



26th November— 9th December 2023

Dear Friends,

'Ready or not....I'm coming!'

It's hard to believe that we are literally just around the corner from Advent! It is one of my favourite seasons of the year, full of waiting and wonder.

I often think that Advent is like that moment in a game of hide and seek when the seeker counts down, giving those who are hiding time to find a suitable hiding place, before shouting '*Ready or not...I'm coming*'

There is a sense of excitement behind quivering curtains and under beds, as children wait to be found!

As the seeker counts down, we count down in the days of Advent, each day an opportunity to prepare ourselves – getting ready to welcome and celebrate the Christ Child born into our world. During Advent all the set Bible readings are about watching and waiting, not only waiting for the birth of Jesus but also for his promised return in glory.

The emphasis all around us is on different kinds of preparations – making shopping lists, cooking, decorating etc. I love all of those things, but there is a deeper call on our lives to make ready. Advent invites our hearts to beat a little faster as we anticipate once again the divine surprise of Jesus being found in a stable, in poverty and vulnerability.

The light coming from that small, hidden space draws us in to find the Christ child. I wonder where we might have lost our sense of expectancy and hope during the year or perhaps rediscovered it?

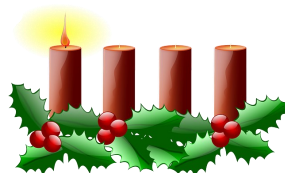
For me, Rev Katie Jackson's appointment has renewed my hope and trust in God. I certainly sense a tingle of expectancy as we prepare to welcome her! God has worked for good among us, even when we sometimes lacked trust. We worship a God of surprises!

So as we count down during these days of Advent, lighting candles and decorating our churches, may we make ready to welcome many in our community to worship Jesus. But most of all may we ask God to prepare the stable floors of our hearts to welcome Jesus, the light of the world. In the shadows falling darkly across our world, God calls us to burn brightly with hope and love so that the world might discover the peace and joy of the Christ Child. Have a blessed Advent!

Tessa

Rev Tessa Mann

PS. I have prepared a sheet with details of **Advent themed books and online resources** for all ages which you might like to explore. There will be a copy in every church and you can also access it online: [Advent+Books+and+Resources+2023.pdf \(squarespace.com\)](https://www.squarespace.com/Advent+Books+and+Resources+2023.pdf)



Letter from Our New Rector

I can't tell you how delighted I was to receive the phone call from Archdeacon Sue, offering me the post of Rector of your wonderful benefice. On receiving your parish profile back in September, I was excited not just by all you are already doing but also your ongoing desire to look outwards into your communities. However it was the orientation day which gave me a real flavour of the benefice; meeting so many people, listening to what made each of your parishes unique and being grilled by school children (which was a special treat!) to name just a few of the delights that had been prepared for me. Thank you for all the thought and time you put into making this day what it was, with particular thanks to my two chauffeurs! Above all this though, it was the warmth and welcome that I was met with that confirmed the call I had felt from God to apply, and made me realise that your benefice was exactly the right place for me. I can't wait to get to know you all over the coming months and years.

As I have had the opportunity to discover something of the life of the benefice, it feels only right that you have the opportunity to find out a little about me, so here is a whistle stop tour! I am blessed with a wonderful family; Rob is my husband and we have two gorgeous children (but then I am a little biased), Lottie is twelve and Matty is 9. Our family time is precious and we particularly enjoy the outdoors, having both an annual camping expedition to Cornwall in the summer and a boxing day BBQ in the height of winter. One year we even did this in the snow of Sheffield with a 6 month old Lottie tucked up in a papoose on my front!



Before training for ordination my work life focused on children and families, something that continues to be a passion of mine. As such, I am really looking forward to supporting Zoe and all those involved in the children's ministry within the benefice. I spent 10 years working as a child protection social worker, latterly managing a team, and then became a children and families worker for a local church in Trowbridge. It was whilst I was here that the call to ordination became very strong and I can still remember the day I had a conversation with God, telling him that I was listening and ready to 'step out of the boat' once more. I have served my curacy just down the road, in the United Benefice of Holt, Broughton Gifford and Great Chalfield, where I have enjoyed a wonderful blend of both traditional liturgical services and fresh expressions, both of which I hold dear.

I am a people person and there is nothing I like more than sharing life together. I continue to have a particular heart for the 'invisible' and those on the margins (perhaps due to my experiences as a social worker and involvement in aid work abroad during my university years). I believe that the hope we have in Jesus is fundamentally one of unconditional and eternal love, something that so many people today desperately need to both hear of and receive. My hope is that as a benefice we can listen to God and our four distinct communities, prayerfully discerning where He would have us go and what He would have us do next, so that together, as His co-workers, we can make Jesus known to those around us.

Every blessing, Katie

Upcoming Services

Sunday 26th November

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

10.00am "Exploring Worship" St Nicholas Church, Winsley. Home group to lead service.

10.30am Refresh Service Christ Church, Bradford on Avon. Led by Denise Leigh and the Refresh group.

Wednesday 29th November

10.30am Holy Communion Service Christ Church, Bradford on Avon. Led by Revd. Bernard Hughes.

Sunday 3rd December

10.30am Benefice Service Advent Holy Communion Christ Church, Bradford on Avon. Led by Archdeacon Sue Groom & Revd. Tessa Mann.

Sunday 10th December

10.00am Holy Communion Service St Peter's Church, Monkton Farleigh. Led by Revd. Paul Batson.

10.00am Refresh Service St Nicholas Church, Winsley. Led by Alison Wells and Zoe Yeomans.

10.30am Carol Service Christ Church, Bradford on Avon. Led by Revd. Tessa Mann.

6.00pm Carol Service St James' Church, South Wraxall. Led by Revd. Tim Hawkings.

Advent House Group

Judith and Bernard are holding a Benefice Advent Group that will be held at Sue and Jonathan's home at 25 Downs Close, BonA on the following Wednesdays: 29th November; 6th, 13th, and 20th December. It starts at 7.30pm and will finish by 9pm. There is space for two more to join the group. If you are interested please contact Bernard and Judith on 01225 868679.

St Nicholas Carol Service, 6pm 17th December

Refreshments - As always, we shall be providing mulled wine and fruit juice and mince pies after the service. We shall need mince pies (not necessarily home made) so please advise **Alison Wells** of any quantity you can provide. Many thanks.

NewsLink

The next edition of NewsLink will be on **Sunday 10th December 2023**. Please email any relevant contributions to the Benefice Office at nboabenefice@gmail.com by **9.30am Tuesday 5th December 2023**. You can read the full version on our website at www.nboachurches.co.uk

Ministry Team:

Revd. Tessa Mann (309374)

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



Churches of North
Bradford on Avon
& Villages



Advent Activity Tea

Sunday 26th November, 3.00 – 4.30pm
South Wraxall Village Hall, BA15 2SE



Join us for Christmas crafts, games and activities with a delicious festive tea.

Mulled wine and mince pies for the adults!

All welcome... Fun for all the family!

No charge but donations welcome

It would be helpful to know if you coming but not essential or if you have any dietary requirements, please email Zoe at zyeomans3@gmail.com



Carol Service

St Nicholas Church,
Winsley

6.00pm Sunday 17th
December

Everyone welcome
Service followed by
mulled wine, mulled fruit juice
& mince pies
Collection in aid of
Save the Children Gaza Emergency Appeal
(cash only)

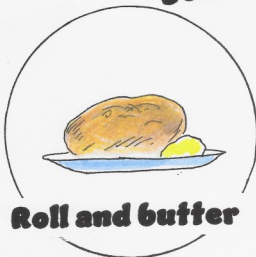
Coming to a church hall near you
(Opposite St Nicholas')

SOUP'S UP:2 (The Return!)

Starring



Delicious home-made soup
and featuring



Roll and butter



Tasty dessert

12-3 on Friday's 3rd and 17th November
And 1st and 15th December

Discover Christ Church!
Christ Church
Bradford-on-Avon

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
Dementia
Action
Alliance

CHRISTMAS CAROLS CRAFT & CHAT

1:15PM - 2:45PM
Wednesday 6th December 2023

ALL WELCOME BRING FRIENDS & FAMILY!

FREE
TO ATTEND!

Festive cakes and
refreshments available

We will be joined by pupils
from Christ Church School

Opportunity for young and
old to come together

JOIN THE FESTIVE FUN!

With grateful thanks to our funders



Bell-ringers on the March!

On Saturday 7th October Bradford on Avon bell ringers set off on their annual tower outing. St Mary's, Purton was first. This was the first of two churches that had a tower at one end and a spire at the other - apparently there are only three churches like this in England!

Next was St Michael's, Highworth. An enjoyable ring of eight bells, then it was on to Shrivenham, with their fine ring of 10. After lunch we headed to St Andrew's, Wanborough; the second church of the day in possession of both a tower and a central spire. Before entry, female members of the band were requested to remove their pattens. We later discovered pattens are an early form of platform shoe!



St Mary's, Purton, showing the two towers



The two towers of Wanborough

All Saints, Liddington was our final tower of the day which has one tower with two rings of bells! We rang on the new ring of six, cast in 2016 and not the un-ringable ring of five that date back to 1663.

All-in-all, a thoroughly enjoyable day of good ringing, good fun and good friendship – what more could we ask for! **Sarah Quintin.**

St Peter's Church, Monkton Farleigh remembers

Remembrance Day at St. Peter's started a new venture this year with a display of poppies, kindly knitted by Margaret Veal, and Remembrance crosses displayed in the grave yard. This moving service was led by Rev Tim Hawkins. **Denise Davies.**



Christmas Toy Collection



St James Church, South Wraxall has for a number of years collected unwrapped, brand new toys for the Salvation Army as part of their Christmas appeal. This year, for the first time, the whole Benefice is taking part in the drive to give a little joy to children at this special time of year with brand new toys and other gifts.

We will be collecting **unwrapped, brand new toys** for children aged 0 to 18 from **November 13th-December 3rd**. These will then be distributed to families by the Salvation Army.

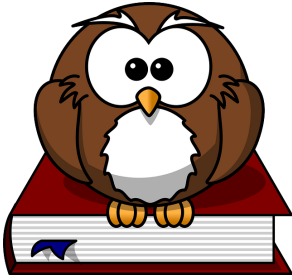
Please could contributions be placed in the collection boxes in the porches of the Churches of the Benefice. For Christ Church, please use the South Porch.

More information about the Salvation Army Christmas appeal can be found via this link: [Christmas Present Appeal | The Salvation Army](#) it is well worth a read!



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www.VectrSeek.com

MENS' AND LADIES' GROUPS - Wednesday 6th December 2023
7.00 pm in St Nicholas Church Hall, Winsley



THE WORLD OF EDUCATION REVISITED IN VERSE:

Bob Williams, Sue Wright, Roy Ludlow and Linds Batson – all formerly at the sharp end of delivering education to the young – will present a selection of poems, ranging from the amusing to the poignant.

This is a joint event – ladies are invited.

Supper will be a selection of Indian curries (bring your own drink).

All men and ladies 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)

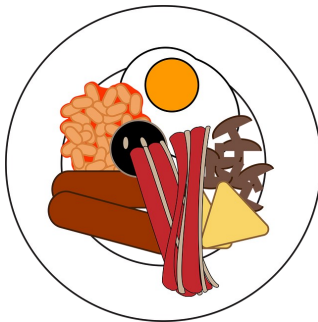
Ladies night—Monday 4th December

**7pm in St Nicholas Church Hall
open to all Ladies**

£20-00 per person includes wine/soft drink
Booking essential please book with Mary Hewetson
(01225 -722210 or maryhewetson49@gmail.com)



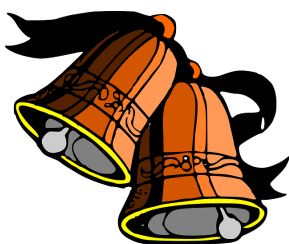
Sunday Breakfast South Wraxall



We invite you to join us in the village hall on Sunday **17th December** to enjoy a delicious breakfast, while relaxing with friends and neighbours for a Pre-Christmas treat.

We will be serving Full English Breakfast, which includes toast, homemade marmalade, tea, coffee and fruit juice, from 9:00 am until at least 11:30 am. All the profits go towards the upkeep of St James's, our parish church.

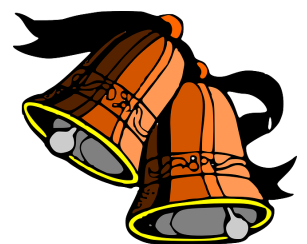
You are welcome to take pot luck and turn up on the day, but it does help us to know how many people to expect. You can reserve your table by emailing southwraxall@outlook.com.



Centenary Peal

Saturday 13 January 2024

Christ Church bells have reached their 100th birthday!



The 8 bells were kindly donated by the Llewelyn-Palmer family as a memorial to members of the family lost in the First World War. The bells were cast by Gillett & Johnston of Croydon in November 1923, installed and dedicated in December that year. To mark the occasion the bell ringers are to attempt a full peal of 5040 changes of Grandsire Triples on Saturday 13 January 2024, between approximately 10am and 1pm. In practical terms this means the bells will be ringing continuously for about 3 hours. Do please come along to the church enjoy some refreshments and listen to the ringing. If you would like more information or have any queries please direct these to the Benefice Office at nboabenefice@gmail.com or 01225 865046.

Holy Trinity Parish Church

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE BY CANDLELIGHT

Sunday, 3 December at 6pm



with members of Bradford on Avon Area Churches Together



**The
Children's
Society**

Very many thanks to everyone who supported our Coffee Morning. We raised the incredible sum of £223.26. People were extremely generous and kind.

Thank you also to Hilary and Stephen for their wonderful assistance. Hilary did a lot of washing up! All proceeds go to help vulnerable children and young people in this country.

Elizabeth Forbes

Methodist Church, Winsley Carol Service



2.30pm Tuesday
12th December
2023

All welcome



The Hub@BA15
Church Street
Bradford on Avon
BA15 1LS
Tel: 01225 920748
Email: info@boahub.co.uk
Website: www.boahub.ac.uk

Dear St Nicholas Church

25th October 2023

Thank you so much for the amazing contribution 56.50 kgs of food that was donated to the Hub from your Harvest collections. This is very much appreciated. Thank you also for your ongoing weekly food collections As you know The Hub runs on a voluntary basis and could not function without generous donations like yours.

We thought you would be interested to know since Jan we have issued approximately 1000 food parcels, 87 half term boxes and parcels for our local schools and nursery families in February, 144 Easter parcels, 90 in May half term, over 150 boxes in the Summer holidays and we have just sent out 102 October holiday parcels for our families over half term.

The main reasons for the need for food over the past year were:

- Low income – which makes budgeting difficult where certain choices are made
- Debt
- Difficulties in applying for Universal Credit
- Universal Credit delays post application
- Deduction from Universal Credit (which can be up to 40%)
- Sanctions
- Plus the increased cost of food
- The rise in energy prices

The total amount of food donated during the past year was an impressive 8 metric tonnes, but there have been times during the year when specific items have been in short supply. So, ongoing donations are always needed, as is support both financially and practically. The very generous amount of money will go towards our continued presence in the town and provision of support.

Do feel free to join us at our monthly fundraising coffee mornings, held on the second Friday of each month between 10am and 12 noon to find out more about what we are doing and to enjoy a cup of coffee and homemade cakes.

Thank you again for supporting the Hub
Best wishes

Cathy

Cathy Hearn
Hub Administrator
Hub @ BA15
Church Street
Bradford on Avon
BA15 1LS

Registered Charity No: 1160807

KETTLE'S ON– Jan to June 2024

Kettle's On drop-in Community Café is
open

10-12pm on the first and third Wednesday
of each month in St Nicholas Church
Hall.

Coffee, tea, cake and conversation. Everyone
is welcome. Bring your friends,
neighbours and those new to village.

3rd and 17th January 2024

7th and 21st February 2024

6th and 20th March 2024

3rd and 17th April 2024

1st and 15th May 2024

5th and 19th June 2024