

NewsLink

25 October - 8 November 2020



Churches of North
Bradford on Avon
& Villages

All Souls Day Monday 2nd November

As the autumn turns into winter, we reach a time in the calendar when the Church especially remembers those who have died and their loved ones.

In previous years we have always held a special service for those who have been bereaved in the past year or so. This was an opportunity to light candles and find comfort and hope by being together in church, and then joining together for refreshments. Sadly, due to Covid19 we are more restricted in how we can offer ministry. Like everything, things will be a little different in 2020.

We will however read the names of those in our 4 parishes who have died in the past year at a simple act of remembrance in the afternoon of 2nd November in St. James, South Wraxall.

I, Tessa and our Pastoral Team will be present on that occasion and we are writing to bereaved families to say that we will be holding them and their families in our prayers as we light candles in the church on their behalf.

We are encouraging them to light a candle at that time to share with us in their own home and encourage their wider family to do the same. You too may wish to join us from your homes that afternoon as you remember those from your churches and communities who have died, along with any of your own family members and friends. We are also including details of times when our churches are open for a time of private prayer or quiet from 1st – 7th November along with other resources that are available nationally. Do please hold bereaved families in your prayers especially on All Souls Day.

Prayer

For those who have died

Almighty and eternal God,
from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted,
either by death or life:
hear our prayers and thanksgivings
for all whom we remember this day;
fulfil in them the purpose of your love;
and bring us all, with them, to your eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Giving thanks.....

On *Saturday Live* on Radio 4 each Saturday there is a section where people phone in to thank someone they didn't have chance to thank at the time. I often think I will ring in to thank the Army medic who rescued me from my car as I was hanging upside down by my seat belt following being hit by another car, ascending the grassy bank and rolling over on the A303 on a Bank Holiday Good Friday!

And this week there is one group of people to whom, and for whom, I am immensely grateful – the musicians and choir members of St Martin-in-the-Fields. At the beginning of lockdown, grappling with the recording license rules and discovering that we couldn't play CDs of choirs singing was very frustrating, and then these wonderful musicians and choral singers appeared on *A Church Near You*, each Thursday. They added 4 or 5 hymns along with the accompanying verses each week that any Church of England church could download, so we had professionally produced music to enhance our worship. Thank you to each and every one of them!

Thank you also to Bishop Andrew, whose *Going to Ground* short videos on YouTube kept me, and many others, going during lockdown. His '[Going to Ground](#)' series is back on YouTube, and his [weekly blog](#) is usually posted on Saturday or Sunday. He is also on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) so do take a look.

Is there anyone or anything you would like to say thank you to or for? We are going to add a '*Giving thanks.....*' column to *NewsLink* so we can add your thanks each time too.

May God bless you all now, and in the weeks to come.

Ann, Rector

From **Sunday 31st October** the church opening times for private prayer at **St Nicholas** will change to Sundays 13.00 to 16.00hrs and Thursdays 10.00-13.00hrs. This is on account of the shorter daylight hours in the winter.

Monkton Farleigh PCC will hold the **APCM** in St Peter's church on Thursday, 29 October at 10.00am. All are welcome to attend.

Garden notes

Its autumn and my lawn to meadow project work continues. I have been cutting back the grass to further reduce the fertility which should benefit the wild flowers. Two late arrivals are a couple of ox-eye daisies which have just flowered, and a wild carrot whose flower head which is not yet fully open. I have left seed heads on the plants that flowered this year to drop their seeds for next year. In the bare patches I have sown the seeds I kept back from the spring sowing. Some seeds need a cold spell to start the germination process, so hopefully next spring will see further species. I have also gathered wild geranium seeds from a hedgerow, and five have germinated and have their first true leaves. Since there will be little to do over the winter, I will miss the chats with neighbours and passers-by.

I am also part of the small gardening team at Christ Church. The churchyard is closed for burials, so the council is responsible for cutting the grass, but do not tend graves or our garden of remembrance, so a few of us (currently Hilary, Joy, Tony and I) meet on Friday mornings for an hour and do what we can. Despite us not having met during lockdown, plants in the garden of remembrance continued to flower - foxgloves, purple toadflax, marigolds, sisyrinchiums and fennel. As things were somewhat overgrown when we started again late summer, our recent sessions have focused on weeding and splitting up some of the plants. We never know quite what we will find and last Friday we came across a couple of white mushrooms under a tree and several clusters of small mushrooms round one of the cremation gravestones - we have no idea what they are - and cyclamen are now starting to flower. Also, following Winsley's lead, we have set aside a small area to be left uncut on the north side of the church - we wonder what we will find in future months. We have also worked on tidying up some of the neglected graves on the south side of the church - and this is where



Ann Chapman

We are selling a rather good Christmas card for the South Wraxall Bells Restoration. It is a particularly good nativity scene from the east window of St James's Church. We are selling them @ £5 for a pack of 10. People should contact Valentine/Christopher Thornhill **01225 862552 christopher@saisee.com**



Future for Christ Church Community Project update

You may have wondered whether our project had gone to sleep ... we are pleased to advise that this is not the case. Covid has slowed us somewhat, but progress is being made and more help and ideas are needed!

We are pleased to report that we have had very positive feedback from the Diocese Advisory Committee on the plans to create more space in the church for a variety of uses, and to add a kitchen and toilets. Historic England has subsequently raised some points that we need to address before an application for consent can be submitted - hopefully around the year end. The architect is also to undertake the 5-yearly inspection of the church to make sure all is in order with the building more generally.

A Working Group has been set up to deliver the project, with a wider group of interested parties giving input. A project web site is also underway to publicise the project and help keep people informed of progress.

Planning for fund raising has started and some grant programmes look like promising possibilities, but we need the consents and costings in place before applying.

We will however need to raise a significant contribution ourselves, and have made a modest start with £840 from plant and produce sales and a promise of a small windfall. Community events are rather challenging at the moment. However, ideas so far include:

- A socially distanced sponsored Ark toddler challenge
- Sponsor a piece of the project
- Something Christmassy for families
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Thanks to Zoe we now have a lovely model of the church encircled by a paper-chain of people made by local children that will be our collecting box for the project!

In these difficult times we need all the help we can find, so ... If you have any thoughts or ideas for socially distanced events/projects, and/or if would you be able to help raise money towards our new kitchen, toilets and community space that would be wonderful. Or if you would like to help or contribute in any other way, please let do us know.

Thank you in anticipation, we look forward to hearing from you

Please contact **Wendy Brown on 01225 862857** or **Gillian Ellis-King on 01225 866503**.

Funerals

The funeral of John Dowdle is to take place on Friday 30th October at 1pm at Semington Crematorium (Ann)

Services in church during October and November.

25/10/20	<i>Monkton Farleigh</i> - Ann (HC) Organist: Keith Bennett
1/11/20	<i>Winsley</i> - Ann and Tessa (HC) Music: Gerry Hoddinott and Pippa Tate
8/11/20	<i>Winsley</i> - Ann Short Outdoors Remembrance Service No musician required
	<i>South Wraxall</i> - Paul Short Outdoors Remembrance Service No musician required
	<i>Christ Church</i> - Tessa Remembrance Service in church. Music: Gerry Hoddinott
	<i>Monkton Farleigh</i> Bernard. 10.50am Remembrance Service in church with HC Keith Bennett
15/11/20	<i>Christ Church</i> - Paul (HC) Keith Bennett
	<i>Monkton Farleigh</i> - Ann. (HC) Gerry Hoddinott
22/11/20	<i>South Wraxall</i> - Ann (HC) Gerry Hoddinott
20/11/20	<i>Christ Church</i> - (10.00 am) Ann and Tessa Benefice Advent Service with Bishop Andrew Gerry Hoddinott

Brighten up your day with our half term family light trails.

Thurs 22nd Oct 10-12 at St Peter's, MF.

Fri 23rd Oct 1-3pm at Winsley.

Wed 28 Oct 10-12 at Christ Church,

Thurs 29th Oct 1-3pm at St James, SW.

Whatever the weather join us with your family or group of 6 for this **FREE** outdoor quiz trail in the Churchyard. This activity has been planned following Covid safety measures, please respect them. No person must attend if they or anyone in their household are showing symptoms of Covid-19. **Zoe Yeomans**



Office open on: Wed 4th, 18th and 25th November. 9-3pm.

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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