



Dear Friends,

I hope you are all enjoying the beautiful weather? These glorious June days are to be treasured, aren't they! I hope like me, you have been delighting in being in your garden, going for walks and seeing the wonderful flora and fauna all around us.

As many of you will know, we don't have a dog, but always enjoy a walk with other people's dogs. Last week we had a house guest for an afternoon. A beautiful Border Collie by the name of Bella.

Bella belongs to one of our Church Organists, Keith Bennett and his wife Pam, who left us a list of very useful instructions regarding Bella's care, including what Bella likes to do on a walk. She enjoys exercise having her rope toy thrown repeatedly. Pam explained that once Bella has retrieved the rope toy she will then leave it somewhere, and position herself at a distance from the rope, with her nose pointing towards it, as a clue to where we will find it. We were thankful for this information, as otherwise we would have returned without the toy, lost in the long grass! Bella's archetypal sheep dog behaviour was exactly as Pam had described. Her behaviour is set in her breed DNA.



Richard had a similar experience this week, doing his regular local butterfly survey walk around Haugh, on the edge of Winsley. He thought he had identified a Large Skipper butterfly on his walk. When he got home he checked his butterfly book which informed him that Large Skippers are usually to be found perched on the tips of long grass at the intersection between long and short grass. This very specific habitat was exactly the environment in which he had spotted the butterfly, thus supporting his identification. He was very chuffed!

Both Bella the dog and the Skipper butterfly were behaving in ways true to type. This has made me very thoughtful about human behaviour and activity and especially for us as Christians. I wonder where people expect to see Christians and what behaviour/actions they may expect? I guess people expect to find Christians in a church, maybe on their knees in prayer or maybe with a placard on a street corner telling people their sins will find them out! They may have an expectation that Christians behave morally. Sadly, due to many horrific church based scandals which have come to light in past years, public expectation is pretty low.

I wonder how we might answer that question? To confuse things even more, different traditions in the Christian Church will answer the questions differently. Different traditions will have different emphases. For me, the key verse from the book of Micah informs our behaviour and habitat.

He has shown you what is good.

***And what does the Lord require of you but to act justly,
to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8***

I wonder how this verse might inspire our behaviour, choices or actions? Where might that verse take us in our praying, thinking and behaviour this week? As children of God, our speech, actions, choices and behaviours share DNA with Jesus, as those seeking to follow his mandate to ...

***Bring good news to the poor,
proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
let the oppressed go free. Luke 4:18***

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Events and Notices

Upcoming Services

Sunday, 26th June

10.00am Holy Communion at St James, South Wraxall, joint with Monkton Farleigh *Bernard/Keith B*

10.00am Together in Worship at St Nicholas, Winsley *Tessa/Gerry/Richard*

10.30am Refresh at Christ Church, Bradford on Avon. *Cedric & Penny Pierce/Tricia and Music Group*

4pm-5pm Forest Church at Christ Church, Bradford on Avon. See below *Tessa/Zoe*

Sunday 3rd July

10.00am Benefice Service with Holy Communion at St Nicholas, Winsley. *Ann/Paul/Pippa and Music Group/Geoff*

Wednesday, 6th July

10.30am Holy Communion at Christ Church, Bradford on Avon *Tessa*

Sunday, 10th July

10.00am Holy Communion at St Peter's, Monkton Farleigh, joint with South Wraxall *Tim /Gerry*

10.00am Refresh at St Nicholas Church, Winsley *Cedric and Penny Pierce/Tricia & Music Group*

10.30am Holy Communion at Christ Church, Bradford on Avon *Ann/Harold*

Sunday, 17th July

10.00am Holy Communion at St James, South Wraxall, joint with MF *Tessa/Keith B*

10.00am Holy Communion at St Nicholas, Winsley *Ann/Pippa/Richard*

10.30am Holy Communion at Christ Church, Bradford on Avon *Paul/Gerry*



Benefice Directory and Online Diary

Copies of the updated Directory are available from the church wardens (details opposite) if you require one. Please refer to the online Church Diary on our website for all church bookings.

NewsLink

The next edition of NewsLink will be on the **10th July**. Please email any relevant contributions to Caroline by **Tuesday 5th July**. You can read the full version on our website at www.nboachurches.co.uk

If you would like an electronic version of NewsLink or require a hard copy, please email or leave a message for Caroline at the Benefice office on 01225 865046.

Ministry Team:

Rector Rev Ann Keating
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Benefice Office:

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Church Wardens:

Winsley: Roy Ludlow (868779) Linds Batson (720069)

Christ Church: Hilary and Stephen Pike (782537)

South Wraxall: Dave Wyper (865384) Valentine Thornhill (862552)

Monkton Farleigh: Rachel and Colin Exley: (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

We don't have to look very far to find Christians locally, nationally and internationally in places of need. Supporting Food Banks, refugee groups, showing loving care to families, prison visiting, being alongside the dying, working to combat climate change, visiting the lonely, campaigning for justice and peace etc.

Our habitat is this wonderful world God has created. Our DNA is linked to God, in whose image we are created. There are many things which can draw us away from God's pattern for us. The pattern of worship, prayer and fellowship is the way that DNA is embedded and temptations are resisted.

May we be encouraged in our worship, prayer and service in this coming week. Asking humbly, that we may bring justice and mercy.

Tessa

Rev Tessa Mann
Associate Priest, North Bradford on Avon and Villages.

Benefice Men's Group

Wednesday 29th June - The World of Education Re-Visited in Verse: "A Poets' Eye View"
Joint meeting of the Benefice Men's and Ladies groups in St Nicholas church hall, at 7.30pm

Bob, Sue & Roy, all formerly at the sharp end of 'delivering' education to the young, will be sharing with us a selection of contemporary poems, ranging from the highly amusing to the rather poignant. We will start with fresh takeaway fish & chips from the Seven Stars but please bring your own drink.

Please book with Paul Billingham (pr24bill@aol.com - [or phone 01225 722229]) by the end of **Monday 27th** at the latest - but do try and book early since we have a limit on maximum numbers in the church hall (and on fish & chips from the Seven Stars!)

Thanks,
Paul Billingham

Kettle's On

Winsley's Community Cafe

This will take place in the Church Hall on the first and third Wednesday of the month from **10am until midday in Winsley Church Hall. Dates for the second half of 2022 are:**

6th and 20th July
3rd and 17th August
7th and 21st September
5th and 19th October
2nd and 16th November
7th and 21st December

Everyone is welcome and we look forward to seeing you.

Any questions:
Roy Ludlow
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royludlowd4@gmail.com

