



Dear Friends,

Recently Tessa and Zoe were in the school at Winsley asking some of the children what they hoped for in a new Rector. One child said, 'imagination' – isn't that a brilliant suggestion. Our imagination can be a wonderful and powerful resource for good. Imagination is a creative resource used by writers, composers, engineers, scientists, inventors, artists of all kinds and especially by children.

Children have a natural capacity for imagination as they create their games with one another or just by themselves. Have you ever been enthralled by watching a child play with their toys? They often talk to them as they create a wonderful imaginative scenario. Some children, when they feel unhappy, will use their imaginations to cheer themselves up.

Jesus told adults that 'unless they became as little children they could not enter the Kingdom of heaven.' I think that he saw in children the best qualities that so often get 'educated' out of children when they become adults. Would you agree that children are usually more naturally playful, tactile, forgiving, creative, trusting, inquisitive, imaginative with an enthusiasm for life than we adults?

Whilst the imagination can be used positively it can also be used negatively. It's worth reflecting how often we adults can worry about the smallest things, imagining the worst. When we realise how we can easily do this it may make us more aware of how powerful the imagination can be. Given the power of the imagination, we may want to think about how much and in what ways we can use it positively.

St Augustine of Hippo (354 AD -430 and St Ignatius of Loyola (1491 – 1556) are two spiritual giants of the Church and have inspired modern day spiritual writers to help us to use our imaginations in prayer and in study of the scriptures. Some people find it helpful to take a bible passage and imagine they are one of the characters in the story and then see how the story unfolds. Or take a passage of scripture and imagine the words are addressed to oneself directly and imagine one's response. The results can be amazing.

I wonder in what ways we would like our new Rector to be imaginative? Perhaps in exploring new ways of worshipping or of using our buildings or of how we can better serve our local communities and make Jesus known, or how we can become more like the children of God.

Rev Paul Batson

## Upcoming Services

### Sunday 6th August

10.00am Open air Benefice Service with Holy Communion at St Peter's Church, Monkton Farleigh. Revd. Tessa Mann

### Sunday 13th August

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

10.00am Refresh Service at St Nicholas Church Hall, Winsley. Alison Wells and Zoe Yeomans.

10.30am Holy Communion Service at Christ Church, Bradford on Avon. Revd. Paul Batson.

### Wednesday 16th August

6.00pm Compline Service at St Nicholas Church, Winsley. Revd. Tessa Mann.

### Sunday 20th August

10.00am Morning Prayer Service at St James Church, South Wraxall with St Peter's Church, Monkton Farleigh. LLM Rachel Pound.

10.00am Holy Communion Service, at St Nicholas Church, Winsley. Revd. Tim Hawkings.

10.30am Morning Prayer Service, at Christ Church, Bradford on Avon. Mr Roy Ludlow.

### 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.

### Burial of Ashes of the late

#### Beryl Milsom

12 noon Friday 4th August

Bradford on Avon Cemetery

Revd. Tim Hawkings

### Funeral Service of the late

#### Andrew Wright

1.30pm Friday 11th August

St Nicholas Church, Winsley

Revd. Tessa Mann

### Wedding of Astrid Bishop and Thomas Coles

11am Saturday, 26th August 2023

St Nicholas Church, Winsley

Revd. Tessa Mann



### Lee Abbey visit: 17th—19th May 2024

If you are interested in visiting Leigh Abbey with other members of the Benefice please contact **Daphne Cox** ([cox.daphne@gmail.com](mailto:cox.daphne@gmail.com)).



Time for Tea  
 Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August  
 2pm – 4pm  
 St Nicholas Church Hall  
 Tea & Cakes



## SAVE THE DATE

Concert at St Peter's 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.

### Church Tea St James' Church, South Wraxall

We invite you to join us for tea and chat in St James' Church, South Wraxall on **Thursday 10th August from 2:00-5:00pm**. We will be serving tea, coffee, soft drinks, sandwiches, savouries and a variety of delicious cakes.

There is level access into The Longs Chapel and we provide a wheelchair ramp at the main door. All your donations go to the upkeep of St James' Church.

### 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!



### 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](mailto:zyeomans3@gmail.com)) for more information on how to help out!



### Living with Dying - Tuesday 1st August 10 -12 am St Nicholas Church

Tessa and I will be leading another morning discussion on aspects of this important subject. All are welcome to join in the informal discussions which have been widely appreciated in the past (especially the refreshments). Please just come along, but if you've not been before and would like to know more before attending, then please contact me on 07917360049 or 01225 720069 or [plbatson@gmail.com](mailto:plbatson@gmail.com)

**Rev Paul Batson**

### NewsLink

The next edition of NewsLink will be on **Sunday 27th August 2023**. Please email any relevant contributions to the Benefice Office at [nboabenefice@gmail.com](mailto:nboabenefice@gmail.com) by **9.30am Tuesday 22nd August 2023**. 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)  
 LLM: Rachel Pound (862223)

#### 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)

## AN AFTERNOON AT THE COURT OF THE SUN KING

**Sofia Pedro** – soprano; **Xander Baker** – viola da gamba;

**Anna Špelinová** – flute; **Cíara Sudlow** – violin

St. Nicholas Church, Winsley

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August at 3pm**

Winsley local Xander Baker and his friends and colleagues from the Conservatorium van Amsterdam will present an afternoon of royal music from the court of the Sun King, Louis XIV. This sublime music was written to delight and divert the denizens of the court of Versailles, but don't think that this music is somehow aloof or unfeeling; the subtle melodies, elegant dances and heart-wrenching harmonies convey the most human of emotions.

The programme will include two secular cantatas – dramatic pieces with texts drawn from classical mythology, discussing themes of love, grief, despair and bucolic ideals. One is by Louis-Nicolas Clérambault, and the other by Élisabeth Jacquet de La Guerre, one of the few known female composers of her time, and famed for her genius and creativity as a composer. An instrumental suite by the legendary viola da gamba player Marin Marais completes the programme, containing one of the most perfect passacailles ever written.

As a Winsley resident for most of his life, Xander is thrilled to be able to bring something of the music he loves back to where he began as a musician, along with some of his favourite colleagues from Amsterdam (not that any of them are actually Dutch!). The ensemble plays on period instruments, using materials and techniques used when the music was written, in order to find the sound-world that the composers would have had in mind.

**Tickets cost £12/£9 for concessions (students and under 25), which will include tea and scones in the church hall after the concert, and a chance to chat to the musicians about the music and their instruments. Proceeds will be shared between St Nicholas Church and the musicians.**

**Tickets will be available on the door, or alternatively from Xander (07785 567397; xander.cellos@gmail.com)**

## MEN'S NIGHT, 7.30 pm Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2023 in St Nicholas Church Hall, Winsley

**AID CONVOY ACROSS THE SAHARA DESERT** *Terence Murray will tell the story of an Army aid convoy he led across the Sahara in 1974, helping food distribution to famine victims in the Sahel.*

Supper will be an Indian curry; bring your own drink

All men in the four parishes, whether church members or not, are warmly invited.

**Please book with Paul Billingham as soon as possible ([pr24bill@aol.com](mailto:pr24bill@aol.com) or 01225 722229)**