



Lego Church!

Dear Friends,

Coming soon (on Sunday 11th February) is another Zoe special! Last time she organised a Lego Church, the hall at Winsley was packed with children enjoying building all sorts of things. They were accompanied by grown ups, who probably had lots of fun too. Building with Lego bricks gives us an opportunity to be playful and let our imagination go wild.



I wonder how many of you got to the fabulous exhibition last year at the American Museum at Claverton? *Brick America: An Adventure in LEGO Bricks* had some amazing models, including the Statue of Liberty, a street scene in San Francisco, an Apollo space rocket, the Mayflower, and lots more. Each one had been made with thousands of pieces and hours of painstaking work. There was also an area where you could join in and make something yourself, and even a Lego graffiti wall.

The Lego church set me thinking about the kind of model our church might look like. One with toilets and kitchen? An area with easy chairs? Pews? A sanctuary? Definitely one with a bell tower!! ...Or would it be a building at all?

For many of us our picture of church was set up largely by the Victorians and before. This mostly meant that each community had a church building with its own vicar, who took responsibility for most aspects of the ministry needed in a particular place. The church was the hub and centre of parish ministry.

Yet this model was very different to the glimpses of the first churches set up in New Testament times. These speak of people gathering in someone's home. St Paul talks of the church not so much as a place but as a living body of people each with their own special role and contribution.



So what might our Lego church look like for a church of our day? As we look forward to Katie's arrival next month, and a new chapter in the life of our Benefice, it's exciting to see what emerges. I echo Tessa's hope in the last NewsLink that we give Katie "the freedom to be herself and exercise a life giving ministry in a sustainable way".

Happy Lego building!

Tim

Upcoming Services

Sunday 21st January

10.00am Holy Communion Service – Street Pastor Commissioning St Nicholas Church, Winsley. Led by Revd. Tessa Mann.

10.00am Morning Prayer St Peter's Church, Monkton Farleigh, jointly with St James' Church, South Wraxall. Led by Roy Ludlow.

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

Sunday 28th January

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

10.00am Morning Prayer St Nicholas Church, Winsley. Led by Linds Batson.

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

Wednesday 31st January

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

Sunday 4th February

10.00am Benefice Service with Holy Communion celebrating Candlemas, St Nicholas Church, Winsley. Led by Revd. Tessa Mann.

Events for Revd. Canon Joanna Abercassis' retirement

Sunday 28th January 2024

10.30am Celebration Benefice Eucharist

12-2pm (drop-in) Join us for refreshments at Holy Trinity Church to celebrate

Joanna's wonderful ministry.

Funeral of Charles Waldron

Wednesday 31st January 2024

2pm St Nicholas Church, Winsley

Led by Revd. Paul Batson

NewsLink

The next edition of NewsLink will be on **Sunday 4th February 2024**. Please email any relevant contributions to the Benefice Office at nboabenefice@gmail.com by **9.30am Tuesday 30th January 2024**. 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

REVEREND KATIE JACKSON - LICENSING SERVICE

As is well known, Revd Katie Jackson will formally become our new Rector at her licensing service to be conducted by the Bishop of Ramsbury at **Christ Church at 7PM on Monday 26th February**. The service will be followed by celebration cake and a simple choice of alcoholic and soft drinks.

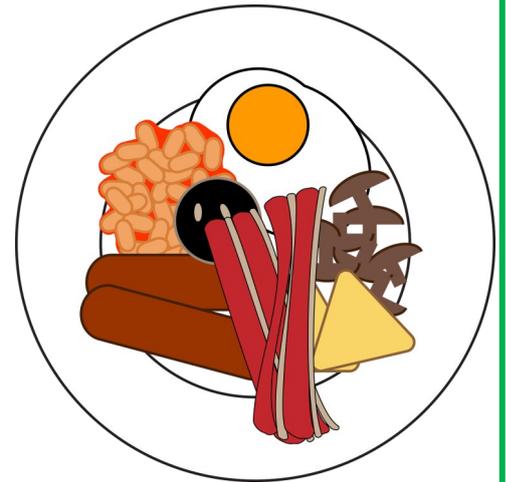
All members of our Benefice congregations are automatically invited to the service and we will not be sending personal invitations to anyone that is a church-goer. However, we need to keep an eye on numbers and for this reason we ask that if you wish to attend, then please sign up on the sheets displayed in each of the four churches. **Please sign up as soon as possible, and no later than on Sunday 18th February.**

Parking in the vicinity of Christ Church is likely to be challenging so please car-share wherever possible and park in nearby streets. Please do not attempt to park in the Mount Pleasant Centre which is not church property and which has its own events on that evening. **Cedric Pierce, Sec. to St Nicholas Church PCC.**

Advance Notice: Breakfast at South Wraxall

We invite you to join us at our Village Breakfast on **Sunday 18th February, from 9:00am onwards**. As usual, we will be serving Full English Breakfast accompanied by toast and homemade marmalade and a variety of drinks. All profits go towards the upkeep of St James' Church.

Jean Atkin, Sec. to St James' Church PCC.



Bell-ringing Success!



Success! - the peal of 5040 Grandsire Triples was rung at Christ Church in 2hours 46 mins on Saturday 13 January to mark the centenary of the bells and the first peal rung on them on 2 Jan 1924 (same method and composition). The band in order clockwise from bottom right in the photo were Treble Rachel Walters, 2 Nicki Lang, 3 Sarah Quintin, 4 Harriet Feilding, 5 Robert Perry (Conductor), 6 Richard Iles, 7 Tim Hawkings and Tenor David Godwin. Thank you to Hilary, Wendy and Becky for organising and providing refreshments for visitors to the church during the peal.

John Sealy, Tower Captain, Christ Church

Children & Families News

Lego Church

Sunday 11th February 3pm-4:15pm
Winsley Church Hall



Come and join us for some family
Lego building fun. Snack included.

Bring your creativity!

All welcome!



Join us at Christ Church on
Shrove Tuesday
13th February
10am-12noon

Pancakes and fun!



Everyone welcome!

Bring the family and pop in for
fellowship, games, activities and of course
a pancake* with a choice of toppings!

No charge although donations welcome.

Booking helpful but not essential,
contact zyeomans3@gmail.com

*df and gf options available on request

Sunbeams, St Nicholas Church hall,
Winsley 10.30am—11.30am
24th January, 7th February

The Ark is on **Thursdays at 10.00am to 11.30am in Christ Church** and will continue every Thursday morning during school term time. Come along with your little ones for a fun time with toys, story, songs, craft and snacks to finish!

Thank-you knitters and crocheters!



Just to say a huge thank you for making all the stars for Christmas 2023! You are all stars and it is much appreciated! All the stars were appreciated too and almost all of them have gone to new homes with the children in the Benefice. They have been well received so thank you for your time and efforts.



One idea for Christmas 2024 is doves, and I will pass on a pattern when I receive it if anyone would like to have a go at that and feed back your thoughts.

Zoe Yeomans, children and families worker