

# NewsLink

7 March – 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021



Churches of North  
Bradford on Avon  
& Villages

## Remember the **Rainbow** : a contribution from Rev Paul Batson

What have we learnt so far from the Pandemic? That we are One World? That self-interest means everyone's interest? That no one's safe unless we are all safe? Last Sunday's gospel reading is a stark reminder of how Jesus saw the way to live, 'If any want to become followers of mine, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.' (Mark 8:34 NRSV)

The Pandemic remains a mortal threat to the world's population. But our preoccupation with saving human life – as essential as that is – is in danger of blinding us to an even greater catastrophe, namely – the destruction of the planet and of all life on earth. The threat posed by the coronavirus and its variants and that posed by global warming are mind-blowing, and both require a collaborative worldwide response.

As the Psalmist declared, 'The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it' (Psalm 24). Humankind has been given the responsibility for looking after God's world as good stewards for the good of all, not for short-term selfish ends (Genesis 1:28). What about the rainbow? It's a reminder of our partnership with God to care for the earth and all living creatures on the earth (Genesis 9:8-17). This has enormous consequences for the way we choose to live as individuals, families, communities, nations and as one world. Jesus's teaching, time and again, stressed the essential attitude that, 'what we do or fail to do for a fellow human being we do or fail to do for God' (Matthew 25:1-31). When asked 'who is my neighbour?' Jesus tells a story that makes it clear that all people in need are my neighbour, even the people I hate.

In the current circumstances it can be all too easy to be overwhelmed and think that there is nothing we can do. But we need to remember that with God nothing is impossible. Isn't this the underlying message of the Feeding of the Five Thousand? (Matthew 14:15f; Luke 9:10-17). In this event the offering of a little – five loaves and two fishes – goes a very long way. Time and again the action of one person can have a remarkable impact on others for good. Captain Sir Tom Moore was an obvious example and so is Greta Thunberg. Whilst their contributions are well known it is up to all of us to do what we can so that together we can overcome these daunting problems. St Teresa of Calcutta put it rather well, 'We can do no great things – only small things with great love.'

If we are to survive we need to wake up to the reality of our interdependence upon one another. There are some people who are unable to receive the vaccine for good reasons, usually medical, but those who refuse for no good reason are putting themselves and other people, including children, at greater risk. As the Queen said last week, very gently, 'If one doesn't want the vaccine for oneself please receive it for the welfare of others'.

Saving the planet is an even bigger challenge than overcoming the coronavirus, but here again every little thing we do can begin to make a difference. Planting a thousand trees in Winsley is a positive initiative; establishing conservation areas in our churchyards and in our gardens where possible; being passionate about recycling and reducing our carbon footprint; supporting some of the remarkable charities that are doing an incredible job to save the planet. For inspiration and a better understanding of global warming, I strongly recommend you watch David Attenborough's five-part series 'A Perfect Planet' – series 1, shown earlier this year, which is available on BBC iPlayer. Episode 5 'Humans' is particularly important and encouraging.

God created us to live as one world, interconnected and interdependent. We need to work collaboratively to solve our problems and to live justly and in peace. That seems to me to be the underlying challenge facing us today. What a task! But if we remember the rainbow, then we are not alone and with faith in God and a willingness to work generously, sacrificially and humbly across the boundaries of faith, nationality, gender, status or party politics, then surely there is hope? *Rev Paul Batson*

### Church Services

At a Zoom meeting on Friday afternoon, the church leaders and I agreed that we would aim for two church services up until Easter, as long as restrictions continue to allow. The first will be on Sunday 21st March with a joint service with Monkton Farleigh at South Wraxall and a second joint service at Christ Church for Winsley and Christ Church. This pattern will be repeated for Easter Sunday.

The reason for this is that the building at Christ Church will accommodate a greater number of people than Winsley and is easier to ventilate as it has two entrances. The same applies to the arrangement at South Wraxall as it is larger, can accommodate the numbers from the two congregations and it too has two entrances, hence better ventilation.

You will be contacted nearer the time to book in to both services. Arrangements have been made with the Mount Pleasant Centre to allow for parking on those two Sundays but **users must register their car** numbers at the centre on the day or risk a fine.

Not everyone will feel comfortable returning to a church service, so be assured, online services will continue as before. *Rev Ann Keating.*

### Celebrating Mothering Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March in our churches

Posies of fresh spring flowers will be placed in baskets in each of our church porches, children are encouraged to collect a posy to give with love. We hope everyone will enjoy celebrating Mothering Sunday.



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

- Pictures from the Easter Experience in our churches, Celtic prayers, funeral notices and much more...

You can read the full version, and access our weekly online services on the website [www.nboachurches.co.uk](http://www.nboachurches.co.uk). If you require a hard copy please leave a message at the Benefice office on 01225 865046

## Our Easter Experience!

Every Sunday a new scene from the Easter week story will be placed in the churches together with activities for adults and children. See what's been happening in the images below!

Do call into our churches and take part. The churches are open as follows:

**St Peter's** - Sundays 10.00am to 4.00pm and Wednesdays 10.00am to 4.00pm.

**St Nicholas, St James and Christ Church** - 10am-4pm daily.

## Christ Church Community Project

Thank you everyone for your support of the Project, by buying marmalade and chutney, as well as for supplying jars. This has now realised £600 bought from me, plus the jars Gillian Ellis-King and I put on the Sales table in Christ Church. All the chutney has sold out and there are just a few jars of marmalade, mint - apple and japonica - quince jelly still for sale. If supplies in church have run out, please ring me on 01225 862834. I have some at home.

Again MANY THANKS. Dorna (Daw)  
PS. No more jars needed for the present.



### Week 1 Hopes and Dreams

St Nicholas

Christ Church



**Build a cairn of hopes and decorate a Palm leaf at St Peter's**



**Week 2 The Servant King at Christ Church and St Peters**

## Funerals

### Peter Geoffrey Taylor

Friday 12th March at 11.00 am  
St Nicholas Church, Winsley  
followed by burial in the churchyard (Ann taking).

### Carole Irene Thomas

Thursday 25th March at 11.00 am  
St Nicholas Church, Winsley  
followed by burial in the churchyard (Ann taking).

## Two Celtic Prayers

Daphne Cox sent these two Celtic Prayers from *The Edge of Glory by David Adam* which were in her Lent Devotional from Tear Fund.

### Christ before me

He forever goes before us to prepare a place for us. He is on the road we tread. Wherever life is leading us, He has gone before. Perhaps we have no clue about what lies ahead; we know WHO is ahead of us, so the future is not quite unknown.

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As He is He was: as He was He is.  
He shall be as He is and was,  
The Eternal forever so be it Amen.  
The Forever Eternal so be it Amen

## Lent Lunches

At this week's Lent Lunch Tessa Mann shared this lovely poem. If you would like to join us for the lunches, which are a time of fellowship, reflection and sharing 12.30 – 1.30pm Wednesdays on Zoom, do email [nboabenfefice@gmail.com](mailto:nboabenfefice@gmail.com) for the link, all are welcome.

## Lent

Lent is a time to learn to travel  
Light, to clear the clutter  
From our crowded lives, and  
Find a space, a desert.  
Deserts are bleak: no creature  
Comforts, only a vast expanse of  
Stillness, sharpening awareness of  
Ourselves and God.

Uncomfortable places, deserts.

Most of the time we're tempted to  
Avoid them, finding good reasons to  
Live lives of ease; cushioned by  
Noise from self discovery,  
Clutching at world's success  
To stave off fear.  
But if we dare to trust the silence  
To strip away false security,  
God can begin to grow his wholeness in  
us,  
Fill up our emptiness, destroy our fears,  
Give us new wisdom, courage for the  
journey,  
And make our desert blossom like a rose.

by Ann Lewin  
From *Watching for the Kingfisher – Poems  
and Prayer*. Canterbury Press.

## Online Writing Group



Tess Stacey writes with news of a group that she will be running at Dorothy House, open to all.

## Friday Mornings 10.30am on Zoom

During the pandemic when many of us are feeling isolated and missing connection with others, we are inviting you to discover this new online writing space, a place where you can 'drop in' with paper and pen, your thoughts and a cuppa. Whether you've always kept a journal, and writing is a part of your life, or writing for wellbeing is entirely new for you and you're a little hesitant, we're excited to share this with you.

After the success of the Writing Through Grief workshops, Tessa and Mike from the Bereavement Team at Dorothy House are looking forward to offering this to **all within the community**, welcoming everyone arriving with their differing and varied experiences of the last year and lockdown.

A writing theme will be offered each week in a relaxed, group setting, with time to chat and reflect. Please be reassured this is about the process of writing, not a 'polished end product', freely using your own words to explore as you wish. There will be opportunities, but no obligation, to share and please be reassured no previous writing experience is necessary.

**In a time where many of us are feeling a sense of isolation and distance from others, we encourage you to join us and write your way towards springtime.....**

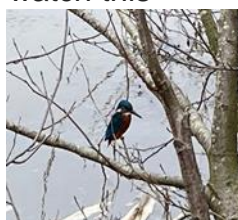
For further information and to book your place call us on **01225 721496**

or email:

[bereavementsupportadmin@dorothyhouse-hospice.org.uk](mailto:bereavementsupportadmin@dorothyhouse-hospice.org.uk)

**Denise Davies** writes...

I was walking along the river bank with a friend yesterday and we stopped to watch this beautiful Kingfisher. The flash of colour when he flew off was stunning. Nature has kept me going through this pandemic.





## Christ Church Community Project New greeting card designs

I have added another four designs to the range of greeting cards I am selling for the Christ Church Community project to add a toilet and kitchen area.

The new designs are Zebras, Antelopes on the Savannah, Honesty Pennies and Celtic Floral Garland.

All previous designs are still available: Puffin, Goldcrests, Fieldmice in Hedgerow, Cockerel, BoA Town Bridge 1900 and Duck and Lantern Still Life. Cards with envelopes are £1.50 each. Order from Ann Chapman, 01225 866861 or email [ann.barry.chapman@btinternet.com](mailto:ann.barry.chapman@btinternet.com)

Many thanks, *Ann Chapman*



**More Spring pictures from Daphne Cox to cheer us up.**



## A prayer for those wearing masks from Bath Abbey, sent in by Daphne Cox

Creator, as I prepare to go into the world, help me to see the sacrament in the wearing of this cloth: let it be *an outward and visible sign of an inner grace*, a tangible and visible way of living love for my neighbours as I love myself.

Christ, since my lips will be covered, uncover my heart that people would see my smile in the crinkles around my eyes; since my voice may be muffled help me to speak clearly, not only with my lips, but with my actions.

Holy Spirit, as the elastic touches my ears, let it remind me to listen carefully, and full of care, to all those I meet. May this simple piece of cloth be shield and banner and each breath that it holds be filled with your love.

In your name and in that love, I pray: may it be so. Amen

### Ministry Team

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### Benefice Office

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### Church Wardens

Winsley:  
Roy Ludlow (868779) Linds Batson (720069)  
Christ Church: Vacant  
Monkton Farleigh: Vacant: Contact Rachel Exley  
PCC Secretary (851485)  
South Wraxall:  
Dave Wyper (865384) Valentine Thornhill  
(862552)

### Lay Pastoral Assistants

Denise Leigh (863916)  
Stephen Pike (782537)  
Denise Davies (863678)  
Gill Fairhurst (867560)  
Daphne Cox (868224)  
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### Children's and Families Worker

Zoe Yeomans - [zyeomans3@gmail.com](mailto:zyeomans3@gmail.com)

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