

Dear Friends,

As part of the collective worship this week at Winsley Primary School and Churchfields Primary School in Monkton Farleigh, I took in a snow globe. We chatted about how pretty and exciting the snow makes it look but it's only when the snow settles that you can clearly see the picture that lies within.

It is easy to fill our lives with busyness, especially at this time of year when there is so much going on. Christmas shopping, cards to write, friends to catch up with, and school events to name a few. These are all wonderful things to enjoy, but the more we try to fit in, the less time we have to pause and be still, and remind ourselves of what this season is all about.



Advent is a time for waiting, preparing and trusting. Sometimes we have to let the snow settle and step out of the busyness, to be able to see the person in the middle of our story, Jesus.

I would like to encourage all of us to make space to do this over the coming few weeks. It won't happen by itself, we have to actively seek these spaces. Maybe by adding in an extra time in the day to pause, to be still and spend time with God, perhaps by finding an advent reflection to mull over, or simply by sitting down with a cup of tea with Jesus.

Jesus came to this world to be with us, and remains with us today. All we need to do is take time to pause and breathe, and we will find Jesus at the centre, with us all along. And for those of us for whom, when the snow settles, we don't find Jesus quite where we would like Him to be, then this is also a good time to try to reorder our priorities, let go of things that are hindering us or invite Jesus into those spaces, situations and feelings that leave us feeling jaded, uncertain, fearful or lost.

We have several services throughout this month which create time and space to wonder afresh at Jesus entering our story, but I particularly want to mention our Quiet Christmas on Thursday 18th December, a service for those who have had a difficult year and are not feeling in the mood for celebrating, or for those who struggle with the noise and activity that Christmas brings. Please do mention this service to anyone who you think may find it helpful.

Every blessing,
Katie

Upcoming Services

Sunday 7th December

10am - Benefice Service - St James' Church, South Wraxall

4pm - Advent Family Teatime Service - St Nicholas' Church, Winsley

Monday 8th December

4:30pm - Christian Meditation - St Nicholas' Church, Winsley

Tuesday 9th December

2:30pm - Wiltshire Heights Carol Service - Wiltshire Heights, Bradford on Avon

Sunday 14th December

10am - Refresh (café-style worship) - Winsley Church Hall, Winsley

10:30am - Holy Communion - Christ Church, Bradford on Avon

6pm - Carol Service - St Peter's Church, Monkton Farleigh

Monday 15th December

4:30pm - Christian Meditation - St Nicholas' Church, Winsley

Thursday 18th December

4:30pm - Quiet Christmas Service - Christ Church, Bradford on Avon

Friday 19th December

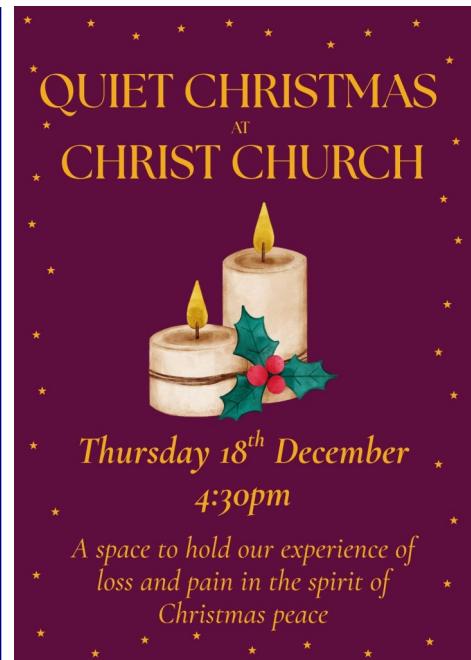
3pm - Avonpark Carol Service - Avonpark, Limpley Stoke

Sunday 21st December

10:30am - Carol Service - Christ Church, Bradford on Avon

6pm - Carol Service - St Nicholas' Church, Winsley

6:30pm - Carol Service - St James' Church, South Wraxall



Ministry Team:

Rector: Rev Katie Jackson (01225 722230)
Rev Tessa Mann (309374)

Lay Pastoral Assistants:

Stephen Pike (782537), Denise Davies (863678)
Gill Fairhurst (867560), Daphne Cox (868224)
Elizabeth Bush (866624)

Benefice Office: Kate Davies (865046)
nboabenfice@gmail.com

Church Wardens:

Winsley: Richard Mann (309374) Penny Pierce (723284)

Christ Church: Margaret Thompson (571305)

Deputy - Wendy Brown (862857)

South Wraxall: Dave Wyper (865384)

Valentine Thornhill (862552)

Monkton Farleigh: Rachel & Colin Exley (851485)

Social Events Across the Benefice

Friday 5th Dec - Serving at 12:30pm - **Soup's Up** - Winsley Church Hall, Winsley

Saturday 6th Dec - 10-12pm - **Christ Church Christmas Café** - Christ Church, Bradford on Avon

Wednesday 10th Dec- 10:30am - **Sunbeams Parent & Toddler Group** - Winsley Church Hall

Wednesday 10th Dec - 10:30am - **Coffee & Company** - Christ Church, Bradford on Avon

Wednesday 10th Dec - 3:30-5pm - **Christmas Conversation & Craft** - Christ Church, BOA

Thursday 11th Dec - 10am - **The Ark at Christmas** - Christ Church, Bradford on Avon

Sunday 14th Dec - 9-11:30am - **South Wraxall Village Breakfast** - South Wraxall Village Hall

Sunday 14th Dec - 4pm - **CanZona Christmas Concert** - St Nicholas' Church, Winsley

Wednesday 17th Dec - 10am - **Kettle's On** - Winsley Church Hall, Winsley

Wednesday 17th Dec - 10:30am - **Coffee & Company** - Christ Church, Bradford on Avon



South Wraxall Village Breakfast **Sunday 14th December 9-11:30am**

We invite you to take a break from Christmas shopping, cooking and cleaning to join us in South Wraxall Village Hall for our last Village Breakfast of 2025.

Enjoy the relaxed atmosphere with family and friends whilst being served Full English Breakfast, which also includes toast, homemade marmalade, tea, coffee and fruit juice.

Breakfast will be available from 9am until at least 11:30am. Our profits go towards maintaining the fabric of St James's, our village church.

You are welcome to take pot luck and turn up on the day. However, it does help us to know how many people to expect if you reserve your table by emailing southwraxall@outlook.com



Salvation Army Toy Collection

Thank you so much to all who donated toys to the Salvation Army Christmas Toy Collection. Last weekend each church delivered the toys over to the Salvation Army in Trowbridge who were incredibly grateful for such generous donations. **"This year we have created packages for over 160 children and supported a large number of families with food vouchers. Thank you once again."**



Carols in the Afternoon at Winsley Methodist Church

Tuesday 16th December - 3pm



All are invited to this service of carols and readings, led by Rev Tracey Lewis, followed by mince pies and coffee. Everyone welcome

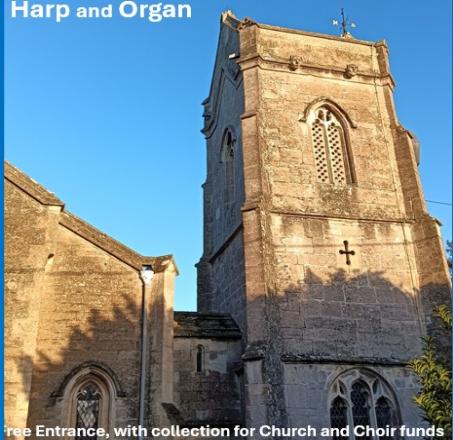
A Christmas Music Concert

at St Nicholas Church, Winsley

4pm Sunday 14 December 2025

Sung by **Canzona** with

Harp and Organ



Free Entrance, with collection for Church and Choir funds

KETTLE'S ON

Community Café

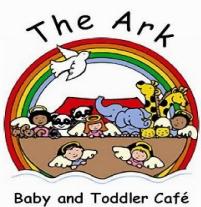
1ST & 3RD
WEDNESDAY
OF EACH
MONTH



ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH HALL

10AM-12PM

COFFEE, TEA, CAKE AND CONVERSATION.
EVERYONE IS WELCOME.
BRING YOUR FRIENDS, NEIGHBOURS AND
THOSE NEW TO VILLAGE.



Parent & Toddler Group at Christ Church

**Every Thursday in term time
10am - 11:30am**

Come along with your little ones for a fun time with toys, story, songs, craft and snacks.

Contact Hilary Pike on 01225 782527

Date for the diary!

The Ark at Christmas - 11th December

Decorating Christ Church for Christmas

**Saturday 20th December
from 9.30am**



We shall be decorating the church for the festive season and offers of help are warmly received. Donations of flowers and greenery also appreciated. Refreshments will be provided. Further information Valerie Isaacs 01225 612315

Christ Church Bradford on Avon

Café @3pm

Starting from
1st December,
2025

Open
Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday and
Friday
3.00pm-4.00pm



The place to meet after school

Everyone is welcome to join us for

"SOUP'S UP"

Delicious homemade soup with roll and butter
Warm desserts and custard with tea and coffee

Winsley Church Hall

Serving at 12:30pm



Friday 7th & 21st November

Friday 5th December

Friday 16th January

Sunbeams

Christmas Party!



**Parent & Toddler
Group
Winsley Church
Hall**

2nd & 4th Wednesday at 10:30am

Christmas Party - 10th December

For more details please contact
Mary Hewetson on 01225 722210

NewsLink

The next edition of NewsLink will be on **20th December**. Please send any relevant contributions to the Benefice Office at **nboabenefice@gmail.com** by **Monday 15th December**.