



27th August—9th September 2023

Dear Friends,

Looking at the calendar this week, I noticed that almost 3 months has passed since Ann's retirement, back in May. Those three months have gone by very quickly! Thank you for the many ways everyone is pulling together with a spirit of goodwill and unity.

I wonder if you are the kind of person who ticks days off or do you barely notice them going by?

I have a rather beautiful tea cosy stitched by a prisoner in a UK prison as part of a project called Fine Cell Work. It is a very creative charity working with male and female inmates rebuilding lives through the transformative powers of needlework. finecellwork.co.uk

As you can see from the photo, the design incorporates a tally system for counting the days – especially poignant for a prisoner. It is a powerful reminder that for many people life is about marking off the days anticipating something in the future, positive or negative - maybe release from prison, the return of a loved one, the birth of a child etc.

Looking forward can sometimes become a preoccupation and the present moment can be lost.

We can also count the days since a particular happening, maybe the loss of a loved one, or a difficult diagnosis or a happier time in our lives.

Looking back can sometimes become a preoccupation and the present moment can be lost.

Marking the days with a sense of thankfulness for the past, present and future is an important spiritual discipline. If we focus too much on one, our life can become out of kilter. We know that monastic communities have historically marked the passing of time with the rhythm of prayer throughout the day. The words of the Psalmist helps us here:

Psalm 90: 12

**So teach us to count our days
that we may gain a wise heart.**

It would be very easy during this period to hark back to how things were, to become preoccupied with the past. Alternatively, it would be easy just to tick each day off before the arrival of a new Rector, not treasuring the time we are experiencing here and now. We might also be fearful for the future, failing to trust in God.

I have been guilty of all three from time to time in the last few months!

The words of **Psalm 31: 14** are a huge encouragement to us:

**But I trust in you, LORD;
I say, "You are my God."
My times are in your hands;**

Let's live with that sense of trust and hope day by day, whatever our circumstances. Praying our Benefice Vacancy Prayer with hearts of faith is a vital expression of that hope.

There is so much to thank God for, so many blessings for today and so much hope for the future.

Newslink is full of wonderful things being planned, creative opportunities for worship, lovely concerts and teas, and a Benefice weekend at Lee Abbey, to name but a few. How might God be calling you to get involved?

Enjoy the rest of the summer! Every blessing, Tessa, Associate Priest.



Upcoming Services

Sunday 27th August

10.00am Together in Worship Service, at St Nicholas Church, Winsley. Revd. Tessa Mann.

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

10.30am Refresh Service, at Christ Church, Bradford on Avon. The refresh team.

Wednesday 30th August

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

Sunday 3rd September

10.30am Open air Benefice Service with Holy Communion at Christ Church, Bradford on Avon. Revd. Tessa Mann.

Sunday 10th September

10.00am Holy Communion Service at St James Church, South Wraxall with St Peter's Church, Monkton Farleigh. Revd. Bernard Hughes.

10.00am Refresh Service at St Nicholas Church Hall, Winsley. Cedric and Penny Pierce.

10.30am Holy Communion Service at Christ Church, Bradford on Avon. Revd. Tim Hawkings.

Open Air Benefice Service with Holy Communion at Christ Church

10.30am Sunday 3rd September 2023

Followed by a BBQ (weather permitting)

Please join us at this special service.

SAVE THE DATE

HARVEST FESTIVAL

1ST OCTOBER

11AM BENEFICE SERVICE

AT ST NICHOLAS CHURCH, WINSLEY

Led by Bishop Andrew

Followed by a bring and share lunch
at the church hall.



SAVE THE DATE
3pm Sunday 3rd September

Concert at St Peter's Church, Monkton Farleigh by Canzona, a local choir, on **Sunday 3rd September at 3pm** followed by tea and cake in the church. Donations at the door in aid of St Peter's, Monkton Farleigh.



CLEAN JAM JARS WANTED

If you have any washed, empty jam jars (with labels removed) please could you take these to your church as soon as possible?

We need lots of jam jars for Experience Church!

Zoe Yeomans



Afternoon Tea
St James' Church, South Wraxall

We invite you to join us at St James's Church, South Wraxall on **Thursday 31st August from 2:00-5:00pm**. All the usual treats await you: tea, coffee and soft drinks, sandwiches, savouries and a variety of homemade cakes.

We hope for another sunny afternoon, with tables outside in the churchyard as well as in our beautiful church, and look forward to welcoming old friends and 'first-time' visitors.



Experience Church!

9th –13th October 2023

Do you have time to help the Benefice run "Experience Church" at Christ Church during the week 9th—13th October? Many different roles available. Please contact **Zoe Yeomans** (zyeomans3@gmail.com) for more information on how to help out!



NewsLink

The next edition of NewsLink will be on **Sunday 10th September 2023**. Please email any relevant contributions to the Benefice Office at nboabenefice@gmail.com by **9.30am Tuesday 5th September 2023**. You can read the full version on our website at www.nboachurches.co.uk

Ministry Team:

Revd. Tessa Mann (309374)
LLM: Rachel Pound (862223)

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

Lee Abbey Benefice weekend 17th—19th May 2024

A Benefice weekend away has been arranged to Lee Abbey in North Devon on 17th – 19th May 2024 (Pentecost weekend). Lee Abbey is a Christian retreat, holiday, and conference centre; a large house which sleeps up to 103 people in a mixture of single, double and twin rooms set in over 200 acres of beautiful grounds on the North Devon coast near Lynton.

The weekend will include worship, teaching, workshops, and entertainment all provided by the Lee Abbey team. All are optional and there will be plenty of free time to enjoy the surrounding countryside and beach. More details can be found on their website <https://leeabbeydevon.org.uk/>

Prices are £180 pp, plus £45pp for ensuite rooms. This includes all meals, and the food comes highly recommended. We have been initially allocated 30 spaces as a group in a variety of rooms. Ensuite rooms and single rooms are limited, therefore please do consider if you can manage without ensuite and if you are coming alone please consider sharing a twin room with someone else. Ensuite rooms will be allocated on a first come first served basis.



Places are already filling fast, so if you would like to come, or want more details, please contact Daphne Cox (cox.daphne@gmail.com 01225 868224). A deposit of £25 will be required to secure your place.

The Afternoon House Group

The afternoon house group will recommence on Tuesday 5th September at 2.30pm in the home of Daphne Cox at 175B Ashley Lane, Winsley BA152HR. There is ample parking. Telephone: 01225 868224.

The afternoon consists of Bible Reading, discussion and prayer. We learn from each other and conclude with refreshments. Our first afternoon will be for sharing and getting to know one another. A catch up.

Daphne Cox

MEN'S GROUP

AVONCLIFF HISTORIC WALK AND PUB MEAL, Thursday 21st September

Paul Billingham will lead a walk around Avoncliff, explaining its long and varied industrial history, followed by a meal at the New Inn, Westwood. All men in the four parishes, whether church members or not, are warmly invited.

Meet at 5.30 pm at St Nicholas Church Hall, Winsley to share lifts to Avoncliff

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