

NewsLink

14 May—27 May 2023



Churches of North
Bradford on Avon
& Villages

Dear friends,

Interregnums are good for a church!

Not everyone will agree with me. There are lots of mutterings about the Diocese and its system of starting the recruitment process after I have left. After all, they knew well in advance that I was retiring. Other mutterings are that it's all about the Diocese saving money, which is partly true, but it's not the whole truth.

Exciting new things can happen during an Interregnum (also called a Vacancy). When one of my previous Rectors retired, there was a gap of about a year and in that time, lots happened. To start with, six groups were set up to run an Alpha course – the introduction to Christianity course.

I went on one of these courses, and it changed my life.

At the end of the course, there is traditionally a combined Alpha supper with family and friends invited, along with a speaker, and I was asked to stand up and speak to a room of 100+ people about my experience of Alpha and encourage the visitors to join future courses.

'Oh no, surely not me' was my response. This of course was not the response of many people in the Bible asked to do things which were out of their comfort zone. Mary, the mother of Jesus said 'yes' and was so blessed to carry to birth God's Son. Her words, now form the Song of Praise 'The Magnificat' which is sung or said every evening at Evening Prayer and they have had a profound impact on millions.

Moses didn't think he was a leader or speaker, but God worked through Moses to bring Israel out of slavery. David was the youngest (and therefore most insignificant) of all his brothers, but God worked through David to defeat a giant and eventually made him a king. Paul used to persecute and have Christians killed before he met Jesus, but he went on to become one of the most highly regarded and prolific writers and church planters in history.

You are all called to be part of God's exciting plan for his Benefice. Exciting things can happen if you are willing to come out of your comfort zone and say 'yes' to what God might be calling you to be part of. You might be thinking that you don't have the knowledge, the skills, or the experience, but the reality is, God doesn't call the equipped; He equips those willing to say 'yes' to his call.

After a momentary wobble, I did say 'yes' and spoke to that room full of people. God gave me the words to say, and I have never looked back.

Ann, Rector

'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'
Jeremiah 29:1

Sunday 14th May 2023

10.00am Refresh Service. St Nicholas Church, Winsley. Led by Licensed Lay Minister Rachel Pound, keyboardist David Ouston, IT Geoff Parker.

10.00am Holy Communion Service. St James Church, South Wraxall. Led by Revd. Ann Keating, organist Harold Jones.

10.00am Holy Communion Service. St Peter's Church, Monkton Farleigh. Led by Revd. Tessa Mann, organist Keith Bennett.

10.30am Holy Communion Service. Christ Church, Bradford on Avon. Led by Revd. Paul Batson, music by Tricia and the music group.

Sunday 21st May 2023

10.00am Holy Communion Service. St Nicholas Church, Winsley. Led by Revd. Ann Keating, organist: Gerry Hoddinott, IT: Richard Mann.

10.00am Holy Communion Service. St James Church, South Wraxall, joint service with St Peter's Church Monkton Farleigh. Led by Revd. Tessa Mann, organist: Harold Jones.

10.30am Holy Communion Service. Christ Church, Bradford on Avon. Revd. Paul Batson, keyboardist: David Ouston.

4pm Forest Church St James Church, South Wraxall.

Sunday 28th May 2023

10.30am Benefice Service including Holy Communion. Revd. Ann Keating and Revd. Tessa Mann, organist: Keith Bennett.

Interment of ashes of the late Jean Green

11.30am Monday 15th May
St James Church, South Wraxall
Conducted by Revd. Paul Batson

Wedding of Jack Dungey and Demi Neate

12.30pm Saturday 27th May 2023
Christ Church, Bradford on Avon
Officiant: Revd. Tessa Mann

Wedding of Matthew Earland and Alice Monument

2.30pm Saturday 20th May 2023
St Peter's Church, Monkton Farleigh
Officiant: Revd. Ann Keating

Wedding of Julia Dilks and Robert Loudon

1.00pm Saturday 27th May 2023
St James Church, South Wraxall
Officiant: Revd. Ann Keating

Please join us at 10.30am on Sunday 28th May 2023 for a special benefice service including Holy Communion at Christ Church, Bradford on Avon. Followed by an informal gathering to thank Revd. Ann for her ministry and celebrate her retirement.

HOUSE GROUPS

The Benefice enjoys the advantages of house groups. Studying God's Word and sharing fellowship within a smaller group.

The afternoon group is smaller than normal due to health reasons of our members. So we would welcome anybody interested in joining us on alternate Tuesdays from 2.30pm - 4pm (approx).

Those who belong to a group really enjoy sharing in a comfortably sized group.

Please ring Daphne if you are interested in joining. Telephone 01225 868224

THANK YOU!

A very big thank you to everybody who supported the Coronation Event on 8th May helping us to raise a fantastic £1,009 for the Future for Christ Church Project. In the end the weather was kind to us and the rain mostly held off until it was all over. There was a real buzz in the church and it was really great to see so many young families supporting us.

We would like to say a special 'Thank You' to all those who helped set up, run stalls and clear up afterwards and also to everybody that joined us, both from Bradford-on-Avon and those lovely people from around the benefice who came to join in the fun – we hope that no teddies went home traumatized by their experience on the zip wire!

It was heart-warming and very encouraging to see so much support from everybody.



THANK YOU!

MEN'S NIGHT

6.30 pm Wednesday 17th May 2023 in St Nicholas Church Hall, Winsley

THE DAM BUSTERS MISSION : ANALYSIS AND REFLECTION

A talk by David Verghese, who is a military researcher

Supper will be fish and chips; bring your own drink

All men in the four parishes, whether church members or not, are warmly invited.

Please book with Paul Billingham as soon as possible ; (pr24bill@aol.com or 01225 722229)



Congratulations to Alison Wells and Zoe Yeomans who were commissioned as Lay Worship Leaders by Bishop Andrew in a special Commissioning Service held at Steeple Langford Church on Thurs 27th April. It was a lovely occasion and they look forward to opportunities of leading services in the future.

NewsLink

The next edition of NewsLink will be on **Sunday 28th May 2023**. Please email any relevant contributions to the Benefice Office at nboabenefice@gmail.com by **9.30am Tuesday 23rd May 2023**. You can read the full version on our website at www.nboachurches.co.uk

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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)

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Children's and Families Worker:

Zoe Yeomans

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Children & Families News



Churches of North
Bradford on Avon
& Villages

Come and join us for our next
Forest Church

St James' Church, South Wraxall.

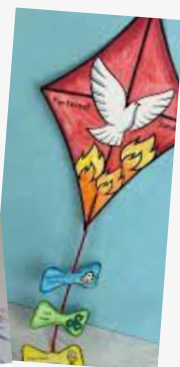
Sunday 21st May 2023

4-5pm, in the Churchyard

Everyone welcome and ideal for families!

Theme is "Fire and Wind!"

Activities, fire-pit, snacks, story, fun &
more!



Please bring a rug or chair to sit on and dress
warmly as we will be outside.

We look forward to seeing you!