

NewsLink

22nd March - 4th April 2026



CHURCHES OF
**NORTH
BRADFORD
ON AVON
& VILLAGES**

Dear Friends,

What a joy it has been to see some blue sky and sunshine over the past couple of weeks. I am just getting to that point of wondering if it is time to put away my warm winter boots and thick coat for another year, although I am not entirely sure I'm quite brave enough to do so yet.

On Sunday at St Nicholas', we were thinking about the passage from Colossians 3:12-17 ***'Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.'*** (verse 12)

These clothes, unlike my warm boots and thick coat, are not designed to protect the wearer but rather to honour others. They are clothes, that we have to choose to put on day after day after day and at times, it is far from the easy option. But when we look at all that is going on in the world, aren't these the very things that the world is in need of right now?

The Forgiveness Project Exhibition, hosted at Christ Church last week, shared moving accounts of people who had chosen to put on these clothes despite the odds and the huge pain they had suffered. In one of the stories, the African word Ubuntu is used ('I am because we are' is a rough translation). This is a word that has often struck a chord with me, as it says something about how we are called into relationship with others rather than seeing ourselves on an individual level.

The word Ubuntu also speaks into our calling as Christians, as disciples of Jesus. God as trinity is the perfect relationship, and thanks to Jesus we have been invited into the relational dance of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. But if others are to find the joy of being known and loved in this way too, we need to see others as God sees them: deeply loved and made in God's image.



(Mary Southard , CSJ)

There was a moment in church on Sunday, when a small child ministered to me as she came to join me at the front during the service and placed her hand in mine. Her simple, quiet action spoke to my heart as in that moment, I felt the love of God in my hand. When we move away from the idea of individualism and towards Ubuntu, I believe we not only draw closer to God but we will also find it easier to put on the clothes of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

I pray that you too will have an encounter in the coming week which speaks to you of God's love and encourages you to continue to wear clothes that are not about protection but rather the self-giving Ubuntu kind of love: I am because we are.

Every blessing,
Katie

Upcoming Services

Sunday 22nd March

10am - Together in Worship - St Nicholas' Church, Winsley led by Rev Paul Batson
10am - Holy Communion - St James' Church, South Wraxall led by Rev Keith Charnley
10:30am - Holy Communion - Christ Church, Bradford on Avon led by Rev Katie Jackson

Monday 23rd March

4:30pm - Christian Meditation - St Nicholas' Church, Winsley led by Rev Paul Batson

Wednesday 25th March

10:30am - Holy Communion - Christ Church, Bradford on Avon led by Rev Keith Charnley
6pm - Compline - St Nicholas' Church, Winsley led by Rev Paul Batson

Sunday 29th March

10am - Holy Communion - St Nicholas' Church, Winsley led by Rev Tim Hawkings
10am - Holy Communion - St Peter's Church, Monkton Farleigh led by Rev Katie Jackson
10:30am - Holy Communion - Christ Church, Bradford on Avon led by Rev Tessa Mann

Monday 30th March

10am - Benefice Quiet Morning - St Nicholas' Church, Winsley led by Rev Tessa Mann
4:30pm - Christian Meditation - St Nicholas' Church, Winsley led by Rev Paul Batson

Tuesday 31st March

6pm - Taize - St Peter's Church, Monkton Farleigh led by Rev Keith Charnley

Wednesday 1st April

8pm - Tenebrae - Christ Church, Bradford on Avon led by Rev Tim Hawkings

Maundy Thursday, 2nd April

7:30pm - Maundy Thursday - St Nicholas' Church, Winsley led by Rev Katie Jackson & Rev Tessa Mann

Good Friday, 3rd April

2pm - The Final Hour - St Nicholas' Church, Winsley led by Rev Tessa Mann
2pm - The Final Hour - St James' Church, South Wraxall led by Rev Paul Batson
2pm - The Final Hour - Christ Church, Bradford on Avon led by Rev Katie Jackson

Saturday 4th April

8:30pm - The Vigil - St James' Church, South Wraxall led by Rev Katie Jackson

Easter Sunday, 5th April

10am - Holy Communion - St Nicholas' Church, Winsley led by Rev Katie Jackson
10am - Holy Communion - St Peter's Church, Monkton Farleigh led by Rev Keith Charnley
10am - Holy Communion - St James' Church, South Wraxall led by Rev Tim Hawkings
10:30am - Holy Communion - Christ Church, Bradford on Avon led by Rev Tessa Mann

Holy Week Quiet Morning Monday 30th March 10am – 12pm St Nicholas Church, Winsley

Led by Rev Tessa Mann



'And in the garden, secretly...'

An opportunity to spend time in prayerful and companionable quiet, reflecting on Jesus' experiences in The Garden of Gethsemane.

- 10.00 – 10.30** Welcome - opening thoughts and worship
10.30 – 11.30 Time to enjoy quiet in the churchyard or a nearby village garden. There will also be opportunities for creativity, poetry to meditate on etc.
If you have a devotional book or craft activity you enjoy, do bring these with you.
Teas/coffees will be available in the Church Hall.
11.30 – 12.00 Closing worship
12.00 – 12.30 Optional time to share lunch together. Do bring a packed lunch if you wish to stay. Drinks provided.

Please let the office know if you are hoping to attend
01225 865046 nboabeneficeoffice@gmail.com

GOOD FRIDAY WORKSHOP FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

**FRIDAY 3RD
APRIL
10:30AM - 12PM**

JOIN US FOR EASTER THEMED ACTIVITIES, CRAFTS, GAMES, MUSIC & HOT CROSS BUNS.

STAY, OR DROP OFF* YOUR CHILDREN WHILE YOU JOIN THE GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS FROM WESTBURY GARDENS AT 11AM

*Please email Becky Strike at childrenandfamiliesnboa@gmail.com for a registration form



**CHRIST CHURCH
BRADFORD
ON AVON
BA15 1SJ**



EASTER FLOWERS AT CHRIST CHURCH

We always like to decorate the church beautifully for Easter. We would be very grateful for your support in doing this and ask if you would like to make a small contribution towards the costs involved. Envelopes for donations with a gift card can be found at the back of Church by the noticeboard. The gift card can be used to write a message of appreciation or in memory of someone special and will be displayed with the flowers. Val Issacs



Social Events Across the Benefice

Wednesday 25th Mar - 10:30am - **Sunbeams** - Winsley Church Hall, Winsley

Thursday 26th Mar - 10am - **The Ark** - Christ Church, Bradford on Avon

Thursday 26th Mar - 3pm - **BOA Youth Drop In** - Christ Church, Bradford on Avon

Wednesday 1st Apr - 10am - **Kettle's On** - Winsley Church Hall, Winsley

Wednesday 1st Apr - 10:30am - **Coffee & Company** - Christ Church, Bradford on Avon

Friday 3rd April - 10:30am - **Children's Good Friday Workshop** - Christ Church, Bradford on Avon

Saturday 4th April -10-12pm - **Christ Church Café** - Christ Church, Bradford on Avon



**Christ Church
Café**

SATURDAY 4TH APRIL
10AM - 12PM

COFFEE & CAKE



MUSIC



**CHILDREN'S
ACTIVITIES**



ALL WELCOME

Churchfield the Village School & St Peter's Church

**Monkton Farleigh
Scarecrow Trail
Nursery Rhymes
May 2nd - 4th**

Last year's scarecrow trail was such a brilliant success—thanks to all of you!—and we're thrilled to be launching it again!

We'd love your help!
You can get involved by:

- **Hosting** a school-made scarecrow, or
- **Designing and displaying** your own in your garden or outside your home

If you'd like to join in, **please let us know by 17th April** so we can put the trail together



If you are interested in participating

Please contact the school office on 01225 703026 or email us on cvsfmreception@palladianacademytrust.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.

New look for St Peter's Children's Corner

After several years our popular children's corner is in need of some new toys and activities. Becky, Valerie and Rachel got together to create a new look and choose some new creative-play toys and books. We are planning to share this with the Lookout Nursery and Churchfields School to get their feedback and ideas too. We are really looking forward to enhancing this area and invite you all to come and have a look when it is completed.

St Peter's Church is open daily from 10am to 5pm.



Full Peal of the Bells at St James's Church South Wraxall on 7th February 2026

On 7th February 2026 we welcomed six ringers, to ring the first officially recorded full peal of the bells at St James's Church, giving thanks for the restoration of the bells in 2022. Each of the band was connected with the restoration in some way, and many of them have assisted in training the band of local ringers.



A peal is very challenging, physically and mentally, as it involves the ringing of 5,040 different sequences and can take up to 3 hours to complete. This must be done in one continuous session without any breaks.

Ringling started at 10:00 and finished at 12:45 and the methods rung were Norwich, Beverley, Surfleet, Cambridge and Plain Bob.

In addition to this being the first recorded peal on these bells in their over 250 year history, it was also the 100th Salisbury Guild Tower at which Bob Purnell has rung a peal.

The ringers (from left to right) were: Bob Purnell, Dave Kelly, David Hacker, Ben Kipling, Chris Bush and Matthew Higby (Conductor).

NewsLink

The next edition of NewsLink will be on **5th April**. Please send any relevant contributions to the Benefice Office at nboabenefice@gmail.com by **Monday 30th March**.



SAVE THE DATE!

**Sunday 26th April -
South Wraxall Village Breakfast**

**Saturday 20th June -
Monkton Farleigh Village Fete**

NORTH BRADFORD & VILLAGES MEN'S & LADIES' GROUPS

**Wednesday 22nd April 2026 - 7pm
St Nicholas Church Hall, Winsley**

INTERNEED BY THE JAPANESE - A PERSONAL ACCOUNT

Margaret Dodge will talk about her experiences as a young girl living in China, when the family was interned during the 2nd World War.

Supper will be a Chinese meal
(wide selection of dishes)

Bring your own drinks or buy from the Social Club

All men and ladies in the four parishes,
whether church members or not,
are warmly invited.

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



Spirituality / Activism

A series of workshops

How do we live in a world of climate crisis, inequality, nationalism, war and conflict? What can we *do*, and how do we know what is right? Where does spirituality fit in: does it inspire and sustain action or make us turn within and away?

18 April	Palestine Activism
16 May	Climate Activism
20 June	Young people and Activism
Bradford on Avon Quaker Meeting House Whiteheads Lane, off Silver Street, 3-5 pm	

Come and explore together in an open, inclusive space where everyone is welcome, whatever your views, background or experience. This is a free event, tea and coffee will be provided.

Electoral Roll Revision

Ahead of our Annual Parochial Church Meetings in May, the Electoral Roll for all four churches will soon be revised and the final numbers on the electoral rolls will be reported to the ACPMs.

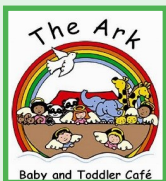
St Nicholas' Church (APCM 10th May) revision during the period 21st March - 23rd April 2026. Application forms are available on the noticeboard at the back of the church. If you are interested in being included on the Roll, please contact Electoral Roll Officer, Mary Anne Baxter at: jbma40@btinternet.com or 01225 863072.

Christ Church (APCM 17th May) revision during the period 28th March and 26th April 2026. If you are interested in being included on the Roll, please contact Electoral Roll Officer, Hilary Pike at: hilary.pike@btinternet.com or 01225 782527.

St Peter's Church (APCM 6th May) revision during the period 25th March and 22nd April 2026. If you are interested in being included on the Roll, please contact Diana Dobson at: di.dobson@btinternet.com or 07884 321238.

St James' Church (APCM 3rd May) Revision details TBC

Baby & Toddler Group Christ Church



**Thursdays in term time
10am - 11:30am**

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

Hilary - 01225 782527

Parent & Toddler Group Winsley Church Hall



**2nd & 4th Wednesday of
month 10:30 - 11:30am**

Toys & games, coffee & cake for adults, squash & healthy treats for children followed by a bible story.

Mary - 01225 722210

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)
nboabenefice@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)