

Dear Friends

Sometimes as Christians it's tempting to shy away from the difficult conversations. But one of my core beliefs is that the church should be able to enter into any conversation with love, grace and humility, remembering Paul's words that **'now I know in part, then I shall know fully' (1 Corinthians 13:12)**. As much as we might like to think we have all the answers, we don't and won't until Christ's return.

So with that in mind, I feel it's time for us as a benefice to enter into a conversation that has been taking place for many years in the Church of England: Living in Love and Faith. As ruled by the General Synod, the current position is that clergy are allowed to offer same sex blessings within a church service as long as both the minister and PCC are in agreement.

Many churches up and down the country have already had this discussion, but I have held off until now as I felt it was important for you all to get to know me and I you. I am acutely aware that this may be a difficult or painful conversation for many, not just due to individual convictions but primarily because it may personally relate to some of us within the benefice or those whom we love. But my prayer is that as we enter into this, we can offer one another the love, grace and humility that Christ has shown us.

**As a way to begin, I am planning to run the Living in Love and Faith Course over 5 Thursday evenings in July:
2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th
7-9pm at St Nicholas Church Hall**



This is open to everyone, and I would encourage you to come along. It aims to help us think more deeply about what it means to be human and how to live in love and faith. The purpose of this course is NOT to try to persuade each other of a particular view point, but to listen to each other with grace and understanding as we explore the question 'what does it mean for followers of Jesus to walk in love, faith and holiness today?'

Please also join me in prayer: for each other, for our benefice, and in particular those for whom this conversation means so much and who carry deep wounds.

**'Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.
Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace'**

Ephesians 4:2-3

**Every blessing,
Katie**

Upcoming Services

Sunday 31st May

10am – **Benefice Service** – St Nicholas' Church, Winsley
led by Rev Tim Hawkings

Monday 1st June

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

Wednesday 3rd June

3pm – **Holy Communion** – Avonpark, Limpley Stoke
led by Rev Paul Batson

6pm – **Compline** – Christ Church, Bradford on Avon
led by Rev Tessa Mann

Sunday 7th June

10am – **Benefice Service** – St Peter's Church, Monkton Farleigh
led by Rev Katie Jackson

4pm – **Family Teatime Service** – St Nicholas' Church, Winsley
led by Rev Katie Jackson & Penny Pierce

Monday 8th June

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

Tuesday 9th June

2:30pm – **Holy Communion** – Wiltshire Heights, Bradford on Avon
led by Rev Katie Jackson

Wednesday 10th June

2:30pm – **Gentle Worship** – St Nicholas' Church, Winsley
led by Rev Tessa Mann & Rev Paul Batson

Sunday 14th June

10am – **Holy Communion** – St James' Church, South Wraxall
led by Rev Tim Hawkings

10am – **Refresh (café-style worship)** – Winsley Church Hall
led by Alison Wells & Zoe Yeomans

10:30am – **Together in Worship & Baptism**, Christ Church
led by Rev Tessa Mann

The Welcome of God

During our Sunday services in June, we will be exploring the theme of the welcome of God. Each week will have a different focus but here's an overview to whet the appetite.

Sunday 7th June

Introduction

Sunday 14th June

Children

Sunday 21st June

The Outsider

Sunday 28th June

The Unseen

Family Teatime Service

On the first Sunday afternoon of each month we meet at St Nicholas' in Winsley for our family teatime service. The theme for our service on 7th June will be Creation. After our fun interactive service, we head to the church hall for tea together. Everyone is welcome to come along.

Funeral

The funeral of the late Brenda Merricks, formally of Monkton Farleigh and Avonpark, will take place on Monday 1st June at 2pm at St Peter's Church, Monkton Farleigh led by Rev Paul Batson.

All are welcome.



Gentle Worship

followed by tea

Date: Wednesday 10th June 2026

Venue: St Nicholas' Church & Church Hall, Winsley

Time: Service in church 2.30pm – Tea in hall 3–4pm

A gentle afternoon service of worship suitable for those experiencing dementia and their carers or anyone who might find larger morning worship challenging.



For more details, contact
Rev Tessa at revtgm86@gmail.com
or Rev Paul at paulbatson78@gmail.com



Christ Church Plant Sale Thank You!

Our plant sale raised an amazing £1,227 this year. People like to know what they are raising money for, so this is to be split 50/50 between community activities at Christ Church and the upkeep of our beautiful church.

We plan on the same time, same place next year, so please do take cuttings, sow seeds and return any spare plant pots for reuse!

Many thanks,
Gillian, Barbara, Val and Dorna

Feeling crafty?

Good conversations, fun crafts and delicious cakes – all on a Wednesday afternoon!

Our inter-generational café welcomes a class of local school children and people for the community for an afternoon of craft activity and refreshments.

Come and give it a try!



CONVERSATION and CRAFT

Join us for fun crafts, cakes, and chat for people of all ages
Christ Church, Bradford on Avon, BA15 1BJ

Upcoming Dates
April 22, May 13,
June 3, June 24

1:30pm - 3pm
All are welcome

Logos: NORTH BRADFORD ON AVON & VILLAGES, bluebird care, In Partnership with Christ Church CE VC Primary School, Dementia Action Alliance



BOA youth DROP-IN

Discover Christ Church!
COMMUNITY | DISCOVERY | RESTORATION

Christ Church
Bradford-on-Avon

Every Thursday, term-time only
From 3pm - 4:15pm

- ▶ 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

Logos: Heritage Fund, Christchurch PCC, ChurchCare, Community Donations, The Pigeon Trust, Discover Christ Church

NewsLink

Our next NewsLink will be on 14th June. Please send any contributions to nboabenefice@gmail.com by Monday 8th June.

Socials Events across the Benefice

Wednesday 3rd June

10am – **Kettle's On** – Winsley Church Hall, Winsley
10am – **Coffee & Company** – Christ Church, Bradford on Avon
1:30pm – **Conversation & Craft** – Christ Church, Bradford on Avon

Thursday 4th June

10am – **The Ark** – Christ Church, Bradford on Avon
3-4pm – **BOA Youth Drop In** – Christ Church, Bradford on Avon

Saturday 6th June

10am-12pm – **Christ Church Café** – Christ Church, Bradford on Avon

Wednesday 10th June

10am – **Coffee & Company** – Christ Church, Bradford on Avon
10:30am – **Sunbeams** – Winsley Church Hall, Winsley

Thursday 11th June

10am – **The Ark** – Christ Church, Bradford on Avon
3-4pm – **BOA Youth Drop In** – Christ Church, Bradford on Avon

Discover Christ Church! Final update & thank you!

We made it! Our Final Evaluation Report was accepted by The National Lottery Heritage Fund (TNLHF) and their final grant payment has been received. We have shared our experiences with 9 other churches and Diocesan representatives at a 'Hear first hand' session here at Christ Church.

We are pleased to learn that TNLHF has flagged our project as a case study, as has the Diocese – please visit Diocese of Salisbury website to read about it.

If you haven't yet seen the lovely film of the project very kindly made by volunteer film maker Chris Booth, you can find this on the Diocese web page.

The new and illustrated edition of Ann Chapman's history book is available in church (suggested donation £5), as is the short guide (£2), and there are just a couple of copies left of the USB memory stick featuring organist Richard Thompson accompanying film footage of our conservation work.

A copy of our Final Evaluation Report to TNLHF is on the big table in church.

Christ Church is also 'on the map' as part of the BoA Preservation Trust's (free) Town Trail – a fabulous walking tour of Bradford's architectural and historic gems – available in church and at the Tourist Information Centre.

It is lovely that both the Thursday BoA Youth Drop In and our Conversation & Craft sessions continue into the future. Do come along and enjoy chatter and crafts with Christ Church School and please pass on details of these lovely dementia friendly sessions to anyone who may be interested.

One final and very sincere thanks from me to all our grant funders and everyone who has helped and supported the DCC! project in so many ways. It's been quite a journey, but as so many have said, in combination with the Future for Christ Church project, 'what a transformation'!

Best wishes, Gillian Ellis-King
DCC! Project Coordinator



Thank you to all who contributed to the Christian Aid collection in Winsley this year. In addition to anything donated directly online, we raised £370 in the envelope collection which, plus Gift Aid, will bring it to some £450.



Thank you for your continued support.
Alison Wells



Dementia Awareness Training & Thank You Tea

Date: Tuesday 23rd June 2026

Time: 1.30pm - 3.30pm

Venue: Christ Church, Bradford on Avon

Who for: anyone in our parishes involved in welcome, hospitality or pastoral care eg: church welcomers, refreshments/cafe helpers, LPA's, LWL's etc

Purpose: Growing our understanding and awareness of dementia - session led by Bluebird Care, followed by tea and cake

The tea will be served by our Clergy Team by way of thank you for all the hospitality and welcome that goes on in our churches.

RSVP: nboabenefice@gmail.com



Forget-me-not Café

free refreshments, home-made Cakes, fun, good company



A friendly café for those living with dementia and their carers.



The first Thursday afternoon of the month 3 - 4:30pm
Winsley Church Hall

May 7th June 4th July 2nd August 6th

"looking forward to the next one" "delicious tea"
"really enjoyed ourselves"



Cafes are also held at Holy Trinity Bradford on Avon on the third Thursday morning of the month 11 - 12:30pm

NORTH BRADFORD & VILLAGES MEN'S & LADIES' GROUPS

Wednesday 17th June 2026
7pm in Winsley Church Hall

HERE WE GO ROUND THE MULBERRY HARBOURS

Historian David Verghese will describe the biggest civil engineering project of WW2, & its contribution to victory in Europe.

Supper will be fish & chips. BYO drinks or buy from Social Club.

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

Book with Paul Billingham asap
(pr24bill@aol.com or 01225 722229)



Christ Church Café

SATURDAY 6TH JUNE

10AM - 12PM

MEET AND CHAT

COFFEE & CAKE



CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Eco-poetry Evening

with Dr Helen Moore

Saturday
6th June

6 - 7.30pm

St Nicholas
Church, Winsley



An inspiring and thought-provoking evening in the company of internationally acclaimed eco-poet Dr Helen Moore.

Helen has published three eco-poetry collections and will be reading from her two latest books, *The Last Lighthouse* in *Rising Seas*, and *river / run*, an eco-poetic trilogy.

Tickets are free, but must be booked through the Wild Waters Festival website.

www.wildwatersfestival.com/events

Donations welcomed on the day, to cover venue expenses with surplus being given to the charity River Action.

Baby & Toddler Groups



Baby and Toddler Café

The Ark meet at Christ Church in Bradford on Avon on Thursdays in term time

10am - 11:30am

For more details contact
Hilary - 01225 782527

Sunbeams meet at Winsley Church Hall on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of every month

10:30am - 11:30am

Contact Mary Hewetson
01225 722210

Sunbeams



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)

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: Rahel Exley (851485)
Colin Exley (851485)

Children & Families Worker:

Becky Strike
childrenandfamiliesnboa@gmail.com

Benefice Office:

Kate Davies (865046)
nboabenefice@gmail.com