

NewsLink

5 February — 25 February 2023



Churches of North
Bradford on Avon
& Villages

Dear friends

Last week I was privileged to spend some days with 30 others at Lee Abbey in Devon, on a silent retreat. The theme was prayer and looking forward, but looking back, prayer came easily for me as memories flooded back of our time together on a Benefice retreat, one warm and sunny weekend in May before the pandemic. There were people from all our four churches and time together gave us chance to get to know one another so much better. We talked, walked, indulged in cream teas, and worshipped together.



For those of you unfamiliar with the area, Lee Abbey is a retreat house set in beautiful rolling hills with its own farm estate, a couple of miles from Lynton. From the house one can walk down to the shingly beach, walk along the cliff paths, and walk to Lynton via the Valley of the Rocks. The Valley of the Rocks is my favourite place, and the goats that roam around seem to be very tame. Lee Abbey is one of those 'thin' places where heaven and earth are deemed to meet. There is no light pollution, so on a clear night, one has the sense of almost being able to touch the myriad of stars.

The three days had a rhythm of worship and teaching input, refreshments, and meal breaks, plenty of free time to spend as we wished – walking, reading in the library, surfing in the waves (only for the hardy in January!), and there were stations set up throughout the house and chapel for prayer and meditation. One day there was the opportunity to sit in front of the log fire in the lounge and listen to specially chosen classical music on the theme of winter to spring; the following day we listened to pieces of prose and poems on a similar theme.



From my bedroom I was able to watch the sheep at feeding time; to observe them as they became alert at the sound of the quadbike approaching laden with food; to watch the sheep dogs skilfully lead them from their field to the feeding area and back again. We were invited by our course leader to 'stop and stare' at the natural world around us, to use all our senses as we explored the area. I was reminded of WH Davies poem 'Leisure' which invites us all to do the same.

*What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare?-*

*No time to stand beneath the boughs
And stare as long as sheep or cows:*

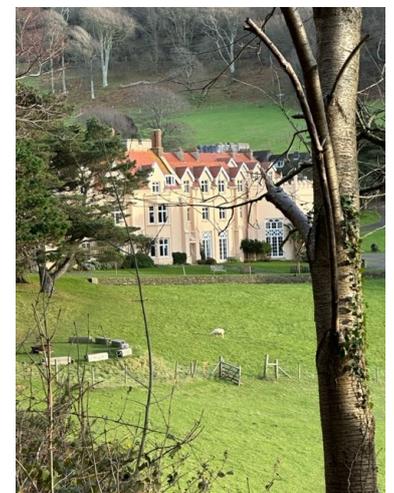
*No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass:*

*No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night:*

*No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance:*

*No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began?*

*A poor life this if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.*



Wishing you a very blessed week, with time to 'stand and stare'.

Ann, Rector

Upcoming Services

5th February 2023

10.30am Benefice Service Education Sunday – commissioning headteachers. Led by Revd. Ann Keating and Revd. Tessa Mann. Organist Richard T.

8th February 2023

6.00pm Compline Service, St Peter's Church, Monkton Farleigh. Led by Revd. Tessa Mann.

12th February 2023

10.00am Refresh, St Nicholas Church, Winsley. Led by Cedric & Trowbridge Street Pastors, music: Pippa & the Music group IT: Vernon.

10.00am Holy Communion Service at St James Church South Wraxall with St Peter's Church, Monkton Farleigh. Led by Revd. Bernard Hughes, organist Keith B.

10.30am Holy Communion Service, Christ Church, Bradford on Avon. Led by Revd. Paul Batson, organist David Ouston

19th February 2023

10.00am Holy Communion Service at St Nicholas Church, Winsley. Led by Revd. Tessa Mann, organist Harold J, IT Richard M.

10.00am Holy Communion Service at St Peter's Church, Monkton Farleigh with St James Church, South Wraxall. Led by Revd. Ann Keating, organist TBC.

10.30am Holy Communion Service, Christ Church, Bradford on Avon. Led by Revd. Tim Hawkins, organist Keith B.

ASH WEDNESDAY 22nd February 2023

10.30am Holy Communion Service, Christ Church, Bradford on Avon. Led by Revd. Bernard Hughes.

7.30pm Holy Communion Service, St Nicholas Church, Winsley. Led by Revd. Ann Keating and Revd. Tessa Mann. Organist David Ouston, IT Richard M.

Funeral Of the late

Doreen Lumsden

10am 8th February 2023

St Nicholas Church, Winsley

Service led by Revd. Ann Keating

Funeral Of the late

John Martin

2.30pm 10th February 2023

St Nicholas Church, Winsley

Service led by Revd. Ann Keating

Funeral Of the late

Timothy Wilshere

12pm 14th February 2023

Christ Church, Bradford on Avon

Service led by Revd. Tessa Mann

Burial of the late Mary Beale

1.30 pm 22nd February 2023

St Nicholas Churchyard, Winsley

Service led by Revd. Ann Keating

Funeral of the late Bill Wilkins

3.30pm 16th February 2023

West Wiltshire Crematorium

Service led by Revd. Bernard Hughes

Baptism of Alice May Ferris

12pm 18th February 2023

Christ Church, Bradford on Avon

Service led by Revd. Ann Keating

Ministry Team:

Rector Rev Ann Keating
Rev.ann.keating@btinternet.com (722230)
Rev Tessa Mann (309374)
LLM: Rachel Pound (862223)

Benefice Office:

Bridge Duncombe (865046),
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Website www.nboachurches.co.uk

Church Wardens:

Winsley: Roy Ludlow (868779) Linds
Batson (720069)

Christ Church: Hilary and Stephen Pike (782537)

South Wraxall: Dave Wyper (865384)

Valentine Thornhill (862552)

Monkton Farleigh: Rachel and Colin Exley: (851485)

Lay Pastoral Assistants:

Stephen Pike (782537), Denise Davies (863678)

Gill Fairhurst (867560), Daphne Cox (868224)

Elizabeth Bush (866624), James

Middleton (920564)

Children's and Families Worker:

Zoe Yeomans

zyeomans3@gmail.com

Lent Zoom Lunches

Starting on Wednesday 1st March 2023

From Midday

Text: Failure by Emma Ineson, The Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 2023

<https://www.eden.co.uk/christian-books/easter-and-lent-books/lent-books-for-individuals/failure-archbishop-of-canterburys-lent-book-2023/>



Please email the Church Office nboabenefice@gmail.com to confirm your attendance by **Sunday 12th February**. We will bulk-order the book. Joining instructions to be sent out later in February.

REFRESH@ST NICHOLAS:

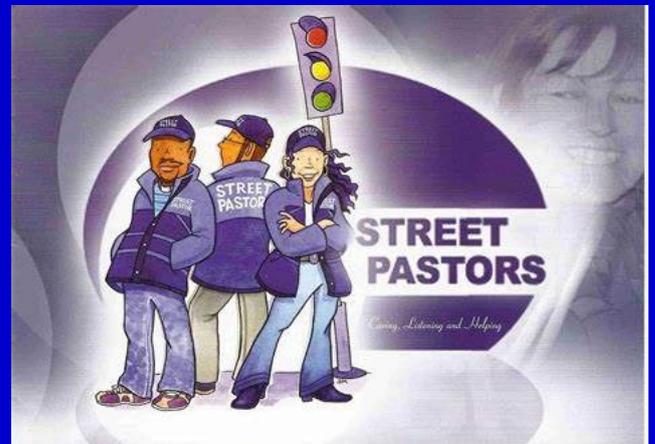
**SUNDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2023
with Trowbridge Street Pastors**

Street pastors are trained volunteers from local churches who care about their community. They patrol in teams of men and women, usually from 10PM to 2-4AM on a Friday or Saturday night, to care for, listen to and help people who are out on the streets.

Why not come to our Refresh service on Sunday 12th February when we will be joined by a member of the Street Pastors team who will tell us about their work in Trowbridge, and there will be an opportunity to ask questions.

Coffee and croissants are available from 9.45AM and the service starts at 10AM in the Church Hall.

We hope to see you there!



Bradford on Avon Area Churches Together (BACT)

The next informal prayer meeting will take place on **Thursday 16th February 2023 at 7.30pm in Bearfield Church Hall, Huntingdon Street, BoA.**

Living with Dying: **Tuesday 7th February in St Nicholas Church 10am to 12 noon**

Paul and Tessa will be leading another free ranging discussion addressing a subject that affects us all yet is all too often avoided. Previous sessions have been greatly appreciated. A hot drink and tasty biscuits provided - all welcome.

Rev Paul Batson and Rev Tessa Mann

Christ Church Events

Coffee mornings every Wednesday from 10.30am—11.30am

The Ark —parent and toddler group every Thursday (term time only) from 10am

There will be no Four Churches Forum on Thursday 9th February.

Next Four Churches Forum will be 9.30am Thursday 16th February 2023.

Dates for your Diary

Sunbeams—Winsley

8th February the Bowls Club

Kettle's On - Winsley

15th February St Nicholas Church hall

Soup's Up - Winsley

17th February St Nicholas Church hall

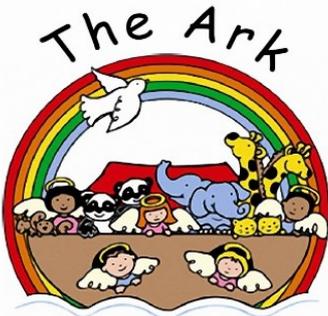
Winter Warmer—Monkton Farleigh

18th February Monkton Farleigh village hall

NewsLink

The next edition of NewsLink will be on **Sunday 26th February 2023**. Please email any relevant contributions to the Benefice Office at nboabenefice@gmail.com by **9.30am Tuesday 21st February 2023**. You can read the full version on our website at www.nboachurches.co.uk

Children & Families News



Baby and Toddler Café
and for making it happen!

Almost £300 raised!

Thank you to everyone who supported the Ark Coffee Morning for The Future For Christ Church. A super morning was had by everyone with delicious cake and coffee, great atmosphere and plenty of lovely things at the bring and buy. Lots of fun for both children and grown ups and raising £284.53 for the project. Special thanks to the Ark families for their ideas, support

The Ark Team



Can you help? Could you volunteer for our half term activity morning on Friday 17th February?
If you are interested please do contact Zoe by email: zyeomans3@gmail.com

Join us for our half term activity morning

Storm Stoppers!

Friday 17th February

9:30-12noon at Mount Pleasant Centre, Bradford on Avon



**Fun and games
Activities and craft
Story and Lego
Snack included
For children in Year R to 6**

Register and drop off from 9.25am

No charge but pre-booking essential. Download the booking form from www.nboachurches.co.uk under Children's and Families or email Zoe at zyeomans3@gmail.com

