possible
(pr24bill@aol.com or 01225 722229)**



Ladies night—Monday 4th December

7pm in St Nicholas Church Hall

open to all Ladies

£20-00 per person includes wine/soft drink

**Booking essential please book with Mary Hewetson
(01225 -722210 or maryhewetson49@gmail.com)**



Some more pictures from Experience Church



Churches of North
Bradford on Avon
& Villages



Advent Activity Tea

Sunday 26th November, 3.00 – 4.30pm
South Wraxall Village Hall, BA15 2SE



Join us for Christmas crafts, games and activities with a delicious festive tea.

Mulled wine and mince pies for the adults!

All welcome... Fun for all the family!

No charge but donations welcome

It would be helpful to know if you coming but not essential or if you have any dietary requirements. please email Zoe at zyeomans3@gmail.com

