

NewsLink

20 December 2020 - 10 January 2021



Churches of North
Bradford on Avon
& Villages



Dear friends

What a year!

Who would have imagined life now as we celebrated Christmas last year and made our New Year resolutions? I don't know what yours were, but they often fall into categories such as keeping in touch with family and friends more, eating more healthily, drinking less alcohol and taking more exercise – actually going to the gym rather than just paying the direct debit each month.

And then 'lockdown occurred.' 'Lockdown' - a word we hardly ever used in everyday life, but we now use regularly, along with other words and phrases such as social distancing, Covid-19, track and trace, hands – face – space, facemask and so on.

And there we were, blessed with long spring days, with glorious sunshine and many of us, surprisingly, managed to keep our New Year's resolutions. We have managed to spend more time with family and friends, albeit on What'sApp, Zoom or Teams. Old friendships have been resurrected. We have mastered new IT skills in order to keep in touch.

When panic buying of food stuffs emptied shelves in our supermarkets, we were creative in the kitchen with what we had in our freezers and cupboards, experimenting with new recipes, and when flour was available, baking biscuits and cakes.

Many of us rediscovered the joy of gardening, growing our own vegetables, or like me, at least growing tomatoes. In our now quiet environment, no planes in the sky, little traffic on our roads, we rediscovered the joy of silence as we went out for our daily walk. We were amazed at the sheer number of birds we could hear singing; daily we watched nature blossom in our hedgerows, in our fields. We had time to stop and stare, to watch the new-born lambs gambolling. We delighted in meeting friends and strangers, albeit at a distance. There was a sense of camaraderie, clapping the NHS with our neighbours - we were all in this together, helping friends and neighbours access food and medicines; checking all was well.

But of course, it was not all good news. Hospitals were overwhelmed, staff trying to understand and treat this new virus. Daily on our news we watched hospitals becoming overwhelmed first in Italy, with people dying in corridors without the comfort of loved ones present. And then the virus spread....

It has been a very tough year for many. Coping with living alone during lockdown, worry about children's and grandchildren's education, fear of losing lives, livelihoods and homes. Many have lost loved ones and have not been able to be with them or have the funeral service they would have liked.

We are very fortunate living here, but we are constantly aware of the effect of this virus on those far less fortunate. As I write, different parts of the country are going into different Tiers and we still have the uncertainty about how we celebrate Christmas.

As Christians, especially during this time of Advent, we are called to see signs of hope, of light shining in the darkness, of God's presence around us. I wonder what signs of hope you have seen. The success of scientists' skills in creating a vaccine has to be a sign of hope we can all hold on to.

And locally? Our churches are now open as places of refuge, comfort and hope for all who venture in. There are Christmas tree exhibitions, nativity sets, crib scenes – all different ways of telling the Christmas story. Our churchyard Christmas trees, stars and decorations as well as activities show the world that Christ is still present, bringing people together, light out of darkness, signs of hope.

God doesn't call us to be heroes; he created us human. With all our vulnerability, frailty and failings, by the grace of God, we can each reach out, one human being to another, to bring comfort and joy, hope for the future to our neighbours, friends and family at Christmastime and throughout the coming year.



Let us hold one another in our thoughts and prayers this Christmas.

Stay safe, stay well and God Bless

With my love and prayers

Ann, Rector x



God doesn't call us to be heroes; he created us human. With all our vulnerability, frailty and failings, by the grace of God, we can each reach out, one human being to another, to bring comfort and joy to our neighbours at Christmas and throughout the coming year.

Changes to Church House team

An update from David Pain, Diocesan Secretary.

The staff teams based at Church House in Salisbury (although working from home at present) have completed a restructure. Interviews for staff applying for newly defined roles are now complete and we are on course for an overall reduction of staff costs of 10%.

There are changes in individual roles in each of the four teams in which we work. Approximately half of the staff are now in a transition to newly defined roles in a process to be completed by January. In this context we are sad to be saying goodbye in coming weeks to four colleagues who have given long and dedicated service to the diocese: Ian Bromilow, Alison Comlay, John Kilbee and Jane Murrell.

In January we will publish a 'How can we help you' guide with details of the services provided by our four teams and the names of those who are now able to work with you to provide those services. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions in the meantime.

The four teams that serve the diocese are:

Mission, Ministry and Communications (MMC)

which is refocusing resources to encourage mission and ministry across our communities and parishes to be locally led and centrally supported, in line with the Diocesan priorities for growth. This includes fostering a culture of vocation (lay and ordained) investing in ministerial formation, supporting a genuine localised strategy for mission (including discipleship and social justice) and developing the potential of our digital engagement.

The Parish Support, Governance and Administration Team provides first point of contact for those we serve, via parishsupport@salisbury.anglican.org. The team will act as a resource and information hub for our churches, clergy and their local communities to support, resource and enable good management and administration at every level of the diocesan structure. This includes the Church Buildings team which supports the work of the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) in advising and assisting parishes in their care for church buildings.

The Finance and Asset Management Team is responsible for all financial functions of the DBF with an annual expenditure budget of £14m. The team is responsible for the procurement and maintenance of all clergy property, recognising the importance of the home to clergy wellbeing and ability to provide ministry. Our Property Trading Company (SDBFBC) provides surveying services to schools and private clients, we are expanding this work to create more income. A newly established fundraising function will be financed by the national church to support giving across the diocese.

The People, Safeguarding and Learning Team seeks to ensure best practice is followed in safeguarding and in ensuring staff are looked after and able to fulfil their potential.

David Pain

david.pain@salisbury.anglican.org

Soap Builds Hope

11 Dec, 2020 09:44 pm

Bishop Andrew is suggesting you put soap at the top of this year's Christmas list, to save lives.



The humble bar of soap has morphed into a key tool in the global fight against coronavirus across the world this year, and Bishop Andrew is joining with Christian Aid to urge the public to put it at the top of their 2020 Christmas list.

The Bishop is encouraging us to buy the traditional Christmas gift of soap for the world's most vulnerable people, as well as for loved ones closer to home, to help save lives near and far.

3 billion people - 40% of the world's population - do not have access to soap and water in the home, making regular handwashing very difficult. In a bid to help some of the world's most vulnerable people protect themselves from the virus, Christian Aid has provided soap for almost 250,000 people worldwide since the outbreak began.

As lockdown forces many churches to explore digital worship and connection, Christian Aid this year has expanded its digital gift selection to include a Charity Gift enabling supporters to help train more women to make soap for £15 or help provide clean water for £30.

Bishop Andrew said:

"Across the UK and the world Covid-19 and measures to curb it have devastated lives and livelihoods, instilled fear and forced vulnerable people into more desperate poverty.

"But as we look to Christmas we turn our eyes to Jesus whose life, in a time of oppression and fear, introduced a hope that transformed the globe as it spread across it.

"We are reminded that God walks with us through deeply difficult times and works through us in all circumstances to show love to this world.

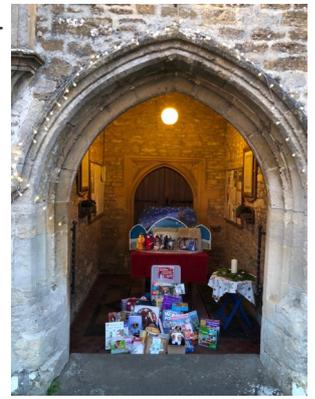
"Thankfully, we have tools such as soap and handwashing to help keep us safe and this year I would encourage people to reach out to our global brothers and sisters and put those tools in the hands of some of the world's most vulnerable people. Please do consider putting soap and water at the top of your Christmas list and together we can save lives and offer hope this Christmas."

Refugees living in crowded camps are particularly vulnerable to disease and since April 2020 Christian Aid partner organisations in Bangladesh have provided over 40,000 bars of soap for Rohingya families and the local host community.

In Ethiopia where coronavirus is an additional threat to lives on top of the climate crisis and the locust swarms of 2020, Christian Aid partners are training women to make soap from the drought resistant aloe vera plant. The soap not only protects the women's own families but provides a vital source of income.

To support Christian Aid's Christmas Appeal, visit caid.org.uk/hope.

In **South Wraxall** it was decided that, as Christmas is a time for giving, the village would support the Salvation Army Christmas Present Appeal. People were asked to put new, unwrapped presents for children aged from 0 to 18 next to the crib in the church porch. Everyone was wonderfully generous and a careful of presents went to the Salvation Army in Trowbridge for distribution to children who otherwise would get very little on Christmas Day.



Valentine Thornhill

The Children's Society. Many thanks to everyone who has supported the society with generous giving in the last few months. Christmas card sales were £150. Donations and house box money totalled £925:25. Fantastic! Thank you all so much.

Elizabeth Forbes

Just to share each morning I try to add to my 'gratitude list' something from the previous day. So, yesterday I met up with Avril Clarke, admin/co-ordinator for The Hub. She was emptying the donations bin at Sainsbury's, which was full to overflowing, even though it had been emptied the previous day. (This would probably amount to two-trolleys full of gifts). Avril told me that, earlier in the week, a woman walked into The Hub and gave her an envelope. It contained a cheque for £6,000. What a great good news item to add to this morning's gratitude list. And an opportunity to give thanks for Avril and her team at The Hub. **Denise Leigh**

Winsley Village Project - Christmas/New Year Quiz

John Baxter has produced another cryptic Quiz with 100 questions, the theme of which is Towns and Villages in Wiltshire. The proceeds will go towards the Winsley Village Project. Normally these would have been sold at Project events or after church but with limited church services that has not been possible. Thus we have devised a different way for readers to participate. There are four prizes this year of £25, £15, £10 and £5 and an extended closing date to 28th February 2021. The results will appear in the April issue of the Winsley Weaver along with the names and town/village of the winners. The quiz costs £2 or if you wish for some for your extended family £ for 3 copies. If you are able to, please transfer £2 or £5 (3 copies) by BACS using the sort code 30-98-75 and the account reference 32607768. Use the reference Quiz and your name. Please email John Baxter on: jbmab40@btinternet.com to say that you have paid for the quiz and he will send you it as a Word document by return. If you want a hard copy sent please let John know and he will do so.

If however you do not have an online bank account, send a £2 or £5 cheque made payable to Winsley Village Project to 12 Deverell Close, Bradford-on-Avon BA15 1UY and he will send a paper copy in the post. No extra clues will be given other than to say that all Wiltshire's Towns and Villages appear on Wikipedia so that might be useful as a background reference.

Christmas at Christ Church

Come and share Christmas with us:

Walk through the Churchyard decorated with Christmas lights

Pause at our Nativity stable with figures made by the children of Christ Church school and listen to carols. Hang decorations on our outdoor Christmas tree. Spend a while in the peace of the quiet Church, open daily from 10am until 4p.m.

There will be packs to make your own decorations available at the church **Hilary Pike**

St Peter's Church Christmas plans

Christmas Eve Lantern Parade.

Please gather for the **Lantern parade** at the Village Hall at 4pm. Children are encouraged to dress as shepherds, wise men and angels. Carols will be played as we process to the church where the nativity crib will be outside to greet us and the children will be given some sweets.

Christmas Day Family service at 10am.

Join us for a short yet joyful family service amongst the Christmas trees inside the church. There will be activities for children.

Christmas Tree Festival open daily 10am to 4.30pm to and including Christmas Day. Come enjoy the beautifully decorated Christmas Trees in the church. Our thanks to Christ Church, St Nicholas and St James for joining in with their lovely trees.

The **Nativity Trail** for young children in the churchyard runs until Christmas Day

St James Church - Celebrating Christmas 2020

Sadly, we are unable this year to celebrate Christmas together in our Crib and Carol Services in our village church of St James. Instead, we would like the whole village to celebrate the run up to Christmas with us in a new and visual way.

Step 1 Christmas is all about giving and St James is supporting the **Salvation Army Christmas Present Appeal*** - to help make Christmas special to those who may have little or nothing under the tree on Christmas morning. If you would like to help with this appeal they are asking for new and unwrapped items for children aged 0 – 18 (soft and educational toys for the very young, games, toys, books, toiletries and accessories for older children).

The Christmas Crib will be set up in the church porch on Saturday 28 November with a box beside it to receive gifts (which will be securely placed in the church daily). Donations please by **Saturday 5 December 1pm** when they will be taken to Trowbridge, time being short owing to Covid requirements before Social Workers take them to families.

*For financial donations please visit <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/tsa-community-support-000382> or a cheque may be made payable to The Salvation Army and posted to Michala Lancefield, Trowbridge Corps, Castle Street, Trowbridge BA14 8AR

It is enough...

To walk into the peace of the valley

It is enough to breath in the cool air

It is enough to see

It is enough to hear

It is enough to smell.

It is enough

To tend my garden

It is enough to watch the birds

It is enough to see

To hear

To smell

To breath Love in

To breath Love out

It is enough.

(on reading Thomas Merton's love of the woods around his hermitage) **Denise Leigh**

A date for your diary. In the Diocesan Prayer Cycle our churches and schools are being prayed for on 9th January.

Our Archbishops of Canterbury and York have asked us to pray for our nation (you may remember Thy Kingdom Come earlier in the year), this is a continuation with a special feel whilst we are in this second wave of the pandemic. <https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2020-11/PftN%20Booklet%20spreads.pdf>

The above link takes you to a single page (2sides) of Prayers for each day. Preferably we all pray at 6pm. Churches up and down the land are joining in. Be part of the bigger picture. **Daphne Cox**

Fundraising for Christ Church. Our community project

Please ring 862834 if you would like to buy any of the following: Marmalades/Chutneys/Jam and Jellies and Christmas cards. Details at the end of NewsLink. Help, where are they? The jam jars I mean. In the garage? In the garden shed? On a shelf in the cupboard? Surely not in the recycling box? Dorna's jam jar stock has run out, in order for me to continue to make marmalade for the project please donate your jars. Do call 862834 to arrange collection. Thanks, **Dorna Daw**

St Nicholas St Nicholas is open daily 10 -4.00pm for private prayer - come and enjoy the peace, the Christmas tree and Christmas angel, and our special display of nativity scenes. Outside there is the Christmas story in pictures, and an opportunity to take away a large pebble to decorate and bring back for the cairn we are building. The star above the entrance shines all day and all night, just above our outside Christmas tree.

Benefice office open on: 23rd December and 6 January 21. 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 **6 January**. Please submit all content by **Tues 5 January**. 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.

Funerals

Friday 18th December, Funeral service for Desmond Moore at Christ Church at **12.00**. Followed by burial at Bradford on Avon Cemetery (Ann) Please remember Desmond's daughters Kirsty and Trudy in your prayers

Tuesday 22nd December at 13.00

Funeral service for Enid Horsley (Avon Park resident and member of St Nicholas Church, Winsley) The Chapel at Haycombe Crematorium (Ann) Please remember Enid's children Hilary, Stephen and

Ministry Team

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

Children's & Youth Worker

Zoe Yeomans
zyeomans3@gmail.com

Benefice Office

Tessa Stacey (865046)
nboabenefice@gmail.com

Church Wardens

Winsley:

Roy Ludlow (868779)
Linds Batson (720069)

South Wraxall:

Dave Wyper (865384)
Valentine Thornhill (862552)

Christ Church contact:

Denise Leigh (863916)

Monkton Farleigh contact:

Rachel Exley (851485)

Lay Pastoral Assistants

Denise Leigh (863916)
Stephen Pike (782537)
Denise Davies (863678)
Gill Fairhurst (867560)
Daphne Cox (868224)
Elizabeth Bush (866624)
James Middleton (920564)

Please ring Dorna on 862834 if you would like any of the following:

Marmalade £3

Three fruit, Grapefruit/Lemon and Orange
Grapefruit, lemon and lime. (Really citrusy)
Clementine (Sweeter, very fruity)

Chutney £3 (recipes from Cordon Bleu book of preserving)

Fig and Apple (Good with cheese)

Apple and Red tomato with onion. (Sharper flavour)

Apple and Apricot with onion and ginger.

Apple and Rasin with walnuts and a little orange.

Jam and Jelly £3

Quince Jam

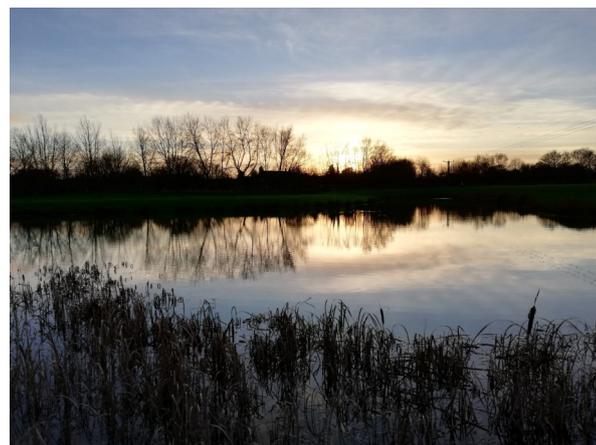
Japonica Quince jelly

Mint and Apple jelly in small jars, varying prices.

Cards 50p each. Five for £2

Bird kneeler

Banner.



Photography by Stephen Pike