

Parish News

**Benefice of Bradford on Avon Holy Trinity,
Westwood and Wingfield**

FEBRUARY 2024



In this issue...

- ***Revd Joanna retires***
- ***Treefest 2023 - the biggest yet***
- ***Plus 10 years of the Parish News - thank you and goodbye for now!***

www.htboa.org

DIRECTORY FOR HOLY TRINITY

Rector	<i>Vacant</i>
Associate Priest	The Revd Sarah Jackson, 2 High Street, Norton St Philip, Bath BA2 7LG mail@sarahjackson.me Tel: 01373 834481
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Holy Trinity Bookkeeper	Klaus Huber treasurer@htboa.org
Director of Music	Martin Cooke martincookeuk@me.com Tel 01985 248866
Times of Services	
Holy Trinity	(Check Bulletins and notices or Church website)
Sundays	<i>8am Eucharist (Traditional language) (last Sunday of the month)</i> 9.30am Sung Eucharist (coffee afterwards) <i>2nd Sundays</i> 9.30am 'In the Round' (coffee afterwards) <i>1st Sundays</i> 6pm Evensong
Weekday Eucharist	10am 1st Wednesday of the month only
Daily	Morning Prayer at 8.30am most days (<i>please check Sunday Bulletin</i>)
<i>mainly music</i>	10.30am, Tuesdays (term-time only)
Choir Practice	6.15pm, Thursdays
Mothers' Union	2.30pm, usually 3rd Wednesday of every month
Saxon Club	2.30pm –4pm every Tuesday except August
Bell Practice	7.30–9pm 2nd and 4th Mondays
Benefice website	www.htboa.org
Weekly Bulletin	Notices to Netty not later than Wednesday for the following Sunday please.

**Please note services in grey will not happen during the period of the vacancy*

Please see the bulletin or visit www.htboa.org for more details on service times and locations.

Goodbye for now and thank you!

Parish News, with its ten issues a year, is a record of the life of the parish. It covers not only the worship and events in the life of Holy Trinity, Bradford on Avon but also of the churches of Westwood and Wingfield as a United Benefice and much else.

In addition to its advertising of services, special events, pastoral letters and spiritual reflections, contributed by the clergy, many in the parishes have written articles for it covering not only parish organisations and events but also of a more general nature. In particular it has shown support for the conservation of the natural world. It is not possible to name all of our wonderful contributors over the years but special thanks are due to Mike Fuller for his reports on Wiltshire butterflies and to Ali and Dave Green for theirs on environmental issues, both local and national. Many others also have helped make it more than a journal of record.

Particular thanks are due to Aylene Clack who after eleven years as Administrator of Benefice Communications is standing down. She has worked tirelessly in its production and has been responsible for the high standards of its content and layout. We owe her a great debt of gratitude for all she has done.

It is to be hoped that Parish News will be reborn under new management in the not too distant future!

*Hugh Wright,
Editorial Team*

ONLINE: Look out for updates at Holy Trinity's
Facebook page: www.facebook.com/htboa or online at:
www.htboa.org



Joanna's Farewell

On Sunday, 28 January 2024 we said goodbye and thank you to Revd Joanna after 13 and a half fantastic years.

With beautiful music from Music Director Martin and the Holy Trinity choir, Joanna celebrated her last Candlemas service with us.

After the service, Revd Sarah, David Robinson, Chris Edwards and Judith Holland spoke to a packed church. Thanks must also go to the catering team for the delicious buffet enjoyed by all. A great send off - happy retirement Joanna!

Holy Trinity

Jesus said:
"I am the Light of the World"

Today, in church, we are celebrating the Feast of Candlemas when, traditionally, candles are blessed for people to take back and use in their homes to help them remember one of Jesus's most memorable sayings. 'I am the Light of the World.'

Here, at Holy Trinity, it is also a significant day because it marks the last service at which our Rector, Canon Joanna Abecassi, presides before she retires to beautiful Witleigh. The Parochial Church Council in our Benefice want to assure you that we will have no Rector for a while, the life of the church continues in terms of worship and prayer, support and celebration. All three churches will continue to be open as normal every day and we are here, too, to help with family events such as baptisms, weddings and funerals.

Central to our 2016 restoration was the vision that Holy Trinity would be a place of welcome, warmth and wonder - a place for everyone. There are lots of ways in which you can become involved in our life and we look forward to welcoming you.

Service Times

Holy Trinity, Witleigh on Avon	1st Sunday 9.30am - Benedicite Eucharist	9.30am - Evening Prayer
2nd Sunday 9.30am - 'In the House' family service with music group	9.30am - Song Eucharist	
3rd Sunday 9.30am - Song Eucharist	9.30am - Song Eucharist	
4th Sunday 9.30am - Song Eucharist		
St Mary the Virgin, Westwood	1st Sunday 9.30am - Benedicite Eucharist	9.30am - Holy Communion
2nd Sunday 9.30am - Holy Communion	11.30am - Matins with hymns	
3rd Sunday 11.30am - Morning Prayer with hymns		
4th Sunday 11.30am - Morning Prayer with hymns		
St Mary, Witleigh	1st Sunday 9.30am - Benedicite Eucharist	9.30am - Holy Communion
2nd Sunday 9.30am - Holy Communion	9.30am - 'Chorus' family service	
3rd Sunday 9.30am - Morning Prayer with hymns		
4th Sunday 9.30am - Benedicite Eucharist rotating round all three churches		

For further information contact:
NETTY HUCKNALL - Benefice Administrator
beneficeadmin@holytrinity.org

You can leave a message for Netty to respond to on Holy Trinity's main number:
01225 864444

Benefice website: holytrinity.org





TreeFest 2023

When we started the Tree Festival back in 2011 I was very pleased to be able to report how successful we had been with around 50 trees on display, 700 visitors and a profit of £800. Little did I realise that the festival would grow into one of Bradford's largest community events with, this year, 74 trees on display, 4200 visitors and a profit of around £4,300, though we will have to deduct what I expect will be an eye-watering amount for heating and electricity.

None of this would have been possible without help from our band of volunteers helping to set up the church, clear away acting as stewards and, of course, labouring away in the kitchen serving no less

than 166 litres of glühwein and countless mince pies. Thanks are also due to all those who provided musical entertainment, Footloose Shoes for the loan of extension cables and Gregg's for baking their delicious mince pies.

Visitor numbers were the highest they have ever been at over 4200, 52 dogs and one stray cat, all of whom were able to enjoy a fantastic display provided by community groups and local businesses. The trees seem to be getting ever larger and more innovative. I look forward to seeing what 2024 will have in store to delight and entertain us.

I look forward to enlisting your aid next year (many hands make light(s) work) - sorry for the pun.

The 2024 dates will be 10 to 15

December with setting up on 8th & 9th & clearing away on 16th. Do please let me know if you would like to help, to stage a tree or provide entertainment, but not before October please as I try not to make this my life's work. Thank you once again.

John Cox





10 Years of Parish News—2014-2024

Over the last 10 years, the Parish News has brought you 100 issues jam-packed with the latest news from around the Benefice.

The Parish News team reported the latest international, national and local news, ran articles on everything from finding a vocation to bell ringer outings and snapped photos of events from around the benefice. During the reordering of 2016, we kept you up-to-date with the latest on the project's progress from Holy Trinity and during the pandemic of 2020 we brought

issues full of light, hope and connection. Last year we even brought you an exclusive with the winner of the Jam cup from the Bradford on Avon show - long-time Holy Trinity member Judith Holland.

As Joanna retires, we are pausing the Parish News for now to look inwards and pray for the new appointment of a Rector for our benefice. We're looking forward to the exciting times ahead and seeing what new ideas and initiatives are launched. Watch this space!



River Story: Part 10 - The Kingfisher

If you walk regularly through Westbury Gardens, you've probably noticed small cohorts of swanky, long-lensed cameras lined up on their tripods along the river-side wall of the park, tended by their owners all looking intently across the water. Chances are they are waiting for a sight of a quite small bird that gives the impression of being rather larger, thanks to its exotically-coloured plumage that catches the eye as it darts of speed around bushes and dives headlong into the watercourse.

an Kookaburra. Only one, however, is native to Britain. It's actually only about the size of a robin, though with a larger head and bill, so it is heavier. As for that magnificent colouring, those blue feathers down the back of the Kingfisher are actually brown. The iridescent colours on the head and back feathers are caused by refracted light and not pigment, so sometimes they can appear green and other times blue.

Alan Benson, whose wonderful photographs of wildlife often appear in the Parish News, is frequently one of those stationed at the Westbury Gardens lookout, and he has taken some stunning shots of this little bird with a big reputation. He told me

Right: A Kingfisher takes off and searches only into a dive



"I have been photographing them on the River Avon at Bradford for over ten years now and each year they have been successful in breeding, even though the water levels can rise to high levels. They like to come and rest as well as fish by the town bridge a lot, and that's where I get most of my shots." The best time to see these birds is

to mind living close to people. British Waterways surveys have found good numbers along canals even in urban areas such as London and Manchester.

COLOURFUL REPUTATION

This, of course, is the Kingfisher Alcedo atthis, one of scores of related species around the world, including the well-known Australian Kingfisher.



Indicative: A glimpse of these vivid birds means the stretch of water is in good health

Letters

FOND MEMORIES

I've loved reading the piece from Jackie, Muriel and now Evelyn, about times past. Evelyn mentioned Head Server Kirk Robinson, who eventually had to leave the inevitable, and allow someone to serve in NT, much against his better judgement, but there wasn't enough men!



So, in the 1990s he advised the MU to find someone for him. The group is still around, with the exception of Paul Gibson. From left, Sue Denmark, Chris Hoage, Pat and Janet Brown, with Melene kneeling through from the back together with Laura Bickel - wife of the then curate Dennis Bickel. Keith called us the 'Service' crew, and a of them are still serving (David performing) 30 years later!

Chris Hoage

RIVER STORY

Thank you for sending all of your Nature Now articles through. I read them last night and really enjoyed sharing them with my family. As a relative newcomer to

Bradford in Avon I got a much better sense of both the history of our town and the ecology of our river, and how the two have shaped each other.

Hilke Barten

CHALK WISDOM

A friend of mine wrote to say, "You may have heard about this petrol station in South Africa where the woman owner puts messages on a board for passers-by to read. It's become quite famous... there are a couple of her chalk messages - enjoy!"



Jul Wright

Wiltshire Butterflies: November 2020

The one species that is seen more than any other at this time of year is the Red Admiral, a fairly butterfly that is now considered to be a resident rather than an overwinterer, probably as a result of warmer winters. I had reports of 44 during October and 20 on 20th, 21st and 22nd, mainly from gardens. Other species reported were the Small Tortoiseshell, the Gatekeeper and the Peacock. I had reports of 44 during October and 20 on 20th, 21st and 22nd, mainly from gardens. Other species reported were the Small Tortoiseshell, the Gatekeeper and the Peacock. I had reports of 44 during October and 20 on 20th, 21st and 22nd, mainly from gardens. Other species reported were the Small Tortoiseshell, the Gatekeeper and the Peacock.

How do our butterflies survive through the winter? All have different strategies and of Wiltshire's 45 species, 5 spend the time in hibernation as fully formed butterflies (these are the first to be seen in the spring. The Painted Lady and Clossed-winged cannot survive the winter. Some others spend the summer. Some others spend the winter in the egg stage, as caterpillars and as chrysalis, all 'buried away' in dry, sheltered places. Only one species, the Speckled Wood, over-winters in two stages, either as a caterpillar in chrysalis, and is one of the first to be seen in the spring and the last in the autumn. The last of the year was seen on 15 October at Great Cluffield. A few additional Red Admirals will still be reported during any warm sunny days.

Wiltshire Butterfly, November 2020

Mouse Makes

LABROAD E
OCROSS E
RHAPPYS B
FNCIASC
EAHNCAO
ANEGETA
SN S P L O T
TAPALMS

DIMOUR JEW S L N P A T T C U P K J C B D
R P A S S O V E R O B E A R R C H R I S T E R E E
I G N A B O D Y R O B E A R R C H R I S T E R E E
N E A T T M E A L K I L L I A R O O L O T S U T A E
K D I S C I P L E S O N S U S T N N M E S S I A H
E B R E A D W I N E D X G E T H S E M A N E F F Y
D A R K N E S S H T L I N E N A H E A V E N Y Y D

HUGDAWN
RTOMBME
E O O T P O E
E C C R M R K
D R N M R N L
A O E P A I I
Y W L I N S
S D S E S G S
E A S T E R B
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I C O I N S L
T E T R E E L

For financial reasons he moved into a smaller house in Southampton where, turning to the Church of England, he felt a call to the ordained ministry. After studying theology at Oxford, Maurice was ordained in 1874 and served as a curate in the parish of Bottenhall near Southampton, before returning to London in 1878.



Below: Frederick Dawson Maurice

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'Why not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road?'

It is surely a month of the richness and the beauty of creation - the green pastures, the new leaves, the soft flowers in the fields... A glorious month in the rural world. And in the city too... we continue to celebrate the joys of Easter. In terms of our civilised life, we continue to celebrate the joys of Easter. In terms of our civilised life, we continue to celebrate the joys of Easter. In terms of our civilised life, we continue to celebrate the joys of Easter.

But first comes the Coronation of our new King Charles III for whom our prayers are due, and here is one of the reorganised Church of England prayers which appropriately joins our own sense of occasion with the



APCM: Andy James and Sarah, and Liza (left) and Patsy (right) singing at the coronation of King Charles III.

MAINLY MUSIC

Our first session before shutdown was on Tuesday, 10th March, and the baby was born on 24 March. As she will not be introduced to the Mainly Music Group for a while, Mum sent us a photo.

What a happy proud big brother! We look forward to welcoming them and all our other children, parents and grandparents back soon. I know that we will all miss our Tuesday morning sessions, one another and the love & friendship.

Marianne Hoffmann

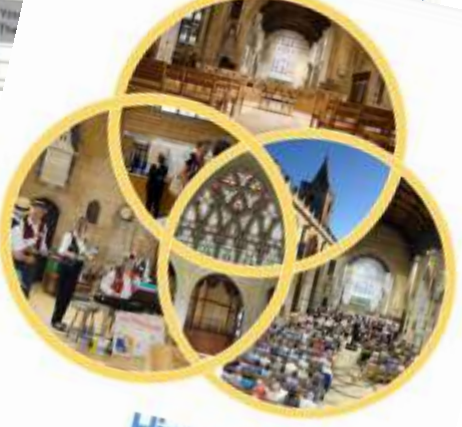
A RAINBOW OF HOPE

Over the past few weeks, a variety of rainbows have been popping up all across town.

Placed in prominent positions in front windows, these are colourful signs of support, hope and solidarity for neighbours and passers-by on their daily exercise or journey to the shop. A large rainbow poster was on show in Holy Trinity parish until the church had to close its doors, and it is now displayed on the notice board.

We invite everyone to make a rainbow (try colouring pencils, paints, felt pens, coloured paper and glue or a printed computer image) and send it to us.

Below: Holy Trinity's rainbow!



Hire Holy Trinity

Light and bright with wonderful acoustics, Holy Trinity Church is perfect as a performance venue or as a place for smaller groups to meet. The Church and Tower Room can be hired separately (Tower Room at £10 per hour).

For more information contact Netty: beneficeoffice@htboa.org

- Flexible seating for 740
- Separate Tower Room
- Flats above
- With 2000

Prayer Paths: Reading Gospel Stories

Readings about other Christians' experiences can be an inspiration for our own spiritual journey. One such person was Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556).

Ignatius was born in the Basque region of Spain and became a soldier when he grew up. Unfortunately, during one of the battles he fought, his leg was very badly injured and Ignatius had to endure several operations. Thankfully, Ignatius recovered, although he was left with a permanent limp.

Remarkably, while recovering from surgery, Ignatius of Loyola experienced a deep spiritual awakening. Not only that, he felt a definite call to the religious life. This happened while he was reading books on the life of Jesus, and also the lives of Saints in the history of the Church. Ignatius wanted more and more to follow people like Francis of Assisi, and other well known Christians who had become monks or friars.

A particular book which inspired him was the 'De Vita Christi' written by Ludolph of Saxony. The book provided an introduction to a particular form of meditative prayer. This was through getting to know the stories about Jesus in the Gospels. Readers were encouraged to imagine what it might have

been like actually being with Jesus, from being a baby in the manger at Bethlehem right through to his Ascension into heaven. This form of meditative prayer later became known as Ignatian 'Spiritual Exercises', when after Ignatius founded the Society of Jesus, he taught this type of prayer to those who had responded to the call to enter his order.

Many Christians have found practicing this form of prayer very rewarding, so why not try this form of praying during the whole of Holy Week which begins on 24 March this year. A good way to do this is to read the story of the Passion in St Matthew's Gospel from Chapters 26-28. Perhaps you might like to add that remarkable Easter experience on the road to Emmaus, (Luke 24:13-35) when the two disciples felt their hearts were really on fire as they talked with Jesus along the Road.

*Almighty God, as we stand at the foot of the cross of your Son, help us to see and know your love for, so that in humility, love and joy we may place at his feet all that we have and all that we are; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.
Amen.*

David Driscoll

Wiltshire Butterflies: Winter 2023/24

The first half of December 2023 was very mild and with only one or two frosty nights and with no snow. The second half was also mild but generally dull and wet and unsurprisingly, very few butterflies were reported. Christmas Day was the warmest since 1920.

A total of 12 butterflies were reported in flight, aroused from hibernation – 2 Brimstones, 8 Red Admirals and 2 Peacocks. On the 8th a Red Admiral was seen at Heaven's Gate, Longleat and a further 6 on the 11th in various locations together with a Brimstone at Wilsford-cum-Lake near Ames-

bury and a Peacock at Great Somerford. On Christmas Eve a second Brimstone was seen in a garden at Gomeldon, near Salisbury and finally, on Christmas Day, the last butterfly of the year, a Red Admiral, was seen in a garden at Great Chalfield.

A rather strange occurrence – in church, whilst assembling and decorating the 'Wiltshire Butterflies' artificial Christmas tree near the organ at the Tree Festival on 3rd, a Peacock butterfly flew out

from the organ pipes where presumably it was hibernating. I took the tree down on the 11th and put it in the car to take home. Driving along Trowbridge Road, a Peacock suddenly appeared inside the car, fluttering at the windscreen, presumably the same one seen on 3rd,



Last butterfly of 2023: A stunning Red Admiral

which had taken up its hibernation site on the tree – how strange. Being a mild and bright day, I released it to hopefully find another place to spend the winter. 2024 started with very wet unsettled weather, but before the cold spell

kicked in on the 7th, a Red Admiral was reported from Shear Water on the 5th and another in a cottage garden at Great Chalfield on the 6th. The first butterflies of the 2024 season. No doubt others were also around.

We now have to wait in anticipation for what lies in store for 2024 and as usual, there will be some surprises and no doubt some disappointments.

*Mike Fuller
Wiltshire Butterfly Recorder*

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Christian Aid:	Judith Holland	
Deanery Synod:	Vacancy	
BoA Churches Together:	Vacancy	
St Laurence School:	Alison Craddock	
	(Foundation Governors)	

