

The Four Parishes News Magazine

BECKLEY
FOREST HILL
HORTON-cum-STUDLEY
STANTON St JOHN



Celebrating the Centenary of Stanton St John WI

November 2022

The editor writes:



Here we are with another magazine, packed with news of community activities in all our villages, and plans for plenty more in the coming months.

This month I would like to express heartfelt thanks to the people who regularly collate and send me the content for the 'Village pages'. You will see their names on page 4 and they are an invaluable part of the editorial team. If you are organising any kind of group or event in your village, please make sure that they know about it in good time so that we can publicise it.

Some events are very specific to a single village, such as the various Acts of Remembrance which take place on Sunday 13 November (see back cover for details). Others are aimed at everyone in our Four Parishes and beyond. In some cases we now have individual village societies which have combined to form a single organisation, as in the case of the Womens' Institutes (see page 18).

Other community events worth mentioning are the walks and talks run by the 'More than a Pub' programme in Beckley, various Garden Club activities, concerts and exhibitions in our historic churches, and a wide range of church services and activities, including some which are specially suitable for families with young children. Organising events is hard work so please support them if you can!

Julia Stutfield

All contributions to this magazine are the sole responsibility of the author and do not imply or represent any official editorial view or endorsement.

Our cover photo ...

was taken by Lyn Ebbs from Stanton St John.

This window display in Stanton Village Shop was created by members of Stanton St John W.I. to celebrate their Centenary (1922-2022).

If you have taken a photo which you think might be suitable for the cover of the next magazine, please email it to

4parishesnewsletter@gmail.com

**Benefice of Beckley, Forest Hill with Shotover,
Horton-cum-Studley and Stanton St John**

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**We welcome general contributions or notices for future issues.
Please send them to the Editor at 4parishesnewsletter@gmail.com.**

The closing date for the December 2022 issue is 15 November 2022

Recent issues of the magazine are available to view online at
www.fourparishes.org.uk/magazine

**To advertise in the magazine please email JULIA
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Benefice of Beckley, Forest Hill with Shotover, Horton-cum-Studley and Stanton St John

The Reverend Anthea Beresford is Vicar of the Church of The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Beckley, St Nicolas Church in Forest Hill, St Barnabas Church in Horton-cum-Studley, and St John the Baptist Church in Stanton St John. Anthea is supported by a team of voluntary clergy, lay ministers and churchwardens, whose details are listed below.

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Stanton St John

Vacant at present

The Four Parishes News Magazine has 10 issues per year and is distributed free of charge to approximately 850 addresses in Forest Hill, Horton-cum-Studley, Stanton St John and Beckley. It is funded by advertising revenue, which is used to cover the printing costs. We are dependent on volunteers to assemble the content, book and invoice the advertisers, compile and edit the magazine, collect it from the printers and distribute it throughout the four parishes.

Editor: Julia Stutfield

**Assistant Editors: Jonathan Barker
Anthea Beresford**

Church Services in the Four Parishes, November 2022

	St Nicolas, Forest Hill with Shotover	St John the Baptist, Stanton St John	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Beckley	St Barnabas, Horton-cum- Studley
6 November <i>3rd Sunday before Advent</i>	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	11am Morning Prayer
	4pm - Children's Service at St Nicolas			
	6pm - Taizé Service via Zoom			
13 November <i>Remembrance Sunday</i>	10.45am at War Memorial followed by Morning Prayer in Church	10.45am At War Memorial followed by Holy Communion in church	10.45am Morning Prayer	10.45am Morning Prayer
	4pm - Messy Church at Stanton Village Hall			
20 November <i>Christ the King Sunday next before Advent Safeguarding Sunday</i>	11am BCP Morning Prayer	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am BCP Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion
	6pm - Iona Service at Beckley			
27 November <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i>	10am Benefice Holy Communion Service at Forest Hill			
	3pm - Family Church does Forest Church Bernwood Forest, Oakley Road, OX33 1BJ (meet at car park)			
	6pm Advent Carol Service			
	6pm - Church without Walls in Stanton St John Village Hall			

Please check the website www.fourparishes.org.uk for any updates. If you are not on the church mailing list and would like an invitation to a Zoom service or a regular reminder of weekly services, please email Anthea: anthea@fourparishes.org.uk.

A letter from Anthea

Hi everyone,



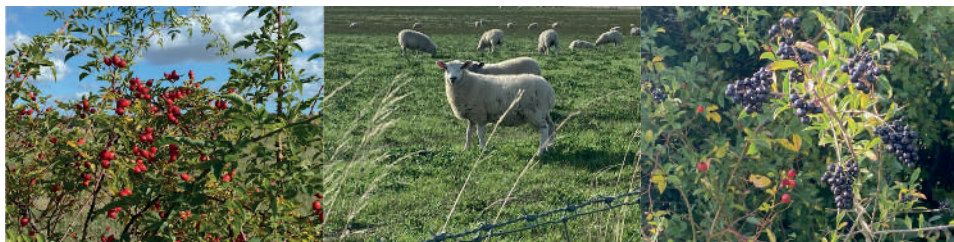
In ministry, the circle of life is ever in evidence, in its utter joy, celebration and gladness, as well as in its sadness, but always with hope. As I write this, the previous Saturday had seen the joy of a marriage service, with the church packed from people across the generations, to witness the marriage of the young couple: the joining together of two families, and the beginning of a new way of life together, with God's blessing, 'til death us do part'. The Sunday saw the burial of ashes in another churchyard of an elderly lady; the last of that generation, with the expected sadness, although appreciation of a life well live and long lived - the earthly loss however being painful to bear. This coming Sunday sees the completion of the circle of 'life events' being celebrated in yet another church in the benefice, with the baptism of a child, and the welcoming of them into the family of God.

This circle of life goes on and on around us, and we are blessed and privileged as the church within our communities, to be involved, through weddings, funerals and baptisms, in these precious events in the lives of families in our communities. It is always wonderful to see people from the communities lining the streets, either to pay respect to those on their final journey to their resting place, or those on their journey to begin their married lives together.

Our cycle of seasons bear witness to the ever-changing circle of life too. I have had some glorious walks with Bertie over these last few weeks, watching the changing colours of the leaves on the tress, and the developing berries on trees and bushes, with their huge variety of shapes, sizes and colours, bringing such beauty to our surroundings. I find autumn a delight with these colour changes, although I do not like the reminder that with them beckons the shortening days!



20 November sees the Church not only celebrating Christ the King, but also marking Safeguarding Sunday: an annual awareness-raising campaign to



help churches share what they are doing to make places of worship safer for everyone. Safeguarding failures in the Church dating back over many years are a source of great shame and huge pain to those who are victims and survivors, as well as those wrongfully accused. All incidents have dreadful consequences, lasting over, and often still continuing, for many years. Safeguarding is about protecting the vulnerable, whatever their age, whatever their background, whatever their position. As church, we are called to protect the weak, speak up for those whose voices are not heard, follow Jesus' example of servant leadership and pursue God's heart for justice. As we think about Christ being King, as we think of the time when Jesus reigns, when his kingdom comes on earth as it is in heaven, protecting the vulnerable will happen without question. As we pray for that time, each time we pray the Lord's Prayer, may we pray in sure and certain hope of that time. As we wait for his kingdom to come, may we be ever vigilant for those who need protection, and remember, safeguarding is everyone's business, because God is in the business of drawing close to the weak .

The end of the month sees the start of Advent, the time of watching, waiting and preparation for the coming Messiah. For some, like in Lent, it is a time of abstinence. For others, it is a time for deepening devotions to help us to be ready to receive the good news of the birth of Jesus afresh (see page 8 for some suggestions, should you be interested). As we begin to prepare for Christmas, I wonder where this year has gone!

Please do get in touch if you need someone to talk to. Take great care and God bless you and your loved ones.

Anthea

The Reverend Anthea Beresford is Vicar of the Church of The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Beckley, St Nicolas Church in Forest Hill, St Barnabas Church in Horton-cum-Studley, and St John the Baptist Church in Stanton St John.

CHURCH MATTERS

Church opening, and services

All the churches in the benefice are open daily:

Beckley: 10am-6pm; Forest Hill, Horton-cum-Studley and Stanton St John: 10am-4pm.

Advent challenge and beyond

There are two parts to Advent challenge and beyond this month, as Advent begins on 27 November this year. The first part of the challenge is our normal monthly reading, and this time, we are reading the book of Joshua. It is a mere 24 chapters, so just a chapter a day gets us finished by 24 November. We can then have a tiny break, before we begin the Advent challenge for 2022 on 27 November, the first Sunday of Advent.

As you know, Advent signals the start of the new Church year, and with it, the focus on a different Gospel: this coming year being the Gospel of Matthew. You may recall, in the challenge, we aim to read the whole Gospel so we have the whole of the Gospel message fresh in our minds, especially as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the light of the world, the Word made flesh, Emmanuel, God with us, on Christmas Day. The Gospel of Matthew has 28 chapters, so this means reading a chapter a day, from the first Sunday of Advent to Christmas Eve.

Please do let me know how you get on.

Private devotion during Advent

There are many different books that are designed for use during Advent. I have two particular suggestions this year, but you may have a favourite you go to, or one that has been sitting on your bookshelf begging to be read.

Alongside the reading of the Gospel of Matthew, you may like to read: *Advent for Everyone: A Journey Through Matthew* by Tom Wright. The other is *The Meaning is in the Waiting: The Spirit of Advent* by Paula Gooder.

If you would like me to get either of these books for you, please do let me know in good time so you have it for the start of Advent on 27 November. They cost in the region of £8 and £9 respectively.

Ongoing midweek activities on Zoom

We are continuing Morning and Evening Prayer and the Benefice Book Group on Zoom as detailed below. Please do get in touch with Anthea for invitations if you wish to be included.

	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Morning Prayer at 9am		√		√
Evening Prayer at 6pm	√		√	
Benefice Book Group at 7.30pm			√	

Book Group

The Book Group continues to meet virtually by Zoom on a Thursday evening at 7.30pm for an hour. We will be finishing our current book: *God is good for you: a defence of Christianity in troubled times* by Greg Sheridan in early November, so this is a great time to join us as we look to start a new one shortly. We have yet to decide what this will be, but if you would like to join us, please do get in touch with Anthea. All are welcome.

Diary dates for children and family church activities

Please refer to the list of church services on page 5 for further details, including start times. More information about these activities can be found at www.fourparishes.org.uk/children-and-families.

Please always look out for email updates.

Children's Service at St Nicolas	Messy Church	Family Church
6 November	13 November	27 November
4 December		
11 December Joint Christmas Party		
1 January	8 January	22 January
5 February	12 February	26 February
5 March	12 March	26 March

Children's autumn craft workshops

The Children's craft workshops are being held in Beckley Church this autumn on Friday's from 3.30-4.45pm. These are aimed at primary school children, and are run by the 'Open the Book' and 'Messy Church' teams - but you don't need to have attended either of those to come and join in the fun. Children must be accompanied by an adult please. There will be light refreshments.

We held the first one at the end of September related to Harvest and those who came along really enjoyed themselves making bread. See photo on page 23. The children enjoyed the activities and the parents had time for a good catch up. The next two workshops are related to Remembrance and Christmas. Please hold the dates, and we look forward to seeing you there:

Friday 11 November: Remembrance Workshop

Friday 2 December: Christmas Workshop

Home Group Study on Romans

The study group looking at the Book of Romans is continuing on a Monday afternoon, starting at 2pm at Studley Farm House, Horton-cum-Studley. If you are interested in being involved, please contact Annie Payne by email at anniefpayne@gmail.com.

Prayers for Peace

As the war continues in Ukraine, we continue to pray for peace. We meet for 15 minutes at 12pm on Wednesdays and Saturdays in November across the benefice as follows:

2	Forest Hill
5	Stanton
9	Beckley
12	Forest Hill
16	Horton-cum-Studley
19	Beckley
23	Stanton
26	Horton-cum-Studley
30	Forest Hill

GENERAL

Dame Elizabeth Holford's Charity Applications for Bursaries welcomed

The Charity was set up in 1720 when Dame Elizabeth Holford left £500 to establish a school for the children of Stanton St John and Forest Hill. The Charity came into being in 1988, following the closure of the school at what is now the Holford Centre, in Stanton St John. There were to be two Trustees appointed by Stanton St John Parish Council and two appointed by Forest Hill Parish Council and the Charity invited applications for grants from school aged children and young people up to the age of 25 who are or who have parents resident in either village, for help in their educational needs.

Dame Elizabeth Holford's Charity has now been able to extend its area of benefit to include **Stanton St John, Forest Hill with Shotover and now also Beckley, Horton-cum Studley and the ecclesiastical Parish of Elsfield**. The Trustees hope to reach more **young people from school age to under the age of 25** who might benefit from the Charity.

In the past bursaries have been granted for computer software, sporting equipment, residential courses, text books, laptops and other electronic equipment, college courses not funded by Student Finance and music lessons. Applications are not means tested and funding is granted on a case-by-case basis.

The Trustees welcome applications for bursaries addressed to the Chair of Dame Elizabeth Holford's Charity, Alison Finch. The email address is HolfordtrustChair@gmail.com. You can also apply in writing to Alison Finch, 14 Mickle Way, Forest Hill, Oxford, OX33 1DX.

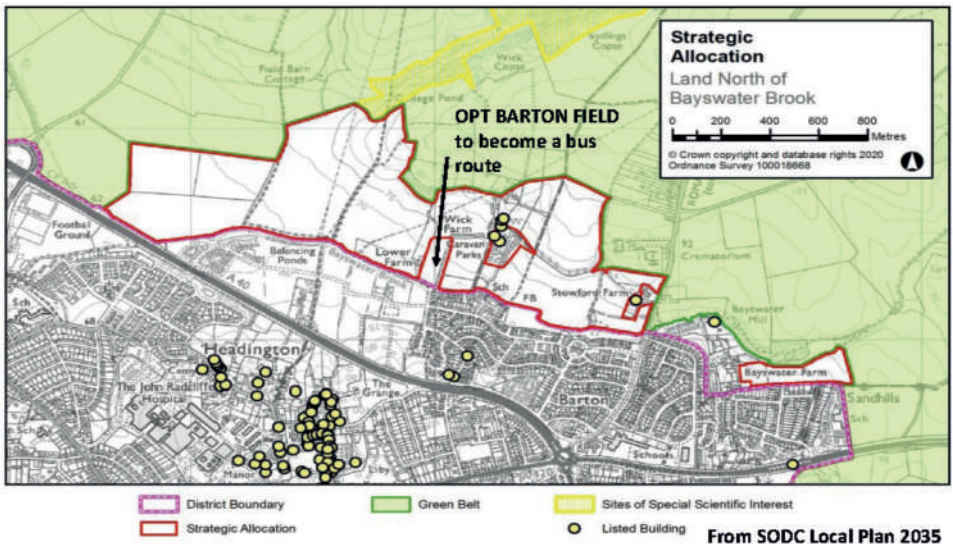
The next meeting of the Trustees is on Monday 7 November at 7pm.



Update on 'Land north of Bayswater Brook' (LnBB)

Christ Church, the developer of Land north of Bayswater Brook, has bought the 4 ½ acre field next to Lower Farm from Oxford Preservation Trust (OPT) to add to its development of Land north of Bayswater Brook (LnBB). The field now joins the other 278 acres of former Green Belt countryside given up for this development.

LnBB is a strategic development site in the SODC Local Plan, allocated 1,100 new homes across two parts of the site, shown outlined in red on the map. The larger part of the site owned by Christ Church lies between the Elsfield and Bayswater Roads just behind (north) of the Barton estate and new Barton Park development.



In its latest newsletter, OPT said it was "pleased that we have been able to find a different future for this field" and that "covenants will control its use, ensure it has public benefit, and that no buildings can be built upon it." In fact, OPT's sale of this field is facilitating the enlarged development of 1,450 dwellings, a 55% increase from the original numbers for this part of the site. The developers have already stated their intention to run a bus route through this field instead of leaving it as a genuine green corridor.

This field, known as Barton field, was bought in the mid-1930s, as the Trust was concerned over the prospect of building in the valley of the Bayswater Brook, near what was then the little hamlet of Barton. It was part of a strategy to preserve open farmland in the Green Belt around Oxford and views of it.

Many local residents will have voiced their concerns in the recent consultations about the County (and Oxford City) Council's 'traffic filters' for the Marston Ferry Road and other proposals, which will push more traffic onto the ring road and Headington roundabout, which is 'near capacity'. Traffic modelling has yet to be carried out by the developers on the effects of the LnBB development on the ring road, Headington roundabout and local roads and their modelling will not include the County Council proposals. The LnBB development is likely to add an additional 1,450 cars - one car per home - to local roads. Local residents fear gridlock and significantly extended journey times.

Current plans show car access to LnBB from the Elsfield Road and Bayswater Road with bus only access direct onto the A40 ring road. The developers currently have an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) scoping consultation with SODC and plan to apply for planning permission by the end of this year, when we will all have a say.

What can you do? – Please remind your Parish Council to respond to the SODC EIA scoping consultation. We will keep you updated in the future of further action you can take, any other consultations and when a planning application is made.

Ginette Camps-Walsh, Beckley, 14 October 2022



Photos by David Brown, Stanton St John

'Feathers and Moulting'

by Lyn Ebbs

For the past 25 years or so, more and more fossil finds, mostly in northeast China, have shown that many species of dinosaurs had feathers, and it is now widely accepted that modern birds are dinosaurs' descendants. Feathers themselves have evolved since dinosaurs sported them. They had soft filamentous ones for insulation, and some had stiff tail feathers, probably for display. Modern birds carry a range of different feather types: downy feathers for insulation, body feathers with hooks that interlock to form a wind and waterproof barrier, and stiff flight feathers. Each one serves an important role in the bird's activities, allowing them to fly, show off, blend in, stay warm, and keep dry.



All these diverse forms are composed of the same material, the protein keratin, that also forms our hair and nails. And like our hairs, feathers are actually dead structures that cannot repair themselves when damaged, so each year birds shed their old feathers and grow a whole new set. Adult birds shed their worn-out feathers from that year's breeding season and grow new, strong, warm feathers to see them through the winter. Young birds lose their first feathers and moult into their adult plumage.

Late summer is prime moulting time for our garden birds. This is the reason why many birds become inconspicuous for a while, as they may be more vulnerable to predation during their moulting period. Moulting is a drain on a bird's energy resources. It takes energy to grow new feathers, there may be heat loss when feathers are shed, affecting insulation, and when flight feathers are lost, more energy may be needed for flight. Generally, moult will not overlap with other processes which are a drain in a bird's energy, such as breeding or migration. Most of our small garden birds take around five weeks to moult, with migratory birds being the fastest. They have the most urgent need to replace their wing feathers and other flight feathers before setting off on their long journeys.



Unlike most other birds, ducks, geese and swans lose all their flight feathers at once, rendering them flightless for a period. Male ducks undergo a transition moult, starting with their bright body feathers. These are replaced by dowdy brown ones, making them look much like females, in what is known as eclipse. This eclipse plumage is why in mid-to late summer, it seems that all the drakes have disappeared. Once their flight feathers have regrown, the birds moult again, and by October regain their full colours. And, to the relief of birdwatchers, the various species of ducks are again easily recognisable. Female ducks lose their flight feathers later once their young have become independent.



Moult for birds of prey (raptors) is a much more carefully organised process. Being even more dependent on their ability to fly than other birds, they replace their flight feathers in a controlled sequence symmetrically



on both wings. The primaries are the longest of the flight feathers, occupying the outer half of the wing. In one raptor family, the hawks, the primary moult starts at the innermost feather and continues out towards to the tip of the wing, with the outermost feather being the last to be replaced. In falcons, the primary moult starts in

the centre and moves neatly towards both ends of the wing. Once the primary moult is underway, secondary flight feathers are also replaced in sequence. Small and medium sized raptors are capable of replacing all their flight feathers within the same year, starting in spring and finishing in autumn. Larger birds suspend the moult during the coldest months and complete it the following year.

If you pick up a feather on a walk or in your garden, think about the beautifully engineered structure that keeps our familiar birds warm and weatherproof and able to fly.

Lyn Ebbs has lived in Stanton St John for 34 years and has been volunteering at the RSPB Otmoor Reserve at Otmoor Lane, Beckley, since 2009.

Have your say: Driving back from Asda with a crate load of water - the state of our pipes

Editors' note: as most readers will know, the mains water pipe at the Heyford Hill roundabout burst on Tuesday 4 October, flooding part of the A4142 Eastern Bypass. The pipe was not fixed until 1am on Thursday but it then took more than 48 hours for engineers to painstakingly refill the 15km of pipes affected by the burst. At least 3,000 properties were affected in 10 Oxford postcodes and surrounding villages, including Forest Hill and Stanton St John.

Thames Water provided free bottled water at Asda and 2 other locations, but there were no reliable updates as to when our water supply was likely to be restored. Their policy is to automatically credit customers' accounts with £30 for every 12 hour period without water.

Forest Hill residents, Stephanie and David, sent us this article with their thoughts on this situation. If you would like an opportunity to 'Have your Say' please send us an article by 15 November.

The recent problems caused by the burst pipe at Heyford Hill, leading to a three-day water outage in local villages, are symptomatic of the state of our national water infrastructure, over 30 years after its privatisation.

It's worth briefly recapping some of the facts of privatisation. Firstly, the initiative never had public support. Privatisation of water was deeply unpopular in 1989 when the Water Act was passed and private companies took over; one poll showed 79% of people opposed the move. The sell-off involved handing over public assets at bargain prices so that the government could claim that the sale was a 'success'. The average gain to investors on the first day of trading was a staggering 40%.

Under the Water Act only the English system was sold off, with Scottish and Welsh water remaining in state ownership. Over the subsequent decades, the remaining English water companies, who have regional monopolies, were taken over by foreign investors, with 90% of them owned by shareholders abroad. More than £57 billion has been paid out in dividends since privatisation.

At the time of the sell-off the UK government kept hold of the existing debt of the previously state-owned regional water authorities in order to make the sale more attractive. But that hasn't stopped the privatised water companies building up £50 billion in debt, the interest on which is effectively paid for by customers. Furthermore, according to Professor David Hall at the University of Greenwich, by 2019 water prices had risen by 40 per cent above the general rate of inflation. For comparison, publicly owned Scottish Water has spent £72, or 35%, more per household per year on investment than the English water companies. If England had invested at this rate, an extra £28 billion would have gone into water infrastructure.

Running in parallel to the scandal of leaking pipes is the sewage crises impacting on English rivers and coastlines, which has been in the news since the summer. The environmental background to the sewage crisis is daunting. The Environment Agency has said that by 2050 some rivers will see 50-80% less water during the summer months. Yet every day, the water companies discharge raw sewage into our rivers and seas - with over 9 million hours of pumping undertaken since 2016.

An attempted amendment to the recent Environment Bill, that would have placed a legal duty on water companies not to pump waste into rivers, was voted down by Conservative MPs, including our MP John Howell. Instead, Mr Howell issued a statement saying that up to £660 billion of investment was needed to fix our water system, and that the bill would create new requirements for action plans and monitoring.

So, are we heading in the right direction? John Armit, the chair of the National Infrastructure Commission, has commented that the government's approach to keeping our nation's taps running amounted to nothing more than 'keeping [its] fingers crossed'. England is currently looking at a water shortfall of 4 billion litres a day by 2050.

David Radford and Stephanie Kitchen

Sources:

- *The Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM) Registered Charity No. 1043409* ciwem.org
- *We Own It (campaigns against privatisation)* weownit.org.uk

Cover Story: Stanton St John WI, 1922 - 2022

Editors Note: Our cover photo shows the window display in Stanton Village Shop during October. Stanton St John WI has members from all four of our villages, so their story is relevant to our whole community.

A short history of our Hundred Years

It all started when two local ladies, Mrs Weatherby who lived in Stanton House and Mrs Thomson of Woodperry House, persuaded an official from the Oxfordshire Women's Institute (WI) office in Broad Street to help them get it "Up and Running".

Early meetings were held in the school, now known as the Holford Centre, as there was no other hall available. After 6 years of fundraising, a new hall, called the WI Hut was built on the site of the current village hall. By 1960 the WI hut had fallen into disrepair and villagers contributed towards a new building, the present hall, which was erected in 1961.



Two beautiful banners have been created and were on display in the shop window during October. The recent banner is usually seen in pride of place in its own display case in the village hall. The first one incorporates the crest of New College but the most recent one shows local landmarks around Stanton St John. It was designed and created by Rosemary Money and Ann Nutt using a variety of crafting and textile skills. We are extremely proud of the result of their wonderful skills and workmanship.

Over the years Stanton St John has absorbed members from other villages. Forest Hill once had a WI of between 40-50 members but when they were unable to continue, some of their members joined Stanton St John WI. They kindly donated their WI crockery when they disbanded. More recently, in 2021, Horton-cum-Studley WI joined us, but not before celebrating their own Centenary in 2019.

The Woodperry Group of Women's Institutes took its name from a local Stanton St John house but was composed of WIs from Beckley, Elsfield, Horton-cum-Studley, Islip and Otmoor as well as Stanton St John.

Historically we have had some very prestigious members, including Lady Tweedsmuir, wife of the novelist John Buchan, who wrote many successful novels including *The Thirty-Nine Steps*. He was quoted as saying that "if he ever saw any strange goings on at Elsfield Manor, such as passing Cleopatra on the stairs, it was probably down to the WI".

In 1938 the WI hall and WI expertise were used for the assembly and fitting of gas masks. A receipt, dated 3 September 1940, for the hire of a canning machine on 12 July, and 8 and 12 August was found in our archives. This machine was used to preserve fruit and vegetables to help supplement rationing during the Second World War.

In 1972, to commemorate the Jubilee, a Tulip Tree was planted, with a cache of "treasure" in the form of coins of the time, and bequeathed to the Parish.

Over the past hundred years we have weathered many events, most recently the effects of Covid-19 and lockdown, but continue to thrive and support our local communities.

IT has helped us to keep in touch and we have mastered using Zoom to hold meetings and host talks and workshops, but we relish the ability to meet in person, share ideas and companionship, have fun and keep fit, expand our interests and friendship.

There is so much more to our story - an Institution that has been going for as long as the BBC! If you'd like to find out more, do contact us at stantonstjohnwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk.

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A Poem for Remembrance Sunday

[Editor's note] The poem below was sent to me by Julie Noble from Stanton St John, who wrote:

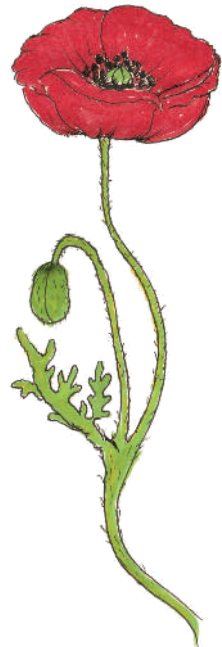
I've lived in Stanton for twenty five years now, and have often wondered if this poem written by my grandfather, would be enjoyed by anyone else, particularly as we approach remembrance time.

Julie's grandfather, Dare Sorby, enlisted at the beginning of the Great War in 1914 and served until 1918. He won his rank of Sergeant on the field and took part in the battles of Sanctuary Wood, Hill 70, Vimy, Passchendaele and Arras. Having somehow survived four terrible years of brutal conflict, he died a month before the war ended.

The poem was published in 'The Western Veteran' in January 1919. Although it refers specifically to early twentieth century trench warfare, there is much that would resonate with a soldier fighting in Eastern Ukraine today. The message at the end of the poem is an eternal truth that we would all do well to remember.

Poem written in Arras Caves,
April 5th, 1918

In the sweat and the turmoil of battle,
When we wait for the zero-hour,
Nerved taut by the crash and the rattle
Of the guns which seek to devour,
Midst the fierce zing-wang of the splinter
Of the bursting shrapnel shell,
And the whine of machine gun bullets,
And the Gas-wave - (Breath of Hell!)
The roar of the High Explosives
As they rend and tear the ground
Battering in our trenches,
Scattering death around -
Then - we hear the officer's whistle,
And the word's passed on - "Stand by!"
"Only two minutes to go boys!"
Then - "Over" and Do or Die.



Oh Thou who didst create us,
We ask Thee see us through,
Give us strength and courage
Our duty now to do.
Give Brain of Ice, and Heart of Fire,
To advance upon our foe,
Our purpose firm, our duty stern
To lay his legions low.

The coming generations
Shall reap from this much gain.
Freedom shall be their harvest,
Our blood's not shed in vain.
The fields of France and Belgium
Shall once again be green,
The forests and the hedgerows
Once more take on their sheen.
The orchards and the gardens
Shall glory in the Spring,
And all mankind shall dwell in Peace.
The birds again will sing.
The rivulets and sparkling streams
Shall once again be clear,
And the little wild-wood peoples
Shall drink, and know no fear.
From out these piteous ruins,
Made glorious in men's eyes,
Shall stately domes and lofty spires,
And happy homes arise.
All men shall learn this lesson,
The small white crosses tell:
"Covet not thy neighbour's goods,
Remember:-War is Hell."



Sergeant Frederick William Dare Sorby, D.C.M.

Born April 13th 1889,

Entered into Rest, October 11th, 1918,

After Four Years' Service.

News from Friends of Beckley School (FOBS)



FOBS would like to welcome all new (and old) families to the new school year. We have lots planned, so please follow us on Facebook for up-to-date information of events and competitions for the children. We appreciate that this winter period will be financially tough, and we would like to reassure families that any fundraising we undertake will reflect this.

ASDA 'Green Token' Giving

FOBS is currently one of three nominated charities for the Asda Foundation Green Token Giving scheme at Asda, Wheatley. **Vote for us today at <https://www.asda.com/green-tokens/store?store=4925> and we could receive £500 from the Asda Foundation. Votes can be made once every 7 days between now and 31 December - so get voting now!**

FOBS Christmas

Once again FOBS will be selling **Christmas trees**: please find the leaflet enclosed for ordering. We will also be holding a Christmas Fair at the school and would be grateful for any **raffle or Christmas decoration donations**. Please drop us an email at Beckleyfobs@gmail.com if you can help.

FOBS opportunities

We are currently looking for new committee members, specifically social media and marketing help and a new treasurer. Come and join our team helping to fundraise for the school. As we are a 'Friends of' group we are able to welcome committee members from the community - even grandparents can be involved! Are you a local business that would like to get involved in our future events? Please contact Beckleyfobs@gmail.com.

Next FOBS meeting

Join us on Thursday 3 November, 7pm at the Talkhouse, Stanton St John.

Support the school via donations:



Scan this QR code or type <https://donorbox.org/fobs> in your web browser to go straight to the FOBS fundraising page. You can give regular or one-off donations by debit or credit card. If you are a UK tax payer, please remember to tick the Gift Aid box so we can claim an additional 25% on your donation.

BECKLEY

Beckley Church

Details of all church services and general church news can be found on **pages 5 - 10**. Any changes to the published schedule of services will be on our website www.fourparishes.org.uk.

Harvest Festival



Thank you to all those involved in decorating the Church, making it look particularly beautiful for the harvest service. Thank you also to all those who donated harvest gifts.

Beckley School celebrated harvest in the Church while it was still beautifully decorated. It was lovely to have the whole school together. They brought harvest gifts which were added to those already collected in Church.

Year 6 children read opening and closing prayers they had written. The whole school had learnt two harvest songs which they sang beautifully. Year 5 children read harvest poems they had written, and year 6 children read the parable of the sower that they had chosen. Anthea gave a brief talk, and gave thanks for the harvest gifts, which were given to the Kidlington Food Bank and were gratefully received.

The service finished with a blessing, and the children went back to school, singing one of the harvest songs as they went. It was a delightful occasion.

Children's autumn craft workshops

The Harvest workshop took place on a very wet Friday at the end of September in Beckley Church. A group of somewhat bedraggled children with their parents had a wonderful time learning to make bread, which they then took home to bake. See page 10 for details of two more workshops this year.



Beckley and Area Community Benefit Society Ltd More than a Pub program. <https://bacbs.org/events>

Pub quiz

7.30 pm on the first Wednesday of the month in the bar at The Abingdon Arms. No need to book - just turn up.

Community Walks

These gentle, approximately two hour, walks usually start at 2pm on the third Sunday of the month (not December). Dogs on leads are welcome. Details of individual walks are available at <https://bacbs.org/events> a few days before each one.

Coffee and Cake Mornings at the Abingdon Arms

First Monday of the month at 11am. Come and join us for coffee, cake and a chat!

Sunday Evening Talks at the Abingdon Arms

Sunday 27 November, 6.30pm.

Burma: a very troubled country, challenges for health care.

Peter Saunders, Royal College of GPs trainer and Beckley resident, has been involved with a project in Myanmar (formerly known as Burma), to help strengthen their health care provision. He will give a bit of background, some history, some politics, then talk about the main elements of the projects that are continuing despite Covid and last year's military coup.



Sunday 29 January, 6.30pm.

Eve bites back...An alternative History of English Literature.

Anna Beer will talk about her book, placing the female contemporaries of Chaucer, Shakespeare, and Milton centre stage in the history of English literature.



Anna is a British author who is particularly interested in the relationship between literature, politics and history. She is a Visiting Fellow at Kellogg College, University of Oxford.

If you miss any of the talks, you can go to the BACBS website to find out how you can listen to the recording (<https://bacbs.org/events>).

BECKLEY BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS NIGHT

At Beckley Village Hall and Playing Field

SATURDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2022

GATES OPEN FROM 5.30PM

BONFIRE AT 6.00PM

FIREWORKS AT 6.30PM

PARKING ON PLAYING FIELD

REFRESHMENTS - Burger and Hot Dog Van

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Please bring CASH for entry payment

Beckley & Stowood Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Thursday 3 November at 8pm at Beckley Village Hall**. Any changes to the published meeting dates will be on the website www.beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk.

The Clerk's email address is clerk@beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk and Parish Council information can be found on the website.

For information on Beckley Village Hall please see www.beckleyvillagehall.org and to enquire about a booking please contact Sarah Kearney, at booking@beckleyvillagehall.org.

Are you 4, or 5, or 6, or 7, or 8, or 9, or 10, or even 11?



If so, the 'Open the Book' and 'Messy Church' teams invite YOU to come to the Autumn Craft Workshops in Beckley Church from 3.30pm to 4.45pm on:



Friday 11 November for the REMEMBRANCE WORKSHOP

Friday 2 December for the CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP

Remember to bring an adult along with you!

FOREST HILL

News from St Nicolas Church

Details of all church services and general church news can be found on **pages 5 - 10**. Any changes to the published schedule of services will be on our website www.fourparishes.org.uk.

Harvest Festival



Thank you to everyone who brought flowers/greenery, vegetables and fruits and to all those who decorated the church for our Harvest Festival. The produce was taken to The Oxford Community Soup Kitchen and handed over to Gary Smith (pictured), whose mother, Icolyn (aka 'Ma Smith'), was awarded an MBE in 1999 for her work in feeding the homeless.

Summer Cream Teas and Music at St Nicolas

For our final Cream Teas in September we were delighted to welcome Jules Blyth and husband Will to perform for us again, following their two month 'European Tour'.

Thank you to everyone who organised and provided the teas, to all the wonderful musicians who played and sang for us over the summer, and to all our supporters who came to enjoy the teas and/or the music . A total of £510 was raised for St Nicolas Church.

'Far from Home'

Concert in St Nicolas Church, Sunday 13 November, 6pm



Music and readings by members of our village community reflecting on the impact of war throughout the ages.

For more information contact Julia Stutfield
07766 103427

Julia.stutfield@gmail.com

Retiring collection in aid of the
Royal British Legion and DEC
Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal



Planning ahead - some Christmas dates for your diary!

Sunday 27 November: Advent Carol Service with St Nicolas Choir, 6pm

**Sunday 4 December: St Nicolas Children's Service with Christingle, 4pm
(preceded by workshop in the village hall - see below)**

Tuesday 20 December: Traditional Nine Lessons and Carols, 7pm

Thursday 22 December: Carols at the Village Hall, 6pm

For more information about any of the above, contact Julia Stutfield (07766 103427 or julia.stutfield@gmail.com)

Forest Hill with Shotover Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on **Thursday 10 November at 7pm in Forest Hill Village Hall.**

Current Agendas and Minutes are posted on the notice board outside the Village Hall. Archived Agendas and Minutes can be found on the website www.parish-council.com/foresthillwithshotover/index.asp.

You can contact the Clerk by email at theclerk@foresthillwithshotover-pc.org or telephone 0844 884 3328, between 9am and 5pm.

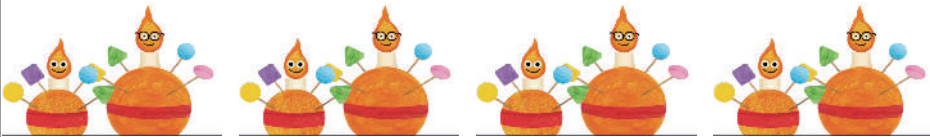
Forest Hill Village Hall

If you would like to hire the village hall, please contact Dawn Dunbar either by email at dunbardawn@ymail.com or on 07527 732050. The hall is hired out at a cost of £10 per hour.

*Christingle Workshop for Children,
Forest Hill Village Hall*

Sunday 4 December 2:45pm

For more information contact
Julia Stutfield 07766 103427 or julia.stutfield@gmail.com
or Jane Walker 01865 872399



HORTON-cum-STUDLEY

News from St Barnabas

Details of all church services and general church news can be found on **pages 5 - 10**. Any changes to the published schedule of services will be on our website www.fourparishes.org.uk.

We have tree work at St Barnabas on 9 & 10 November which may affect access in Church Lane. PCC apologises for any inconvenience.

We have had so many enjoyable events happening in October and here is a quick summary.

Michaelmas Fayre

Thank you so much to the Badger family for clearing out the lovely airy barn at Manor Farm to host the Michaelmas Fayre. It was great to see so many friends and neighbours enjoying the rolls, soups, teas and cakes as well as enjoying the games and browsing the stalls. And best of all the sun shone for us making it a truly enjoyable couple of hours. Thank you to all the stall holders, soup-makers, Lyn for bringing up all the tables and chairs from the hall, Lisa for sorting the soups and to everyone who brought donations. Thank you most of all for everybody who supported the event and made it a success. We made over £800.

Animal welfare and blessing service

The animal welfare and blessing service was, as always, a joy to attend. We



thanked God for the blessings our own cats, dogs and other animals, give to us and we remembered those animal less fortunate who do not have a peaceful life. There are some little prayer cards at the back of the church for anyone has recently lost a companion animal.

St Barnabas Friends event - "WHY PARISHES?"

Thirty people gathered for the Friends of St Barnabas lecture on "Going to church in the parish of Horton-cum-Studley in the middle-ages". The talk, by historian Nicholas Orme, including tales of Latin liturgy, stuffed model dragons, flans and beer, within church services, enthralled the audience.

Harvest Festival

Thank you for all harvest gifts which were donated, to Annie for the beautiful harvest flower arrangements and to Lyn for taking all the gifts to the Thame Food Bank.



Harvest Supper

Around 50 villagers, including children, gathered to enjoy a harvest supper in the Millennium Village Hall. It was good to resume the event after the Covid break. A team of generous cooks and decorators turned the hall into an autumnal restaurant and served up a delicious meal. The evening was a huge success, reflected in the volume of laughter and conversations.

Horton-cum-Studley Gardening Club

Looking out on yet another glorious October morning conjures up for me the *'Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness'* in John Keats' beautiful poem: *'Autumn'*. Apparently, despite the extreme, dry temperatures this year, the UK apple harvest is set to be a particularly good one - a reminder that nature is always full of surprises.

Our gardens have the potential not just to provide nourishment for the soul, but also for the body - and not just ours. Late autumn is a good time to plant native hedging, which provides food and shelter for native birds and insects. Evergreen and wildlife-friendly options include holly, yew, berberis, cotoneaster, pyracantha and photinia. New plantings will need to be well-mulched and fertilized to ensure they don't dry out as they establish themselves and, as well as creating a natural screen, will also ensure a variety of colour throughout the year.

Our final talk of the year is at the Millennium Hall at 8pm on Tuesday 15 November, when Robert Longstaff will be telling us all about No-Dig Gardening. If you want to make your garden, however small, more productive and more beautiful, but perhaps lack the time or strength to do heavy digging, you will find this informative and inspiring.

We look forward to inviting members, guests, and anyone thinking of joining the Club. Do get in touch if you would like to come along: melaniejones@cbtoxford.com 07766 708303. We really hope you can join us. Happy Autumn!

Melanie Jones, Chair, Horton-cum-Studley Gardening Club

Pumpkin Weigh-In and Sunflower Measure

It's been a mixed year for growing as seen by the size of the pumpkins on view on a beautiful autumn afternoon. For the first year in over a decade Angie Pullinger won the POTY trophy managing to conquer the conditions and grow one of 10.1 kg. Congratulations Angie! Pete Saunders was second (6.2 kg) and Cathy was third (5.8 kg). Bronwyn Van Zijl came a close fourth (5.1 kg). Sadly, Chris Pugh's pumpkin was not at all well and arrived in a Red Cross box with its own positive (for pumpkin-itis) lateral flow test!

There were 12 sunflower entries and for a second year Judy Jillings had a convincing victory (314cm) followed by Cathy (261cm) and Janice Read (218 cm).

We saw some first-time entrants in the sunflower competition and Artem had a very respectable 183cm sunflower, considerably taller than himself! Ellie and Bethany Seabert had 2 dainty specimens with the thinnest stems we have ever seen. The Van Zijl sunflower must be mentioned for the size of its head. One to be enjoyed by the birds in the coming weeks.

Two additional "trophies " were presented. To Lewis Campbell and the Campbell family for continuing, every year, to produce a pumpkin +/- a sunflower. Thank you, and to Alan and Janice Read who were awarded a prize for husband and wife entries.

Thanks to everyone for supporting the weigh-in and for tea and biscuits provided by Lis Pugh, Julia Slingo, Colin Jenkins and Janice Read. Thanks to you all for your donations, £75 was raised for St Barnabas Church and £135 for Parkinson's UK.

Cathy Jenkins

Millennium Village Hall

Wine Tasting Event 6pm Friday 18 November

Professionally selected range of Italian wines - red, white, and a desert. Taste and stock up for Christmas! Advance booking and £12 payment to Derek Jewell, mobile: 07845 147865, or Stuart MacFarlane, email: s.macfarlane799@btinternet.com or mobile: 07906 216549.

Parking:

Earlier in the year we locked the main gate for a while to deter joy riding

on the field. Some users of the field or courts seem to think it's still locked, and so drop off and /or park at the rear of The Green - naturally very disruptive and unnecessary. The gate is usually closed, but it's not locked!

The Lucas Terrier Club (see October magazine) were impressed with the Hall's facilities, which suited their October Show event very well. They have booked again for 2023.

A number a small tables and chairs that were in storage and surplus to requirements have been donated to St Barnabas Church for their cream tea afternoons.

Stuart Macfarlane

Horton-cum-Studley Parish Council

The Parish Council are delighted to announce that the consultation re. introduction of a 20mph speed limit through the village is complete and likely to be in place before the end of the year. The changes to signage are being funded by Oxford County Council for which we are very grateful.

There has been an increased volume of traffic down Ragnalls Lane. The PC would like to remind everyone that after the Cottages on Ragnalls Lane it becomes a Restricted By-Way, and therefore it cannot be used for Motor Vehicles (of any kind) unless it is for the purposes of accessing a property, or land.

During these challenging time Cherwell District Council is looking to assist with support of any individuals struggling with the cost-of-living crisis. Details can be found on the Cherwell District Council website <https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/info/118/communities/977/help-with-the-cost-of-living>.

The PC reminds all dog owners that not clearing up after your dog is an offence, and not picking up dog poo (or in some cases throwing black bags full of poo into gardens and the tennis courts) is offensive to the whole village. Please keep an eye on your dog whilst you are walking it and pick up after it.

The next PC meeting will be held virtually at 7:30pm on Thursday 10 November. Please contact the Parish Clerk if you wish to attend.

Sarah Foxcroft, Chairman, Horton-cum-Studley Parish Council

STANTON ST JOHN

Stanton Church

Details of all church services and general church news can be found on **pages 5 - 10**. Any changes to the published schedule of services will be on our website www.fourparishes.org.uk.

Harvest Festival

Thank you to all those involved in decorating the Church, making it look particularly beautiful for the harvest service. Thank you also to all those who donated food. The donations were given to the Barton Food Bank and were gratefully received.



'Turn on the lights', Friday 9 December 6 - 8pm

Come to our Village Celebration!

6pm Switching on of our Village Christmas tree lights followed by:

- Carol singing
- Hot dogs
- Mulled wine
- Christmas hamper raffle (tickets for sale in the Village Shop)
- Craft stalls in the Village Hall

Hark the Stanton Villagers Sing!

Do you like singing? Would you like to sing with others - adults and children - who live in Stanton?

We're looking for villagers to sing carols when the Christmas tree lights are switched on at 6pm on Friday 9 December. Come and join us on Sunday 13 November, 5.15 - 6.15pm in Stanton Village Hall and Sunday 20 November, 5 - 6pm in Stanton Church.

All are welcome. Children must be accompanied by parents/carers for Health and Safety reasons.

Contact Sue Baker (01865 351449) or Rowan Reavley (07795 415819) for further details.

Date for your diaries

Shotover Singers are coming to Stanton again to give a Christmas Concert in the Church on Saturday 10 December from 5 - 6pm.

Come and enjoy listening to them sing and joining in old favourites!

Monthly Coffee Mornings in Stanton Village Hall

The next coffee morning is on **Wednesday**

9 November from 10.30am - 12pm.

Subsequent dates for your diary are:

7 December

11 January



Come for tea, coffee and cake! Everyone is welcome. For further details, please contact Sue Baker (01865 351449) or Sarah Coyne (01865 358876).

Stanton St John Parish Council

Our next meeting is on **Monday 21 November at 7.30pm** in Stanton St John Village Hall.

General information, notices, meeting agendas and minutes are published regularly on the notice boards outside the Village Shop and Village Hall, and sent to all those on our email distribution list. Please email the Parish Clerk at stantonstjohnpc@gmail.com if you would like to be added to this list.

Traffic and road safety measures in the village

Parish councillors and the Traffic Working Party are continuing to pursue additional measures for traffic calming and pedestrian safety in the village. There has clearly been an enthusiastic response from communities all over the county to OCC's speed management programme, and there are many projects to be carried out, which will take some time.

We are assured that Stanton St John is amongst the first phase group, but the expected completion date is now around Easter 2023, i.e. a few months later than initially estimated.

Film Night Saturday 12 Nov, 7.45pm Stanton St John Village Hall

The Stanton St. John Film Club presents the 2022 best-selling movie:



After thirty years, Maverick (Tom Cruise) is still pushing the envelope as a top naval aviator, but must confront ghosts of his past when he leads TOP GUN's elite graduates on a mission that demands the ultimate sacrifice from those chosen to fly it.

Doors will be open at 7pm, with a film start at 7.45pm. The film is rated 12A and lasts 2h 11min. Before and after the film, delicious cakes and drinks are available whilst the bar will serve wines and "Aviation" cocktails.

Since only 60 seats are available in the Village Hall, please reserve your seats for the screening as soon as possible by emailing Sue Baker (susanjbaker24@gmail.com) or in Stanton Village Shop.

Tickets are £5 (cash only) will be sold at the door. Any profits raised will be used to enhance the Village Hall for future screenings.

Stanton St John WI

We hope that most of you will have noticed our October display in the Village Shop (also featured on the front cover of this magazine) highlighting our forthcoming Very Special 100th Birthday.

A 1920s themed Party, with music and costumes based around the "Flapper" era, will be held on 15 November. See pages 18 - 19 for a short history of our hundred years.

Thank you

It is with sadness that I have had to leave my home in Stanton St John after 49 years. I would like to thank friends and neighbours for their help, friendship and support, not only over the years but more recently the last few months. It was greatly appreciated. I will miss all the chats with other dog walkers.

Good luck, good health and happiness for the future to you all.

Hilary Goulding and Woody

* * * * *

A Prayer for Ukraine

When war in Ukraine began, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York wrote a prayer for the country and its people. Since then, this prayer has been a part of our online and church services, and our regular prayers for peace, throughout the Four Parishes.

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen

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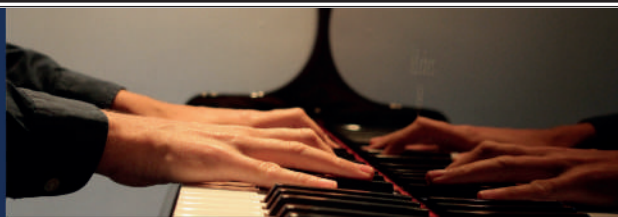
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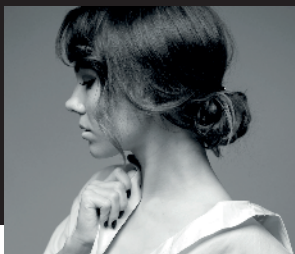
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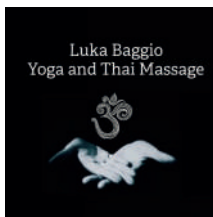
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Remembrance Sunday

13 November 2022



Services and Events in the Four Parishes



Time	Place	Description of Event
3.30pm Friday 11 Nov	Beckley Church	Children’s Craft Workshop (see page 10)
10.45am	Stanton St John War Memorial	Act of Remembrance by the War Memorial followed by a service of Holy Communion in church
10.45am	Beckley Churchyard	Act of Remembrance in the Churchyard, followed by a service of Morning Prayer in church.
10.45am	Horton-cum-Studley Churchyard	Act of Remembrance in the Churchyard, followed by a service of Morning Prayer in church.
10.45am	Forest Hill War Memorial	Act of Remembrance by the War Memorial in the Cemetery, followed by a service of Morning Prayer in church.
6pm	Forest Hill Church	'Far from Home' Concert in aid of the Royal British Legion and DEC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal (see page 26)

