



Dear friends

Revd Angela Tilby can be a very controversial figure, but she wrote an article in the Church Times that I think we can all relate to. She writes:

Those who follow the career of the detective Hillary Greene (creation of the crime writer Faith Martin) will understand the attraction of a canal-side walk through Thrupp, on the River Cherwell. Hillary lives on a canal boat, The Mollern, while solving crimes in Kidlington nearby.

Last Saturday, meeting with friends for coffee and lunch, we walked through sun and showers along the towpath. North-west from Annie's Tea Rooms, we stumbled on a hidden treasure; Holy Cross, Shipton-on-Cherwell. We entered the church through an open door, and found a medieval interior restored in Gothic-revival style.

Light streamed from the east windows, drawing our eyes to the sanctuary and the altar. Everything was spectacularly clean, tidy, and well-ordered. Near the entrance were attractively produced service booklets for Sunday morning services. The annual parish report of the previous year was on display for all to see, as was the parish paper and a reminder to pray for all who had died from Covid. Hand sanitiser was in abundance and outside the porch, a bowl of water for visiting dogs.

This was a parish church that signalled that the two things that matter most are worship and welcome. Anyone could find sanctuary here, and if they wished, find signs of faith, silently proclaimed. I later discovered that services are held on only two Sundays out of four, yet to me, the church was alive and breathed community, service, and uncluttered holiness.

The Church of England is an incarnational Church, proclaiming and finding God in the physical and material realities of people's lives. There may be other ways of "expressing" church, but we must always be discerning. Even the freshest of expressions is likely to go off – a sell-by date is implied by the very name. We are part of a fickle society that craves spiritual experience at the same time as it becomes more secular.

What the parish church has to offer, has become counter-cultural. It is costly to prioritise place, continuity, and landscape. It takes sacrifice and loving service from volunteers and clergy. Yet parishes are where generations continue to learn the habits of worship and service, bringing to God not only their own joys and griefs, but also those of their neighbours and the world beyond.

There is an initiative called Save the Parish that has been launched to ensure that parishes remain central to the Church's mission. Without the parish church, we lose our roots and even more of our relevance. My fee from this article will go to the PCC of Shipton-on-Cherwell, with love and grateful thanks, for keeping open a portal to the Kingdom, both within and beyond.

There is something very special, very profound, very spiritual, experienced by those who come into our own churches, often unseen. May our churches long remain open to welcome and nurture those who enter. May God bless you, for all you do to ensure that our churches continue to be a portal to the Kingdom.

Ann, Rector

# Events and Notices

## Upcoming Services

### Sunday, 15th May - Fifth Sunday of Easter

10.00am Holy Communion at St James, South Wraxall, joint with Monkton Farleigh *Bernard/Gerry*

10.00am Holy Communion at St Nicholas, Winsley *Paul/Harold*

### Sunday, 22nd May - Sixth Sunday of Easter

10.00am Holy Communion at St Peter's, Monkton Farleigh, joint with South Wraxall. *Keith C/Gerry*

10.00am Holy Communion at St Nicholas, Winsley. *Ann/Pippa/Vernon*

10.30am Refresh at Christ Church, Bradford on Avon *Rachel/Tricia*

### Sunday, 29th May - Seventh Sunday of Easter (Day after Ascension Day)

10.00 Benefice Service with Holy Communion at St James, South Wraxall *Ann & Tessa/Keith B*

### Wednesday, 1st June

10.30am Holy Communion at Christ Church, Bradford on Avon *Tessa*

### Sunday, 5th June - Pentecost

10.00am Queen's Jubilee Service at St Peter's, Monkton Farleigh *Keith C/Keith B*

10.00am Queen's Jubilee Service at St Nicholas, Winsley *Ann/Gerry/Geoff*

10.30am Queen's Jubilee Service at Christ Church, Bradford on Avon *Tessa/Harold*

4.00pm Queen's Jubilee Service at St James, South Wraxall *Ann & Paul/Keith B*

## Christian Aid Week 15th - 21st May

Please note that there will be NO door-to-door collection this year. Many people in Winsley are regular donors, so I would hope that everyone who wishes to donate will be able to do so on line at [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)

If you do not have access to the Internet, please feel free to contact me on 01225 713714. Please continue to support this great charity which is doing so much good.

Thank you  
Alison Wells

## St Nicholas Churchyard Spring 'Clear-Up' Saturday, 21st May 10.00am till Midday

If you could spare an hour or two on the morning of the 21st May, it would be greatly appreciated. Even better if you could bring with you the odd wheelbarrow, rake, pruners, etc. Mid-morning refreshment will be available in the church hall. Many thanks!  
**Bob Williams**

The next edition of NewsLink will be on the **29th May**. Please email any relevant contributions to Caroline at [nboabenefice@gmail.com](mailto:nboabenefice@gmail.com) by Tuesday 24th May. You can read the full version (4 pages) on our website at [www.nboachurches.co.uk](http://www.nboachurches.co.uk)

If you would like an electronic version of NewsLink or require a hard copy, please email or leave a message for Caroline at the Benefice office on 01225 865046.

### Ministry Team:

Rector Rev Ann Keating  
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Rev Tessa Mann (309374)

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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](mailto:zyeomans3@gmail.com)



## Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations



### Queen's Jubilee at St Peter's, Monkton Farleigh

St Peter's will be filling the church with flowers and music. Our special thanksgiving service on **Sunday 5th June** will be accompanied by a 'Crown Trail' for children in the churchyard and maybe a pop up cream tea if the weather holds. Come and enjoy the celebrations with us!

*Rachel Exley*

### Queen's Jubilee at Christ Church, Bradford on Avon

We plan to celebrate the occasion in the churchyard on **Thursday 2nd June 2:00pm - 4:00pm** (please note the date change from Friday 3rd June) with an afternoon of cream teas, plant and book stalls, children's fun activities and other surprise activities. We are planning to plant a tree as part of 'The Queen's Green Canopy' to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee. We will also be officially launching The Future for Christ Church projects at the event.

Volunteers urgently required to help with teas, stalls and bake scones. If you can help please contact Hilary or Stephen Pike on 01225 782537 as soon as possible. Thank you.

*Stephen Pike*

### Queen's Jubilee at St James, South Wraxall

- ◆ **Thursday 2nd June, 3pm onwards** Everyone is invited to help decorate the church with red, white and blue flowers, flags and bunting
- ◆ **Saturday 4th June 2-5 pm** South Wraxall House. All invited to an afternoon of children's fun and games. Please bring your own afternoon tea and picnic rug, there will be tea and soft drinks available. Dressing up encouraged, see below for more information.
- ◆ **Sunday 5th June 12.30 for 1pm start** Road outside the church. Tables will be set up to host 'The Big Jubilee Lunch'.
- ◆ **3.30pm for 4pm start St James Church** A celebration service of singing and village memories, all welcome! 6pm at The Longs Arms - All welcome including children, to a village party to finish off the Jubilee celebrations. For tickets, contact details and full information on these events [click here](#)

### Queen's Jubilee at St Nicholas, Winsley

- ◆ **Friday 3rd June 12.00 -12.15** Bell Ringing. This will form part of the national bell ringing to mark the Jubilee Service at St Paul's Cathedral
- ◆ **Friday 3rd June to Sunday 5th June.** Come and join us at St Nicholas Church for a Flower Festival to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with floral displays and mementoes from the Queen's reign. The display will be open from 10am-4pm Friday and Saturday and from 12-4pm on Sunday 5th June. Refreshments available.
- ◆ **Sunday 5th June**, the Jubilee service at 10am will include activities, and is particularly suitable for families. There will also be an opportunity to paint a Jubilee mug to take home. Refreshments provided.
- ◆ A 'Crown Trail' for the children and adults in Winsley Churchyard until 3pm.
- ◆ **2 - 4pm** Celebration Tea with tea and cakes in the Church Hall

*Linds Batson*



## Bradford on Avon Bell Ringers

On Saturday 7th May, the Bradford on Avon bell ringers took part in the annual Devizes branch (of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild of Ringers) 6 and 8 bell striking competitions. The 8 bell was held at Devizes St John's and the 6 bell at St Matthew Rowde.

Three teams entered the 8 bell and six teams entered the 6 bell and I am very pleased to report that Bradford won both competitions - well done David, Phil, Ian, Harriet, Richard, Rachel, Tim and John; and a big thank you to the three judges.

There was also an additional 6 bell novice competition - four teams took part which Devizes St John won. It was a lovely warm sunny afternoon, and great to see so many ringers again in one place following the Covid restrictions - needless to say 'tea and cake' was in plentiful supply throughout the afternoon. We very much hope the new South Wraxall ringers will be able to compete alongside us next year.

**John Sealy**



## Christ Church Plant Stall - Thank You!!

Our Christ Church plant stall made an impressive £550 for the Future for Christ Church project!! In case you did not make it there are still some plants available outside 13 Newtown, Bradford on Avon. Thank you!

**Gillian and Dorna**

## Forest Church

Some pictures from Forest Church last Sunday. We shared the Parable of the Mustard Seed and then reflected on the story in different ways including sketching, creating birds nests and making popcorn over the fire in the glorious afternoon sunshine in St James Churchyard. **Zoe**

Our next Forest Church will be on Sunday 26th June 4pm at Christ Church. All Welcome!



## Visitors Book at St Peter's

In St Peter's we have restored the position of our Visitors Book, which was sadly closed for two years because of Covid. It is delightful to see how many visitors we are getting again. In the last five weeks they have signed from Lancashire, Ottawa, Bristol, Cumbria and Devon, as well as more local. To know that our small quiet Church is appreciated so far afield is a great blessing.

**Carolyn Walker**