



21st December 2025 - 10th January 2026

Dear Friends,

Christmas advertising is everywhere at the moment. I've got to the point where I can guess the shop or brand as soon as the music or slogan appears! But it has got me thinking about what slogan we might use for Christmas, and the best that I can come up with is



A young teenage girl, a bunch of bedraggled outsiders whom nobody noticed, learned sages from the East all chosen and welcomed. Soon after Jesus' birth, he and his family had to escape to Egypt, living life as a refugee or asylum seeker, making a home in a strange land reliant on the kindness and generosity of others. The arrival of the Son of God into our world is precious on so many levels, not least because of the deliberate way God chose to include all peoples in his story of salvation. It reminds us that nobody is outside of God's love, nobody is unworthy, nobody should be left feeling like they are alone or rejected.

Sometimes, there is a danger that faith can be used for our own purposes, to fit the story that we want God to fit, rather than telling the story that God wants to be known and shared. Christmas is an opportunity for us to tell, once again, God's story, his plan for the world which he loves. In the same way that on that first Christmas God chose people from all walks of life, he wants us to share His story with all people, so that nobody remains left on the outside of the stable.

We have so many different services taking place over the coming week: services for the young and the not so young, those who have had a good year and those who have had a tough year. If each of us can think of just one person to invite into the stable, just think of how full and noisy that stable could be (a bit like I imagine it would have been for Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus).

Each person in the story of the first Christmas had an encounter which was transformational: the shepherds went off singing and praising, the magi bowed down in adoration, Mary quietly pondered. My prayer for us and for all whom we invite this Christmas, is that we too will have our own encounter as we are welcomed at the stable.

Happy Christmas and prayers for a peace-filled new year.

Every blessing,  
Katie

*After the busy Christmas season, Katie will be taking time off from 27th December – 5th January.  
Tessa will be available for anything that needs urgent attention.  
Kate, in the Benefice office, will be on leave 22nd December - 5th January.*

## Upcoming Services

### **Friday 19th December**

3pm - Avonpark Carol Service - Avonpark, Limpley Stoke

### **Sunday 21st December**

10:30am - Carol Service - Christ Church, Bradford on Avon

6pm - Carol Service - St Nicholas' Church, Winsley

6:30pm - Carol Service - St James' Church, South Wraxall

### **Monday 22nd December**

4:30pm - Christian Meditation - St Nicholas' Church, Winsley

### **Christmas Eve**

10am - Crib Service - St James' Church, South Wraxall

3pm - Nativity - St Nicholas' Church, Winsley

3pm - Crib Service - St Peter's Church, Monkton Farleigh

4pm - Nativity - Christ Church, Bradford on Avon

11:15pm - Midnight Service - St James' Church, South Wraxall

11:15pm - Midnight Service - St Nicholas' Church, Winsley

11:15pm - Midnight Service - Christ Church, Bradford on Avon

### **Christmas Day**

10am - Family Holy Communion - St Nicholas' Church, Winsley

10am - Family Holy Communion - St Peter's Church, Monkton Farleigh

10:30am - Family Holy Communion Christ Church, Bradford on Avon

### **Sunday 28th December**

10am - Benefice Service Holy Communion - St Nicholas' Church, Winsley

### **Wednesday 31st December**

10:30am - Holy Communion - Christ Church, Bradford on Avon

### **Sunday 4th January**

10am - Benefice Service - St Nicholas' Church, Winsley

4pm - Family Teatime Service - St Nicholas' Church, Winsley

### **Wednesday 7th January**

3pm - Holy Communion - Avonpark, Limpley Stoke

6pm - Compline - St James' Church, South Wraxall

### **Sunday 11th January**

10am - Refresh (Café Style-Worship) - Winsley Church Hall, Winsley

10am - Holy Communion - St Peter's Church, Monkton Farleigh

10:30am - Holy Communion - Christ Church, Bradford on Avon

 **CAROL SERVICES**

**St Peter's Church**  
Sunday 14th December - 6pm

**Christ Church**  
Sunday 21st December - 10:30am

**St Nicholas' Church**  
Sunday 21st December - 6pm

**St James' Church**  
Sunday 21st December - 6:30pm

**Everyone very welcome**

**JOY**

**Crib & Nativity Services**  
**Christmas Eve**

10am - St James' Church  
3pm - St Nicholas' Church  
3pm - St Peter's Church  
4pm - Christ Church



**All welcome**  
Children are very welcome to dress up

 **Next Service 4<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

**FAMILY TEATIME SERVICE**



**First Sunday of Every Month at 4pm**  
**St Nicholas' Church, Winsley**

**A short, child-focussed service followed by tea**

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

## Social Events Across the Benefice

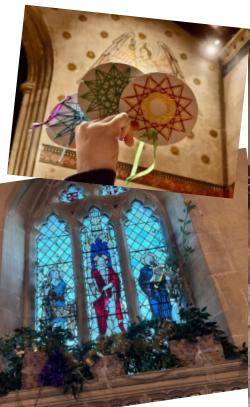
Saturday 3rd January - 10am - **Christ Church Café** - Christ Church, Bradford on Avon  
Monday 5th January - 1pm - **Cheese & Wine Ladies Lunch** - Winsley Church Hall, Winsley  
Wednesday 7th January - 10am - **Kettle's On** - Winsley Church Hall, Winsley  
Wednesday 7th January - 10:30am - **Coffee & Company** - Christ Church, Bradford on Avon  
Wednesday 14th January - 10:30am - **Sunbeams** - Winsley Church Hall, Winsley  
Thursday 15th January - 10am - **The Ark** - Christ Church, Bradford on Avon  
Friday 16th January - Serving at 12:30pm - **Soup's Up** - Winsley Church Hall, Winsley



## Christmas preparations across the Benefice

Over the last few weeks our churches have been filled with a festive hum of activity as we prepare for Christmas. Our churches have been beautifully decorated with lights, Christmas trees, festive flowers and nativity scenes. In addition to our usual activities and services, our churches have hosted 5 school/pre-school nativity performances (plus numerous rehearsals), 3 school Christmas services, a Christmas café, a village breakfast, 2 toddler group Christmas parties and a Christmas Conversation and Craft.

Thank you so much to everyone for all the time and hard work that goes in to making our churches such special, warm and welcoming places at this time of year.



## PLASTIC BOTTLE REQUEST

In preparation for a project at Christ Church in the new year, please could you save the base of your plastic bottles (just the bottom of the bottle please) to donate to this project.



Bottle bases can be left in the box inside the south door at Christ Church. Thank you very much,  
Anne Hilton

## KETTLE'S ON

### Community Café



1<sup>ST</sup> & 3<sup>RD</sup>  
WEDNESDAY  
OF EACH  
MONTH

ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH HALL

10AM-12PM

COFFEE, TEA, CAKE AND CONVERSATION.  
EVERYONE IS WELCOME.  
BRING YOUR FRIENDS, NEIGHBOURS AND  
THOSE NEW TO VILLAGE.

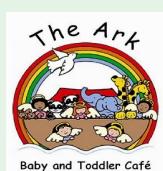
## Parent & Toddler Group at Christ Church

Every Thursday, term time  
10am - 11:30am

Come along with your little ones  
for a fun time with toys, story,  
songs, craft and snacks.

Contact Hilary Pike  
on 01225 782527

Starts back on  
Thursday 15th  
January!



## Christ Church Bradford on Avon Café @3pm

Starting from  
1<sup>ST</sup> December,  
2025

Open  
Monday, Tuesday,  
Wednesday and  
Friday  
3.00pm-4.00pm



The place to meet after school



**Parent & Toddler Group**  
Winsley Church Hall  
2nd & 4th Wednesday at  
10:30am

First Sunbeams of 2026 will  
be 14th January

For more details please  
contact Mary Hewetson on  
01225 722210

## SOUTH WRAXALL VILLAGE BREAKFAST

On a bright sunny morning we welcomed 70 or so people to South Wraxall village hall for our December Breakfast. There was a cheerful noise coming from the nine tables as our guests caught up with all the latest gossip with family and friends. Our willing volunteers cooked, served tables and, not least, did lots of washing up!

All the hard work and your generous donations resulted in at least £650 (after paying for the food) going towards the upkeep of St James's, South Wraxall parish church.

As always, we are grateful to Rob at The Longs Arms and Bella at Home Farm for supplying delicious village produce.

Thank you to all for your support.

Jean Atkin

CANAL TAVERN & PUNK BURGERS BRINGS TO YOU  
**The Gift of  
Christmas  
Dinner**  
25<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2025  
1200-1600

Working with the Hub in BOA, Floaty Boat, Age UK & Julian House  
Bringing a free Christmas Dinner to those who are vulnerable,  
unable to cook a christmas dinner or lonely this year

Please contact Sharon at the Canal  
Tavern for more information  
01225 261333  
canaltavern2025@gmail.com

Please do spread the word of the above with  
anyone who may be interested.

There are two sittings -12pm-2pm and 2pm-4pm.  
Booking essential. Contact the Canal Tavern by  
Friday 19th December.

## Ministry Team:

Rector: Rev Katie Jackson (01225 722230)  
Rev Tessa Mann (309374)

## Lay Pastoral Assistants:

Stephen Pike (782537), Denise Davies (863678)  
Gill Fairhurst (867560), Daphne Cox (868224)  
Elizabeth Bush (866624)

**Benefice Office:** Kate Davies (865046)  
nboabenfice@gmail.com

## Church Wardens:

**Winsley:** Richard Mann (309374) Penny Pierce (723284)

**Christ Church:** Margaret Thompson (571305)

Deputy - Wendy Brown (862857)

**South Wraxall:** Dave Wyper (865384)

Valentine Thornhill (862552)

**Monkton Farleigh:** Rachel & Colin Exley (851485)

## NewsLink

The next edition of NewsLink will be on 11th January. Please send any relevant contributions to the  
Benefice Office at [nboabenfice@gmail.com](mailto:nboabenfice@gmail.com) by Monday 5th January.