



The By Brook News

January
2012

Part of the
Diocese of Bristol

For news and info from across the By Brook Group

Monthly Diary

Family Services

1st Jan	9:30am	Yatton Keynell
8th Jan	9:30am	Biddestone
	3:00pm	Littleton Drew (SWAS)
15th Jan	9:30am	Yatton Keynell (Food for Thought)
	4:00pm	Grittleton (4 o'clock Service)
	6:00pm	West Kington (Village Celebration)
29th Jan	9:30am	North Wraxall (BBC)

Holy Communion (HC) Services

1st Jan	9:30am	North Wraxall, West Kington
8th Jan	9:30am	Yatton Keynell
	11:00am	Grittleton, Nettleton/Burton, Slaughterford (BCP)
15th Jan	9:30am	Biddestone, North Wraxall
	11:00am	Castle Combe
29th Jan	11:00am	Grittleton

Evensong

1st Jan	6:00pm	Grittleton
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Other Services

1st Jan	9:30am	Biddestone	Morning Praise
8th Jan	6:00pm	North Wraxall	TGIS
13th Jan	7:30pm	Nettleton/Burton	TGIF Celtic HC
15th Jan	3:00pm	Slaughterford	Plough Service
22nd Jan	10:00am	Littleton Drew	Group Service
27th Jan	7:30pm	Castle Combe	TGIF
29th Jan	9:30am	Biddestone	Songs of Praise

Edward Bear

6th Jan	10:00am	St Nicholas, Biddestone
11th Jan	10:30am	St Mary's, Nettleton and Burton
30th Jan	3:30pm	Village Hall, Castle Combe

The Ark (See over) 14th Jan 10:00am By Brook Valley School

Midweek HC at Biddestone every Wednesday at 9:15am

Morning Prayer

Rectory, 3 Church Farm, Yatton Keynell, **every Friday** at 9:00am

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (See over for details)

TGIF/TGIS	Thank God It's Friday/Sunday
SWAS	Service With a Smile
BBC	Big Breakfast Church

Happy New Year

2011 was quite a year across the benefice! A number of us went to Bristol Cathedral for Len's licensing as a Licensed Lay Minister, and we also celebrated as both Gillian and Diane were recommended for licensing in the future.

Our relationship with our local school has developed with Experience Easter and The Ark both proving very successful and enjoyable. It was lovely to welcome Yatton Keynell Under 5's for their nativity service too.

We said goodbye to Colerne as they moved to join with Box. We had Carl on placement for a month, and enjoyed all that he brought to us. We launched our new benefice website, and commissioned our newly trained pastoral care team. We held a number of events including 400 Not Out, and the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Of course there is so much more that we could add, not forgetting all of the normal business which carried on as usual. There were also some moments of sadness, but it has been so encouraging to see God at work here, and we look forward to all that he has planned for us here in 2012, and look forward to welcoming our new curate Velma in June. With every blessing for 2012. Jonathan

Reading God's word together

This year, we are setting out on a new Bible Reading Challenge as a group of churches. Beginning in February, we will be attempting the **Essential 100 Challenge**. You can find more information at www.e100challenge.org.uk

The Challenge is based on selected Bible passages—50 from the Old Testament and 50 from the New Testament. They are designed to help you get the big picture of the Bible without getting bogged down.

Throughout 2012, we are going to be tackling the Old Testament passages. For those of you who are willing to really get into the challenge, there will be just one Bible passage to read each week. You do not have to read the passage in one go—some are longer than others just do whatever suits you.

At a service in each parish each month, we will introduce the topic for the readings for that particular month. We hope it will be enjoyable, and help us to discover the big picture of the Bible, and all that God reveals through it.

Contact details Benefice Office (open Mon, Wed, Fri, 9am-12noon)
Rev'd Jonathan Philpott (Priest-in-Charge)

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Website www.bybrook.org.uk

The By Brook Group is also now on Facebook.

Prayer Matters.....

With the week of prayer for Christian Unity this month I thought it would be good to think about and pray for Christians across the world.

In many countries Christians struggle to openly meet to worship and to obtain copies of The Bible, and in some cases are actively persecuted for their faith. Let's thank God for the freedom we enjoy to worship Him but let's not forget to pray for our Christian brother's and sisters who do not. You can find information at:

www.operationworld.24-7prayer.com

The website will give specific country information and prayer-points. For example, if you click on "Indonesia" you can get an overview of the population make-up and information about levels of poverty and the issues facing Christians in that country.

It's a brilliant aid to prayer and I would encourage you to have a look.

Come and join us for **Morning Prayer** (with tea and coffee) **EVERY FRIDAY MORNING at 9am at The Rectory, 3 Church Farm, Yatton Keynell.** All welcome— including children!

- Please pray for all the couples who will be attending the **marriage preparation day on 28th January**, and as they prepared to be married in the benefice during 2012.
- Please give thanks for **Carlos Chaplin and Noah Freeman** who were baptised into the church family in December.
- Please continue to pray for all that you see in this newsletter and those involved in different activities. **Ask God to show you where you can be part of His church in your community.**
- Pray for all the different activities for children and young people—**Edward Bear, The Ark, Messy Church, family services.** Give thanks for all those who have been attending.
- **Give thanks** for all those who came to church over the Christmas period, and pray that they may have experienced the love and grace of God.

You who call on the Lord, give yourselves no rest...Raise a banner for the nations.

Isaiah 62 v.6,10



We will all be **Changed**

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2012

In the week beginning 16th January, we will be running a series of short services for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The week of prayer is organised by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. The resources for this year come from the churches in Poland, who have reflected upon their own experience as a nation, and in particular how, as a nation, they have been changed and transformed by the many upheavals of their history, and sustained by their faith.

Change is at the heart of our Christian faith. Saint Paul said that anyone who is in Christ is a new creation, and we are called to live as children in the light.

Monday 16th Jan	7:30pm at St James, North Wraxall
Tuesday 17th Jan	2:00pm at St Andrew, Castle Combe
Wednesday 18th Jan	9:15am at St Nicholas, Biddestone
Thursday 19th Jan	2:00pm at St Mary, Grittleton
Friday 20th Jan	7:30pm at St Mary, Nettleton
Sunday 22nd Jan	10:00am at All Saints, Littleton Drew

The services are at different time on different days, so hopefully you will be able to come to some of them. Please do come and join us as we join with the church across the world to pray for Christian Unity.



The Ark

Fun, food, friendship and faith

We had a great time last month putting on a scratch nativity to celebrate Christmas.

Come and join us again on **Saturday 12th January** for "In the beginning..." An exploration of creation.

Fun for the whole family from **10am-12:30pm** (including lunch) at **Bybrook Valley School, Yatton Keynell.**

This is a free event with any donations going towards the running costs.



Throughout Advent, we have been lighting special candles in the churches across the benefice to bring Flame of Hope to our attention.

Flame of Hope is a mission event taking place next year to celebrate Christian faith in local communities.

More details will come in the next few months, but if you would like to be involved in the planning, please contact Revd Jonathan Philpott.

Edward Bear

Edward Bear runs in Biddestone Church on the 1st Friday of the month at 10am, Castle Combe Village Hall on the last Monday or Tuesday from 3:30-5:30pm and Nettleton/Burton on the 2nd Wednesday at 10:30am (see diary dates for details).

These free sessions are aimed at pre-school children and their carers and usually include songs, stories, craft and refreshments (Castle Combe Edward Bear includes tea for all).

All are welcome, wherever you live! For more info contact the parish office on 01249 716764 or Rev Jonathan on 01249 782663.