

# NewsLink



Churches of North  
Bradford on Avon  
& Villages

23rd February - 8th March 2025

Dear Friends,

Have you ever thought about meditation? You have probably heard of it as a way of de-stressing or lowering your blood pressure. But meditation is an ancient form of contemplative prayer, found throughout the ages of the Christian tradition, and today is widely recognised as a form of prayer that is much needed in this hectic world. More and more schools teach it to children. You can start at any age.

It is a prayer of silence, stillness and attention. It is often referred to as the prayer of the heart. In meditation, we allow the mind and body to become still and silent so we can be in the presence of 'Christ in us' (Colossians 1v27). We learn in this way to become less distracted and more present to God and ourselves and to those we live and work with. It doesn't replace other forms of prayer. On the contrary it can help to deepen one's experience of all other prayer practices.

You may not be aware but for the past twenty years a group of people has gathered every week on a Monday afternoon (except on Bank Holidays) in one of our churches in the Benefice, to sit in silence for about 20 minutes. These days we always meet in St Nicholas Church Winsley, from around 4.15pm when people drift in and sit where ever they wish. Quiet, gentle music is playing and then just after 4.30pm I welcome the group, have a brief reading, say the Christian Meditation prayer, gently tap the prayer bowl three times to mark the formal start of the silence which then lasts 20 minutes or so. This ends with three taps on the prayer bowl, a piece of music for a few minutes and the prayer of the Grace said by us all. Some people stay briefly to talk to one another, others choose to leave immediately.

We are a core group of just over 20 people who gather. It is not always the same people each week who come. It might be five one week, ten another. People come when they choose to. We are part of The World Community of Christian Meditation that was originally started by John Main, a Benedictine Monk in the 1970's.

We are not trying to achieve anything, to become better people, more prayerful, more holy. We do not seek anything special, some great insight or discernment or to solve things. We are just there, resting in the silence and allowing the silence to enfold us, believing that where two or three are gathered in his name, God is in our midst. As Meister Eckhart, a 14th century Christian teacher said, 'there is nothing so like God as Silence'.

It can seem odd at first, pointless perhaps. We live in a such driven world where it's about doing, not being, about acquiring or achieving. Sitting in silence can feel threatening as one's mind churns on relentlessly with all manner of distractions. In Christian Meditation we silently and slowly repeat a word or phrase, often called a mantra, to help focus our minds. Some people use Maranatha – the Aramaic language of Jesus, it means, 'Come Lord, come Lord Jesus'. Others might just say 'Jesus' or 'Abba' silently. When we become distracted (which is a common experience), we gently return to our mantra.

If you are interested to know more then please contact me or you might like to drop in one Monday afternoon around 4.15pm or so and share the silence – all are welcome.

With my prayers and good wishes, Paul

## Upcoming Services

### Sunday 23rd February

10am - Morning Prayer - St Peter's Church, Monkton Farleigh (with St James') led by Linds Batson  
10am - Holy Communion - St Nicholas' Church, Winsley, led by Rev. Tessa Mann  
10:30am - Holy Communion - Christ Church, Bradford on Avon, led by Rev. Tim Hawkings

### Monday 24th February

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

### Wednesday 26th February

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

### Sunday 2nd March

10am - Benefice Service - St James' Church, South Wraxall, led by Rev. Katie Jackson  
4pm - Tea Time Service - St Nicholas' Church, Winsley, led by Rev. Katie Jackson & Zoe Yeomans

### Monday 3rd March

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

### Wednesday 5th March

10:30am - Ash Wednesday Service, Christ Church, Bradford on Avon, led by Rev. Katie Jackson  
6pm - Ash Wednesday Service, St Peter's Church, Monkton Farleigh, led by Rev. Tessa Mann

### Friday 7th March

10:30am - World Day of Prayer, Christ Church, Bradford on Avon, led by Rev. Katie Jackson

### Sunday 9th March

10am - Refresh - St Nicholas' Church, Winsley, led by Rev. Keith Charnley  
10am - Holy Communion - St Peter's Church, Monkton Farleigh, (with St James') led by Rev. Tim Hawkings  
10:30am - Holy Communion - Christ Church, Bradford on Avon, led by Rev. Katie Jackson



Churches of North Bradford on Avon & Villages

## Tea Time Service for all the Family

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

A short child-focussed service followed by tea  
All very welcome



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## SHROVE TUESDAY

Join us after school for fun, friendship, and of course pancakes, with a choice of toppings!

TUESDAY 4TH MARCH 3:30-5PM

WINSLEY CHURCH HALL

strawberries  
lemon  
honey

NO CHARGE BUT DONATIONS WELCOME

Booking helpful, but not essential  
Contact [zyeomans3@gmail.com](mailto:zyeomans3@gmail.com)  
DF and GF options available on request



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2025  
**Friday 7 March**  
A service for everyone!

Please join us in  
**CHRIST CHURCH**  
Bradford on Avon BA15 1SJ  
At 10.00am on Friday 7th March  
Followed by refreshments

Bradford-on-Avon Area Churches Together

Cook Islands *I made you wonderful*

INFORMED PRAYER | PRAYERFUL ACTION  
2025 100 days of joint prayer movement | [www.wdp.org.uk](http://www.wdp.org.uk) | Registered Charity Number 233242

### **Lent Groups 2025 - The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry**

Rev Tim and Rev Tessa have prepared some homegrown Lent resources based on this poignant and life affirming film/book. The film deals with issues of regret and hope. *\*Some of the subject matter touches on the tragic loss of a son.*

The 4 session course will open up opportunities for reflection on the themes of pilgrimage, friendship and redemption. Copies of the DVD are available for home based group use.

If you would like to use this material in an existing group or invite a few friends to join together during Lent, contact Tim or Tessa.

Course material should be available on 26th February.

[revtgm86@gmail.com](mailto:revtgm86@gmail.com) 01225 309374

[revhawkings@googlemail.com](mailto:revhawkings@googlemail.com) 01225 684908



## Social Events Across the Benefice

Sunday 23rd February - 9-11:30am - **South Wraxall Village Breakfast** - Village Hall  
Wednesday 26th February - 10:30am - **Sunbeams** - St Nicholas' Church Hall  
Wednesday 26th February - 1:30pm - **Conversation & Craft** - Christ Church  
Wednesday 26th February - 7:30pm - **Nature Chain Talk** - St Nicholas' Church  
Thursday 27th February - 10am - **The Ark** - Parent & Toddler Group - Christ Church  
Tuesday 4th March - 3:30-5pm - **Shrove Tuesday Pancakes** - St Nicholas' Church Hall  
Wednesday 5th March - 10am - **Kettle's On** - St Nicholas' Church Hall  
Thursday 6th March - 10am - **The Ark** - Parent & Toddler Group - Christ Church  
Friday 7th March - 12-3pm - **Soup's Up** - Winter Lunch - St Nicholas' Church Hall

### News from Revs Tim and Tessa...



On May 10<sup>th</sup> 2025 we will be undertaking a 13 mile fundraising hike around Stonehenge. We are being joined by at least two other friends – Becky Wilson and Tim Quick, former Headteacher of Winsley School and former Chair of Governors respectively.

Our motivation is to walk as an act of solidarity for those in our communities and families who are living with dementia or caring for someone with dementia. We are also keen to raise much needed funds for **Alzheimer's Society**.

If you would like to join this happy band of walkers do contact us and have a look at the relevant website. There is plenty of time to sign up!

**[trek26.alzheimers.org.uk/Stonehenge](http://trek26.alzheimers.org.uk/Stonehenge)**

If you feel able to donate to this excellent cause, follow the link to our Team Just Giving Page.

**[www.justgiving.com/team/allforoneandoneforall](http://www.justgiving.com/team/allforoneandoneforall)**

Our team goes by the name of  
***All for one and one for all.***

If you'd rather use an alternative method of donation, contact Tim ([revhawkings@googlemail.com](mailto:revhawkings@googlemail.com)) or Tessa ([revtgm86@gmail.com](mailto:revtgm86@gmail.com))

### The Children's Society Boxes

Anne Hilton at Christ Church is collecting The Children's Society boxes for emptying.

Please could you bring them to Christ Church to hand in when there is a service. Any questions please email [nboabenefice@gmail.com](mailto:nboabenefice@gmail.com)



### Christ Church Fundraising Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7:30pm

Fun **HORSE RACING** event taking place in Mount Pleasant Social Club, 1a Mount Pleasant, Bradford on Avon, BA15 1SJ.

Please do join us for an evening of equine merriment and social chit-chat with a purpose – to raise funds to support Christ Church. Bring along your friends.

Tickets are £5 each and are available in advance at Christ Church. Snacky food will be provided and there is a cash bar available at the Club. Bottle tombola stall.

For more information contact:  
[stephen.pike@btinternet.com](mailto:stephen.pike@btinternet.com) or call him on 07870 470528.

Everyone is welcome to join us for

### "SOUP'S UP"

Delicious home-made soup with roll and butter  
Warm desserts and custard with tea and coffee

St Nicholas' Church Hall, Winsley  
12-3pm  
Friday 3rd & 17th January  
Friday 7th & 21st February  
Friday 7th & 21st March



### Ministry Team:

Rector: Revd. Katie Jackson (01225 722230)  
Revd. Tessa Mann (309374)

### Lay Pastoral Assistants:

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

### Children's and Families Worker:

Zoe Yeomans [zyeomans3@gmail.com](mailto:zyeomans3@gmail.com)

### Church Wardens:

**Winsley:** Roy Ludlow (868779)  
Linds Batson (720069)

**Christ Church:** Vacancy

**South Wraxall:** Dave Wyper (865384)  
Valentine Thornhill (862552)

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

### Benefice Office:

Kate Davies (865046),  
[nboabenefice@gmail.com](mailto:nboabenefice@gmail.com)

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
 St Laurence School  
 Discover Christ Church  
 Dementia Action Alliance

# CONVERSATION & CRAFT

CHRIST CHURCH, BRADFORD-ON-AVON

2025 DATES  1.30PM - 3PM

WED 22 JAN	WED 26 FEB	WED 26 MAR	WED 14 MAY
WED 12 FEB	WED 12 MAR	WED 23 APR	WED 18 JUN

 DELICIOUS CAKES

 HOT DRINKS

 FRIENDLY CHAT

 GAMES & QUIZZES

 VARIETY OF CRAFT

**Free community event - all welcome**

With grateful thanks to our funders









## "Meadows and Verges" with Paul Jupp

& Nature Chain seed/plant swap



**Wednesday 26th February**  
**7.30pm**  
**St Nicholas Church, Winsley**

Free and all are welcome  
 Anthony's spiced warm apple juice on arrival.

Bring **your** extra saved seeds, cuttings/young plants – ready to **swap, acquire more, chat about how...**

Contact Richard on [rmcourses@gmail.com](mailto:rmcourses@gmail.com)  
 (Donations welcome towards heating costs)



## Parent and Toddler Group

St Nicholas' Church Hall, Winsley

Winsley Baby and Toddler Group

**2nd and 4th Wednesday at 10.30am**

**Our next Sunbeams will be 26th February**

For more details please contact  
 Mary Hewetson on 01225 722210

## Parent and Toddler Group

Christ Church, Bradford on Avon



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

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

For more details, contact Hilary Pike  
 01225 782527 or [thearkatboa@gmail.com](mailto:thearkatboa@gmail.com)



## Coffee and Company

Wednesdays 10:30am  
Not on last Wednesday of the month

Join us at Christ Church for morning coffee and some wonderful company



**Knitting Optional**



**All Welcome**

## KETTLE'S ON



Friendly café-style morning on 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month

Our next Kettle's On will be  
**Wednesday 5th March 2025**  
**10am**  
**St Nicholas' Church Hall**  
 All very welcome

## NewsLink

The next edition of NewsLink will be on  
**9th March 2025.**

Please email any relevant contributions to the Benefice Office [nboabenefice@gmail.com](mailto:nboabenefice@gmail.com) by  
**3rd March 2025.**

## North Bradford and Villages Men's Group

**Wednesday 12th March 2025 - 7pm in St Nicholas Church Hall, Winsley**

**SIR JOHN BETJEMAN: THE CITY OF BATH (& THE C OF E)**

Bob Williams and Roy Ludlow will present a collection of their favourite poems.  
 Supper will be provided; bring your own drinks or buy from the Social Club.  
 All men in the four parishes, whether church members or not, are warmly invited.

**Please book with Paul Billingham as soon as possible - [pr24bill@aol.com](mailto:pr24bill@aol.com) or 01225 722229**