

NewsLink

7 February – 21 February 2021



Churches of North
Bradford on Avon
& Villages

Don't be discouraged!

How are you all? Every once in a while, in life, we all reach a point where we are just ready to throw in the towel and give up hope. I think many of us feel like this now.

Sometimes we just feel that this pandemic is never going to end. Some of us are tired, frustrated that we can't see family and friends, some of us are exhausted by juggling home schooling and working from home, some of us, despite the joy of some recent snow, are weary of interminable rain, dull overcast days, gloomy news, and we just can't see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Many years ago, there was a man in Kentucky who had recently retired from the postal service. He was sitting on his front porch when his first Social Security cheque arrived, and he looked at it and felt so frustrated. He thinks to himself "Is this all I have to look forward to for the rest of my life?" He's put in a long and hard career and now has little to show for it. Was it really worth all of that hard work? So he sat down and made a list of all of his blessings and the good things he had going for him. Included in that list was his mother's famous recipe for fried chicken which included eleven different herbs and spices. He was the only one who knew that recipe. So, he went to a nearby restaurant and asked if he could cook the chicken and they said yes. Pretty soon, it became the most popular item at the restaurant.

He then opened his own restaurant and called it Kentucky Fried Chicken and the rest is history.

Harland Sanders was tired and frustrated, but he refused to lose hope and give up.

The Franciscans were the first ones to systematically grow grapes in California. They grew the Muscat grapes to make sacramental Muscatel wine. Legend has it that one year, they had a terrible drought and the grapes withered on the vine. They thought they were going to lose everything they had and were very disappointed. But some of them took those withered grapes to town and sold them as "Peruvian delicacies". And that was the beginning of the Sun Maid Raisin company. These Franciscans had a potentially disastrous problem but refused to give up.

Let's stay hopeful, remember in our prayers those in our communities who are struggling, our local businesses who are wondering what the future holds. Let's count the many blessings we have and be grateful.

As I wrote this, the rain eased, the sun came out, albeit it just briefly, but as I looked up, I caught sight not just of snowdrops and crocuses blooming, but daffodils in flower too!

Stay positive and hopeful. God is with us. Alleluia.

Ann, Rector

Psalm 30:5b

Weeping may go on all night, but in the morning, there is joy.



Call to prayer

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York are encouraging people of all backgrounds to set aside time each day for prayer – if possible, stopping wherever they are at 6pm each evening. It follows their call last week for people to pause, 'reflect on the enormity of this pandemic' and pray for the nation and all those affected. The call followed news that that more than 100,000 people have died within 28 days of a positive Covid-19 test.

In a letter to the nation last week, the Archbishops wrote: "We encourage everyone who is feeling scared, or lost or isolated to cast their fears on God". "We also know that poorer communities, minority ethnic communities and those living with disabilities have been afflicted disproportionately and cry out for the healing of these inequalities."

They added: "One thing we can all do is pray. We hope it is some consolation to know that the church prays for the life of our nation every day. Whether you're someone of faith, or not, we invite you to call on God in prayer."

"Starting on 1 February we invite you to set aside time every evening to pray, particularly at 6pm each day. More than ever, this is a time when we need to love each other. Prayer is an expression of love."

'Lent in Lockdown'.

Resources, including a suggested reading list and other activities for Lent, are being prepared and will be available on the website www.nboachurches.co.uk soon and in our churches from Ash Wednesday

Bishop of Salisbury to retire in July 2021

The Bishop of Salisbury, the Rt Revd Nicholas Holtam, will retire on 3rd July 2021, a month short of his 67th birthday. He will have been Bishop of Salisbury for ten years.



Read what Bishop Nicholas said about his time in the Diocese later in this Newslink.

In the later pages of this week's Newslink you will find

- Bishop Karen writes, '2021 by Another Road'
- An update on Mission by Daphne Cox
- News about Candlemas at Christ Church
- A walk around Monkton Farleigh Churchyard

And more.....

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www.nboachurches.co.uk.

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Bishop Nicholas reflects on his time as Bishop of Salisbury.

“Being the Bishop of Salisbury has been a privilege and a joy”, the Bishop said. “In present circumstances, the timing of my retirement has not been an easy decision but it feels right to me and to those I have consulted. The impact of the pandemic is going to be felt for a long time. The diocese is developing a Mission and Pastoral Plan and we have an agreed financial framework with which to face the future with confidence. We continue to be about Renewing Hope as we Pray, Serve and Grow.

“In Bishops Karen and Andrew and the four archdeacons, the Diocese of Salisbury has excellent leadership. Our Diocesan Secretary, David Pain, is well established and Joy Tubbs is an outstanding Director of Education. The Diocesan Board of Finance and the Diocesan Board of Education are people of faith, commitment, skill and expertise. I am enormously grateful to them and to the Diocesan Synod. When the pandemic subsides, the scale of what faces us will benefit from a new diocesan bishop with whom to make decisions about the future.

“This is a testing time and the life of the Church has never been more important as a witness to Christian beliefs and values for the sake of God’s world. In many ways the Diocese of Salisbury is one of God’s small miracles. The energy, variety and resourcefulness of our churches, chaplaincies and schools are just three of the reasons why being the Bishop is a joy. I am full of admiration for our cathedral, for clergy colleagues and for the people of the diocese who have been extraordinarily resilient and creative in the adaptation of continued ministry and mission.

“It has been good to welcome the Channel Island Deaneries to the diocese in a new relationship for which the legalities have still to be finalised. I am sorry not to be able to get to know them better and work with them for longer. The diocese is glad to have them with us and we pray the relationship will deepen and be a blessing to us all.

“When we came to Salisbury in 2011, Helen had just retired as a Maths teacher. She has supported me particularly through hospitality and fundraising in The South Canonry and in the beautiful garden, notably running the Sudan fete. She has maintained her Quaker membership at Salisbury Quaker Meeting throughout our time here. She established a weekly origami workshop for prisoners at HMP Erlestoke selling their cards to raise funds for prisoner rehabilitation. Helen has been a major part of what I have been able to do and I am grateful for her and our family’s support. We look forward to retiring to Brighton to be closer to our children and grandchildren.”

How to access external funding for your community projects from scratch

Full of ideas for your community but lacking the resource to get them off the ground?

Why not join us to learn about external funding options for your youth, children and community projects.

‘Finding funding – Accessing funding from scratch’ takes place on Wednesday 3rd March 2021. If you would like to book a place on this course, please follow the link below:

[SDBE Bespoke Course - Finding Funding for Parish Projects - 03.03.2021](#)

Candlemas at Christ Church



Here at Christ Church the south porch Nativity scene has been changed to celebrate Candlemas - 'Jesus, the Light of the World'. We have a Candlemas prayer, posters showing how Candlemas is celebrated around the world and even a recipe for potato pancakes, traditionally eaten in Ireland at this time.

There are also Christingles and "Christingle Kits" for the children to take away and make their own. These have already proved to be very popular with 18 going in the first 2 days. So come and visit when you walk through the churchyard. (We have left some of the animals by special request from one of the toddlers who come to visit us!)

Linds Batson sent this picture from her run and writes, 'This is the field and crossroads at Little Ashley (you can see from the signpost). I run down here most mornings, but sometimes the motivation just isn't there! (I've done it once and its over-the-shoes deep and cold).'

Reminder: If you have spare jam jars, please phone Dorna on 01225 862834, as she would like them for the marmalade and chutneys she is making to sell in aid of the Christ Church Community Project. Thank you.

St Peter's in Monkton Farleigh

A cold January is still a lovely time to walk through our country Churchyard.

We have regular visitors, many to remember their family members graves. In some cases even a few generations ago.

But it's not all about the past. Early bulbs of snowdrops, daffodils and crocus are pushing through, replacing the wonderful autumn display we had of miniature cyclamens which colourfully carpeted a wide area.

Unfortunately there is also a determined mole leaving his mark. Not always as beloved as his namesake in "Wind in the Willows".

Although too early yet for our magnificent Sweet Chestnut tree to push out shoots, the evergreen trees are still home to a wide variety of birds.

Sparrows, chaffinches, bluetits and coal tits are common here, and if you are very observant you might see the shy wren darting undercover. The green woodpecker flies past horizontally. The robin enjoys hopping around on tombstones, giving his friendly greeting to everyone.

The bench has often given a welcome seat to walking groups who we hope will soon be able to enjoy the peaceful place. In the meantime, we just individually stroll through.

Carolyn Walker



Mission Update January 2021 from Daphne Cox, St Nicholas

In Winsley we support Colin and Audrey Gibson, up to recently they were working with **CMS (Church Mission Society)** in Lebanon. Because of the pandemic and the end of their time with the schoolwork they were undertaking, they helped after the devastating explosion in the port, not many miles from where they live.

Currently they are still under CMS but are working with **A Rocha Lebanon**. The principles of A Rocha Lebanon are 1. Christian, 2. Conservation, 3. Community, 4. Cross Cultural and 5. Co-operation. The first looks at the biblical basis of why we should care for God's creation. God made creation and we are to care for it.

With Colin's skills he was immediately asked to speak at a conference Partnership for World Mission, organised by the Church of England. At their own church Colin has been tasked with organising the weekly virtual service. They are also involved in the PCC. They gave thanks when they last wrote in December 2020, their new work visas had arrived. They also thank us for our prayers.

Did you know - soon we will celebrate **World Leprosy Day**? It will be an opportunity to use the voices of 1000's of people worldwide to raise awareness of leprosy, what will it achieve?

1. Ensure people are aware of the signs and symptoms of leprosy and the cure available.
2. Ending the stigma surrounding the disease.
3. Ensuring people are aware of mental health – this could lead to other long term medical conditions.
4. Ensuring everyone knows how they can make a difference by donating to the Leprosy Mission and having a look at their very good website.

It is easy to forget foreign missions when we have our own problems but are cosy and comfortable in our houses. Jesus himself told us to go to the ends of the earth. I suggest just 2 out of many, many helping in the area, with medicines, and educational tools. This brings me immediately to the **Bible Society**. They look after **Open the Book**, which is in each of our schools, but did you know they want and do have the same resources in countries like Burkino Faso, Ghana, India, China, Syria and go into Prisons?

Those who know Rosemary Rees know that she has helped **Children's Homes in Zimbabwe**, after she answered a direct call from God to commence this work.

Daphne Cox, St Nicholas



Denise Davies sent this lovely picture of beautiful Bradford in the snow.

The Bishop of Sherborne



2021 by Another Road

'They left for their own country by another road.'
Matthew 2:12b

I wonder what happened to the wise men. How were their lives shaped from that day when they left Bethlehem and returned to their own country by another road? How did seeing the longed for Messiah change the rest of their lives?

It was really encouraging in the Autumn to engage with clergy and laity from across the diocese to look back at what church life had been like in 2020. This time last year we would never have imagined or believed how the year would turn out, and yet amidst all the tragedy, the fear, the anxiety, the challenge, there have been many signs of hope, new life, creativity, energy, of discovering new ways to share the good news of Jesus Christ.

Our calling now is to go forward into this New Year, in the light of 2020, by another road. To take that which has been good, new and energising into our future, not just as the church, but also as individuals.

What may this look like? Well, for me my first three and a half years in this role meant spending a great deal of time indoors and in the car. My challenge therefore going forward is to consider how I continue to reduce my mileage and create space to take time to enjoy God's creation. It is about deciding how I utilise the many benefits of Zoom without spending most of the week in front of a screen. It is about continuing to bring clergy and County leaders together around common topics whilst paying attention to the needs of the local church.

January 2021 will also be like no other January we have ever had. Whilst still taking care, with the possibility of being vaccinated by the summer, our resolutions can be about the life post-Covid we wish to retain and the new possibilities we need to grasp. So, what will returning by another road mean for you? The Wise Men knew to avoid returning the way they had come. We need to learn that lesson too because the year 2020 will have taught us nothing if we go back the same way.

+Karen

Covid Vaccination Scams

Action Fraud have received over 1,000 reports nationally of a new phishing email scam sent on Monday 25 January.

It looks convincingly to be sent from the NHS but asks the recipient to click a link to confirm their coronavirus vaccination invitation, which then asks for personal information and bank details.

Please do remember you will not be asked to pay for the vaccine and at no point will you be asked for payment details asked to disclose bank or personal details.

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Do check the website as resources are added regularly and check Instagram and Facebook for all our latest news.