



Dear Friends

There was an article in last week's Church Times that reminded me of the importance of praying for our schools. Head teachers at church schools have reported being over-worked and suffering from mental health problems, as they seek to meet the challenges of the pandemic. They have said that the demands of supporting staff, parents and children, together with ensuring that schools meet safety guidelines, have contributed to the stress, despite the fact that parents and staff have been supportive.

There is no work-life balance any more for many schools who have been open for key-worker children throughout the holidays too. One head teacher said that she and other heads had to become experts on the virus and hygiene.' "Some days", she said, "I feel like a medic and a cleaner." So let's give thanks for our teaching staff and their hard work, and pray for them.

Lord, we pray for our local schools, for the Head Teachers of Christ Church, Churchfields, Winsley and St Lawrence at this challenging time. Thank you for their commitment to the safety and wellbeing of their pupils, staff and parents. Give them wisdom and discernment as they juggle competing priorities, and may they too find time to rest and care for themselves and their families. In Jesus names we pray, Amen

Planning is already taking place for Advent and Christmas. We shall have several plans in place in order to respond to the pandemic restrictions at the time.

I hope you all have a very blessed week.

Until the next edition, God Bless.

Ann, Rector

Services in church during October and November.

4/10/20	Winsley - Ann and Paul (HC) Organist: Keith Bennett.
11/10/20	South Wraxall - Tessa (HC) (Ann on leave) Organist: Gerry Hoddinott
18/10/20	Christ Church - Bernard (HC) (Ann on leave) Organist: Keith Bennett
25/10/20	Monkton Farleigh - Ann (HC) Organist: Keith Bennett

1/11/20	Winsley - Ann and Tessa (HC) Music: Gerry Hoddinott and Pippa Tate
8/11/20	Winsley - Ann Short Outdoors Remembrance Service No musician required
	South Wraxall - Paul Short Outdoors Remembrance Service No musician required
	Christ Church - Tessa Remembrance Service in church. Music: Gerry Hoddinott
	Monkton Farleigh Bernard. 10.50am Remembrance Service in church with HC Keith Bennett
15/11/20	Christ Church - Paul (HC) Keith Bennett
	Monkton Farleigh - Ann. (HC) Gerry Hoddinott
22/11/20	South Wraxall - Ann (HC) Gerry Hoddinott
20/11/20	Christ Church - (10.00 am) Ann and Tessa Benefice Advent Service with Bishop Andrew Gerry Hoddinott



Members of St Peter's have raised funds for the church by running a quiz which tested Monkton Farleigh residents on their knowledge of the village. The questions required villagers to spot unusual features on buildings in the village, including the church, name local landmarks and remember incidents of local history. Help with the quiz could be found in a fascinating book about the village which was published in 2012 and based on a scrapbook compiled by WI members in 1950's. Entry fees for the quiz and sales of the village book have raised over £350 for St Peter's. Many thanks to all those who put together the quiz and those who entered. **Colin Exley**

St Peter's Church **Harvest Trail**

This year we have our first Harvest Trail!

The children at Churchfields School, Monkton Farleigh have been busy thinking about what Harvest means to them and have written their wonderful messages on fruit and veggie

shapes that are on display at St Peter's churchyard gates. Do take a moment to read these as you pass the church. Thank you to all the children who have taken part.

We would like to encourage families to join in too so please feel free to add your own Harvest message or picture on a similar fruit or veggie shape (ideally made weather-proof) and add it to the display. Afterwards all the Harvest messages will be gathered together and placed on the altar with thanks.

Thank you so much and we hope you enjoy celebrating Harvest this year!

Zoe and all the Team from St Peter's Church



Sea Glassing in Cornwall – pottering and prayer.

A few weeks ago I shared in the Online Service about my hobby of collecting sea glass in the context of prayer.

Pottering about on Porthcurnick beach on The Roseland in Cornwall is one of my favourite pastimes. Richard and I spent a happy and sunny 10 days there very recently.

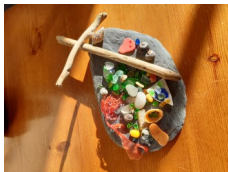


I have been scrambling across the rocks, searching on shingle and sand for sea glass since I was a child. It has always seemed like the most absorbing treasure hunt and I can happily occupy myself for hours on end, losing track of the time completely! The treasure is of no material value, yet the seeking and the finding seems to put life in perspective and open a door to prayer in a very special way. In the quiet searching, listening to the waves roll in across the beach and seabirds on the shoreline, I somehow am able to see my life and the world around me in fresh, life giving ways. The volume gets turned down on the incessant noise of life and all its preoccupations. The still, small voice of God at last gets a word in edge ways! I feel able to talk to God in prayer with an openness and honesty which seems much harder when I am at home. People or situations come into my mind presenting themselves for prayerful attention. I feel such an ease of connection to God through his awesome creation. The tiny treasures glisten in my hand as parables of tiny things and the Kingdom spring to mind. Jesus said 'Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.' 'Seek and you will find'.

Prayer is an adventure, a treasure hunt. The treasure is a deepening encounter with God, our creator, redeemer and friend, who is always seeking after us, not to admonish or punish, but to bless, forgive, guide, inspire and heal the rough edges of our hearts, as the sea smooths the sharp edges of glass and pebbles on the shore.

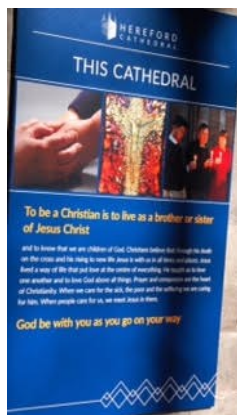


As the hymn 'Be thou my vision' goes:
*Riches I need not, nor all the world's praise;
 thou mine inheritance through all my days,
 thou, and thou only, the first in my heart,
 High King of Heaven, my treasure, thou art!*
Tessa Mann



I've managed to have a few days holiday in and around Malvern.

Visiting a National Trust property, but also two churches, Hereford Cathedral and Tewksbury Abbey. I find it fascinating how a church shares what it's Ministry is about. Everything about Hereford Cathedral came out top, people, signage, the shop and this welcome. **Daphne Cox**



Three Winsley Worshipers.
Daphne Cox

Winsley Harvest Trail inside and outside the church.



Office opening hours for Oct:

Wed 21 Oct 9.00 - 3.00pm

We have **Family Light Trails** planned our Churchyards during half term.



A flyer to follow with dates and information. We will be following Covid safety measures. If you feel you can help promote in your parish, please contact Zoe on zyeomans3@gmail.com

Funerals

Tuesday 13th October

11.30pm The funeral for **Bruce Epsley** will take place at **Christ Church** followed by **Semington Crematorium at 1.00pm.**

Due to the Coronavirus restrictions both services are by invitation only. However you may wish to pay your respects by standing in the churchyard or on the pavement, or by lighting a candle at home at the time of either or both services and offer thanks to God for Bruce's life and pray for Bobbie, Phil and Lizzy and their families at this sad time.
 (Paul Batson)

This Sunday's service will be available on the our website 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 **25 October**. Please submit all content by **Tues 20 October**. 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.

Ministry Team

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South Wraxall:

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