



Dear friends

Re-membering and Dis-membering

What do I mean by re-membering? I'm not talking about the usual understanding of remembering and forgetting as a mental activity. This is more than recalling a past event or failing to stop at



Sainsburys on the way home to pick up milk. I'm speaking of re-membering in the sense of joining the pieces together, putting the parts back again as one. The opposite of re-membering is dis-membering; separation, pulling apart, tearing limb from limb.

The thief on the cross wants to be re-membered, put back together again. He is not asking to simply be thought about. What good does that do him? He cries out, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Does Jesus respond, "I'll think about you when I am in paradise. I'll think about this day. I'll think how tragic and sad your life is but I won't do anything about it." That's neither what the thief is asking for nor what he needs. That's not what we need nor what we ask for.

Just like the thief we want to be re-membered, to have the many pieces of our life put back together. Our cry to be re-membered is also a recognition and confession of our dis-memberment. We have been dis-membered. Pieces have been scattered and lost. Sometimes it happens through the circumstances of life; loss and grief, shattered dreams, disappointment, regret, failures, the death of a loved one.

Other times it comes about through our actions, our words, even our thoughts. Our life becomes fragmented and broken. When that happens we can easily become thieves. We take what is not ours. We dis-member others' lives in an attempt to put our own back together. It happens in all sorts of ordinary ways: anger and resentment, criticism, judgment, envy, comparison and competition, gossip, bad mouthing another, perfectionism, the need to be right or in control, busyness, excessive productivity, and efficiency.

On All Souls Day we gathered for a very moving service of Remembering, Thanksgiving and Hope. In the days leading up to our Remembrance Sunday services, we will be buying poppies and our thoughts will be going to those who suffered the ultimate sacrifice, and their families and friends. But this season of remembering can also be an opportunity to look at our own relationships. Wherever there is strain, hurt, brokenness, chances are that you or another are being dis-membered, forgotten, torn apart.

That is not the life God gave us. That is not God's dream or hope for us. That's not what it was like in the very beginning, on the day of our creation, when God looked at all of creation, us included, and declared, "It is very good."

Go gently into the days ahead.

Ann, Rector

Events and Notices

Upcoming Services

Booking is no longer required but please continue to wear a face mask in church.

Sunday, 7th November

10.00am 'Refresh' at Winsley Church Hall
10.00am Holy Communion at St Peter's, MF—Family friendly service
10.30am Holy Communion at Christ Church, BOA

Sunday, 14th November—Remembrance Sunday

10.00am Remembrance Sunday service at St James, South Wraxall
10.30am Remembrance Sunday service at Christ Church, BOA
10.40am Remembrance Sunday service at Winsley War Memorial, followed by coffee at Winsley Church Hall.
10.50am Remembrance Sunday service and Holy Communion at St Peter's, Monkton Farleigh

Sunday, 21st November

10.00am Holy Communion at St James, South Wraxall
10.00am Holy Communion at St Nicholas, Winsley
10.30am Holy Communion at Christ Church, BOA
3pm-4pm Forest Church at Christ Church, BOA. See below

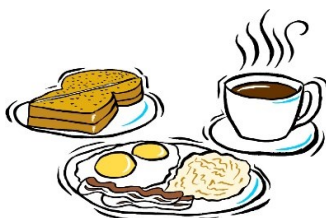
Forest Church, Sunday 21st November 3pm—4pm at Christ Church.

The theme this time is 'Wood'. We will be linking wood to the Cross of Jesus, especially because on this Sunday, Christ Church are celebrating their Patronal Festival. We will make things out of wood and will have a fire pit too. All welcome!

Revd Tessa Mann

Breakfast at South Wraxall Village Hall on Sunday, 7th November from 9am

All welcome! Full English Breakfast, fruit juice, tea and coffee, toast and of course, Marian's marvellous marmalade. All proceeds go to the up keep of St James Church. You can turn up on the day but if possible, please reserve your table by emailing southwraxall@outlook.com. *Jean Atkin*



Ministry Team:

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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's and Families Worker:

Zoe Yeomans - zyeomans3@gmail.com

Helpers Please...Advent Activity Tea

Sunday, 28th November 3.30pm till 5pm at South Wraxall Village Hall. If you would like to get involved and help make mince pies, sandwiches, cookies etc in advance of the children's tea, please email Zoe at zyeomans3@gmail.com or come to the planning meeting at **1pm on Wed, 10th November** at Winsley Church Hall. Thank you!

Zoe

NewsLink Electronically

If you would like to receive NewsLink in your inbox every other week, please email Caroline to be added to the mailing list at nboabenefice@gmail.com

A reminder from the Rector...

I'm often asked if we could say thank you to some of our long-serving members when they step down from roles they have faithfully carried out for many years. We thought it might be a good way to end the church's year by including some of these 'thank you's' in our NewsLink edition due out at the end of November.

If you have someone you would like to nominate, please send the text to Caroline in the office. Maximum of 50 words for each nomination by **Tuesday 16th November** please.

Ann

Thank you!

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Just to say thank you so much again for supporting our Harvest Workshop Activity Morning on Monday, October 25th. We hope that all the children had a great time during the morning. We think they did, and so did the leaders! Thank you also for the kind donations. I am sure by now the cookies are long gone and coasters well used! Here are some photos and there are more on our website which shows some of the fun we had.



The plasticine food turned out well and they are on display at the moment in St Nicholas Church. The Welcome tablecloth is also at the back of St Nicholas Church now so do pop in and have a look if you are passing.

Many thanks and we look forward to seeing you again soon.
Zoe and team.

Christmas Knitters—next meeting is **Wednesday 24th November, 1pm till 2.45pm** at Winsley Church Hall. Come along, even if you didn't last time, to knit some Christmas bells!

Donations please!

We would be grateful for donations of newspapers and bottles of wine - any kind - as long as they have screw tops for our Water into Wine stand at the Christmas Come and Buy sale. More details in the next NewsLink.

Please deliver to the Rectory or to Penny Pierce. Thank you!

Ann, Rector



Paul Batson's Play - The Ghost Train

Wednesday 17th to Saturday 20th November: at the Pound Arts Centre, Corsham at 7.30pm. Tickets £12 from Box Office 01249 701628 www.poundarts.org.uk
(See the October Winsley Weaver for further details).

Revd Paul Batson

The next edition of NewsLink will be on the **21st November**. Please send any relevant contributions for this edition to the email below by **Tuesday, 16th November latest**. You can read the full version of NewsLink on the website www.nboachurches.co.uk. If you require a hard copy, please email or leave a message at the Benefice office on 01225 865046.