

NewsLink

4th February—24th February 2024



Churches of North
Bradford on Avon
& Villages

Dear Friends,

At this time of year the Church calendar marks Candlemas. It is a season which has a quiet holiness about it.

The festival focuses on the beautiful story from Luke Chapter 2, telling of Mary and Joseph presenting their precious baby son at the Temple, faithfully fulfilling the requirements of all Jewish parents of firstborn sons.

There are no balloons or party poppers, just a simple offering to God in the holiness of The Temple.



In their act of faithfulness, they meet two faithful souls, Simeon and Anna, who recognise in Jesus, the Messiah, the one for whom they have prayed, watched and waited all their lives.

It is a deeply moving scene of quiet wonder, love and joy.

Traditionally, it is a time for churches to bless their year's supply of candles. This was especially important pre-electricity! It is also a time for us to apprehend the wonder of Jesus the Light of the World, dispelling the darkness, offering hope in all circumstances. Simeon and Anna experience an overwhelming sense of answered prayers and fulfilment of God's promises.

Thinking about our answered prayers in the Benefice over the past year, I feel something of the tingle of hopes that were fulfilled for Simeon and Anna. Each time we say The Benefice Prayer together, I realise how much God has answered that prayer and has been present among us.

As the time draws near for Rev Katie to be presented as our Rector at her Licensing Service on 26th February, perhaps we could light a candle each day, asking for God's blessing on her and the family?

Lord, we give you humble and hearty thanks for the light of your presence among us. For prayers answered and for quiet faithfulness of so many in our churches, we are deeply thankful. Guide us in the way ahead. May we walk in the light of hope and peace always. Amen.

Every blessing,

Tessa

Rev Tessa Mann

Upcoming Services

Sunday 4th February

10.00am Benefice Service with Holy Communion celebrating Candlemas, St Nicholas Church, Winsley. Led by Revd. Tessa Mann.

Sunday 11th February

10.00am Refresh Service, St Nicholas Church, Winsley. Led by Roy Ludlow.

10.00am Holy Communion Service, St James' Church, South Wraxall jointly with St Peter's Church, Monkton Farleigh. Led by Revd. Tim Hawkings.

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

Wednesday 14th February (Ash Wednesday)

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

7.00pm Ash Wednesday Holy Communion Service, St James' Church, South Wraxall. Led by Revd. Tessa Mann.

Sunday 18th February

10.00am Together in Worship Service, St Nicholas Church, Winsley. Led by Linds Batson.

10.00am Holy Communion Service, St Peter's Church, Monkton Farleigh, jointly with St James' Church, South Wraxall. Led by Revd. Paul Batson.

10.30am Morning Prayer Service, Christ Church, Bradford on Avon. Led by Stephen Pike.

Sunday 25th February

10.00am Morning Prayer Service, St James' Church, South Wraxall, jointly with St Peter's, Monkton Farleigh. Led by Roy Ludlow.

10.00am Holy Communion Service, St Nicholas Church, Winsley. Led by Revd. Tessa Mann.

10.30am Refresh Service, Christ Church, Bradford on Avon. Led by Denise and the Refresh team.

Monday 26th February

7.00pm Licensing Service for Revd. Katie Jackson, Christ Church, Bradford on Avon. Led by Archdeacon the Ven Sue Groom, Revd. Tessa Mann and Revd. Katie Jackson.

Wednesday 28th February

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

NewsLink

The next edition of NewsLink will be on **Sunday 25th February 2024**. Please email any relevant contributions to the Benefice Office at nboabenefice@gmail.com by **9.30am Tuesday 20th February 2024**. You can read the full version on our website at www.nboachurches.co.uk

Ministry Team:

Revd. Tessa Mann (309374)

Benefice Office:

Bridge Duncombe (865046),

nboabenefice@gmail.com

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

Funeral of Mrs June Thornton (late of AvonPark)

2.30pm, Friday 16th February

St Nicholas Church, Winsley

Officiant: Rev Tessa Mann

Prayer Chain, available across the Benefice

If anyone knows of someone with serious illnesses, at the end of their life or a death it would be a privilege for us to pray about them. We will be utterly confidential about any who asks.

There are more than a dozen people who I share the request with and they will pray until we have an update.

In the first instance a phone call to me, Daphne Cox, 01225 868224 or my email:- Cox.daphne@gmail.com will find me. If I'm out you can leave a message, then I will get back to you.

Daphne Cox, St Nicholas Church

Save the Date!

St Peter's Church, Monkton Farleigh, in 100 Objects—your church explained.

13th and 14th July 2024

Pay a visit to our beautiful church over this weekend and learn more about its history, its Norman door and font, its 13th century square tower and the work undertaken in the 1800s to restore the church.

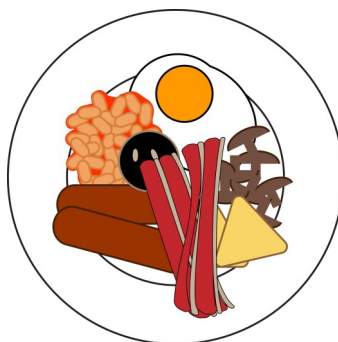
A note from The Benefice Office

Breakfast at South Wraxall

*We invite you to join us in South Wraxall village hall on **Sunday 18th February** to enjoy a delicious breakfast, while relaxing with friends and family.*

*We will be serving Full English Breakfast, which also includes toast, homemade marmalade, tea, coffee and fruit juice, **from 9:00 am until at least 11:30 am**. All the profits go towards the up-keep of St James's Church.*

Jean Atkin, Sec. to St James' Church PCC.



Lent Resources



We will have a small number of these Lent reflections available to purchase, at cost: £2.20 each—please contact the Benefice office if interested.

Children & Families News

Lego Church

Sunday 11th February 3pm-4:15pm
Winsley Church Hall



Come and join us for some family
Lego building fun. Snack included.

Bring your creativity!

All welcome!



Join us at Christ Church on
Shrove Tuesday
13th February
10am-12noon

Pancakes and fun!



Everyone welcome!

Bring the family and pop in for
fellowship, games, activities and of course
a pancake* with a choice of toppings!

No charge although donations welcome.

Booking helpful but not essential,
contact zyeomans3@gmail.com

*df and gf options available on request

Sunbeams, St Nicholas Church hall,
Winsley 10.30am—11.30am
14th February & 28th February

The Ark is on **Thursdays at 10.00am to 11.30am in Christ Church** and will continue every Thursday morning during school term time. Come along with your little ones for a fun time with toys, story, songs, craft and snacks to finish!

Kettle's On

7th February and 21st February

10.00am – 12.00pm Kettle's on – a friendly café style morning.
St Nicholas Church Hall.

Please join us for tea, coffee and an array of treats as well as
good company.



Soup's Up

12.00pm—3.00pm 16th February 2024



A friendly soup and dessert lunch. St Nicholas Church Hall. A variety of soups, warm and cold desserts, all home-made, as well as time to chat with your friends, both old and new.