



Dear Friends

Lent is the church's particular time for encouraging us on our journey to grow together and individually to a mature faith, deepening our trust in our Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 4 v11-15; Colossians 1 v 2-29; 2 Peter 3 v18; 1 Timothy 4 v15 – but no showing off!) It is not a competition in godliness even if St Paul does write about 'a race'.

Here are some suggestions for making Lent an interesting, enriching and even enjoyable time, when we deepen our Christian faith and prepare to celebrate Easter. My hope is that the suggestions will trigger other ideas that are best suited to you. I recommend a variety of choices as God is concerned for all aspects of our lives; also that we are cautious and don't take on more than is manageable.

What I particularly like about Lent is that it is a limited period when 'compound interest' (as I like to call it) can be very effective and enriching. Although it is often thought of as a time for giving things up, for abstinence from things we enjoy (which has its place), I prefer to emphasise the value of Lent as a time to take on new experiences.

Some of these suggestions will already be part of your regular practice, others might be unrealistic, but some might be worth a thought or, as I say, trigger something else that is more suited to you. So, in no particular order, how about during Lent:

- Write a letter or make a phone call to someone that you've been meaning to contact but never got around to (it can be very satisfying to do so)
- Read Mark's gospel in one go or two if needed – it doesn't take as long as you might imagine and provides an inspiring picture of the life of Jesus
- Attend a church service that you rarely or never go to – eg Compline which will be weekly on Wednesdays at 6pm throughout Lent or perhaps a Holy Week service
- Ensure you have a fun day out or an evening treat during Lent (Jesus was not always available and enjoyed a good party or meal)
- Pray every day for the same particular person or situation that is on your heart
- Sit in silence for ten minutes once a week, simply repeating the word 'Jesus' or a short scriptural phrase such as 'the Lord's my shepherd'; when your mind wanders, gently return to your word
- Make a point of talking with someone at church whom you don't normally talk to
- Go without a meal once a week and accumulate the money saved and give it to a charity
- Attend the Benefice Quiet Morning that Rev Tessa is leading
- Join a House Group or link up with a few friends to read a Christian book together (if you need a book suggestion then ask around for ideas, the clergy are quite a good resource)
- Go for a walk with someone and share how your Christian faith has unfolded or simply celebrate God's creation (it's springtime)

If this way of approaching Lent appeals to you, then I suggest you make a short list of your Lenten intentions. If, like me, you slip up and forget to do an intention, just be gentle with yourself, life isn't neat and things happen to derail us; just pick up again and continue – remember, it isn't a competition.

I always find that as the days of Lent go by the intentions that can be repeated have a beneficial cumulative effect, which is what I call 'compound interest'. Those of you who have experience of Home Groups will know what I mean. However you embrace Lent I hope and pray that it will be a period of blessing for all of us.

Paul

Upcoming Services

Sunday 8th February

10am - Refresh (Café-style Worship) - Winsley Church Hall, Winsley led by Cedric & Penny Pierce

10am - Holy Communion - St Peter's Church, Monkton Farleigh led by Rev Tessa Mann

10:30am - Holy Communion - Christ Church, Bradford on Avon led by Rev Katie Jackson

Monday 9th February

4:30pm - Christian Meditation - St Nicholas' Church, Winsley led by Rev Paul Batson

Sunday 15th February

10am - Holy Communion joined by Methodist Church - St Nicholas' Church, Winsley led by Rev Katie Jackson

10am - Holy Communion - St James' Church, South Wraxall led by Rev Tim Hawkings

10:30am - Refresh (Café-style Worship) - Christ Church, Bradford on Avon led by Rev Tessa Mann

Monday 16th February

4:30pm - Christian Meditation - St Nicholas' Church, Winsley led by Rev Paul Batson

Wednesday 18th February

10:30am - Ash Wednesday Holy Communion - Christ Church, Bradford on Avon led by Rev Keith Charnley

6pm - Ash Wednesday Holy Communion - St James' Church, South Wraxall led by Rev Katie Jackson

Sunday 22nd February

10am - Together in Worship - St Nicholas' Church, Winsley led by Rev Katie Jackson

10am - Holy Communion - St Peter's Church, Monkton Farleigh led by Rev Keith Charnley

10:30am - Holy Communion - Christ Church, Bradford on Avon led by Rev Tim Hawkings

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

A service for everyone!

Friday 6 March

I will give you rest, come

Please Join us at

Bearfield Church,

Huntingdon Street, Bradford on Avon. BA15 1RE

at 10.00 am

on Friday 6th March 2026

All Welcome

Bradford-on-Avon Area

Churches Together



INFORMED PRAYER PRAYERFUL ACTION
24-7 365 Days a year Prayer movement Ecumenical International Women-led
wwdp.org.uk

FAMILY TEATIME SERVICE

Last week's Family Teatime Service focused on the story of Jesus calming the storm. We had a go at creating our own noisy storm in church using lots of instruments, and wrote down our worries on flowers and talked about how we can give our worries over to God.

Everyone is welcome to come along to our next Family Teatime service on **Sunday 1st March at 4pm**.



FAMILY TEATIME SERVICE



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

A short, child-focused service followed by tea



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)

Social Events Across the Benefice

Saturday 7th Feb - 10-12pm - **Christ Church Café** - Christ Church, Bradford on Avon

Sunday 8th Feb - 9-11:30am - **South Wraxall Village Breakfast** - South Wraxall Village Hall

Wednesday 11th Feb - 10:30am - **Coffee & Company** - Christ Church, Bradford on Avon

Wednesday 11th Feb - 10:30am - **Sunbeams** - Winsley Church Hall, Winsley

Thursday 12th Feb - 10am - **The Ark** - Christ Church, Bradford on Avon

Thursday 12th Feb - 3pm - **BOA Youth Drop In** - Christ Church, Bradford on Avon

Wednesday 18th Feb - 10am - **Kettle's On** - Winsley Church Hall, Winsley

Friday 20th Feb - Serving at 12:30pm - **Soup's Up** - Winsley Church Hall, Winsley

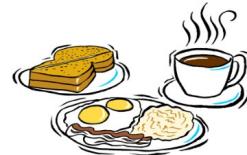
Sunday 22nd Feb - 2- 4:30pm - **"Sip Sip Hooray" Discover Christ Church! Celebration** - Christ Church, Bradford on Avon



South Wraxall Village Breakfast Sunday 8th February 9-11:30am

We invite you to join us in South Wraxall Village Hall for our first Village Breakfast of 2026.

Enjoy the relaxed atmosphere with family and friends whilst being served a Full English Breakfast, which also includes toast, homemade marmalade, tea, coffee and fruit juice.



Breakfast will be available from 9am until at least 11:30am. Our profits go towards maintaining the fabric of St James's, our village church.

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

Booking your holiday? Read this first!

With many people booking holidays in January and February, this is a good time to remind everyone about using easyfundraising to raise unrestricted funding for your church for free. Travel companies, including TUI, Booking.com, Lastminute.com, Haven Holidays, Expedia, Thomas Cook, Hotels.com and more, all partner with online fundraising company easyfundraising. When people book holidays online, via easyfundraising, the company they book with will send your church a free donation as a thank you, at no extra cost to the shopper. Just one person booking a family holiday could raise an average £50. Think what multiple people could do.

St Nicholas PCC is thinking of joining this scheme. In order to test the level of interest, if you are a member of the St Nicholas community and would consider using the scheme then please let the PCC Secretary Cedric Pierce know cedric@thepierces.me We will then decide on whether there is sufficient interest in joining the scheme.

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday 7th March - Christ Church Café with Bishop Andrew

Saturday 20th June - Monkton Farleigh Village Fete



Churchfields The Village School & St. Peter's Church present

The Monkton Farleigh Scarecrow Trail 2 - 4 May • 2026

Refreshments & stalls in Monkton Farleigh Village Hall on Saturday 2nd May • 10am - 4pm

BBQ • Hot & Cold Drinks • BAR • Cakes • RAFFLE

Scarecrows on display Saturday, Sunday & Monday
Please note refreshments only available Saturday

FREE PARKING & DOG FRIENDLY

Map £3 or x4 family ticket £10
Available to buy from Monkton Farleigh village hall & both Churchfields School sites

KETTLE'S ON

Community Café

1ST & 3RD 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.

WORLD BETWEEN THE WEIRS

Nature Talk by award winning local photographer CHRIS WARDELL

Thursday 19th February

7.30pm

Bearfield Church, B-O-A, BA15 1RE

All welcome

Free (Donations towards heating welcomed)



NORTH BRADFORD AND VILLAGES MEN'S AND LADIES' GROUPS

Wednesday 25th February 2026 - 7pm
St Nicholas Church Hall, Winsley

FARMER YANG'S WELL

John Salvat will regale us with the extraordinary story of China's Terracotta Army, buried in about 210 BC, and rediscovered in 1974

Supper will be fish and chips.
Bring your own drinks or buy from the Social Club.

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)

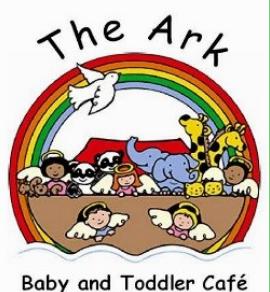
Everyone is welcome to join us for "SOUP'S UP"

Delicious homemade soup with roll and butter
Warm desserts and custard with tea and coffee

Winsley Church Hall - Serving at 12:30pm

Friday 6th February
Friday 20th February
Friday 6th March
Friday 20th March




The Ark
Baby and Toddler Café

Parent & Toddler Group at Christ Church

Thursdays in term time 10am - 11:30am

Come along with your little ones for fun with toys, story, songs, craft & snacks.

Contact Hilary on 01225 782527



Parent & Toddler Group Winsley Church Hall

2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month 10:30 - 11:30am

Toys & games, coffee & cake for adults, squash & healthy treats for children followed by a bible story.

Contact Mary - 01225 722210

NewsLink

The next edition of NewsLink will be on **22nd February**. Please send any relevant contributions to the Benefice Office at nboabenefice@gmail.com by **Monday 16th February**.