

# NewsLink

7th January —20th January 2024



Churches of North  
Bradford on Avon  
& Villages

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year!

I wonder how you approach a new year?  
Is it a time to celebrate or to enter with fear  
and trepidation?

I always remember New Year's Day family  
lunches at my grandparents house. As my  
grandfather would raise his glass to toast the  
new year, my grandmother would always say  
'*May we never have a worse!*'

It is one of those sayings which has entered  
family history and we always say it when rais-  
ing a glass on New Years Day, even if it has  
been a year to celebrate! It is a reminder to  
live with a glass half full, not half empty!



I wonder how you look back on 2023? Did it go fast or slow? Was it challenging? Were there times of joy, surprises, moments of thankfulness?



This time last year I purchased and rather anxiously filled out a year planner with key Church Festivals, planned weddings and my '*Going to Ground*' weeks and holidays.

The wall planner was a visual way of preparing myself for the year ahead – one which I knew would be especially busy and challenging, in the light of Ann's retirement. The planner helped steady the way ahead, knowing that building in a monthly '*Going to Ground*' week would enable me to have space to re-charge my batteries and listen to the still small voice of God.

It helped me to share the load and acknowledge the significant gifts we are blessed with in our Benefice. I am so very grateful to everyone of you who has stepped up during the vacancy in praying and doing. God has blessed us richly. So many reasons to rejoice!

I wonder how we can each build life giving and creative patterns into 2024, as it opens up before us?

So, as the year turns, we look back with a heart of real thanksgiving for Ann's wonderful ministry and look forward with expectancy to welcoming Katie.

Our priority is to offer Katie, Rob, Matty and Lottie the warmest of welcomes – giving Katie the freedom to be herself and exercise a life giving ministry in a sustainable way.

God bless you in the coming year. May we all continue to grow in faith, hope and love.

**Tessa**

Rev Tessa Mann.

## Upcoming Services

### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January

10.00am Benefice Service with Holy Communion, St James Church, South Wraxall. Led by Revd. Tim Hawkings.

### Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January

6.00pm Compline Service Christ Church, Bradford on Avon. Led by Revd. Tessa Mann.

### Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January

10.00am Refresh Service St Nicholas Church, Winsley. Led by Cedric and Penny Pierce.

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

10.30am Together in Worship Christ Church, Bradford on Avon. Led by Stephen Pike.

### Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January

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

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

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

## Events for Revd. Canon Joanna Abercassis' retirement

### Sunday 28th January 2024

10.30am Celebration Benefice Eucharist

12-2pm (drop-in) Join us for refreshments at Holy Trinity Church to celebrate Joanna's wonderful ministry.

### Funeral of Patricia Selfe

Midday, Wednesday 17th January 2024

St Nicholas Church, Winsley.

Led by Revd. Tessa Mann

### Burial of ashes of Roy Alan Frost

10am Tuesday 16th January 2024

Bradford on Avon Cemetery.

Led by Revd. Tessa Mann

## NewsLink

The next edition of NewsLink will be on **Sunday 21st January 2024**. Please email any relevant contributions to the Benefice Office at [nboabenefice@gmail.com](mailto:nboabenefice@gmail.com) by **9.30am Tuesday 16th January 2024**. You can read the full version on our website at [www.nboachurches.co.uk](http://www.nboachurches.co.uk)

### Ministry Team:

Revd. Tessa Mann (309374)

### Benefice Office:

Bridge Duncombe (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:** 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](mailto:zyeomans3@gmail.com)

## Microscopes for Malaria

### An example of International Outreach in our Benefice

I have a small scheme sending out microscopes to Africa for the diagnosis of malaria, since microscopes are still best way to diagnose the disease. I have been getting them from university departments and hospitals and they are second hand but generally in very good condition. Often, they are surplus to requirement, when new ones are purchased, and sitting in store rooms and cupboards. So far the University of Bath, Department of Biology, and University of Bristol Dental School and Southmead Hospital have kindly donated them.

The clinics and hospitals in Africa have been found via the Anglican Communion, which is a network of churches throughout the world. Its easy to find an email of an African bishop or administrator on the Anglican communion website and is a great way to find out where there is a need since they know all the local hospitals and clinics. Also I've used Caritas, the catholic relief and development agency, who are also throughout Africa. So far I've heard back from Ghana, Zambia, Congo, Malawi, Burundi, and Kenya all wanting microscopes!

The next problem is how to send them as they are quite heavy. It's expensive to use a courier and the whole scheme is done for free (or minimum budget) and I don't like asking for money! Again Christian organisations are very helpful. I've established a good collaboration with USPG (a former missionary organisation) and the Church Missionary Society who are often going off to different parts of the world. They've been happy to take the microscopes out in their luggage.



So far I've sent out a total of eight microscopes. Here are some examples (see photos):

Luangwa Clinic, Kitwe, Zambia

Afrikids clinic, Bolgatanga, Ghana

Clinic in Nyankamam, Ghana

Clinic in the Diocese of Accra and Sekondi, Ghana

Child health and Survival Clinic. Nabongo, Kenya

Oasis of Hope initiative, Isiola, Kenya

Outpatient clinic for vulnerable women and youth, Bula Pesa, Kenya

**James Middleton** [jfsmidd@gmail.com](mailto:jfsmidd@gmail.com)

Website <https://jfsmidd.wixsite.com/microscopes-malaria>

# Christmas Toy Collection



Update!

St Peter's church joined the Christmas Toy Collection this year and are grateful for the many items left in "Santa's Sack". The Salvation Army have sent a message of thanks to everyone who so generously donated toys and gifts in support of their Christmas present appeal this year. The gifts are used to support vulnerable families and their children and will make a big difference at Christmas.

The photo shows some of the many toys received by The Salvation Army being sorted at their hall in Trowbridge.

*Valerie Calpin & Colin Exley*



Churches of North Bradford on Avon & Willsboro

**CENTENARY PEAL**  
**SATURDAY 13 JANUARY 2024**  
**10AM - 1PM**

**Christ Church bells have reached their 100<sup>TH</sup> birthday!**

The bells were cast by **Gillett & Johnston** of Croydon in November 1923.

To mark the occasion a peal will be rung lasting approx 3hrs on **Saturday 13th Jan**

**All are welcome** to come along, enjoy some refreshments and listen to the ringing.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION  
 PLEASE EMAIL [nboabenefice@gmail.com](mailto:nboabenefice@gmail.com) OR CALL **01225 865046**

Discover Christ Church  
 Community | Welcomes | International

**CHRIST CHURCH BRADFORD-ON-AVON**

**FREE TO ATTEND!**

**TALKING TIME**  
 WEDNESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> JAN 2024  
 7:00PM FOR 7:30PM START

**ALL WELCOME PLEASE BOOK A TICKET!**

Join us for a special moment in time as we celebrate our beautifully restored clock at Christ Church

Enjoy a drinks and canapés reception followed by a talk from clock experts from Smith of Derby

Learn more about the fascinating world of horology and the work to restore our clock

**It is a time to come together, to celebrate and reflect on a time piece of our town's heritage**

**THREE EASY WAYS TO BOOK**

- Use the QR code
- Visit [bit.ly/4a0i2ua](https://bit.ly/4a0i2ua)
- Email [admin@discoverchristchurch.org.uk](mailto:admin@discoverchristchurch.org.uk)

With grateful thanks to our funders

