

# NewsLink

23 May— 12 June 2021



Churches of North  
Bradford on Avon  
& Villages

Dear friends

I have some good news to share with you. We have a new Benefice Administrator starting with us on 7<sup>th</sup> June. Her name is Caroline Brydon and to reflect the new role we have changed the job title to Communications Officer. We are delighted she will be working with us. Her working hours will be Monday to Friday mornings from 9.30 – 13.30. There will be more about Caroline in a future edition of NewsLink.

The ministry team are meeting regularly to consider how we gain your views on the future patterns of our ministry and mission during this time of change. We have a golden opportunity that we must not miss, to pause, review the past and consider the way forward. We need to consider what plans God has for us and his Benefice and we need to give time for this discernment process.

'Church' has been very different over the past year and we need to prayerfully consider what our future shaping will be like. We need to reflect on the past and what we have learned about engaging with our communities. Who are we as a church community, what do we see as our key priorities, what is our vision as a benefice?

Restrictions eased on Monday and there are now opportunities for us to meet, in small or larger groups, to talk as we walk, to share our experiences over the past year, to consider what we have learned from it and how that might influence our future. We need to ask ourselves what we need to let go of in order to serve our communities better, and what do we want to develop, if we want people to come to faith or grow in faith.

The ministry team are planning to facilitate discussions and more information will be on our website from 7th June.

We want to include *everyone* in the discussion, as all views are valid and will be invaluable in shaping our future priorities.

I remind you of some points to reflect on in the weeks to come....

- What has the past year been like for you and your family and friends?
- How has society changed over the past year?
- As we had to move to online services, and use our churches and churchyards differently, what did we learn from this?
- What impact has Lockdown had on our personal faith, our worship, our mission?
- How have our personal priorities changed, and what might the priorities of the church be in the future?
- What have we missed over the past year in relation to our churches that we would like to continue, and what would we wish to let go?
- If we look forward 5 or 10 years, what would we want our benefice to look like, and what would we have to do to make our vision a reality?

If you would be willing to facilitate a discussion group, please just get in touch with me.

God bless you all

Ann, Rector

## ST. NICHOLAS CHURCHYARD

### 'SPRING CLEAR-UP' THANK YOU

The sun shone after all on Saturday morning for the Spring tidy up of St Nicholas' Churchyard. We were especially pleased to have the help of Winsley Scout Group Beavers and Cubs who worked energetically all morning.

Thanks to everyone who came and did such a splendid job.

## Upcoming Services

We are delighted to be able to rotate services around the Benefice, for people from each local community to attend. However, numbers are limited as social distancing must be observed, and so it is necessary to book and face coverings must be worn. **In order to book please contact the following people from your Parish. When joint services are held, please contact your usual Parish person.**

St Peter's, Monkton Farleigh:  
**Rachel Exley: 01225 851485**

St Nicholas, Winsley:  
**Roy Ludlow 01225 868779**

St James, South Wraxall: **David Wyper 01225 865384 or Valentine Thornhill 01225 862552**

Christ Church:  
**Stephen and Hilary Pike 01225 782537**

### May 30th

10am St Nicholas (for Winsley)

10am St James, South Wraxall (SW and MF)

### June 6th

10.30am Christ Church (Joint Service)

### June 13th

10 am St Nicholas (for Winsley)

10 am St Peter's Monkton Farleigh (SW, MF)

10.30 am Christ Church (CC)

### June 20th

10.30 am Christ Church (CC and W)

10 am St James, South Wraxall (SW, MF)

There is no admin cover from 29th May to 7th June. The **next edition of Newslink will be on 13th June**. Please send items for inclusion to the office email [nboabenefice@gmail.com](mailto:nboabenefice@gmail.com) by Tuesday **8th June**.

## Funerals

We are very sorry to have lost two of our much loved parishioners recently. Colin Dobson had been Church Warden at Monkton Farleigh and Michael Purshouse was Treasurer at Christ Church. Many of you will have worked with and worshipped alongside them and they will be sadly missed.

Details of their funerals are below. Please hold their families in your prayers.

**Michael Purshouse:** Tuesday 1st June, 11.30am at Christ Church.(Ann)

If you would like to attend and haven't already booked a place through the link provided by Sabine and the family, please contact Stephen Pike on 01225 782537 who is kindly collating responses.

The Committal at the crematorium will be for family members only.

The family have requested that instead of flowers they would appreciate a donation to Dorothy House Hospice Care.

**Colin Dobson:** Tuesday 25th May, 12 noon at St Peter's Church, Monkton Farleigh followed by Cremation at Semington at 1.45pm (Paul ).

Due to Covid restrictions, attendance at the service for Colin is by invitation only. However, you are welcome to come with a garden chair and sit outside in the churchyard.

There will definitely be a PA system in place so that people sitting outside in the churchyard will be able to listen to the service.

### Fundraising event for St Peter's Monkton Farleigh.

Monkton Farleigh Village Map Quiz, will be available from 29th May, as a fundraiser for St Peters. Fun for the school short holiday perhaps.

Contact Carolyn Walker-Woods on What's App or phone 01225 858412

In the later pages of this week's Newslink you will find .....

- Anglicans should listen to AC-12 (Line of Duty)
- The Ark has restarted, with a new day and time
- News regarding the bells at St James and much more...

You can read the full version and more details of future services and other resources on the website [www.nboachurches.co.uk](http://www.nboachurches.co.uk). If you require a hard copy please leave a message at the Benefice office on 01225 865046

***If you haven't yet watched the final episode of Line of Duty, save this until you have.***

***Here's an article from Angela Tilby in The Church Times...especially for those whose hearts sink at the thought of having to create yet another risk assessment.....Rev Ann Keating.***

Anglicans should listen to AC-12 by Angela Tilby

I was so intrigued by the downbeat final episode of BBC1's *Line of Duty* that I have started viewing the long-running series from scratch. Although I would have preferred a more triumphant ending, I am beginning to appreciate why it was so bleak.

Here is a police unit that has set out to find corrupt policemen. Yet the good cops are all challenged and compromised by their own issues, past and present: a broken marriage, an addiction, money problems, loneliness – the moral gatekeepers of AC-12 have them all. They survive, somehow, by treading what is sometimes a fine line between professional probity and personal instinct.

*Line of Duty* reminds us that all institutions depend on getting the balance between written code and ethos. The two sometimes conflict. There is no perfect balance, and there are no perfect people.

I have been wondering what this says to the Church. Twenty years ago, my then colleague at Westcott House, the Revd Dr Victoria Raymer, who was trained in lawyer, used to say that she thought that all ordinands should be taught ethics. There wasn't much of it then, and, even today, there is very little genuine ethical teaching in ministerial training. Inclusivity and diversity are not ethics. Going on about "Kingdom values" is not ethics.

Ethics is about understanding moral principles and weighing options. Ethics acknowledges that getting things right is often difficult and sometimes impossible. Today, we put our trust in risk assessments, hoping that paper procedures can save us from the strain of ethical discernment. But they can't. Ethics treads a difficult line between what is legal (or illegal) and what is humane.

Like the cops of AC-12, ordinary clergy have their fair share of mental-health issues. They know that they are called to the highest standards. They also know that, if they fail, they might be subject to disciplinary action, which would ruin their credibility for ever. It doesn't help that they are increasingly deprived of trust by their superiors, while being expected to repeat loyally those aspirational little slogans that dioceses like to put out about themselves. They know that pastoral ministry requires endless compromise, political nous, and the insight to read the human heart.

The Church used to understand all this, being more aware than it seems to be now of human frailty. But panic has prodded us into a new kind of legalism, with all its caution, watchfulness, and excessive paperwork.

Perhaps we could learn from AC-12. The best moment, for me, was when Ted Hastings exploded (as I hope to do when next driven bonkers by church bureaucracy): "Jesus, Mary and Joseph and the wee donkey! Can we just move this thing along, before it drives us all round the.....bend?"



There is an opportunity to hear a fascinating online talk from Rev Colin Chambers, who was chaplain to Nelson Mandela for eight years on Robben Island.

Colin is now an Alabaré chaplain, helping them to support veterans who have become homeless to rebuild their lives.

**Colin will talk about Mandela, focussing particularly on forgiveness and reconciliation including an introduction to apartheid, and after his talk there will be an opportunity to ask questions through the Question and Answer facility.**

This event will be held via Zoom at **7pm on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June.**

The cost of a ticket to join the event is £15, and tickets can be bought by following the link on our website [www.alabare.co.uk](http://www.alabare.co.uk). Details on how to join the webinar will be sent to ticket holders a few days before the event

## The Ark restarts!

Good news!

The Ark has restarted and will now run **10 - 11.30am on Thursday mornings in term time.**

**The day and time has changed to fit in with parents and leaders availability.**

Please pray for all the families already booked in and looking forward to coming along, that they will have a happy, safe and blessed time, and also for Hilary, Joy and Wendy alongside myself as we prepare and run each session and welcome each of the families and children.

Further information and booking information on the website. Thank you!

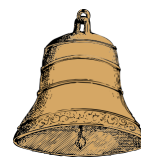
*Zoe Yeomans  
Children and Families Worker*



Baby and Toddler Café

## Great News regarding the Bells at St James Church, South Wraxall.

The first step in the restoration of the bells, lowering them down the tower for the first time in over 250 years, will happen on Tuesday 25th May.



We will be allowed to watch some of this in the church. Please contact me to keep posted about timing. [christopher.thornhill@btinternet.com](mailto:christopher.thornhill@btinternet.com)  
01225 862552

The bells will be displayed for a short while in the churchyard before removal to the Foundry

## Prayer in the Park

**Prayer in the Park** is a day of prayer for the climate in local green spaces this **World Environment Day, Saturday 5 June.**

Read more about this initiative by Tearfund [here](#)

## Prayer Tree in the South Porch at Christ Church

The prayer tree in the South Porch reflects the seasons of Ascension and Pentecost and is now adorned by prayers written on dove shaped cards. Do call by and add your own prayers and hopes for the future.



## Ministry Team

Rector Rev Ann Keating  
Rev.ann.keating@btinternet.com (722230)  
Rev Tessa Mann (309374)  
LLM: Rachel Pound (862223)

## Benefice Office

Denise Button(865046)  
nboabenefice@gmail.com  
Website [www.nboachurches.co.uk](http://www.nboachurches.co.uk)

## Church Wardens

*Winsley:* Roy Ludlow (868779) Linds Batson (720069)  
*Christ Church:* vacant, Contact Rev Ann Keating  
*South Wraxall:* Dave Wyper (865384) Valentine Thornhill (862552)  
*Monkton Farleigh:* Vacant. Contact Rachel Exley PCC Secretary (851485)

## Lay Pastoral Assistants

Stephen Pike (782537)  
Denise Davies (863678)  
Gill Fairhurst (867560)  
Daphne Cox (868224)  
Elizabeth Bush (866624)  
James Middleton (920564)

## Children and Families Worker

Zoe Yeomans - [zyeomans3@gmail.com](mailto:zyeomans3@gmail.com)

**Do check the website as resources are added regularly and check Instagram and Facebook for all our latest news.**