

# NewsLink

27 June — 10 July 2021



Churches of North  
Bradford on Avon  
& Villages

## ***Food for thought from the Rector...***

### **Has the pandemic put men off church?**

A recent article in the Church Times highlighted that survey data suggests that men might be more reluctant than women to return to church.

The observation that women outnumber men in Anglican congregations at a ratio of roughly 2:1 seems well established and well accepted. But why is this?

The broad field of the “psychology of individual differences” might help to address this question.

Psychological Type Theory distinguishes between two energy orientations (extraversion and introversion), two ways of perceiving (sensing and intuition), and two ways of evaluating (thinking and feeling). These two ways of evaluating experience and making judgements about things are key to shaping the culture and the climate of institutions.

Populations studies in psychological-type profiling in the UK show variations in preference for thinking and feeling in both men and women. Overall, however, women are much more likely than men to prefer feeling (70% compared with 35%). As a consequence of this difference, congregations with a ratio of two women to every man inevitably emerge as communities that prefer feeling. As a consequence, it is not just men who tend to feel less at home there but thinking types as well.

Research on church congregations shows that a higher proportion of men in congregations (42%) prefer feeling, than men in the general population (35%). Among clergywomen, the proportion is 74% compared with 70% of women in the general population.

SO, HOW do we recognise the difference between the ways in which feeling types and thinking types evaluate what is going on? Feeling types go first for harmony and warmth; thinking types go first for honesty and truth. Feeling types tend to support the way in which institutions evolve; thinking types are more inclined to challenge.

The research then compares how a group of men and women responded to the responses

of the church during the pandemic. “Men judged the Church’s response more harshly.” (For the research results please see the full report on our website).

Do differences in responses really matter? We suspect that they do. Our churches before the pandemic, according to research, were running low on men. During the pandemic, the men who were there in our churches have felt more alienated from the Church than the women. As a consequence, the ratio of those who attend could widen further. Is this what we are finding in our churches? We wonder what God might make of that.

## **Upcoming Services**

**Booking is essential**, please contact the following people from your Parish. When joint services are held, please contact your usual Parish person.

St Peter’s, Monkton Farleigh:

**Malcolm Burns: 01225 858492**

St Nicholas, Winsley:

**Roy Ludlow 01225 868779**

St James, South Wraxall: **David Wyper 01225 865384 or Valentine Thornhill 01225 862552**

Christ Church:

**Stephen and Hilary Pike 01225 782537**

### **Sunday June 27**

10 am St Nicholas, Winsley,

10 am St Peter’s, Monkton Farleigh (MF, SW)

### **Sunday July 4**

10 am St Nicholas, Winsley,

10 am St James, South Wraxall (SW, MF)

### **Sunday July 11**

10.30 am Joint Service at Christ Church (all churches)

### **Sunday July 18**

10 am St Peter’s, Monkton Farleigh MF, SW)

10.30 am Christ Church (CC, W)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Great News! Kettle's On Returns!**

Please note that in light of the extension to lockdown restrictions, Kettle's On will start again on **Wednesday 21st July** at 10 am–12 in Winsley Church Hall and not Wednesday 7th July as previously planned.

There will as ever, be tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits, not to mention good conversation!

### **Sunbeams Picnic in the Park!**

Thank you to all those who attended the picnic in the park on Wednesday, June 23rd. The sun was shining and 22 children attended which was wonderful.



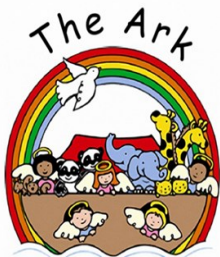
Sunbeams will start fully back in September. Look out for the list of dates in the next edition of Newslink and on the website.

### **Save the Date!**

We are pleased to announce a date has been agreed with the Parish Council in South Wraxall for a Benefice picnic in the field opposite the village hall on **Sunday, July 25th**. More details to follow in the next edition of Newslink.

### **From the Rector:**

Thank you to those who have returned their forms for Reflection. If you haven't yet done so, there is another form on page 4.



Baby and Toddler Café

**The Ark meets at  
Christ Church every  
Thursday 10 -11.30am.**

**BOOKING ESSENTIAL**  
Email Zoe Yeomans  
[thearkatboa@gmail.com](mailto:thearkatboa@gmail.com)

### **Proposal for disposal of wreaths and other tributes laid at Winsley War Memorial.**

For your information, Winsley Parish Council has adopted the following proposal which will ensure that the War Memorial is maintained and viewed with respect.

Any wreaths laid at the War Memorial will be left in place for two months. Other tributes, e.g. flags or emblems will also be left in place for two months.

Any floral tributes will be removed after they have deteriorated.

The Parish Council will appoint a volunteer who will monitor the above and who will discreetly and respectfully remove items for suitable disposal.

To come into effect from **1<sup>st</sup> August 2021**.

Should anybody have any comments about this, please contact Winsley Parish Clerk e-mail:

[winsleypc@gmail.com](mailto:winsleypc@gmail.com)

#### **Ministry Team**

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

#### **Benefice Office**

Caroline Brydon (865046), [nboabenefice@gmail.com](mailto:nboabenefice@gmail.com)  
Website [www.nboachurches.co.uk](http://www.nboachurches.co.uk)

#### **Church Wardens**

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

#### **Lay Pastoral Assistants**

Stephen Pike (782537)  
Denise Davies (863678)  
Gill Fairhurst (867560)  
Daphne Cox (868224)  
Elizabeth Bush (866624)  
James Middleton (920564)

#### **Children and Families Worker**

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

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

- Details of a Church of England webinar
- Rachel Exley's summary of this summer's wildflower project at St Peter's
- An Update from Zoe Yeomans, Children's and Families Worker
- A copy of 'The Form for Reflection' from Revd Ann to complete if you haven't done so already

## Church of England webinar: simpler, humbler, bolder

30<sup>th</sup> June 2.00 – 3.00 pm

The last in a series of webinars that explores what it means to be a church that is centred on Jesus Christ and shaped by Jesus Christ – a church that is simpler, humbler, bolder.

Find out more about the emerging vision and strategic priorities for the Church for the next decade and take the opportunity to ask your questions.

To Join the Webinar, join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device:

Please click this URL to join. [https://zoom.us/j/97751947129?tk=SDTt-](https://zoom.us/j/97751947129?tk=SDTt-YjyB5qcGaoWtywme2INexg5d7zB6Vblz86l_U.DQIAAAAWwnhXeRZ6cm4yMVdURVFrV1RXaEtRa094eDR3AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA)

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## St Peter's Wildflower Project, Summer 2021

An amazing 96 different varieties of wildflowers, plants and trees have been identified growing in the churchyard at St Peter's. This is a really encouraging result. Next year we hope to run similar projects and improve habitats for wildlife as well.

Thanks to botanist Dave Green for his advice on setting up the project and counting and compiling the list of plants growing in the churchyard. The inspiration for this project came from a similar exercise run in St Nicholas's churchyard last summer.

Rachel Exley



## Children's and Families Update by Zoe Yeomans

The Ark has been very well received and we have welcomed 14 children and their parents back over the last few Thursday mornings. It is different, with no soft toys or snacks just now, but wonderful to bless families with the crafts, toys, stories and songs and for them to connect again. Booking essential on [thearkatboa@gmail.com](mailto:thearkatboa@gmail.com) if you know any family who might like to come.

I've begun working with a group of children at Winsley School and St Laurence School, mentoring them and it is a joy to engage with the young people each week. Open the Book continues to be filmed by the Winsley team and offered to all the local schools whilst we are not able to go in in person.

**Forest Church!** It was a chilly Monday afternoon when we gathered to pilot the first Forest Church for our Benefice. Not the weather we were expecting on the longest day! However, it was lovely to worship with others in this way and this small successful session focussed on leaves. We are gathering feedback on the session and watch this space as it evolves and grows.

### Save the Date, Monday 19th July! Climate Change Walk:

Do you enjoy walking or providing refreshments and are interested in climate change? YCCN (Youth Climate Change Network) have begun their all age relay walk to the Climate Change Conference of Parties 26 (COP26) in Glasgow later this year. Their route from Cornwall to Glasgow goes through Winsley and Bradford on Avon, so it feels right to welcome them and offer support. More details in the next edition of Newslink.



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## Reflective questions to respond to.....

### In light of the past year:-

What have you missed?

What has been life-giving for you during the pandemic and what has been difficult?

What does it mean to be 'church' in our communities? What are our biggest challenges and opportunities?

What might God be calling us to lay down and to take up in our group of churches?

What might be your prayer for the way ahead?

Name: (optional)

Please return to your churchwardens/leaders or to Revd Ann Keating,  
The Rectory, 6 Millbourn Close, Winsley BA15 2NN by 15 July