



## The way forward...

Thank you to all those who responded to our request for feedback as we move from strange pandemic times to more near-normal times. Some of the key themes raised were the loss of fellowship during the past 17 months, the desire to belong, and the wish to see a wider variety of informal worship that is accessible for all who come. In response, we have tried to create an environment that enriches our worship and our community life. Some of the initiatives below are new, whilst others are affirming and encouraging what is already happening, good and life-giving.

Whilst recognising that worshipping together on a Sunday is a key element of our church life, we need to bear in mind that we only have one full time member of clergy. The rest of our ministers are volunteers who do all they can to support our ministry and mission alongside their daily lives, and other work and volunteering commitments. We remain extremely grateful to them, and the service rotas therefore reflect their availability.

### In response to the various comments received, we therefore aim to:

- encourage attendance in our Church Services by ensuring that each week, there is at least one service across the Benefice that is planned in anticipation of families with children
- offer a minimum of one service of Holy Communion in each church a month
- offer creativity within our service provision alongside our traditional services, for example, Informal Worship, Creative Communion, Songs of Praise, café-style, visiting speakers, Forest Church etc.
- have a theme between September and Advent for our Sunday services as we regroup, rather than use the Lectionary. Our thinking is for us to consider various characters from the Bible and whom we might see as their counterparts today, and for our monthly Benefice Service to focus on topics such as Climate Change, Modern Slavery, Hospice Ministry or Harvest.
- encourage greater fellowship by creating a culture of belonging to a house group, some of which will be short-term for example an Advent or Lent group, as a key way of developing friendship, prayer support and growing in faith
- offer more flexibility of worship by online provision of a monthly service on YouTube and a once weekly Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer on Zoom
- support those who wish to worship in our care homes, especially those who cannot access online provision, by regular on-site service provision.
- encourage everyone to use their God-given gifts in the service of their church by encouraging new volunteers
- offer more opportunities for different styles of worship e.g. contemplation/meditation/Taizé
- support one another's activities across the Benefice, such as coffee mornings
- encourage greater use of our church buildings. Could a house group meet in a church? Maybe the Christ Church Wednesday morning group could meet for coffee on other Wednesdays in the month?
- encourage more informal social gatherings, a walk perhaps ending with coffee or lunch. Support children in school e.g. listening to them read
- offer occasional quiet days locally

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**We would also like to encourage interested people to:**

- create a Taizé music group
- offer regular organ/music groups recitals
- offer to arrange a simple lunch of bread and cheese after church
- set up different interest groups in our churches, such as perhaps environmental concern, home and overseas mission
- help our churches work towards an eco-church award

Service rotas have been distributed to our churches for the months of September, October and November as we are now planning service rotas three months in advance. We hope this will help those who are arranging rotas in support of individual church services.

The ministry team will review provision and progress in January. May God continue to bless you richly as we seek to worship God, grow in faith, and serve our communities.

Revd Ann Keating, Rector

September 2021

## **Upcoming Services**

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

### **Sunday, September 12th**

10.00am Holy Communion at St James Church, SW

10.30am Holy Communion at Christ Church, BOA

**10.00am Refresh, Winsley Church Hall \* see below for more information**

### **Sunday, September 19th**

10.00am Holy Communion at St Nicholas, Winsley

10.00 am Holy Communion at St Peter's, MF

### **Sunday, September 26th**

10.00 am Together in Worship (informal service) at St Nicholas, Winsley

10.00 am Holy Communion at St Peter's, MF

10.30am Refresh/ Informal service at Christ Church, BOA

## **Refresh at St Nicholas**

After an enforced pause of some 18 months, Refresh services will be re-starting at St Nicholas on **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September**. Generally, we will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month, except when there are major events (such as Remembrance Sunday) when we will move to another week. In future, we will meet in the church hall rather than at Winsley School.

Refresh is an informal style of service which begins with coffee and croissants from 9.45am and includes a short time of worship, discussion on a different topic each week (this term the whole Benefice is looking at bible characters) and some prayers.

There will be children's activities for families attending. **All are welcome!**

## Events and Notices

### Funerals

Monday, 27th September, funeral of Patricia Hoare from Christ Church at Semington Cemetery at 1pm. Conducted by Revd Ann

### Refresh at St Nicholas, Winsley

We are always looking for helpers to assist with setting up and clearing away, and also with the catering. If are able to volunteer, please contact Cedric Pierce on 01225 723284

### Your Help Please!

Would you like to help make some fabric pew bags (to hold pens etc in) and knitted or crochet prayer bears for children to use at our Benefice churches? If you would like to help, please contact Zoe Yeomans at [zyeomans3@gmail.com](mailto:zyeomans3@gmail.com) Thank you!

### Ministry Team:

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

### Benefice Office:

Caroline Brydon (865046),  
[nboabenefice@gmail.com](mailto: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)

### Kettle's On!

Kettle's On in Winsley has restarted and all are invited to join us for coffee and cake. We meet in **Winsley church hall every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month between 10am and 12pm**. The photographs below were taken from the first meeting after lockdown. The next meet up will be on Wednesday, 15th September at 10am. Hope to see many of you there.

*Roy Ludlow and team*



Please turn to Page 4 for photographs and an update about the street fair at Monkton Farleigh last month and news and photographs about forest church last Sunday.



## Thank You!

A Street Market in Monkton Farleigh on the 28th August, to raise money for St Peter's, was extremely lucky as the sun came out just in time. Stalls were held in all areas, the Rise, Broadstones and the Street, as well as games in the churchyard. Ice creams, cream teas, steam trains, preserves, raffle, china, books and ceramics all contributed to an enjoyable afternoon.

It was lovely to see visitors from the other churches in our Benefice. We are so grateful to so many people for the hard work involved. The grand total of £2000 was raised!

*Carolyn Walker*



## Forest Church Update

Thank you to the parents and children who attended our second Forest Church session, under the fruitful mulberry tree in St James' churchyard last Sunday. We enjoyed learning and reflecting about **ants**, the amazing creatures that feature in Proverbs 6:6, 30:25...

Did you know they live in every continent except Antarctica?! They are also the strongest creatures in the world in relation to their size. The equivalent of a human carrying a house! They are an amazing example of teamwork and working together for the 'common good' (Neh 2:18)



We had fun ant hunting, creating ants, singing and toasting marshmallows together.

The next Forest Church will at **4pm—5pm on Sunday, 17th October at St Peter's church, Monkton Farleigh. All Welcome!**

*Our plasticine ants!*

*Our cross made from leaves & twigs*



The next edition of NewsLink will be on the 26th September. Please send any relevant contributions for this edition to the email below by September 21st latest. You can read the full version of NewsLink 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.