



25th January - 7th February 2026

Dear Friends

Jesus said 'Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'

Matthew 19:14

The phrase 'children are our future' is a very common one, but for Jesus this phrase is replaced with another one - 'children are our present'.

The welcome Jesus gives to children is the same as to adults, and in fact he sees them as having an innate spirituality, which we as adults can learn from. Sometimes in churches there can be a temptation to think that children are either there to be entertained whilst adults worship, or there to learn. But I think when we do this, we miss the point that Jesus is trying to make.

We are all pilgrims together. Some of us may be further along the journey than others, but we all bring what we have and children, more often than not, bring trust, wonder, joy, unconditional love and, I believe, a prophetic voice. When I lead collective worship in our schools or listen to the voice of a child, I am both delighted and challenged at their ability to speak about situations in a way that adults often shy away from.

So what does this mean for our churches? As a benefice, do we see children as Jesus does and do they experience the welcome of Jesus through us? Thanks to the wonderful work that Zoe did as our Children and Families Worker, we have so many brilliant connections and opportunities to share our faith with children and their families, we also have welcoming children's areas in churches, and a commitment to enable children to be children (in whatever shape that looks like) in worship.

But this is a journey, and we have not reached the finish point yet, although we have arrived at a wonderful new marker. I am delighted to announce that Becky Strike has been appointed as our new Children and Families Worker. Becky brings with her a wealth of experience in engaging with children and families in the community (seen in the past three years in her work with the Discover Christ Church! project), in addition to a strong desire to share Jesus with others. Tessa and I are looking forward to working closely with Becky over the coming months to explore what this next phase in the journey might look like, seeking to cherish what is already in place but also explore what might be. I hope you will join with me in welcoming Becky and praying for her, her wonderful family and also the role she is taking on within the ministry team.

And as we pray, I hope we will continue to ask ourselves the question: do we as a church see children as Jesus does, and if not, what do we need to do about it?

Every blessing,
Katie

Upcoming Services

Sunday 25th January

10am - Together in Worship - St Nicholas' Church, Winsley
10am - Holy Communion - St Peter's Church, Monkton Farleigh
10:30am - Holy Communion - Christ Church, Bradford on Avon

Monday 26th January

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

Wednesday 28th January

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

Sunday 1st February

10am - Benefice Service - St Peter's Church, Monkton Farleigh
4pm - Family Teatime Service - St Nicholas' Church, Winsley

Monday 2nd February

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

Wednesday 4th February

3pm - Avonpark Holy Communion - Avonpark, Limpley Stoke
6pm - Compline - Christ Church, Bradford on Avon

Sunday 8th February

10am - Refresh (Café-style Worship) - Winsley Church Hall, Winsley
10am - Holy Communion - St Peter's Church, Monkton Farleigh
10:30am - Holy Communion - Christ Church, Bradford on Avon



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

Wednesday 28th January - 10:30am - **Sunbeams** - Winsley Church Hall, Winsley

Wednesday 28th January - 1:30-3pm - **Conversation & Craft** - Christ Church, Bradford on Avon

Thursday 29th January - 10am - **The Ark** - Christ Church, Bradford on Avon

Thursday 29th January - 4pm - **BOA Youth Drop In** - Christ Church, Bradford on Avon

Wednesday 4th February - 10am - **Kettle's On** - Winsley Church Hall, Winsley

Wednesday 4th February - 10:30am - **Coffee & Company** - Christ Church, Bradford on Avon

Thursday 5th February - 10am - **The Ark** - Christ Church, Bradford on Avon

Thursday 5th February - 4pm - **BOA Youth Drop In** - Christ Church, Bradford on Avon

Friday 6th February - Serving at 12:30pm - **Soup's Up** - Winsley Church Hall, Winsley

Saturday 7th February - 10-12pm - **Christ Church Café** - Christ Church, Bradford on Avon

Sunday 8th February - 9-11:30am - **South Wraxall Village Breakfast** - South Wraxall Village Hall

South Wraxall Village Breakfast - Sunday 8th February 9-11:30am

We invite you to join us in South Wraxall Village Hall for our first Village Breakfast of 2026.

Enjoy the relaxed atmosphere with family and friends whilst being served a 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



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 5th December

Friday 16th January

Friday 6th & 20th February





Parent & Toddler Group
Winsley Church Hall

2nd & 4th Wednesday - 10:30am

Our next Sunbeams will be 28th January

All are invited to bring along their babies, toddlers & children. There will be tea, coffee & scrumptious cake for adults & squash & healthy treats for children followed by a bible story.

For details, contact Mary Hewetson on 01225 722210

Christ Church
Bradford on Avon

Open
Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday
3pm - 4pm

Squash and biscuits free for children. Hot drinks available for adults with a donation.

A place to meet at the end of the school day.



We need more café volunteers, if interested please contact Verity via nboabenfice@gmail.com

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.

Coffee and Company

Wednesdays 10:30am

Last of month with Holy Communion first

Join us at Christ Church for morning coffee and some wonderful company

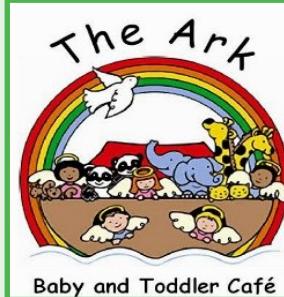
All Welcome

Knitting Optional



Parent & Toddler Group
at Christ Church

Thursdays in term time
10am - 11:30am



Baby and Toddler Café

Come along with your little ones for fun with toys, story, songs, craft & snacks.

Contact Hilary on
01225 782527

BoA youth DROP-IN

Discover Christ Church!
COMMUNITY | DISCOVERY | RESTORATION



Christ Church
Bradford-on-Avon

Every Thursday, term-time only
From 3pm – 4pm

- Enjoy hot chocolates, snacks & games
- Activities with a heritage twist
- Safe, warm and welcoming
- Space to relax and chat

All are welcome!

For more info, email becky.strike@discoverchristchurch.org.uk

With grateful thanks to our funders



SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday 7th March - Christ Church Café with Bishop Andrew

Saturday 20th June - Monkton Farleigh Village Fete



NewsLink

The next edition of NewsLink will be on **8th February**. Please send any relevant contributions to the Benefice Office at nboabenfice@gmail.com by **Monday 2nd February**.