

Giving to St Nicholas Church in 2021

Please contact Jane on 01249 657532 or woodman_jane@yahoo.co.uk if you would like:

- a box of weekly giving envelopes, or
- a bundle of yellow envelopes which can be completed for Gift Aid or left blank for non Gift Aid, or
- a standing order form for regular payments straight to the bank account, or
- details of the bank account for other direct payments.

A reminder that if your donations cannot qualify for Gift Aid we might still be able to claim an equivalent amount from HMRC provided that the payment is **in cash** (not cheque, standing order or direct to the bank) and each single identifiable payment is £30 or less. 'Catch up' donations which follow a regular pattern are OK if each payment can be identified, even if the total exceeds £30.

**Thank you,
Jane Woodman
Treasurer**

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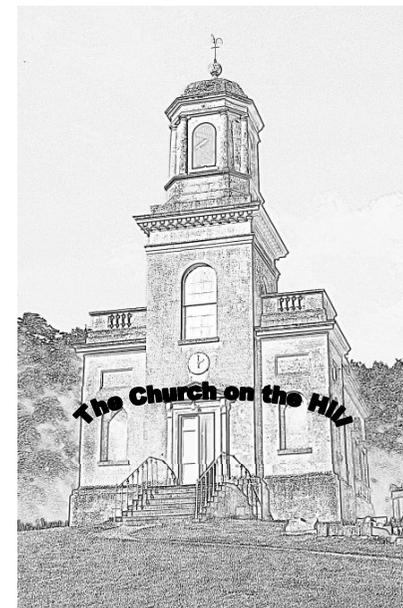
Greenways Group of Churches

St. Nicholas News February 2021

The Rt Rev Maurice Wood (1916-2007)

Bishop Maurice Wood prayer seems appropriate for Hardenhuish:

“Make us like a city set on a hill whose light cannot be hidden; so that men and women and children may find Christ as the light of the world, and his church as the family of the redeemed, and eternal life as the gift of God, through Jesus Christ our Lord”



With the country now in lockdown the difficult decision has been taken to close all church buildings in our benefice.

However, church continues!

Every Sunday at 10am there will be an online benefice service right afterwards. Please join us for a zoom call to chat with church friends, pray with each other and discuss questions from the sermon.

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Ministry Musings

LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL:

A couple of years ago a trip by train to Bath was curtailed because of a technical fault on the line. The train was stopped for two hours while the fault was repaired but with half of the carriages in a tunnel and the other half out of the tunnel in daylight. People who were sat in the tunnel part would walk down the train to see the light and the view!

We all need light but at the moment we may feel like we are stuck in a 'tunnel' with the winter months and Covid upon us.

I want to share a verse from Psalm 18 with you and it is short enough to memorise, if you so wish.

V 28 says " It is you who lights my lamp; the Lord, my God, lights up my darkness".

Jesus came as light into the world and he can light up our darkness now and always. We light candles in Church and perhaps in our homes to symbolise the light of Christ. We can snuff out a candle flame anytime we wish but we will never snuff out the light of Christ. The light of Christ is with us forever. But light can show up dust and grime just as sunlight coming through a window can reveal. The light of Christ can also show up things in our lives which may be wrong and this can separate us from God, forming a barrier and dimming the light. It is then that we need forgiveness or we need to forgive others. It was on the cross that Jesus took our sin upon himself, dying in our place, that we might be forgiven and we are forgiven, set free, the slate wiped clean, a new start and the road open again between us and God.

We are approaching Lent which is a good time to think about these things. It is a time for renewal, a time to get closer to God, a time to accept the light of Jesus.

There is hope for the future and light at the end of the tunnel. The days are getting longer, there are daffodils and primroses in my garden, a sign that Spring will soon be here and we have the vaccine to fight the virus but most importantly we have Jesus, the light of the world. Let us accept the light and let the light radiate from us, so that others around us may also feel its warmth and its comfort.

A prayer for us all,

Dear Lord, we thank you that you light up our path to lead us forward. We thank you that you turn our darkness into light giving us hope for the future. Please be our guide when we are unsure of the way ahead.

" It is you who lights my lamp; the Lord, my God, lights up my darkness". He can and will light up our darkness.

God Bless, Judith

Rev'd Steve Wilkinson announced as new Area Dean of North Wiltshire Deanery



The Bishop of Bristol, the Rt Rev'd Vivienne Faull, is pleased to announce the appointment of Rev'd Steve Wilkinson as the new Area Dean of North Wiltshire Deanery.

In the Diocese of Bristol there are a total of seven deaneries, each led by an Area Dean. Rev'd Steve Wilkinson has been appointed as the new Area Dean of North Wiltshire Deanery following the appointment of Rev'd Alison Love, the previous Area Dean, to another post.

Steve is Rector of the Woodbridge Benefice, a group of six rural churches located in the countryside around Malmesbury, in Wiltshire. He was ordained in 2010 after a career in electronics and project management. After ordination training at Ridley Hall, Steve became curate in the Greater

Corsham and Lacock team, before becoming Rector of the Woodbridge Benefice in 2014.

Over the last seven years, the churches of the Woodbridge Benefice group have been working more closely together. The advent of the North Wiltshire Mission Area built on that, with two years of the CPAS 'Thrive' programme helping the diverse churches of North Wiltshire get to know themselves and each other better.

Since the signing of the Mission Area Covenant in 2019, the relationship of the 31 parishes has been drawing closer too. Lockdown brought additional challenges but helped in developing closer relationships, as the necessity to share the new skills and workload of online services became apparent.

Rev'd Steve Wilkinson said:

"I'm pleased to have accepted the Bishop's invitation to become Area Dean and I look forward to the new aspects of ministry that this role will bring, alongside the continuing responsibilities within Woodbridge.

"The immediate future brings the challenge of understanding what the permanent impact of the pandemic has been on life in general, but specifically on rural churches. The Diocesan strategic review, Transforming Church, will bring some interesting conversations within North Wiltshire Deanery as we work out the future shape of Christ's church in this area".

The Bishop of Bristol, the Rt Rev'd Vivienne Faull, said:

“Steve is becoming Area Dean at an exciting albeit challenging time for Bristol Diocese as we look to discern the future for God’s church at a time of pandemic. Steve comes to the role with a deep commitment to the Deanery and rural ministry along with well-developed strategic and relational skills. I am very much looking forward to working with Steve in the months ahead.”