



Dear friends

Being on the panel of 'Ask the Rev' at the men and women's group in Winsley on Wednesday has made me think again about some of the writers that have challenged me. One is the writer **Brian McLaren** who has spent decades thinking about change in the church and why so many resist it. Here he summarizes what often happens to our religious institutions once they lose their original purpose:

"The pattern is predictable. Founders are typically generous, visionary, bold, and creative, but the religions that ostensibly carry on their work often become the opposite: constricted, change-averse, nostalgic, fearful, obsessed with boundary maintenance, turf battles, and money.

They no longer greet the world with open arms as their founders did, they hoard power rather than empowering others, they no longer defy tradition and imagine a new way, but impose tradition and refuse to think outside the lines. A religion that cuts itself off from the example of its founder while still bearing the founder's name often becomes little more than a chaplaincy for other ideologies, offering its services to the highest bidder. No wonder so many religious folks today wear down, burn out, and opt out. And no wonder more and more of us who are Christians by birth, by choice, or both find ourselves shaking our heads and asking, "What happened to Christianity? What happened to Jesus and his beautiful message?"

Minister, entrepreneur, and author **Cameron Trimble** sees the decline of church structures as an opportunity to ask questions that matter, to rediscover and renew our faith:

"What is *church* really about? It's a community with a shared story in our scriptures, which binds us together. Church is about weaving relationships together so that life for all of us is more deeply rooted in Love. Today, I would offer that the church also offers a platform to work together to build a world that acts and advocates for the common good of all of us. We are warriors, lovers, peacemakers, protectors, prophets, thinkers, and dreamers who gather together to celebrate our heritage as children of God. At the same time, we are fearlessly willing to stand up and stand in for those our culture might oppress. When we live consciously aware of our power to shape our world for good, we live lives of meaning. We are our own most fully human and fully sacred expressions. We are whole....

We have an opportunity now for transformation. We can approach this time as survivors, desperately clinging to our structures and ways of being. Or we can see ourselves as pioneers, setting out in the face of the unknown to discover new ways to live faith-filled lives. The inevitable decline of our structures gives us the chance to let go of what might hold us back from that adventure. Nothing today will be the same ten years from now. Why not architect the kind of faith movement we want to see twenty-to-fifty years from now? What do we have to lose? "

Ann, Rector

Events and Notices

Upcoming Services

Sunday, 29th May

10.00am A Benefice Service for Ascension with Holy Communion at St James, South Wraxall
Ann & Tessa/Keith B

Wednesday, 1st June

10.30am Service with 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 with Holy Communion at Christ Church, Bradford on Avon
Tessa/Harold

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

Sunday, 12th June - Trinity Sunday

10.00am Holy Communion at St James, South Wraxall, joint with MF *Keith C/Keith B*

10.00am Refresh at Winsley Church Hall *Roy/Pippa and music group*

10.30am Holy Communion at Christ Church, Bradford on Avon *Paul/Gerry*

Sunday, 19th June - First Sunday after Trinity

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

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

The Future for Christ Church

Celebrating the Queen's platinum jubilee

Join us for this special Jubilee Celebration with:

- Tea and Cakes
- Stalls and Activities for all
- Teddy ZipWire - bring your cuddly!

Ideal for Families and Children!

Thursday, 2nd June 2022
2 'til 4 PM @ Christ Church

Discover Christchurch
History, architecture, heritage and wildlife

Community Spaces
Community events, arts, exhibitions, concerts and school engagement

Restoration
Look, feel, breathe and shine!

Essential Amenities
Underground water

Traditional Crafts
Stitchery, quilting

featuring the Future for Christ Church Project Launch

Teddy Zip Wire

Teddy bear (or other soft toy) zip wire ride

Is your cuddly brave enough to zip wire down from the top of Christ Church?

We are launching the Christ Church Teddy Zip Wire for the Queen's Jubilee from the highest point in Bradford on Avon!

We are encouraging all teddies to take part to help raise money for the Future for Christ Church Projects.

£3 a go

Ask your friends, siblings and grown ups to bring their teddies and stay for tea and cake too. It will be lots of fun!

Ministry Team:

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Benefice Office:

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Winsley: Roy Ludlow (868779) Linds
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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
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Children's and Families Worker:

Zoe Yeomans - zyeomans3@gmail.com

See page 4 for an **updated** list (St Nicholas and Christ Church) of the Jubilee celebrations taking place in the Benefice.

The next edition of NewsLink will be on the **11th June**
Please email any relevant contributions to Caroline at nboabenefice@gmail.com by Tuesday 7th June. You can read the full version (4 pages) on our website at 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.

The Bells of St James, South Wraxall



The 24th May 2022 will be noted as a momentous day and even an historic date in the records of St James's Church, South Wraxall. That evening the full circle of six bells rang out across the village from the 14th century bell tower for the first time for about 140 years. Matthew Higby, whose company of bell founders and hangers in Somerset has restored the bells, organised a trial ring.

In 2019, the Salisbury DAC Advisor on bells recommended that we restore the bells as a ringing peal. In 1769 the four original bells (mentioned in an inventory of 1553) were recast and augmented to a ring of six by Abraham Bilbie. Our bells are his first ring of six and the only one outside Somerset, and are therefore considered worthy of listing as rare and important.

Everything from the tower was removed, the bells sent away and the rotten, wooden frame replaced with a steel bell frame and fittings. We all appreciate the dedication and enthusiasm of Christopher Thornhill in heading up this project and leading the Bells Restoration Group. Grants and very generous donations from inside and outside the village have turned the dream into a reality.

A group of ringers has been brought together by a local enthusiast to ring the bells before our Jubilee service at 4:00pm on Sunday 5th June. You have been warned!

Jean Atkin

The final bell being hoisted up to the belfry



Mothers' Union Meetings

All are welcome. The meetings are at 2.30pm at Holy Trinity Church, Bradford on Avon, normally on a Wednesday. Rosemary Rees is the parish contact on 01225 866321 if you have any queries. The meeting dates are:

June 15th	Jubilee celebration
September 21st	Holy Communion and a talk by Jane Jones on Climate Change
October 19th	Talk by Marlene Haffenden
November 16th	Talk by Rev Tim Hawkings
December 21st	Christmas Meeting

Jill Wright (01225 287786)



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 tea, cake, quizzes, plant and book stalls, a teddy zip wire (see page 2) 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.

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 3 – Sunday 5 June Come and join us for a Platinum Flower Festival** to celebrate the Jubilee with flower displays and memorabilia from the Queen's reign. The Festival will be open:
- ◆ 10am-4pm Friday and Saturday – refreshments available in Church. Sunday 12-4pm
- ◆ **Sunday 2- 4pm** Celebration Tea in the Church Hall with tea and cakes. There will also be an opportunity for children (and creative adults) to paint a Jubilee mug to take home

Entry to the Flower Festival and Celebration Tea is free, but donations are appreciated

- ◆ **Sunday 5 June** - Jubilee Celebration Service in St Nicholas Church with Winsley Methodists at 10am. Representatives from Village organisations are being invited to take part in this morning Celebration Service. It will be preceded by a procession to the church of Cubs and Beavers with their flags
- ◆ A 'Crown Trail' in Winsley Churchyard – Thursday 2nd June to Sunday 5th June

Linds Batson