



# The By Brook News

December  
2011

Part of the  
Diocese of Bristol

For news and info from across the By Brook Benefice

## Monthly Diary

### Family Services

3rd Dec	10:30am	Nettleton/Burton (Messy Church/SWAS)
4th Dec	11:00am	Castle Combe
11th Dec	9:30am	Biddestone (Christingle),
	4:00pm	Nettleton/Burton (Christingle)
18th Dec	9:30am	Yatton Keynell (Food for Thought)
	3:30pm	Yatton Keynell (Crib Service)
24th Dec	3:00pm	Littleton Drew (Crib Service & Family HC)
	4:00pm	Biddestone (Jesus' Birthday Party)
	6:00pm	Grittleton (Family HC & Crib Service)
25th Dec	9:30am	Biddestone, Yatton Keynell
	10:00am	Grittleton, North Wraxall

### Carol Services

11th Dec	3:00pm	Littleton Drew, Yatton Keynell
16th Dec	7:30pm	Nettleton/Burton, Slaughterford
18th Dec	4:00pm	North Wraxall, West Kington
	6:00pm	Biddestone, Castle Combe, Grittleton

### Holy Communion (HC) Services

4th Dec	9:30am	Biddestone, North Wraxall, West Kington, Yatton Keynell
	11:00am	Slaughterford (BCP)
24th Dec	11:00pm	Biddestone, Castle Combe, Nettleton/Burton, North Wraxall
	11:15pm	Yatton Keynell
25th Dec	9:30am	West Kington

**Midweek HC** at Biddestone every Wednesday at 9:15am

### Evensong

4th Dec	6:00pm	Biddestone, Grittleton
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### Other Services

11th Dec	6:00pm	North Wraxall (TGIS)
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**The Ark (See over)** 10th Dec 10:00am By Brook Valley School

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

## Christmas is a-coming!

Well, the TV advert by that well known fizzy drink company with the lorries rolling through the village at Christmas has been playing, the shops are full of things for us to buy, and the lights are getting switched on across the country. It can only mean one thing—Christmas is a-coming!

It can be very easy to slip into a routine at Christmas to the extent that we lose the joy and excitement of celebrating the birth of the Son of God. So this year, I would like to tell you about something that might just help to bring back the excitement of Christmas among the stress of preparing for it. It's called The Christmas Experience, and you can sign up to take part either by your mobile phone, email or even Facebook or Twitter if you use them. There is no cost, but it might just help to bring Christmas to life once more as we remember what it is really all about. To find out more, go to [www.thechristmasexp.com/bybrook](http://www.thechristmasexp.com/bybrook)

You can also check out [www.christmasnearyou.com](http://www.christmasnearyou.com) to find out more details of services taking place near you. Tracie, Luke and I wish you all a very happy Christmas.  
Jonathan

## Reading God's word together

Last month, we finished our studies in the book of James, and as we now enter into Advent, it seems like a very appropriate time to stop, and to spend time reflecting on what Advent is all about before we start a new series in the new year. It's really hard to select just one passage to look at seeing as a significant part of the Old Testament and the New are about waiting either for Jesus' first or second coming. So I have chosen Isaiah 9:1-7.

As I have said before, we can get so caught up with doing things that we lose sight of the fact that our faith is about a relationship with a living God. During Advent, I encourage you to read this passage through a number of times, and to reflect on what we learn about Jesus, born for us, given to us, who died and rose again for us. The Jesus who loves us, the focus of our faith.

Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Thanks be to God. Amen.

**Contact details** Benefice Office (open Mon, Wed, Fri, 9am-12noon)  
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## Prayer Matters.....

Here is an extract from a book called "Too busy not to pray" by Bill Hybels:

"Authentic Christianity is not learning a set of doctrines and then stepping into cadence with people all marching the same way.

It is not simply humanitarian service to the less fortunate.

It is a walk— a supernatural walk with a living, dynamic, communicating God. Thus the heart and soul of the Christian life is learning to hear God's voice and developing the courage to do what he tells us to do."

Come and join us for **Morning Prayer** with our living, dynamic, communicating God on **Friday 9th December at 9am at The Rectory, 3 Church Farm, Yatton Keynell.**

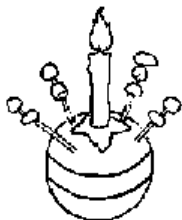
All welcome— including children!

See: [www.answers.com/topic/morning-prayer-anglican](http://www.answers.com/topic/morning-prayer-anglican)

Extract from "Too Busy Not to Pray" Bill Hybels, 1998. Inter-Varsity Press.

ISBN 0-85110-896-2

- Please remember to pray for the **Pastoral Care Team** who were commissioned on 27th November at the Benefice service in Biddestone. Pray that they will have compassion and strength as they listen to and pray with others.
- Pray for the following couples as they prepare for their marriage this December: **Simon Bennett and Pam Moores** in Slaughterford, **Polly While and George Long** in West Kington and **Neil Harris and Annabelle Fletcher** at Castle Combe.
- Please give thanks for **Amelie Lockton** who was baptised into the church family in November.
- 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 those who will be homeless, lonely, grieving or ill over the Christmas period.



There will be **Christingle services** on the **11th December at Biddestone at 9:30am and Nettleton/Burton at 4pm.**

This is a special service that focuses on Jesus as the light of the world and uses an orange, candle and sweets to represent the world, Jesus and the seasons. There is something for everyone so bring your

children,, grandchildren, neighbours, friends etc for this wonderful way to celebrate Jesus as the light of the world.

**Crib Services** will take place on **18th Dec at 3:30pm in Yatton Keynell** and **24th Dec at 3:00pm in Littleton Drew** (Crib Service & Family Holy Communion), **4:00pm at Biddestone** (Jesus' Birthday Party) and **6:00pm at Grittleton** (Family Holy Communion & Crib Service)

**Come and join us!**

P.s you can dress up too: as a star, a shepherd, a donkey etc— whatever you like!



**Messy church and Service with a Smile** are joining forces in December for a special Christmas Celebration at **St Mary's Church Nettleton and Burton on Saturday 3rd December 10:30am.**

The Messy Church crafts and activities will be followed by a short service giving people of all ages the opportunity to worship together.

For more information contact Marje Caie or email: [bybrook.rectory@gmail.com](mailto:bybrook.rectory@gmail.com)



## The Ark

Fun, food, friendship and faith

We had a great time last month looking at the theme of "light" through craft, games, songs and food.

Come and join us again on **Saturday 10th December** as we explore "Christmas."

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.

## A Curate!

The exciting news is that we will be welcoming a curate into the benefice next year. **Velma Oxley** is currently in her final year at Trinity College, Bristol and will be ordained next June.

She and her husband, Richard live in Brinkworth and we look forward to welcoming them, as much as they are looking forward to meeting you all too!

[www.bybrook.org.uk](http://www.bybrook.org.uk)

The new benefice website is now up and running! Please have a look online at the above address for all the latest news and information. Many thanks to Al Caie for all his hard work.



Thank you to everyone who was able to pack a shoebox with items for Operation Christmas Child— we were able to send nearly 80 boxes from the benefice!

This was a wonderful way to show the love of God to children in other countries.

A special mention to Joyce Wood from Biddestone who volunteers at the warehouse in Melkesham and is a great ambassador for this charity— thank you for encouraging us to be involved!