

Newsletter

20th December 2020

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCHES:

CONNECT WITH US ONLINE:



@ parishoflowerwharfe



@ stmarybostonspa

www.bramhambenefice.org

email:

bramhambenefice@outlook.com

OUR CLERGY:

Priest in Charge—Rev. Nick Morgan

revnjmorgan@gmail.com

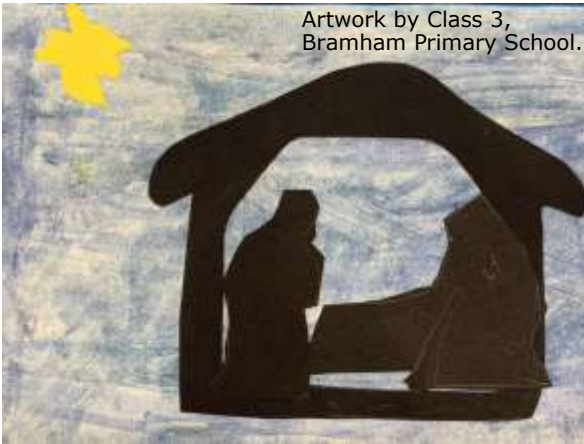
Rev. Trish Anslow, Assistant Priest

Parish Office: 01937 844402

Mon-Thurs 9.30am-12.30pm

Fr. Ken Gabbadon Priest in Charge

St Luke's, Clifford e-mail: kqabba7036@aol.com



Artwork by Class 3,
Bramham Primary School.

Dear Friends,

"Do not be afraid!" was the message of the angel, and that is our message, too. Like Mary, we are called to be God-bearers in the world: to bear Christ, give birth to hope, and dispel fear. We have to reassure the world by saying "Do not be afraid!" by going on to say (as the angel did) why there is cause not to fear. We share their message of love: glory to God and peace on earth, because in Jesus, God's

love is loose in the world. This means feeding the hungry, healing the sick, comforting those who mourn (Isaiah), regarding the lowly, scattering the proud, thwarting the self-serving agendas of the mighty, exalting the humble and meek (Mary), pursuing truth and justice, loving mercy, walking with God in a humble way which means our own interests take a back seat (Micah), being good news to the poor, proclaiming liberty to the captives (Jesus) and so on (see the Bible for loads more of this kind of thing!).

As you look through this bumper newsletter, I hope you find some dates for your diaries which mean you will be able to join with us in worship over the Christmas period and beyond, and to find opportunities to be challenged by the timeless truth of the Christmas story in a new way this year. God is always full of surprises: a couple with an unexpected baby, an animal feed trough as the cradle of God's Son, shepherds being yelled at by angels in the middle of the night and so on. How will God surprise you? And how will we surprise the world around us as we let God's love loose in our lives, and as we live out the truth that God is with us in the world this Christmas and into 2021?

Have a blessed Christmas, Revd Nick Morgan

December Services

20th December	Parish Worship	9.30am	Thorp Arch
	Communion	10.00am	Boston Spa
	Communion	10.00am	Bramham

23rd December	Christmas Carol Service	7.00pm	Online
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24th December	Benefice Nativity	4.00pm	Zoom
	Communion	11.30pm	Walton
	Communion	11.30pm	Boston Spa

25th December	Communion	8.00am	Boston Spa
	Communion	9.30am	Thorp Arch
	Communion	10.00am	Bramham
	Communion	10.00am	Boston Spa

27th December	Benefice Communion	10.00am	Boston Spa
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3rd January	Communion	10.00am	Bramham
	All Together	10.00am	Boston Spa

Services can be viewed at:
[facebook.com/BramhamBenefice](https://www.facebook.com/BramhamBenefice)
www.BramhamBenefice.org/online-services

Sunday Readings

20th December

2 Samuel 7.1-11,16
Romans 16.25-end
Luke 1.26-38

27th December

Galatians 4.4-7
Luke 2.15-21

3rd January

Isaiah 60.1-6
Ephesians 3.1-12
Matthew 2.1-12

10th January

Genesis 1.1-5
Acts 19.1-7
Mark 1.4-11

Services across the Benefice

Join us at:
facebook.com/BramhamBenefice
 OR
www.BramhamBenefice.org/online-services

10.00am WEDNESDAYS Communion at St. Mary's Church

All Saints' Church, Thorp Arch

20.12.20	9.30am	Parish Worship
23.12.20	7.00pm	Community Carol Service Online
24.12.20	4.00pm	Benefice Nativity via Zoom
24.12.20	11.30pm	Communion at Walton
25.12.20	9.30am	Communion
27.12.20	10.00am	Benefice Communion at Boston Spa
03.01.21	10.00am	Communion at Bramham

St. Peter's Church, Walton

20.12.20	10.00am	Communion at Bramham
23.12.20	7.00pm	Community Carol Service Online
24.12.20	4.00pm	Benefice Nativity via Zoom
24.12.20	11.30pm	Communion
25.12.20	9.30am	Communion at Thorp Arch
27.12.20	10.00am	Benefice Communion at Boston Spa
03.01.21	10.00am	Communion at Bramham

All Saints' Church, Bramham

20.12.20	10.00am	Communion
23.12.20	7.00pm	Community Carol Service Online
24.12.20	4.00pm	Benefice Nativity via Zoom
24.12.20	11.30pm	Communion at Boston Spa
25.12.20	10.00am	Communion
27.12.20	10.00am	Benefice Communion at Boston Spa
03.01.21	10.00am	Communion

St. Mary's Church, Boston Spa

20.12.20	10.00am	Communion
23.12.20	7.00pm	Community Carol Service Online
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24.12.20	11.30pm	Communion
25.12.20	10.00am	Communion
27.12.20	10.00am	Benefice Communion
03.01.21	10.00am	All Together

PLEASE HELP US PRAY FOR:

St. Mary's Email Prayer Group
If you would like to include someone
on the Prayer list please contact Niki on:
stmarysprayer18@gmail.com

THE RECENTLY DEPARTED:

Jean Robinson
Karen Nicklin
Dennis Elmes
Yvonne Phillipson
Christine Brown
Brian Wilson

OCCASIONAL OFFICES:

WEDDINGS:

BAPTISMS:

FUNERALS:

Christine Brown
21st December 2020
All Saints' Church, Bramham

Brian Wilson
30th December 2020
All Saints' Church, Thorp Arch

CHILDREN & YOUTH:

We offer various activities for families,
children and young people. For more
information contact The Parish Office:
bramhambenefice@outlook.com

Visit our website for more details.

**Most of our children and youth
groups are suspended.**

**Young Life will go ahead via
Zoom,
please contact Revd. Nick for
more information.**

REGULAR ACTIVITIES:

**REGULAR ACTIVITIES WILL RESUME
AS SOON AS IT IS SAFE TO DO SO**

MON 12.00-1.00pm Yoga

MON 3.45-4.45 Meditation in the
Christian Tradition held at 197 High
Street, Boston Spa

2nd & 4th TUES 7.30pm Bell Ringing
at All Saints' Bramham

**All held at St Mary's Church, unless
otherwise stated.**



St. Mary's Email Prayer Group
If you would like to include
someone
on the Prayer list
please contact Niki on:
stmarysprayer18@gmail.com



BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW
MIDNIGHT MASS
24TH DECEMBER 2020
11.30pm St. Mary's Church, Boston Spa
11.30pm St. Peter's Church, Walton

CHRISTMAS DAY
25TH DECEMBER 2020
9.30am All Saints' Church, Thorp Arch
10.00am St. Mary's Church, Boston Spa
10.00am All Saints' Church, Bramham

**As space is limited for public health
reasons, booking ahead is essential.**
Please phone 01937 844402

Dear Readers

Now is the time you find yourselves consumed with lists. A list of cards sent and received, groceries, presents to wrap, timetable for Christmas Eve, television programs you don't want to miss etc...

We have spent the last three weeks hearing those readings from Isaiah and Mark's gospel about the preparation needed to mark that wonderful incarnation of God's Son and then the time of reckoning for the second coming.

Mary and Joseph made their journey to Bethlehem to be added to a list - the census called by Caesar Augustus, I am quite sure they would have also had a list of things to take for the journey.

We are on a journey towards the miracle of Christmas and it is beholden to us not to lose sight of this in these last few days.

The celebration of the birth of God's son into our lives is worth our excitement and joy and needs our focus.

Enjoy whatever gatherings we are allowed to have with family and friends and may God's blessing be with you all.

Rev'd. Trish



A note from Rev'd Nick

As has been my custom in recent years, instead of sending Christmas cards, I support a charity, which this year is <https://www.dontstopthemusic.store/> Don't Stop the Music was created in order to raise funds for people in the events industry affected by the Covid-19 pandemic; be they techies, roadies, lampies, agents, musicians - whoever needs financial support. Among these are many former colleagues from this industry. So from Kate, Imogen, Susannah and me (and also Ridley), we wish you all, in the absence of Christmas cards, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

How do you watch our online services?

Facebook? Website?

It is now possible to view our Facebook livestreamed services on the website. On the main page of the website www.BramhamBenefice.org in the middle of the page whenever a live service starts, a window will appear on the screen. You may have to refresh your browser for this window to appear. To make that window bigger on your screen, hover your mouse over it and click the "Full Screen" icon which looks like 4 arrows pointing outwards. If you can't hear the sound, hover your mouse and check the sound is not muted in that window. We hope this means more people can access our live services easily. Please spread the word about this feature, especially to those who are less confident in accessing our services on Facebook - this should make it much easier for them.



WELCOME TO OUR

ONLINE

Community

Carol Service

Local churches and schools come together to lead an online carol service for our villages.

AN ONLINE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION FOR THE VILLAGES OF
BOSTON SPA, BRAMHAM, CLIFFORD, THORP ARCH AND WALTON

WEDNESDAY 23RD DECEMBER

7.00PM

facebook.com/BramhamBenefice

www.BramhamBenefice.org/online-services



St Lukes' Clifford
A light on a hill



Boston Spa
Academy



Services can be viewed at:
facebook.com/BramhamBenefice
www.BramhamBenefice.org/online-services



BENEFIGE
NATIVITY
Christmas Eve
4pm

This year the Nativity will be via Zoom.
For a Zoom Invitation email:
bramhambenefice@outlook.com



CHRISTMAS
is coming

Get in the festive mood with some seasonal activities

Family Treasure Hunt

Collect your clue sheet from All Saints' Church porch, follow the trail around the village and solve the clues
Hand in your completed sheet at the village shop
All correct entries will be entered into a prize draw!
£1 per entry closing date 24th December 2020

Bramham Community Action Group
invite you to

Make a Christmas Decoration for the Community
make a Christmas decoration and hang it on the tree at the back of All Saints' Church

St Mary's Church Christmas Trail

Adults and children come and see the new Christmas Trail in St Mary's Church and pick up your own craft pack. There are seven stations to find in the church, each telling one part of the Christmas story, with pictures, questions and a craft for each one. Once you have experienced each of the stations, pick up your own craft bag containing all you need to make all seven of the crafts you have seen, at home.



Blessings and Hopes at St. Mary's

Whilst you're in the church why not also add to our Blessings and Hopes Tree. This year has been a very difficult year for many people, but rather than dwell on the negative things let's think about all the positive things that have happened to us, like valuing family and friends more, and then think of something good that we could hope will happen next year. Just pick up either a tag (adults) or a hand shape (children) and write or draw one blessing you have received this year on one side and then on the other one thing you hope for next year. Then hang it on the Christmas Tree.





THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO
ENTERED THE ALL SAINTS'
CHURCH, BRAMHAM CHRISTMAS
QUIZ. WITH YOUR HELP WE HAVE
RAISED A SUPERB £118.00

Our Christmas Quiz winner is

IMOGEN EDWARDS

The winner was selected (drawn from a hat) from all the
correct entries by Rev Nick.



**IN THESE
CHALLENGING
TIMES**

REMEMBER TO

KEEP IN TOUCH

**BOSTON SPA
VOLUNTEER
ACTION
GROUP**

**WE ARE HERE TO
HELP!**

**IF YOU ARE SELF ISOLATING AND
NEED SUPPORT?**

**WE CAN
COLLECT PRESCRIPTIONS, PICK UP
SHOPPING OR JUST BE A FRIENDLY
VOICE ON THE END OF THE PHONE**

**PLEASE CONTACT PENNY STABLES IF
YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER
OR IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE**

**penny.stables@gmail.com
07941979802**

IT ONLY TAKES A FEW MINUTES TO PICK UP THE PHONE.

SAY HELLO. HOW ARE YOU?

LISTEN AND CHAT

YOU MIGHT MAKE SOMEONE'S DAY

WETHERBY AND DISTRICT FOOD BANK



FOOD COLLECTION

Please continue to donate.

We will be collecting food
and donations on Monday
21st, and then Monday 4th
January, to take to the

warehouse

You can drop
donations at
St. Mary's church
Boston Spa

You can drop
donations at
All Saints' church
Bramham



TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

CHRISTMAS EXERCISE WALKS AROUND BOSTON SPA:

The most popular links clicked on our monthly e-newsletter are the village walks. The Parish Council has developed 6 walking routes around the village ranging from 2 to 7 miles. Download the walks from the PC website https://www.bostonspapc.org.uk/Local_Walks_26749.aspx . You can also explore the High Street and the riverside by following our blue plaque trail - download a leaflet.

ECO BRICKS: Yeadons, Boston Spa now collecting eco-bricks. The Boston Spa, Wetherby and Villages Community Green Group is now collecting eco-bricks for Meadowfield Primary School, Leeds through Yeadons Hardware on the high street. Read more about how to make your eco-brick here - we need another 700! for the schools creative eco garden and more #getpacking <https://bostongreengroup.co.uk/.../ecobrick-collection-now-a.../>

FAIRTRADE CHRISTMAS: catalogue available www.tradecraftshop.co.uk .Please order via local contact Emily Gausson, tel. 01937 844345, email gaussen@ntlworld.com. By pooling orders you should qualify for free delivery plus saving on unnecessary transport. Wide choice of gifts available - please look at their site.

CHRISTMAS EXERCISE HERITAGE TRAIL: Ever wondered about the history of some of the old properties in Boston Spa? You can buy a Heritage Trail Map for 20p from Yeadons and have a relaxing walk along the High Street and riverside whilst viewing and reading about them.





Merry Christmas

THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED OVER
THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD —
MONDAY 21ST DECEMBER TO 2ND JANUARY.

ANY URGENT BUSINESS PLEASE CALL
REV NICK 07387728009
REV TRISH ON 07903262880.

NON URGENT MESSAGES CAN BE LEFT ON
THE OFFICE ANSWER PHONE.