



Dear Friends,

On Saturday morning I'm looking forward to ringing one of the bells at Bath Abbey in a quarter peal as people emerge at the end of the Ordination service. Among them will be a number of newly ordained priests, who will be working in parishes around our neighbouring Diocese of Bath and Wells. Similar services will be taking place across the country, including Salisbury Cathedral, both this weekend and the following one. Petertide is a special time of year for the ordination of priests and deacons.

We particularly remember Emily Bagg, who will be ordained Deacon in Carlisle Cathedral next Saturday. Emily did a placement in our Benefice as a practical part of her training two years ago, and will be serving her curacy in the beautiful surroundings of the Lake District. Ann, who helped as a mentor then, will be there to support her at the start of this adventure.

Ordination is a special milestone in someone's journey with God, and marks the beginning of a new chapter of adventures. It is a great and humbling privilege to serve in this way.

I well remember the scary feeling of leading worship and preaching for the first time! My training vicar upped the pressure when he said that people will be listening to that first sermon much more than usual... "What have you got to say?!"

As we begin to think about what kind of person we would like as our next Rector and the qualities and skills that he or she might bring, we remember in our prayers our representatives who are involved in writing our parish profile and who will eventually share with the Bishop and Archdeacon in the selection process.

It has to be said that the words used to describe our Benefice now aren't the most helpful. Sometimes it is called an interregnum, which makes it sound as though the rector or vicar is some kind of monarch! More often today it's called a vacancy. Both make it sound as though we are temporarily out of action. It couldn't be further from the truth. We are open for business, because the ministry of the church belongs to the whole Family of God!

One of the exciting developments over the next few months will be that a number of our services will be taken by lay people. Please support and encourage them when they do.

As Tessa reminded us last time: ***May we move forward with the same spirit at work in and through us, growing signs of joy and generosity of heart, overflowing to the communities we serve.***

With love and prayers,

Tim



Upcoming Services

Sunday 25th June 2023

10am Morning Prayer Service at St Nicholas Church, Winsley. Led by Linds Batson.

10am Holy Communion Service at St James Church, South Wraxall with St Peter's Church, Monkton Farleigh. Led by Revd. Paul Batson.

10.30am Refresh at Christ Church, Bradford on Avon. Led by Rachel Pound.

Wednesday 28th June 2023

10.30am Holy Communion Service at Christ Church, Bradford on Avon. Led by Revd. Tessa Mann.

Sunday 2nd July 2023

10.00am Benefice Service with Holy Communion at St James Church, South Wraxall. Led by Revd. Tim Hawkings.

Sunday 9th July 2023

10.00am Holy Communion Service at St James' Church, South Wraxall with St Peter's Church. Led by Revd. Tessa Mann.

10.00am Refresh Service at St Nicholas Church Hall, Winsley. Led by Roy Ludlow.

10.30am Holy Communion Service at Christ Church, Bradford on Avon. Led by Revd. Paul Batson.

The funeral of Heather Harris

12.30pm Monday 26th June 2023

Semington Crematorium

Led by Revd. Paul Batson

Forest Church: Fire and Wind

We had a very enjoyable session at St James at the end of May, with bubble prayers, blow painting and marshmallows over the flames.



We explored the theme of Pentecost and what keeps us going. Just before our prayers a red kite swooped down very close to us making it even more memorable!

Thanks to everyone involved.

Zoe Yeomans, Children's and Families Worker.

St Nicholas Churchyard

Clear-up Morning

1st July 2023 10am—noon

As in previous years, the fabric committee of St Nicholas Church, will be running another churchyard tidy. If you are able to join them in doing small jobs around the churchyard to keep this valuable, peaceful space tidy and in good order please do come along to the first tidy of the year on 1st July at 10am.

For further information please contact

John Baxter on

jbma40@btinternet.com

ALL WELCOME



JOINT MEN'S AND LADIES' NIGHT

QUIZ EVENING, 7.00 pm Wednesday 12th July 2023 in St Nicholas Church Hall, Winsley

All men and ladies are welcome (but numbers may be limited, so please book early)

A fish and chip supper will be served at about 8.00 pm, followed by a pudding; bring your own drink

All men and ladies in the four parishes, whether church members or not, are warmly invited. Come as individuals or make up a team

Please book with Phillip Bush as soon as possible (phillipbush08@btinternet.com or 01225 866624)

Christian Aid Week

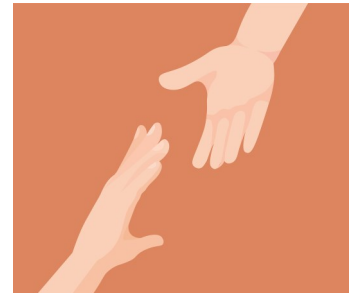


Thank-you to all those who donated to Christian Aid Week. I know that many people will have donated on line but I was also able to send £150 to the appeal following the church collection. Many thanks. **Alison Wells**

Make a Difference at Winsley School

On Saturday 8th July between 9am - 3pm Winsley School are having a Make a Difference Day.

Volunteers are invited to join in a working party to make improvements to the school, focussing on the Music Room and The Hive (a workspace within the school for children). As ever there will be tea, bacon butties and cakes a plenty! Let **Tessa** know if you'd like to come along.



Do you need lever arch files?

We have some lever arch files and other associated paraphernalia available these are used items in good condition. Please contact the Benefice office if you are interested.

NewsLink

The next edition of NewsLink will be on **Sunday 9th July 2023**. Please email any relevant contributions to the Benefice Office at nboabenefice@gmail.com by **9.30am Tuesday 4th July 2023**. You can read the full version on our website at www.nboachurches.co.uk

Ministry Team:

Revd. Tessa Mann (309374)

LLM: Rachel Pound (862223)

Benefice Office:

Bridge Duncombe (865046),

nboabenefice@gmail.com

Website www.nboachurches.co.uk

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

RECTOR VACANCY

Representatives of the four PCCs met together with our Archdeacon the Venerable Sue Groom on Tuesday 20th June. Our new Rural Dean Rev. Jane Palmer was also present for most of the meeting.

The Archdeacon began by explaining that there are no changes proposed to the makeup or size of the current Benefice and that the intention is to fill the vacancy following due process. She thanked us all for paying our Parish Share in full, most of which provides the income that pays for and supports parish priests.

She explained the vacancy process to us. In summary, we need to produce a Benefice Profile (a single document which has to be signed off by all four PCCs) and send it to the Bishop by mid-September. This is a key part of the recruitment process in that it gives candidates a lot of information about the Benefice and will help them decide whether to apply.

The vacancy is then advertised and following shortlisting interviews are held. Shortlisting and interviews are undertaken by a panel comprising the Bishop of Ramsbury, Archdeacon, Rural Dean and four lay representatives - one from each PCC. When an appointment is made, the successful applicant will need to work out 3 months' notice in their current role.

She said that recent experience is that often there is only one person that applies for a vacancy due to the general shortage of priests across the country.

We were told that there is somebody who has already expressed an interest in the vacancy who the Bishop thinks may be a suitable candidate (this is known as the preferred candidate). We have not been told who that person is, but the four PCCs have agreed that if the individual still wishes to apply after seeing the Benefice Profile then we will fast-track the process and interview them on **31 October/1 November**. It was stressed that there is no pressure to appoint the preferred candidate and that the four PCC representatives will form the majority on the interviewing committee.

If the preferred candidate is not appointed then the advertisement will appear in the Church Times in early November with a closing date in January. **5/6 February 2024** has been set aside for interviews.

There is a lot to do over a short period, and the PCCs have appointed the following people to form a committee initially to oversee the production of the Benefice Profile which will be completed through an inclusive and consultative process. They will be holding their initial meeting on **Monday 26th June** and will be in touch with you all further once that meeting has taken place, including further details of how they will canvass the views of the congregations.

Christ Church: Ann Chapman & Margaret Thompson

St James: Diane Aderyn & Dave Wyper

St Nicholas: Linds Batson & Cedric Pierce

St Peter's: Colin Exley