



Merry
Christmas



Welcome to December's newsletter – read on to
find out what's happening in your church



www.osneybenefice.org.uk

Contacts:

Churchwardens

North Hinksey with Botley:

St Lawrence Jane Buswell
jane.buswell@virginmedia.com

St Peter & St Paul
POSITION VACANT
please contact Jane or Gwen

Ministry Team

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St Frideswide with Binsey:

Revd Jo Moffett-Levy
Email:
jo.moffett-Levy@virginmedia.com
(when on leave contact churchwarden
Jenny Shearan, details above)

Benefice Office, Hall and Church bookings

The office is open on Mon, Wed & Fri 9.30am – 2pm. The office can be reached by email osneybenefice@outlook.com or by the office phone 01865 242057. Email is more reliable for messages.

Wifi Network name: PPbuildings Password: Sagebird392



General Notices:

Readings for this Sunday

Last after Trinity

Isaiah 64 1-9

Psalm 80 1-8

[1 Corinthians 1 3-9]

Mark 13 24-end

Dear Friends,

A question for Advent - What in the world are we waiting for?

Maybe love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control? (Galatians 5.22)

Maybe we are waiting for wars to cease in the Ukraine and the Middle East. Maybe we are waiting with dread for the 'family' Christmas that always seems to go wrong. Maybe we are waiting for a roof over our head; food in our belly; somewhere safe to call home; someone to talk to.

During Advent – a time of spiritual longing – we yearn for the coming of God's Kingdom on earth, as in heaven. We look forward to welcoming Jesus at his birth, who the Magi recognized as a king come to his kingdom. We hold close the refrain 'Come Lord Jesus'. Come into our world, our lives, our families and bring the fruit of your Spirit, that spirit of God's Shalom.

God of all, help us to be careful and considered.

Help us to fill our lives with good things.

*In a world where there is so much stuff to be had,
help us to wait for what is real.*

*In a world where success is measured in money and possessions,
help us not to fall into this trap*

of trying to satisfy our souls with things

which do not satisfy an eternal yearning.

Jesus Christ, help us to wait for you.

Sally Foster-Fulton, *Hope Was Heard Singing*

Wild Goose Publications 2013

Clare

Leave arrangements

Clare will be on retreat 15th-19th January

The office will be closed on Monday 11th December until Monday 15th January 2024, as Gwen will be on planned sick leave. Please direct enquiries to revclare@btinternet.com or jane.buswell@virginmedia.com



From the Registers

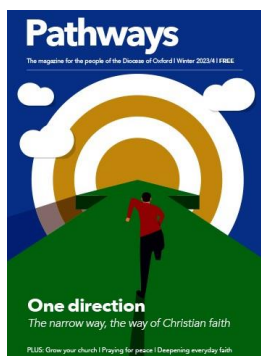
25th November The funeral and burial of ashes of David Giles took place at St. Margaret of Antioch

Write for Rights Amnesty International



Jane and Janet will be at the following services with Write For Rights, a campaign over November and December where you're encouraged to write Christmas cards and messages of support to people around the world who have suffered injustice. Jane and Janet can show you how to support campaigns for justice.

3rd Dec St Frideswide, after the Morning Service
10th Dec St Peter & St Paul, after the Morning Service
17th Dec St Lawrence, after the Carols by Candlelight service.



Pathways – The magazine for churches in the Diocese

Look out for your copy in church as the newsletters are arriving in church ready for a busy December in our churches.

As ever, *Pathways* features articles to help equip committed Christians on their walk with God, while informing enquirers as they learn more about the faith.



Carol Singing & Christmas Eve Services

Carol Singing 10th December

12-1pm at Waitrose, raising funds for Home Start

Carols by candlelight 17th December

3pm St Margaret of Antioch, Binsey

6pm St Frideswide, Botley Road

6pm St Lawrence Church, North Hinksey Lane

Christmas Eve 24th December

4.30pm Crib Service St Frideswide, Botley Road *raising funds for Sure Start Oxford*

4.30pm Christingle Service, St Peter & St Paul, West Way *raising funds for the Children's Society*

11pm Midnight Service St Lawrence, North Hinksey Lane *raising funds for installing a toilet and new kitchen*

The complete set of services for December is on page 13



Cumnor Choral Society
Advent Concert
Saturday 2nd December
7.30pm
St. Peter & St. Paul Church



The programme will include songs from Advent for Choirs in the first half, and Haydn's St. Nicholas Mass in the second.

Tickets (including programme and after concert buffet), are available in advance from for £12, or for £15 on the door.

Contact Caroline Cockman 07961900670

cockman.caroline@gmail.com

If you enjoy our concerts please consider making a donation to help us continue our work. Contact Caroline for more information.

The Mark Holland Memorial Lecture 15 Years in Gaza

Tuesday 5th December, 2023
6pm Summertown Library

Dr Nick Maynard talks of his work with Oxford's world-class medical team helping all communities in Gaza. He will talk of his experiences in Gaza and the current humanitarian catastrophe that is unfolding.



Figure 1 Prof Nick Maynard teaching students how to treat a trauma victim (here played by an actor) at the Islamic University of Gaza, which has since been bombed

Dr NICK MAYNARD is a Consultant Surgeon in Oxford. Each year since 2010 he has led a group of Oxford Consultants specialising in surgery, medicine, paediatrics, and obstetrics to Gaza to teach medical students. In addition, he works with their surgical teams to teach advanced surgery for cancer and benign diseases. Nick has also

visited and taught in Israeli hospitals in Jerusalem.

All voluntary donations made on the night will be shared between The International Medical Education Trust and Medical Aid for Palestinians, two charities of which Nick is a trustee.

www.summertownlibraryfriends.org



St Michael's Cumnor, Tuesday 5th Dec 7.30pm

What is 'Bread and Starlight'? A grown up pause for breath before Christmas. In this one-woman show for Advent, Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist, recalls the months of her pregnancy and a very special visitor.

Touching on themes of mystery and miracle, what's temporary and what lasts, Bread and Starlight combines storytelling, song and space for reflection in the lead up to Christmas.

Tickets costing £10 can be purchased using the form below, by phoning 01865 861541, or in person from Cumnor Post Office.

Christmas Hampers for local families on low income



Once again this year the parish of North Hinksey with Botley is giving free use of the church hall (worth £360) to Botley Bridges. Please read on to find out how you can help too.

With the continuing pressure on family incomes and rising prices many families find Christmas a difficult time. Botley Bridges Family Support, local food charities and shops are again working together to spread some Christmas cheer to local families in Cumnor, Botley and West Oxford. Last year we distributed over 100 hampers, brimming with a variety of food and gifts, all donated, packed and delivered by local volunteers.

If you would like to make a financial contribution to the hampers, please email treasurer@botleybridges.org for details of how to do this.

We are looking to our local community to spread some Christmas cheer. Can you donate?

- Tea/Coffee/Hot Chocolate/Squash/Soft Drinks (no alcohol please)
- Christmas treats
- Jam/Marmalade/Honey/Syrups
- Tins or Jars - Fruit/Tuna/Baked Beans/Pasta Sauces/Soup
- Bread/Crackers/Oats/Breakfast Cereals/Rice/Pasta

We are also hoping to include some small (stocking filler) gifts in the hampers. Can you donate? (please leave these unwrapped so we can best match them to the recipients)

- For Adults
 - Toiletries/Warm Socks/gloves/hot water bottles e.t.c
- For Children
 - Bubbles/activity books/small craft sets/small construction sets
 - Books (for a variety of ages)
 - Cards/Card Games

Donations can be dropped off at St Peter and St Paul's Church Hall, Botley on Tuesday 19th 1-8pm or Wednesday 20th 8-11am. We have also agreed for collection points at Cumnor School, Botley School, West

Oxford School, or any Botley Bridges session during the week of 11-18th Dec. If you cannot drop off at these times please email sue@botleybridges.org to arrange an alternative venue and time.

If you would like to volunteer to take in deliveries, pack hampers or deliver please contact Sue Dowe - sue@botleybridges.org - 07769 275084

Requests for a hamper from households on a low income can be made by adults in the following ways

- <https://botley-hampers.web.app>
- Downloading a form from the Botley Bridges website and e-mailing to sue@botleybridges.org
- Completing a form and handing in to your school or pre-school – **schools will have hard copies available.**

Thank you, Sue, Botley Bridges

Benefice dates for 2024

Benefice Community Meal

Our popular Bring & Share Meals will be returning in 2024 and we look forward to welcoming congregations from all four churches. If you've not attended one before, everyone brings their own plates and cutlery, with either a main course, or pudding, to share with about 4 people. Sign-up sheets will be in each church a few weeks beforehand for you to let Revd Clare know if you are coming, and what you plan to bring.

Saturday 17th February
@ 6.30pm
St Peter & St Paul
Church Hall

Saturday 18th May
@ 6.30pm
St Peter & St Paul
Church Hall



18th-25th January 2024

*'You shall love the Lord your God... and your neighbour as yourself'.
(Lk 10:27).*

**The Annual Ecumenical Service for the churches in the
Botley/Cumnor area Sunday
21st January at 10.30am
at
Church of St Peter and St Paul**

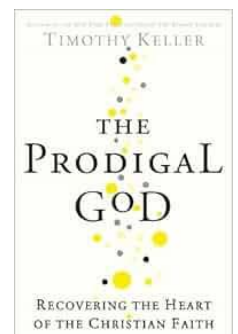
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the churches of Burkina Faso have invited us to join with them in a process of self-reflection as they consider what it means to love our neighbour in the midst of a security crisis.

For 2024, materials are prepared by an ecumenical team from Burkina Faso facilitated by the local Chemin Neuf Community (CCN). Brothers and sisters from the Catholic Archdiocese of Ouagadougou, Protestant Churches, ecumenical bodies and the CCN in Burkina Faso collaborated generously in drafting the prayers and reflections.

St Frideswide with Binsey

The Reflections Group will next meet at 8:00 pm on Wednesday 6th December at 23 Bridge St. We will return to Chapters 2&3 of *The Prodigal God* by Timothy Keller. The book is based on Luke 15, 1 - 3, 11 - 32. There will be plenty of bibles of various sorts available.

Contact Anne Andrews if you are interested in borrowing a copy of the book, or alternatively the Kindle version costs £3.99.





Christmas Charity Collection

St Frideswide's will be collecting for Home-Start Oxford again this Christmas.

This year Home-Start has seen an increase in families who have experienced domestic abuse, have mental health difficulties, or are living with a disability or health condition.

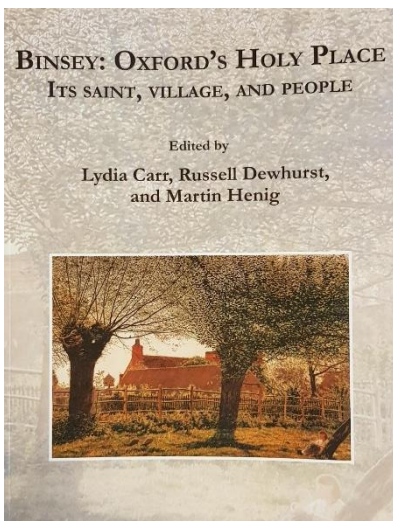
In response they have increased their service

- continuing their one-to-one support and offering a growing number of free baby and toddler groups, and more targeted groups.

If you would like to give a supermarket gift card to help one of the families supported by Home-Start with their Christmas shopping please hand it in (or the cash to buy one) at St Frideswide's by Advent Sunday, 3rd December, at the latest.

Throughout December to donate to our Home-Start Christmas Appeal please follow the link below to our Just Giving page.

www.justgiving.com/page/stfrideswide170055693410



Looking for Christmas present ideas?

The Binsey Book would make the perfect present and we have a small number of copies remaining.

It is a fascinating collection of essays on aspects of Binsey village, and St Margaret of Antioch. It is not a guidebook so much as an evocation of the place, dwelling on specific aspects from the busy river to the tranquil and silent churchyard; from the poplars, great-grandparents of the present trees along the river and Hopkins' great poem on them, to the

personalities who served the village community; from the Binsey of St Frideswide's time to the community of the present day. As well as Gerard Manley Hopkins there are associations with Dodgson, Alice Liddell and C. S. Lewis, which render Binsey a place for the literary as well as the religious pilgrim.

The book is available from the benefice office for £20 plus £2.99 P&P if you can't collect. Collection is from the office in Botley on Monday, Wednesday and Friday until 18th Dec. email [Gwen osneybenefice@outlook.com](mailto:osneybenefice@outlook.com) or ask Clare after this date.

St Margaret's inspires a new generation

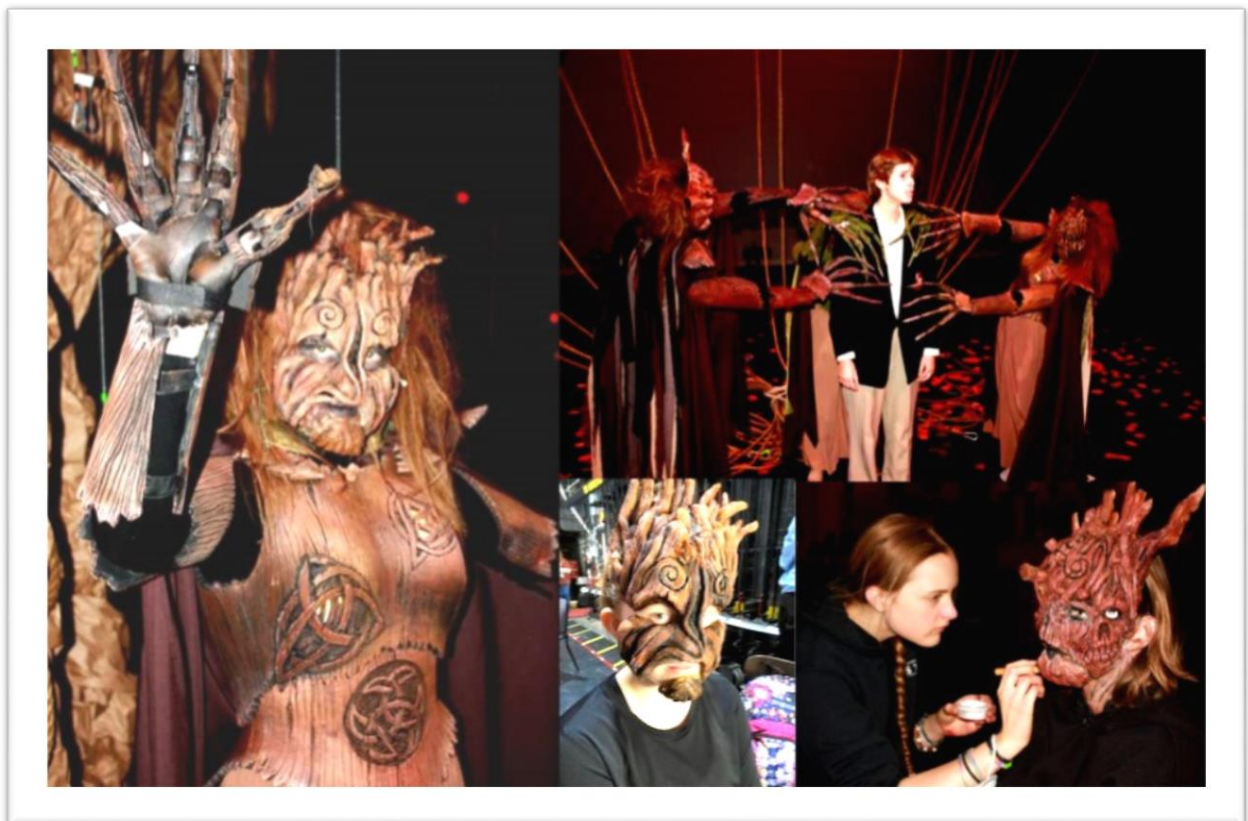
These amazing pictures show the yew tree costumes and prosthetics created by pupils at Fullerton High School in California.

The yew trees of St Margaret's churchyard took centre stage in a production inspired by the works and life of [West Oxford author Siobhan Dowd](#), who was buried there in 2007.

Scott Hudson, the Visual Arts and Designer at the school, got in touch in early September to find out more about St Margaret's and the importance of yew trees in Christian and pre-Christian history. We were able to share photographs of the church, Binsey and the meadows and give an insight into how visitors and pilgrims are drawn to St Margaret time and time again.

Scott got back in touch in early November with these amazing photos and reported that the children were thrilled to learn more about how Binsey, St Margaret and its strong literary associations.

Perhaps in years to come the guest book at St Margaret will include the names of some of these High School performers?



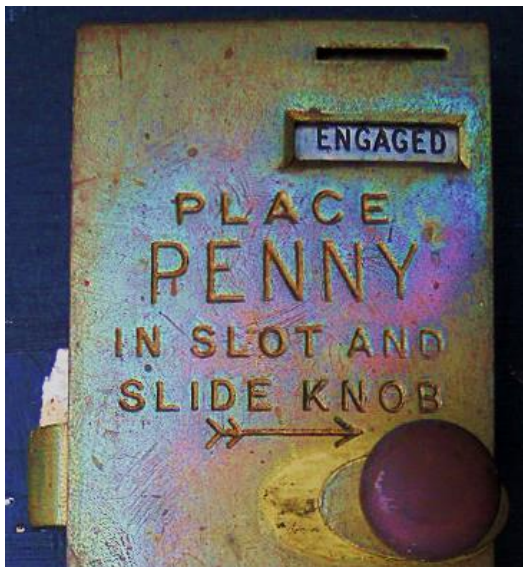
- 28th January Baptism of Hazel Ivins at St Frideswide
- 30th January St Frideswide PCC meets

North Hinksey with Botley



The Advent Group is meeting in the Chapel at St Peter & St Paul from 3pm-4pm on Wednesday afternoons, with the last meeting held on 20th December. No need to book, just turn up

A Service to Remember those we have loved – Sunday 3rd December 5pm at the Church of St Peter & St Paul. This is a short service with an opportunity to light a candle in remembrance. This service is being held in association with Oliver & James Funeral Directors, Botley.



Spend a Penny at St Lawrence

After 500 years of bravely enduring, we are making progress with installing a lavatory in church, as well as updating the kitchenette.

You may have seen our exciting plans on display during the Autumn?

As well as this project there are other costly things we have to do at St Lawrence in the next 2 years, and we really need to make our money go as far as possible. So, in the next few

months we will be applying for grants.

This year all your donations at the St Lawrence Carols by Candlelight will go towards our fund-raising for the toilet and kitchen. Any funds raised will be used to provide match funding in our grant applications. If you can't join us for carols you will still be able to donate when our ***Spend a Penny*** fundraising page is set up in the New Year. If 25 people donated £3.00 a month, which is the cost of a cup of coffee, we could raise £900 in a year, and for 2 cups of coffee a month we would raise £1800.

If you would like to know more, or see the plans please get in touch with Jane.



Christmas Clean at St Peter & St Paul church

Our merry band will be cleaning and polishing to get the church ready for Christmas decorations.

Tuesday 19th December between 2 - 4 pm.

Volunteers are welcome,
just turn up as there are lots of jobs for all abilities



Worship during December

Sunday Services			
3 rd December 1st Sunday of Advent	St. Frideswide	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion
	St Frideswide	10.30am	CW Eucharist
	Ss Peter & Paul	9.30am	Eucharist
	St. Lawrence	11.30am	Eucharist
	Ss Peter & Paul	5.00pm	Service to remember those we have loved
Midweek			
Monday 4th	Ss. Peter & Paul	9.30am	Zoom Morning Prayer
Tuesday 5th	St Frideswide	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Wednesday 6th	Ss Peter & Paul	9.30am	Zoom Morning Prayer
	Field House	10.30am	Eucharist
Thursday 9th	St Lawrence	9.30am	Morning Prayer
	St Lawrence	10.15am	Collective Worship NHPS
Friday 8th	Ss Peter & Paul	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Sunday Services			
10 th December 2 nd Sunday of Advent	St. Frideswide	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion
	St Frideswide	10.30am	CW Eucharist
	Ss Peter & Paul	9.30am	Eucharist
	St. Lawrence	11.30am	Eucharist
Midweek			
Monday 11th	Ss Peter & Paul	9.30am	Zoom Morning Prayer
Tuesday 12th	St Frideswide	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Wednesday 13 th	Ss. Peter & Paul	9.30am	Zoom Morning Prayer
	Field House	10.30am	Eucharist
Thursday 14 th	St Lawrence	9.30am	Morning Prayer
	St Lawrence	10.15am	NHPS Collective Worship
Friday 15th	Ss Peter & Paul	9.30am	Morning Prayer
		10.30am	NHPS Christmas Service
Sunday Services			
17 th December 3rd Sunday of Advent	St. Frideswide	8.30am	BCP Holy Communion
	St Frideswide	10.30am	Eucharist
	Ss Peter & Paul	9.30am	Eucharist
	St. Lawrence	11.30am	No Service
	St Margaret	3.00pm	Carol Service
	St Frideswide	6.00pm	Carol Service
	St Lawrence	6.00pm	Carol Service

Midweek			
Monday 18th	Ss Peter & Paul	9.30am	Zoom Morning Prayer
Tuesday 19 th	St Frideswide	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Wednesday 20th	Ss Peter & Paul	9.30am	Zoom Morning Prayer
	Field House	10.30am	Eucharist
Thursday 21st	St Lawrence	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Sunday Services			
24th December Christmas Eve 4th Sunday of Advent	St Frideswide	8.30am	Holy Communion
		10.30am	Eucharist
		4.30pm	Crib Service
	Ss Peter & Paul	9.30am	Eucharist
		4.30pm	Christingle Service
	St. Lawrence	11.30am	BCP said Holy Communion
		11.30pm	Eucharist
25th December Christmas Day	St Margaret	9.00am	BCP Holy Communion
	St Frideswide	10.30am	Eucharist
	Ss Peter & Paul	9.30am	Eucharist
	St. Lawrence	11.30am	Eucharist
Midweek – No midweek services – Rachel, Simon and Clare off this week			
Tuesday 26 th - Stephen, deacon, first martyr			
Wednesday 27 th - John, Apostle and Evangelist – no HC at Field House			
Thursday 28 th - The Holy Innocents			
Thursday 29th			
Friday 30th			
Sunday Services – Simon and Rachel off			
31st December First Sunday of Christmas	St. Margaret	9.00am	BCP Holy Communion
	St Frideswide	10.30am	Eucharist
	Ss Peter & Paul	9.30am	Eucharist
	St. Lawrence	11.30am	Eucharist
Midweek 2024			
Monday 1 st January Naming & Circumcision of Jesus	Ss Peter & Paul	9.30am	Zoom Morning Prayer
Tuesday 2nd	St Frideswide	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Wednesday 3rd	Ss Peter & Paul	9.30am	Zoom Morning Prayer
	Field House	10.30am	Eucharist
Thursday 4th	St Lawrence	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Friday 5th	Ss Peter & Paul	9.30am	Morning Prayer

Worship at home

Daily Prayer and Readings are now available on the Church of England website, this replaces the weekly email.

You can also listen to the most recent daily service of Morning and Evening prayer, in contemporary form, using the audio player below via the link below.

Full-text versions are available of Services of Daily Prayer, in both Contemporary (Common Worship) and Traditional (Book of Common Prayer) forms and for all times of the day.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer>

Mondays: 9.30am Morning Prayer

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85336186259?pwd=NmtrdUJya216WkFubjd2ekpCRTdKQT09>

Meeting ID: 853 3618 6259 Passcode: 990521

Wednesdays: 9.30am Morning Prayer via Zoom hosted by St. Peter and St. Paul.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85788317955?pwd=UUUxOWUzdnYxczVsaUJPNnk5N2FyZz09> Meeting ID: 85788317955 Passcode: 933670



Pastoral Care across the Benefice

We are here to care and support each other in times of need, in faith, and when guidance is sought.

If you (or someone you know) would particularly appreciate a pastoral visit or a phone call from one of the clergy, please contact Clare 07468 454686, or Rachel 07761 952026.

The next newsletter will be out in February 2024 please send items, photos and features to Gwen by Wednesday 24th

January to osneybenefice@outlook.com