



Dear friends

I hope that you really enjoyed Christmas. Following the uncertainty of the past couple of years, with Covid, Flu, Strep A and various viruses circulating, we were delighted with how many people from our communities attended the variety of services over the Christmas period. Thank you from the bottom of my heart to everyone who helped make these services accessible to those who may only attend occasionally but for whom coming to church at Christmas is an important part of their celebrations.

There is so much prayer, creativity, planning and sheer hard work that goes on in the background to prepare our churches and these special services so I hope you feel blessed by your part in making it all happen.

If you haven't heard or read the Archbishop of Canterbury's Christmas Sermon at Canterbury Cathedral, do read it on our website. I read it this morning on a grey, dismal day when the wind and rain has not abated and I found his message very inspirational.

He reminds us of how even on Christmas day, the day of joy and celebration around the world, we are conscious of darkness and he asks the question 'Where is the triumph and the truth of the words from John's gospel, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."

What of those suffering, but courageous people of Ukraine? What of those who are cold and hungry suffering from the cost-of-living crisis? What of the women in Afghanistan, deprived of education, work and all human decency?

However, our commitment to justice springs from God's light in the darkness; This baby given-in-mercy-inspired-by-love who empties himself to become fully human. Even when the world forgetfully turns a blind eye to injustice and suffering, God is present through Jesus in the world. The song we sing Oh Come Oh Come Emmanuel – the title Emmanuel, God with us - tells us that God sees and acts.

All over the world there is rebellion – people open their hearts and homes to those seeking asylum, they serve in food banks, they make soup and bread and cakes, they volunteer in hospices, they crew lifeboats – all signs of how God responds to the darkness.

Through Jesus God calls every one of us to be bearers of an alternative possibility to the darkness, to open our hearts and future to him, so that we become the source of that light and life and freedom, so needed in the world. So, let's go into 2023 inspired like the shepherds to 'glorify and praise God for all we have heard and seen.' Have a very joyful and healthy new year, full of hope and peace.



Ann, Rector

Upcoming Services

Sunday 8th January 2023

10.00am Refresh Service, St Nicholas Church Hall, Winsley, Led by Bob Williams & Roy Ludlow, musicians: Pippa & the music group, IT: Vernon B.

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

10.30am Holy Communion Service, Christ Church, Bradford-on-Avon. Led by Revd. Tessa Mann, Organist: Richard T.

Wednesday 11th January 2023

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

Sunday 15th January 2023

10.00am Holy Communion Service (with baptism), St. Nicholas Church, Winsley. Led by Revd. Ann Keating, organist Keith B, IT Richard M.

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

10.30am Holy Communion Service, Christ Church, Bradford-on-Avon. Led by Revd. Bernard Hughes, organist: Richard T.

Funeral Of the late Joanne Henderson

Led by Revd. Paul Batson

1.00pm Tuesday 10th January at Haycombe
Crematorium

Baptism

Amaya Jones

Led by Revd. Ann Keating

10.00am Sunday 15th January: a baptism will
take place during the Holy Communion Ser-
vice, St. Nicholas Church, Winsley.

Service of Thanksgiving

Lucy Joll

Led by Revd. Ann Keating

2.00pm Friday 13th January at St James
Church, South Wraxall

Funeral Of the late George Powell

Led by Revd. Ann Keating & Revd. Tessa
Mann

1.30pm Wednesday 18th January at St Nich-
olas Church, Winsley

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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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

**Have you been coming to one of our churches
since the pandemic started?**

If so:

Save the date: 29 January 2023

Do join us for afternoon tea and conversation on Sunday afternoon **29th January, 3.00 pm at St Nicholas Church Hall.**

We look forward to seeing you and finding out what you are enjoying about coming to our churches and what you might be missing from your previous church communities that we could offer.



**Benefice Service Education Sunday –
Commissioning Headteachers**

**10:30am Sunday 5th February at
Christ Church, Bradford-on-Avon**

Please do join us for this very special Candlemas Service including the commissioning of Headteachers from Winsley Primary School, Christchurch Primary School.



MEN'S NIGHT

**Wednesday 18th January 2023 at
7.30pm in St Nicholas Church Hall,
Winsley**

**INDIA WITH AN “S” – SIGHTS, SOUNDS,
SMELLS, STEAM**

*John Baxter will give an illustrated talk
about his travels in India.*

Supper will be an Indian curry (bring your own drink).

**Please book with Paul Billingham as soon
as possible; (pr24bill@aol.com or 01225
722229)**



Dates for your Diary

Kettle's On dates for January—June 2023

18th January

1st and 15th February

1st and 15th March

5th and 19th April

3rd and 17th May

7th and 21st June

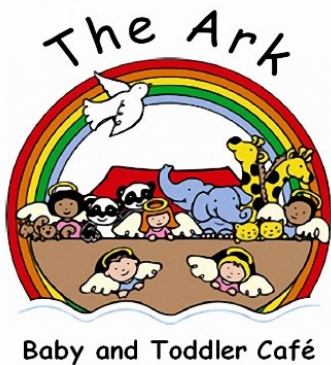
Soup's Up dates for January—April

20th January

3rd February and 17th February

3rd March and 17th March

21st April



Children and Families News



Come and join us at
**The Ark Coffee
Morning**

Supporting

Future for Christ Church Community Project
Thursday 26th January 10-11:30am during the Ark.

Everyone welcome!



Toys available as usual for children to play with. There may also be a tombola, toy tombola or other small games. Donations of cakes or tombola items welcomed or just come along to enjoy the morning.



A huge thank you to all the Christmas knitters and sewers!

The beautiful angels were well received and loved by the children at services at each of our Churches before Christmas! Many thanks for your time and efforts in making them. Zoe

Please see Zoe if you have any ideas for this year!



Lego Church

Sunday 22nd January 3pm-4:15pm
Winsley Church Hall



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

Bring your creativity....

All welcome!



Churches of North
Bradford on Avon
& Villages



New helpers are sought to provide projection and PA support for worship at St Nicholas Church

St Nicholas' services benefit from the projection of slides for our hymns, prayers, liturgy and notices.

This depends on a small band of volunteers to set up and operate the tech. We would now like to grow the team.

If this is an aspect of church life that you might like to support then please do get in touch for an initial conversation:

Geoff Parker:

geoff.heather@talktalk.net Tel: 866340



Did you know?

The North Bradford-on-Avon and Villages has an active Facebook page:

[Churches of North Bradford on Avon and Villages | Facebook](#)

You can also find us on Instagram:



[Churches Of North Boa \(@nboachurches\) • Instagram photos and videos](#)

We would love to see you join our communities. Please follow and share our posts.



Fundraising to update and restore Christ Church, Bradford-on-Avon as a community hub fit for the 21st century!

Your donation will help add essential toilets and a kitchen, create flexible open spaces, restore our spire clock and magnificent nave and rare wall paintings, and install new energy efficient and flexible lighting.

If you would like to give a donation in memory or celebration of someone, a special occasion, or something memorable to you, please email: discovercc@gmail.com



To donate, scan the QR Code or use this link: <https://tinyurl.com/mrt6dn3x>

Thank you so much for your contribution to the Future for Christ Church community project.



NewsLink

The next edition of NewsLink will be on **Sunday 22th January 2023**. Please email any relevant contributions to the Benefice Office at nboabenefice@gmail.com by **9.30am Tuesday 17th January 2023**.

You can read the full version on our website at www.nboachurches.co.uk