

# NewsLink

9 August–23 August 2020



Churches of North  
Bradford on Avon  
& Villages

## Dear friends

Since government lifted some restrictions on 4 July, we have had some experience of services in church during these different times. Two weddings, one funeral, 4 Year 6 school leavers services, a Sunday Holy Communion Service, with another planned.

It is wonderful to gather together again, albeit rather strange. Hand sanitising gel and face masks will be the new norm; numbers attending are related to government regulations for weddings, funerals and baptisms, and social distancing dictates the numbers able to attend a Sunday service in each church building. Music is allowed, but sadly, still no singing....

However, despite the restrictions, it has been good for some of us to be able to physically worship God together, as well as seeing different people as they contribute to our online services. We have every intention to continue to worship together online in order to include those members in our communities not yet able to return to church.

Relationships are fundamental to our physical, mental and spiritual good health. What struck me forcefully over the past few weeks is just how much we delight in seeing one another again, whether online or face to face. It's a reminder that we were created for relationship. God made us for relationship with him and with each other.

For those who are unable to access our online services, as soon as we are allowed, be assured we will find ways of addressing this so we can all be together again.

In the meantime, let's look outside our own families and communities to those locally and much further afield who need our prayers and support. The tragic explosion in Beirut on Tuesday has shocked us all. The missionaries Audrey and Colin whom we support from Winsley are thankfully safe and you can see their letter below. Let's do all we can to support the appeals that are being set up and pray for the medical staff, the aid workers and the volunteers who will be helping the wounded, the hungry and the homeless.

We live in a beautiful part of England, blessed by God with peace and freedom. Let's do all we can to bless others in return.

Have a good week, wherever you are.

God Bless

Ann, Rector



## Dear Friends

Many of you may have seen on the news about the massive explosion in Beirut a few hours ago. We have received many messages from folk asking if we are all right and we are grateful for your concern. We are pleased to be able to say that we are fine. We live some miles from the area and were outside when the explosion happened - it was a tremendous blast. From what we see on the local TV there is massive devastation and clearly many are killed or injured. Hospitals are overwhelmed.

We have heard from all of our CMS friends in Lebanon and they are all well too. However, we are concerned about some of our colleagues from LSESD who lived close to the explosion. We do know some of their homes have been badly damaged and we believe some may be injured. Although the cause is still not known there is much speculation and this is a tense time for many reasons.

Please pray for those who are injured, for the emergency services and for a sense of calm among the chaos. Thank you all for your concern for us.

Every blessing *Colin & Audrey*

## Sad news

Two faithful members of St Nicholas Church, Winsley have recently died, Alan Roberts and Frances Armstrong. There will be church services of thanksgiving for their lives in due course. Current restrictions are such that attendance will need to be by invitation only. However if people wish to gather outside church, socially distanced, to pay their respects then please do. Details of the services will be available in due course - any queries please contact **Paul Batson 720069**.

## Virtual Space for Prayer

As a Diocese our vision of Renewing Hope encourages us to pray, serve and grow together and so we welcome the launch of a new website to help people pray – maybe for the first time.



HOPE Spaces was launched at the start of 2020, inviting churches to use a public place as a space for the spiritually curious to explore prayer. Then the world went into lockdown. Undeterred, HOPE Together has developed a virtual HOPE Space at [www.hopespaces.com](http://www.hopespaces.com).

Dr Rachel Jordan-Wolf, who inspired the project said:

"As lockdown began and research showed that many non-Christians were exploring prayer, we looked online and found that most websites about prayer were for practising Christians. So we began to develop a virtual HOPE Space online, where people can post their prayers and explore ways to engage with God in prayer."

[www.hopespaces.com](http://www.hopespaces.com) is a multimedia, interactive site for anyone who wants to try praying, the spiritually curious and anyone looking for hope. It includes a specially-made film to help people call out to God and a virtual HOPE prayer wall where anyone can post a prayer. There's also a meditation on rest to watch, plus content to help visitors think about their life's direction and pray for justice or peace.

Where churches are able to create a physical HOPE Space in a church building, an empty

and downloads for six different prayer stations available on the HOPE Spaces web page, developed in partnership with 24-7 Prayer. [www.hopespaces.com](http://www.hopespaces.com) can also be displayed as part of a physical HOPE Space.

"We hope that Christians will use social media to invite their friends, colleagues, and neighbours to explore prayer at [www.hopespaces.com](http://www.hopespaces.com) and we hope churches will add a link from their website to this new resource" says Rachel.

[www.hopespaces.com](http://www.hopespaces.com) is part of a larger HOPE Together initiative at [www.hopeforall.org.uk](http://www.hopeforall.org.uk) where the spiritually curious can also read stories and watch videos about people who have found hope through faith in Jesus.

**NewWine**  
Local churches changing nations



The New Wine Christian gathering that many of us have attended in the past at the Bath and West Showground took place virtually last weekend. However, all the worship sessions, teaching and seminars are still available free via the New Wine website and Youtube channel and are well worth watching. <https://www.new-wine.org/>

*Denise Button*

## **From the Bible Society prayer diary - Daphne Cox.**

Dear colleagues and friends this is how Prasad, a migrant worker in Dubai, explained the current situation: "It is not Corona but Karuna which means mercy, grace and compassion in Telugu. "God is giving us the opportunity to return to him. It is God's wake-up call to us to wake up and pursue the reality of God."

In the Bible society in the Gulf they are responsible for working with the United Arab emirates, Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman and Yemen. Pray for their ministry among migrant workers and their mission to publish and distribute bibles in 60 languages. They certainly need a prayers, with this colossal task to deal with, and spread the gospel of Jesus Christ.

This Sunday's service will be available on our website [www.nboachurches.co.uk](http://www.nboachurches.co.uk)

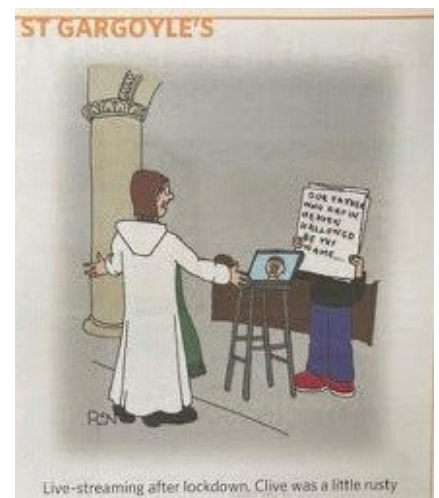
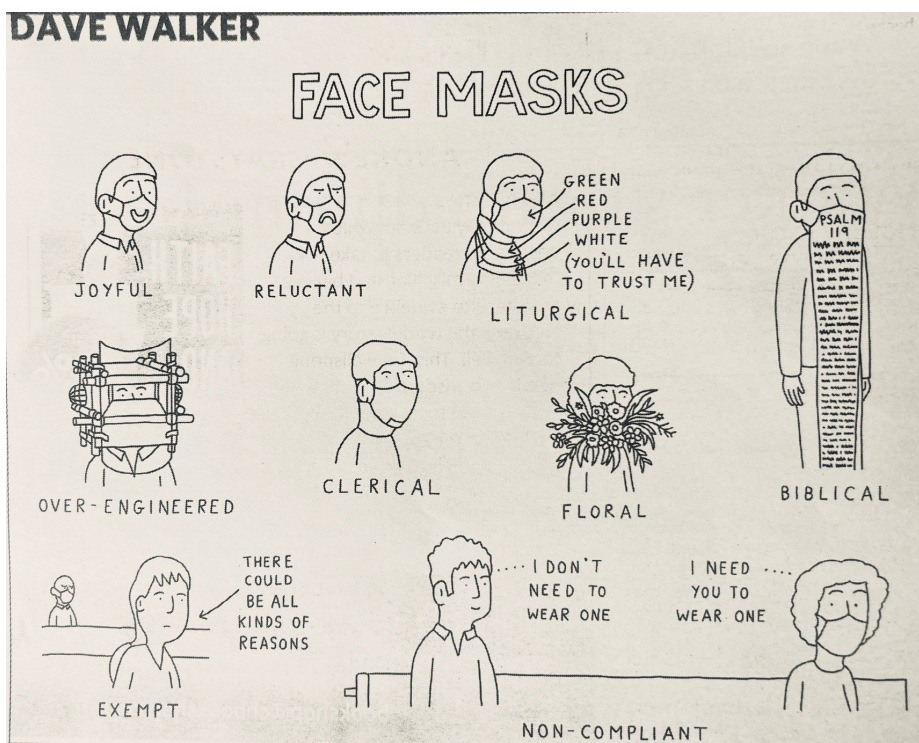
Each fortnight we will also publish your photos, bible verses that have spoken to you, reflections and poems in News Link or on the website.

**Next News Link due on 9 August. Please submit all content by Wed 5 August.**

If you know someone who can not access News Link online and who would prefer a hard copy, please send their name and postal address to Ann Keating. We will post a copy to them by Royal Mail in keeping with the C of E guidelines for safe distribution.

**Office opening hours through August:**

Wednesday 19 Aug and Wednesday 26 Aug **9.30-3.30pm**



**Lift up Your Hearts**

Read the last edition of this publication from 24th July 2020. [Download here](#)

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