

# *The Four Parishes News Magazine*

BECKLEY  
FOREST HILL  
HORTON-cum-STUDLEY  
STANTON St JOHN



Air Ambulance over Stanton St John, July 2022

*September 2022*

## The editor writes:



Welcome back, after a summer which seems to have flown by much too quickly. Much as I enjoy editing this magazine, the break was very welcome and I am now bracing myself for a return to all the regular activities that make up a 'normal' week!

This month's magazine is full of news about activities and events, which show what vibrant communities we live in. If you are new to our villages, please don't hesitate to join in with things that interest you or even try something new. Taking part in community activities is a wonderful way to meet people and make friends over shared experiences.

This month we are delighted to welcome more new advertisers and, as always, I urge you to support them as much as possible. We have also introduced a List of Contents, which we hope will make it easier to find your way around the magazine.

Our job as editors is to organise and present the contributions that are sent to us by many different people. We don't write the magazine ourselves, and without your contributions, there wouldn't be one, so please keep them coming!

*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 David Brown over Stanton St John in July 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](mailto:4parishesnewsletter@gmail.com)**

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

**Reverend Anthea Beresford**  
*Vicar*

[anthea@fourparishes.org.uk](mailto:anthea@fourparishes.org.uk)  
Tel: 01865 351839

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**We welcome contributions or notices for future issues.**  
Please send them to the Editor at [4parishesnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:4parishesnewsletter@gmail.com).

**The closing date for the Oct 2022 issue is 15 Sep 2022**

Recent issues of the magazine are available to view online at  
[www.fourparishes.org.uk/magazine](http://www.fourparishes.org.uk/magazine)

**To advertise in the magazine please email JULIA**  
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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**

# 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.

## Ministry Team

**Rev'd Anthea Beresford**  
*Vicar*

[anthea@fourparishes.org.uk](mailto:anthea@fourparishes.org.uk)

Tel: 01865 351839

**Rev'd Hugh Lee**  
*Associate Priest*

[hugh.lee@btinternet.com](mailto:hugh.lee@btinternet.com)

Tel: 01865 316245

**Rev'd Stephanie Bullock**

[stephaniebullock9@gmail.com](mailto:stephaniebullock9@gmail.com)

**Rev'd Dr. Elizabeth Hoare**

[liz.hoare@wycliffe.ox.ac.uk](mailto:liz.hoare@wycliffe.ox.ac.uk)

**Betty Dye LLM**

[betty.dye10@gmail.com](mailto:betty.dye10@gmail.com)

**Canon Prof. Nicholas Orme LLM**

[n.i.orme@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:n.i.orme@exeter.ac.uk)

## Churchwardens

### Beckley

Georgina Robson Tel: 01865 351637 [gina.robson@virgin.net](mailto:gina.robson@virgin.net)

### Forest Hill

Jane Walker Tel: 01865 872399 [lyttleton@btinternet.com](mailto:lyttleton@btinternet.com)

Pat Fraser Tel: 01865 875679 [triciaann49@gmail.com](mailto:triciaann49@gmail.com)

### Horton-cum-Studley

Lynn Whitaker Tel: 01865 358838 [lyndawhitaker@btinternet.com](mailto:lyndawhitaker@btinternet.com)

### Stanton St John

Vacant at present

## Church Services in the Four Parishes, September 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
<b>4 September</b> <i>Twelfth Sunday after Trinity</i>	<b>11am Holy Communion</b>	<b>9.30am Holy Communion</b>	<b>9.30am Holy Communion</b>	<b>11am Morning Prayer</b>
	<b>4pm Children's Service at St Nicolas</b>			
	<b>6pm Taizé Service via Zoom</b>			
<b>11 September</b> <i>Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity</i>		<b>9.30am Holy Communion</b>	<b>9.30am Morning Prayer</b>	<b>11am Holy Communion</b>
	<b>11am Benefice Zoom Service</b>			
	<b>4pm Messy Church at Stanton Village Hall</b>			
	<b>6pm BCP Choral Evensong at Forest Hill</b>			
<b>18 September</b> <i>Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity</i>	<b>11am BCP Morning Prayer</b>	<b>9.30am Harvest Holy Communion</b>	<b>9.30am BCP Holy Communion</b>	<b>11am Morning Prayer</b>
	<b>6pm Iona Service at Beckley</b>			
<b>25 September</b> <i>Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity</i>	<b>10am Benefice Holy Communion Service at Stanton St John</b>			
	<b>4pm Family Church does Forest Church Bernwood Forest, Oakley Road, OX33 1BJ (meet at car park)</b>			
	<b>6pm Church without Walls in Stanton St John Village Hall</b>			

Please check the website [www.fourparishes.org.uk](http://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](mailto:anthea@fourparishes.org.uk).

## A letter from Anthea

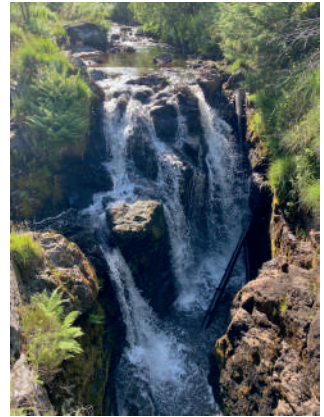
Hi everyone,



How can it possibly be September already? Is it that I am getting older that time seems to be whizzing by quicker and quicker? I have not dared look to see if I ask this question each month. Please forgive me if I do!

I hope you have managed to have a change of pace over the summer, even if you have not been fortunate enough to have gone away. That said, not everyone likes to go away. Some prefer to

remain in their familiar surroundings and going away is not good for them. I am one of those that likes to have a change of scenery - that feels a little decadent to say, considering this beautiful place I am fortunate to live in! But time away does help me to wind down, switch off, and recharge my batteries. It is also often a good time to catch up with family and friends, something that is not always easy to do during the busyness of everyday life. Whatever our role, being at home surrounded by the never-ending list of chores can be quite a drain. Out of sight, out of mind!! The chores will still be there on our return, but a rest away from them is welcome.



And what amazing weather we have had this summer. I confess I do not like it really hot - we are never quite satisfied are we! Bertie and his holiday companions were very happy when they discovered the lake they could cool off in! Humans were tempted but... The hot weather has certainly made a nice change from the wet August's of the last couple of years - if my memory is serving me well.



Sadly, this summer has perhaps not been as relaxing as we might have hoped. There is so much going on in the world that is probably

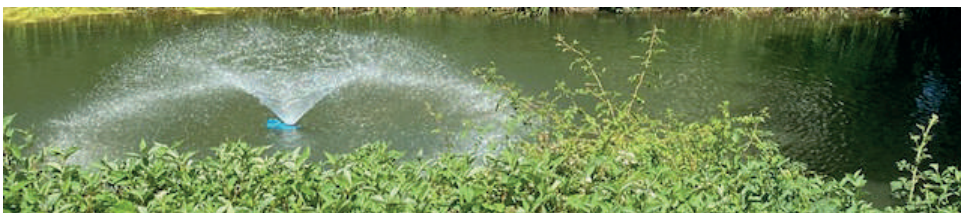
causing concern for many. The continuing war in Ukraine, and unrest in other parts of the world. Wildfires, not only abroad (which does not make them alright!), but in this country as well. And barely a day goes by without news about prices going up - whether it is fuel, food, clothes, commodities, or increases in interest rates. Inflation is running at unprecedented levels compared with recent memory, and further warnings come at us day by day. As we struggle to cool our houses down during the hot weather, we are left to wonder how we will be able to afford to keep warm and cook in the winter.

It could be easy to be overcome by all the news that is coming at us, rather than be able to take time to enjoy the present. Of course, burying our heads in the sand is not the answer, but neither is becoming overly stressed by things outside our control. There are no easy answers. But please do not carry burdens on your own. Please do come and talk or ask for prayer. Our troubles do not suddenly disappear, but as we share, they may feel more manageable, and that we are not alone. Try to enjoy the new beginnings that are so often beckoned by September: new school years; youngsters off to college/university; new jobs; new activities for the autumn etc. I am aware that lots of people are facing difficult health issues, either themselves or their loved ones. These are difficult times, please do not bear them alone. And may we together, as it feels as though the rushing waters may overwhelm us, find the light that sustains and upholds us, even through the darkest of times.

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

Well done if you managed to keep up with the reading over the summer and got through Exodus and Leviticus. I did warn you they are not the easiest read, but it is important we read the Old Testament as well as the New. If you managed it, you are now over half way through the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible, leaving just Numbers and Deuteronomy to go. In September let's read the 36 chapters of Numbers: it is just a chapter a day during the week and a couple each day at the weekend - then a couple of days off for good behaviour (or spare for catching up!). Again, it is not the easiest read, but we can do it! Please do let me know how you get on.

### Ongoing midweek activities on Zoom

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

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

### Book Group

The Book Group continues to meet virtually by Zoom on a Thursday evening at 7.30pm. We will be starting a new book in September (yet to be decided). If you would like to join the Group, 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](http://www.fourparishes.org.uk/children-and-families).

Please always look out for email updates.

Children's Service at St Nicolas	Messy Church	Family Church
4 September	11 September	25 September
2 October	9 October	23 October
6 November	13 November	27 November
4 December		
11 December Joint Christmas Party (details to be announced nearer the time)		

## Children's autumn craft workshops (see also page 19)

It is wonderful that we can once again start the Children's craft workshops 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. Please hold the dates:

**Friday 30 September: Harvest Workshop**

**Friday 11 November: Remembrance Workshop**

**Friday 2 December: Christmas Workshop**

If you have never been before, please do come along. All are welcome. Bring a friend!

## Romans at Studley Farm House

The study group looking at the Book of Romans is resuming after the summer break. **Please note the change of day to Monday, with it starting on 19 September 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](mailto:anniefpayne@gmail.com).

## GENERAL

### Dame Elizabeth Holford's Charity Applications for Bursaries welcomed

Dame Elizabeth Holford's Charity offers bursaries to children and young people under 25 who have parents resident in Stanton St John, Forest Hill with Shotover, Beckely, Horton-cum-Studley and the ecclesiastical Parish of Elsfield.

The bursaries provide help with educational needs, both academic, vocational and physical. In the past monies have been granted for music lessons, sporting equipment, residential courses, laptop computers and software, digital cameras, tools required by apprentices and help towards masters degrees.

The Charity does not fund undergraduate courses or private school fees. Applications are NOT means tested and funding is granted on a case by case basis, decided by the Board of Trustees.

Applications can be made to the Chair of Dame Elizabeth Holford's Charity, Alison Finch.

The email address is [HolfordtrustChair@gmail.com](mailto:HolfordtrustChair@gmail.com). Applications can also be made in writing to Alison Finch, 14 Mickle Way, Forest Hill, Oxford, OX33 1DX.

## Fund Raiser for the People of Ukraine

### JONNY AND THE JIVE TONES

50's/60's rock n roll, featuring guest Anna Gillingham on vocals, and  
OLD GOLD (Easy listening)

**Saturday 3 September at Exeter Hall, Kidlington, 7pm - 11pm**  
LICENSED BAR

Tickets £10 available from Pat MossDurrant:  
[mossdurrant17@gmail.com](mailto:mossdurrant17@gmail.com)

## Forest Hill with Shotover Parish Council

### Job Vacancy for a Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer 8 hrs per week

The council are looking to appoint a new Parish Clerk.

You will be required to carry out the administrative and clerical functions of the Parish Council and manage the Council's accounts and financial records.

The hours are flexible and mainly working from home with the need to attend an evening meeting approximately every 6 weeks.

Candidates should have good organisational and communication skills, be competent in IT, and have experience with financial data. Training is available on specific aspects of the role. A full job description can be obtained from the current acting clerk.

**If you are interested, we would appreciate a CV and a covering letter by 1 October.**

Email: [theclerk@foresthillwithshotover-pc.org.uk](mailto:theclerk@foresthillwithshotover-pc.org.uk)

## HOW SAFE IS YOUR ELECTRIC BLANKET?

**FREE ELECTRIC BLANKET CHECKS IN OXFORDSHIRE**

Make sure your blanket is safe to use this winter.

### BOOKING INFORMATION:

To book your safety check appointment call **01865 895999 Option 3**

or email: [duty.officer@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:duty.officer@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

(Pre-booked appointments only on a strictly first come first served basis)



## Have your say: The Importance of Verges for Wildlife

As we walk, cycle and drive around our Oxfordshire lanes over the summer months, roadside verges and how they look can provide food for thought. They range from regularly mown to apparently unkempt but often with a wide range of wildflowers.

Management of verges often creates debate with some keen on more regular mowing to keep them tidy and others advocating leaving them, but how important are they for wildlife and what does this mean for how they look?

According to a 2021 study published by the University of Exeter, road verges cover 1.2% of Britain, accounting for almost 1,000 square miles. They act as valuable wildlife corridors, and in themselves providing a valuable habitat for a range of flowers, insects and mammals. Barn owls can often be seen hunting alongside the road as they look for small mammals in the long grass. To maximise their wildlife benefits, management is key. Many verges are mown regularly so that they rarely get to display any flowers and although others are cut infrequently, the arisings are usually left in situ to rot down and enrich the soil each year, giving the more aggressive and competitive species an advantage.



A growing number of local environment groups are wanting to see better verge management in their area, and they can play a key role in highlighting the potential of their local verges. Oxfordshire County Council's grass cutting policy is available for all to read on their website and Oxford City Council has recently changed the way it manages verges, only cutting in one metre swathes where road visibility is a problem. Many Town and Parish Councils are responsible for verge cutting within their 30mph zone, so have some autonomy over how their verges are managed.

Fifty five lengths of verge have been identified in Oxfordshire as being of importance for the variety of flowers that they support. As Road Verge Nature Reserves they are subjected to a single annual cut to encourage the wildflowers to disperse their seed and prevent coarser grasses and scrub dominating. Identified where appropriate with 'Nature Reserve' posts a number of them represent increasingly rare habitats such as limestone grassland. Around Otmoor small areas of verge have been cut less frequently: in Islip the verges in Mill Lane and the end of Mill Street were left and residents took part in a bug hunt in 2021; in Oddington one of the greens has been left uncut this summer and is currently alive with chirruping crickets.

Drive up the hill out of Islip towards Wheatley, and there is a lovely verge on the left-hand side full of wildflowers, such as field scabious, knapweed and Birds-food Trefoil (also known as 'eggs and bacon'). These provide a valuable source of nectar with Bird's-foot Trefoil being the food plant for the caterpillar of the common blue butterfly.

So what other wildlife uses roadside verges? The succession of wildflowers including orchids, bedstraws, scabious and knapweeds provide an important food source for pollinators such as bumble and solitary bees; grass might seem a little dull but is the plant of choice for meadow brown, gatekeeper and other species of butterflies to lay their eggs. The verges provide a refuge for small mammals and as a result attract birds such as kestrels and buzzards.

These unsung areas of habitat can be a veritable oasis for a wide range of wildlife if they are managed sensitively. It's definitely worth taking a close look as you pass them by.

More details about roadside verges and their management including some examples of 'no mow' signs can be found at [www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk](http://www.wildoxfordshire.org.uk) under Guidance/Community Resources along with a range of other ideas and examples of communities managing areas for wildlife and nature. Plant Life offers advice and support and has a helpful Facebook group [Flowers on roadside verges](#).

*Vicky Robinson  
Oddington resident and Wild Oxfordshire Trustee*

## “Notes on the Rural Landscape”:

### Irrigation Part 1 - Rectory Farm.

Many of you will have seen the "rain guns" and the smaller sprinklers irrigating potatoes at Rectory Farm. Less noticeable will be the trickle irrigation on strawberries, raspberries, and other fruits and vegetables. Rectory Farm is one of the few farms in Oxfordshire that irrigate. In the UK irrigation is usually only applied to horticultural crops (ie fruit and vegetables) and not to wide acre crops like wheat.

It might seem therefore that irrigation is not that important to UK agriculture or to food production. That is far from the truth. Every bit of "prettily coloured" fruit and vegetable you see immediately upon entering a supermarket is irrigated to a greater or lesser extent, and that extends to the same food whether it is frozen, in a tin, dried, a ready-made meal or just as an ingredient in many other products. I do mean every bit as I cannot readily think of any that aren't to some extent.

Some misunderstandings arise about irrigation. Firstly farmers' irrigation does not come from Thames Water or any of the water companies. It comes from their own abstraction either directly or into "winter fill" reservoirs and pumped from there. The pumps, pipework, (filters) and reservoirs that do this are installed and operated by the farmer. At Rectory Farm the first investment in irrigation was in 1963/4. Two reservoirs were built in 1993. The irrigation system extends east to west from Forest Hill to Elsfield, north to south from Woodperry to Barton. There are enough pipes of all sizes to get to London and back.

While the capital cost of setting up an irrigation system is large, estimated at about £1.5m just to cover 150 acres of actual irrigation, the major cost is the operation of the system in repairs, labour time and energy cost of pumping water. Indeed the major cost of water is not the water itself (though reservoirs and the cost of filling them is high), it is the energy cost of pumping, whether the water comes out as irrigation, your tap or as a leak. And, as you know, energy costs (Kw/hr) have tripled this year.

You may wonder about the effects of the “drought” this summer. There are different sorts of “drought”. The UK has been in an “agricultural drought” since about the 20<sup>th</sup> of June. It would have been earlier, but

May and June had lower temperatures than normal so lower crop water usage produced benign growing conditions up to that time. Other sorts of “drought” are determined by humans, based on the level of water in the reservoirs (eg Farmoor) or in the aquifers.

An aquifer is a body of permeable rock (strata) than can contain and transmit water. SSJ and Forest Hill lie on a ridge of Corallian limestone which holds water. The water “rises” as springs in SSJ and Forest Hill where the limestone overlays the clay and sustains the streams in both villages, and is the reason for their original location.

Some 30% of UK domestic water comes directly from aquifers as groundwater. However, as aquifers supply most of the UK’s streams and rivers, from which man-made reservoirs are filled, the 30% is a gross underestimate of their real supply.

As the last two to three years have had wet winters, our aquifers are well supplied, and reservoirs should have been full after the winter. Generally we get more than enough winter rain to refill reservoirs, so there has only been a need to plan for one year’s “stock of water”. The difficulty in the UK for farmers and all those using water is that we no longer know for certain what is required, because our climate is becoming more varied. If one was in Israel, it would be much simpler because Israeli farmers know with absolute certainty that they will have to provide 100% of the water needs for their crops every year and on that view “droughts” are controllable. The same principle can be applied to just about everywhere in the world.

What will farmers do next year? Will they plant less crops and produce less food? Or will they decide that they can cope with an occasional dry year and take the loss on crops not coming up to “specification” in those years? It takes a minimum of two years to build a farm sized reservoir and fill it assuming that planning permission, legal requirements etc, ground work companies all fall into place perfectly. (They don’t!)

*Richard Stanley  
Rectory Farm, Stanton St John*

## ‘Noticing Familiar Birds’

by Lyn Ebbs

Familiarity breeds contempt: is that why we mostly ignore or even actively despise pigeons? It’s worth taking a closer look at this group of birds. Their colours are soft and subtle – bluey greys and dusky pinks, some with patches of iridescence. First let’s consider feral pigeons: in their wild form, rock doves were originally found across vast swathes of Africa, Asia and Europe, occupying sea caves, clifftops and mountainous regions. We domesticated them and our association with them is one of the longest we have with any species of bird, dating back to around 4500 BC. We have exploited them for food, used them to carry messages and bred them with different shapes and plumages to suit our fancy. Escapees from dovecotes and pigeon lofts, feral pigeons successfully exploited their association with humans, nesting on buildings and feeding on scraps of food - few towns or cities are without their local flocks. This has earned them the pejorative nickname of ‘rats with wings’. But they also have metaphorical places in our lives, symbolising fertility to early civilisations, later love and peace, and as a symbol of the Christian Church.



In our villages, we are more likely to see at least one of the other three British pigeon species – in decreasing order of size: woodpigeons, stock



doves and collared doves. The background noise to a late summer’s afternoon in the garden is the soporific, repetitive call of the woodpigeon. There are several mnemonics for it but one that captures its slightly complaining tone is: ‘My TOE hurts, Betty’. Another characteristic sound is the sharp clatter of

wings as they take off in fright. As well as its size, the woodpigeon is easily distinguished from other pigeons by its white collar and the bright white wing flashes when it flies. Wood is not a very apt description of this pigeon’s home these days as woodpigeons are common in town and countryside alike, coming fourth in this year’s RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch.



The name stock dove originates from the English word 'stocc' which means a stump or tree trunk. Stock doves, are therefore, 'the doves that live in hollow trees'. Where tree holes are in short supply, other nest holes will do, even abandoned rabbit burrows. They are more typically a farmland bird but are quite happy to join flocks of woodpigeons and, looking so similar, are easily overlooked. In fact, ornithologists failed to recognise its presence in Britain until the early 19th century. They are a little smaller than woodpigeons, rather dumpy and lack the white neck ring, wing patches or the white eye-ring that gives woodpigeons their slightly crazed look. Their call is a soft, husky single-note coo and, like the bird itself, easy to overlook.



Unlike the other pigeons, the collared dove is an all-over biscuity pink colour, with a neat black half-collar but its call is just as repetitive and even more monotonous. It's been likened to a dispirited football fan: 'U-ni-TED, U-ni-TED'. In population terms, the collared dove's is a birding success story. In the early part of the 20th century the species' stronghold was the



Balkan area of south-eastern Europe but in the 1930s it started to spread north and west. By the mid-50s it had crossed the English Channel. It was first seen in Oxfordshire in 1962 and the following year newly fledged young were discovered on a rooftop in Islip. How their spread was triggered is not certain, one theory

is that it was due to a genetic mutation. But like the other pigeons, they are prolific breeders, having multiple broods per year. A warming climate and changes in farming practices are likely to have played a part, too.

Another fascinating pigeon fact is that their value as messenger pigeons was recognised in World War II, when 200,000 were supplied to the British armed services. The birds helped save numerous lives and 26 received the Dickin medal, the animal equivalent of the Victoria Cross.

*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.*

## BECKLEY

### Beckley Church

Details of all church services and general church news can be found on **pages 5 - 9**. Any changes to the published schedule of services will be on our website [www.fourparishes.org.uk](http://www.fourparishes.org.uk).

### Record of the Furnishings of Beckley Church

On 14 August we were delighted that 12 volunteers from the Church Recording group of the Arts Society of Oxford joined us at Morning Prayer.

A Church Record is a comprehensive document listing the furnishings, artefacts and some of the fabric of a church. Objects are divided into sections entitled, Memorials, Metalwork, Stonework, Woodwork, Textiles, Windows, Paintings, Library and Miscellaneous. Each object is described in a prescribed format and may be photographed. Copies of the Record are placed in the V&A in London, the local County Heritage Centre and Historic England so that it becomes a source of information for future researchers.

During the service a bound copy of the Record of our church on which they had been working since 2018 was presented to us by their leader, Liz Rhodes, who also gave a short explanatory talk. We are privileged to have this record, which, as well as an Inventory, will be an invaluable source of information on aspects of our church's history.

If anyone would like to see the record, please contact Gina Robson [ginarobson5@gmail.com](mailto:ginarobson5@gmail.com) , tel: 01865 351637

### Ride and Stride, Saturday 10 September

The annual Ride and Stride is the chief source of income for the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust, which gives grants to Oxfordshire churches of all denominations for repairs and improvements. Beckley received grants for stonework repairs in 2010, and for repairs to the chancel roof last year.

To take part, find sponsors and cycle, walk or ride by horse to visit as many churches as possible. 50% of the money you raise can be given to a church of your choice, and the remainder goes to the OHCT itself to augment its funds. Do consider taking part! There will be sponsorship forms in the church or on line at [www.ohct.org.uk/ride-stride](http://www.ohct.org.uk/ride-stride) or please ask Gina Robson.

## Beckley & Stowood Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Thursday 1 September at 8pm at Beckley Village Hall.**

The Clerk's email address is [clerk@beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk) and Parish Council information can be found on the website [www.beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk](http://www.beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk).

For information on Beckley Village Hall please see [www.beckleyvillagehall.org](http://www.beckleyvillagehall.org) and to enquire about a booking please contact the Booking Secretary, Sarah Kearney, at [booking@beckleyvillagehall.org](mailto:booking@beckleyvillagehall.org).

### Hare Coursing – Message from Neighbourhood Alert, Rural Matters

New legislation to crack down on illegal hare coursing came into effect on 1 August 2022. This may deter some but not all and now that crops are harvested please be aware of illegal hare coursing/poaching and suspicious vehicles. Don't approach these people, report immediately on 999 or 101, if after the event.

When reporting through 101/999 please focus on the following when talking to the police caller:

C - Caller: Give your name and contact details

L - Location: Where is the offence happening/happened (what3words reference if possible)

O - Offences: Type of crime in progress/occurred

V - Vehicles: Describe transport type, and persons including ethnicity

E - Exit: What route have they taken/direction

**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 30 September for the HARVEST WORKSHOP**

**Friday 11 November for the REMEMBRANCE WORKSHOP**

**Friday 2 December for the CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP**

*Remember to bring a along with you!*

## Beckley and Area Community Benefit Society Ltd

<https://bacbs.org/>

### Community Survey 2022

It is over 3 years since we surveyed our community to ask what you wanted of The Abingdon Arms, and 2½ years since the current tenants took over from Aimee. These last two years have been tumultuous and very tough on our tenants. We are lucky that they have survived and are doing well, although the fallout from COVID is far from over with increased costs for everything they need.

We would like to ask our Shareholders, the wider community and other customers what you want from our community pub and from the Beckley & Area Community Benefit Society Ltd (BACBS), the body which owns the pub.



Will you give us the benefit of your views? This short survey can be answered online via <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/BACBS> or by scanning this QR code on your phone. Some questions simply require a tick, but we hope you'll write some comments and suggestions where invited. We thank you in advance for your time and interest. **The closing date is Friday 23 September.**

### More than a Pub program. <https://bacbs.org/events>

Our monthly events are resuming in September.

#### Pub quiz

7.30 pm on the first Wednesday of the month (7 September) 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 (18 September). Dogs on leads are welcome. Details of individual walks will be emailed around the community and are available at <https://bacbs.org/events> a few days before each one.

#### Coffee and Cake Mornings at the Abingdon Arms

First Wednesday of the month at 11am, re-starting 7 September. Come and join us for coffee, cake and a chat!

## Sunday Evening Talks at the Abingdon Arms

**Sunday 25 September, 6.30 pm.** *The end of an earring, a conversation with Pam St Clement*, well-known for her long association with the BBC series East Enders as Pat Butcher, on her work in theatre and television.

**Sunday 30 October, 6.30pm.** **Stephen Hyde:** *Gene therapy and cystic fibrosis*

Stephen is Professor of Molecular Therapy, John Radcliffe Hospital. Cystic fibrosis is a severe inherited disorder appearing in childhood and mainly affecting the lungs.

## Beckley Art Club & 'Tate Beckley'

<https://beckleyart.com/>

The telephone box in the village (AKA Tate Beckley) has some paintings from the 'tree' exhibition that was in the church over the Jubilee celebrations. Further paintings will appear over the next months. Because of damp in the winter, we can only exhibit water-proof items such as ceramics.

If you would like to exhibit, please contact either [john.stradling@gmail.com](mailto:john.stradling@gmail.com) or [lizbixby@me.com](mailto:lizbixby@me.com) (you don't have to be a Beckley resident!).

The barn end wall in the pub maintains a rotating exhibition by local artists, currently Lyn Croft and Rachel Khiara.

We are also planning our **annual exhibition in the village hall, weekend of 8 and 9 October.**

New members are welcome; we are near our maximum numbers so don't delay! Email [john.r.stradling@gmail.com](mailto:john.r.stradling@gmail.com).

## Concert in Beckley Church

**The Galliard Trio (flute, oboe/cor anglais, harpsichord/bassoon) will be playing music from Mozart, Ibert, Milhaud and Bach on Saturday 24 September at 5pm.** The Trio, formed 41 years ago has been giving concerts throughout the south of England, often in aid of churches and good causes. The concert will run for about an hour, and will be followed by drinks.

Do come and support us in this first concert in the Church since lockdown! Donations please towards repairs to the organ. Any questions to Susy Jepson [susy.jepson@gmail.com](mailto:susy.jepson@gmail.com).

## FOREST HILL

### News from St Nicolas Church

Details of all church services and general church news can be found on **pages 5 - 9**. Any changes to the published schedule of services will be on our website [www.fourparishes.org.uk](http://www.fourparishes.org.uk).

**The Plant and Produce Stall continues every Saturday** (until the end of October), outside Lyttleton, Main Street, 9am - 5pm. Due to the hot weather produce has become quite sparse but hopefully rain may soon help this situation. Kindly leave donations for goods in the money box provided. All proceeds go towards the work of St Nicolas Church.

### Ride and Stride, Saturday 10 September

*Hi it's that time of year again, Ride and Stride 2022.*

*St Nicolas Church will be open from 10am until 6pm with a rota of volunteers to welcome visitors who are taking part in this annual sponsored cycle, walk or horse ride around Oxfordshire churches to raise money for the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust (see also page 18).*

*I will be riding again, as I have for over 10 years now.*

*I only do 4/5 Churches as I work Saturday mornings. After work in Garsington, leaving at 1pm, I visit the 3 churches in Wheatley, on to Holton, home for some lunch then down to St Nicolas to be booked in as a rider and take over as a booker-in and welcomer.*

*If you would like to sponsor me, you can put your sponsor money through my door, with your name, first line of address and post code and a note to say if you would like to Gift Aid it. I live at 68 Mickle Way.*

*Pat Fraser (01865 875679)*

### Dates for your diaries

**Saturday 1 October - Decorating the Church for Harvest Festival,**

**Sunday 2 October - Harvest Festival Service**

## Cream Teas and Music at St Nicolas

The last Cream Teas at St Nicolas this year is on **Sunday 25 September**. **Please note this is a change to the previously advertised date, to avoid a clash with the concert at Beckley Church** (see page 21).

The format is Cream Teas with music in the church garden from 3 - 5pm, followed by an informal concert in the church at 5.15pm lasting around 45 minutes and rounded off by drinks in the garden.

This month we hope to have a return visit from Jules Blyth and husband Will, who have been touring round Europe since they last played at St Nicolas in June.

Admission to the concert is free but any donations will go towards the upkeep of the church. Payments can be made by cash or card.

**Local musicians, of whatever age, are particularly welcome to take part in these concerts.** If you would like to know more about what is involved, please contact Julia Stutfield on 07766 103427 or [julia.stutfield@gmail.com](mailto:julia.stutfield@gmail.com).

## Forest Hill with Shotover Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on **Thursday 15 September 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](http://www.parish-council.com/foresthillwithshotover/index.asp).

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

The Parish Council would like to remind all residents to be considerate to others when parking, and to avoid blocking pavements, parking too close to junctions so as to obscure sight lines, and blocking or part-blocking driveways.

**The Parish Council has a vacancy for a Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer - see page 11 for details.**

## Tea Party, Saturday 17 September, 3 - 5pm, Forest Hill Village Hall

This party is to celebrate the work and kindness of Chris Simmonds, postman in the village for 36 years. All welcome.

Some of you have already contributed towards a parting gift; if others would like to contribute, kindly contact Jane Walker, 01865 872399, [lyttleton@btinternet.com](mailto:lyttleton@btinternet.com) or call round at Lyttleton, Main Street, OX33 1DY.

We should also like some help with providing tea/party food, again contact Jane if you can help. Thank you!

## The Maple Tree at Forest Hill

**The Maple Tree Baby and Toddler group at Forest Hill** takes place in the Village Hall **every Thursday from 11am to 12pm.**

Parents, grandparents and carers with babies and very young children will find a friendly welcome from Laura and her team of regular local volunteers and a chance to chat over a cup of tea or coffee while the little ones play.

For more information, contact Laura Spencer ([laura@mapletree.org.uk](mailto:laura@mapletree.org.uk)) or Julia Stutfield (07766 103427).

We are grateful to the Parish Council for their continued financial support.



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**RAPID RECALLS**  
Saturday 24th September  
and Saturday 1st October at 9am

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DOGS**

**LEAD WALKING**  
Saturday 24th September  
and Saturday 1st October at 10am

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## HORTON-cum-STUDLEY

### News from St Barnabas

Details of all church services and general church news can be found on **pages 5 - 9**. Any changes to the published schedule of services will be on our website [www.fourparishes.org.uk](http://www.fourparishes.org.uk).

Thank you to everyone who supported our **July Cream Teas in the Churchyard**. We are raising money to help towards the cost of survey and remedial work being performed to some of the lovely oak trees in the churchyard. We raised £134 towards cost of the tree maintenance plus it was a really enjoyable afternoon and the trees in question provided beautiful shade while we enjoyed our scones and jam.



Cream teas will be again be served in the churchyard on **Sunday 4 September**, 2.30 - 4.30pm. All welcome.

**Saturday 10 September is the Ride and Stride** raising money for Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust. Walk or cycle to visit churches, contact Lynn Whitaker for sponsorship forms (01865 358838).

### Dates for your diaries

October is a busy month for St Barnabas, so here are some dates to put in your diaries. The church services will be included in the list at the front of the October magazine.

**Saturday 1 October - Michaelmas Fayre** (see back cover of magazine)

**Sunday 2 October - Animal Welfare and Blessing Service**

**Saturday 15 October - Harvest Supper** (see page 26)

**Sunday 16 October -**

**Harvest Festival Service**

**Pumpkin Weigh-In and Sunflower Measure** (see page 26)

**Talk by Canon Professor Nicholas Orme** (see page 27)

Harvest Supper, Millenium Village Hall

Saturday 15 October at 6.30pm

Adults: £12, Children (12 and under): £6



This year we are planning to resume the Harvest Supper. We are holding it a little earlier so that families with children can also come along and we will have a separate menu for the children.

There will be a raffle for a Harvest Hamper (donations of homemade jams, chutneys, cakes, garden produce etc. gratefully accepted).

To minimise the work involved on the evening so that we can all enjoy it, we are asking people to provide their own:

Plate - Bowl - Glass - Cutlery - Drinks

**Tickets available from Lisa Mynheer ([lisamynheer@gmail.com](mailto:lisamynheer@gmail.com) or 07786 705785) from 1 September. The deadline for ticket sales is 10 October to allow catering to be organised.**

Offers of help with food preparation on the day or to make a fruit crumble greatly received.

**“Why Parishes?”: a talk by Nicholas Orme**  
**St Barnabas Church, Sunday 16 October, 6 - 7.30pm**

We have parishes - nowadays, both for Church purposes and local government. But why do we have them? How did they come into existence, why is each one so different, and do they still offer value today for community life?

*Canon Professor Nicholas Orme LL.M is a member of our Four Parishes Ministry Team. He has written over thirty books on English religious, social, and cultural history, the latest of which, 'Going to Church in Medieval England', was shortlisted for the Wolfson History Prize.*

**This event is an opportunity for St Barnabas PCC to thank those Friends of St Barnabas who give of their time and money to maintain our beautiful village church and help to keep it open. Everyone is welcome to attend what promises to be an interesting evening.**

## 2022 Pumpkin Weigh-In and Sunflower Measure

**Bring all your pumpkins and sunflowers along to St Barnabas Church on Sunday 16 October, 3 - 4pm.** All shapes and sizes welcome! Tea and scones will also be available, with proceeds to be divided between Parkinson's UK and St Barnabas. This year has been so dry, it may well be a mini weigh-in!

*Cathy Jenkins*

## Horton-cum-Studley Gardening Club

This summer has been challenging for gardeners - though being lucky enough to have a garden is something to be grateful for every day. With climate changing, and a hosepipe ban beckoning, the need to adapt what and how we plant in our gardens to resist long periods of drought and wetter winters is clearer by the day.

Plants with silvery or grey-green leaves such as sage, lavender, stachys (lamb's ears) reflect the sun's rays and, despite their Mediterranean origins, seem fairly resilient to flooding, according to recent RHS research. Good soil cultivation with organic matter helps plants retain moisture and straw/gravel mulching around spring plantings helps them establish during drier summer months. And, as for lawns, they will invariably grow back once the rain returns.

In August, in the midst of the heatwave, we enjoyed a wonderful social evening in the beautiful surroundings of Vicky Hunt's stunning garden in Stanton St John. Many thanks to Vicky and Chris for making us all so welcome.

This year, several long-serving committee members have decided to take a well-earned rest, so we've had to jiggle some of the essential roles around to ensure that the Club keeps going. New members from all four parishes and beyond are welcome, as are your thoughts on what would motivate you to join us. Besides continuing with interesting talks and garden visits, we are hoping to draw on the vast knowledge and expertise of members old and new to offer some 'back-to-basics' get-togethers for those (like me) who are complete newbies to gardening.

All ideas welcome, and enquiries about joining the Club, by email to the address below. If you have a particular interest or an area of knowledge, however simple it may seem to you, please don't keep it to yourself!

*Melanie Jones, Chair / HCS Gardening Club*

*Enquiries: [melaniejones\\_uk@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:melaniejones_uk@yahoo.co.uk)*

## Village Social Night at Studley Wood Golf Club

The Village Social Night at the Golf Club, which includes two or three courses with a meat, fish and vegetarian option, continues on **Friday 30 September and Friday 28 October at 7 for 7.30pm.**

If you would like further details, email Ruth on [ruth.david@live.com](mailto:ruth.david@live.com) by the Friday beforehand and she will send you the menu choices and price.

## Horton-cum-Studley Parish Council

The next meeting will be face to face in the **Millenium Village Hall on Thursday 8 September.** We still have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor: if anyone would like to talk to the PC about the vacancy please do come to the meeting and talk to us.

## 2022 Horton-cum-Studley Photography Competition

**Please send in your photos taken around Horton-cum-Studley and Otmoor for this year's calendar competition!**

Photographers must be residents of the village. Maximum of 5 photos per person. The judges' favourite image wins an Amazon gift token. Calendars awarded for all winning images. **Closing date 1 September.**

This year, we'd particularly love to see entries for the following categories:

- The Otmoor Challenge
- Landscapes
- Autumn/Michaelmas Fayre/Halloween
- Animals and wildlife
- Farming
- Village buildings
- Villagers
- Sunsets and sunrises
- Winter/Christmas

Send entries (high-resolution files) with a title for each image to: [clerk@horton-cum-studley.org.uk](mailto:clerk@horton-cum-studley.org.uk)

*Sarah Foxcroft  
Chairman Horton-Cum-Studley Parish Council*

## Cherwell District Council: a message from our local councillors

We hope everyone has been keeping as cool as possible in the recent heatwaves and enjoying the summer holidays. We have a small update this month.

### District Council Motions

We are delighted that three motions were unanimously passed at the full District Council meeting on 18 July. The resolution of these motions seeks to help residents who are currently struggling with these difficult times. The motions that we passed were:

- A motion to declare a food poverty emergency
- A motion declaring a cost-of-living crisis
- Refugee Crisis motion

You can find more information about the motions on our website [www.cherwell.gov.uk](http://www.cherwell.gov.uk) as well as the resolutions that were passed.

### Cost of Living

As set out in the above motions, we are aware that the cost of living is becoming increasingly difficult for many residents and would like to support you in any way we can. Cherwell District Council have a dedicated support page <https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/info/118/communities/977/help-with-the-cost-of-living> which is updated as new advice and help becomes available. If you are struggling at all please get in touch with us and we will do our best to get you the right support.

### Keep In Touch

Finally, we just wanted to say please do keep in touch! We love hearing from you and want to support residents in any way we can. Even if it not necessarily a district matter, we will try and point you in the right direction of who can help the best. Our email contact details are below or you can call us on 01869 717712.

*Cllrs. Gemma Coton and Angus Patrick  
District Councillors for Launton & Otmoor*

[gemma.coton@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:gemma.coton@cherwell-dc.gov.uk)

[angus.patrick@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:angus.patrick@cherwell-dc.gov.uk)

## Millennium Village Hall

In the last issue outgoing Chair Derek Jewell gave his final (final) update, including deserved thanks to David Russell, Barry White, Pete Whittaker and Barbara Jewell for their valued contributions to the smooth running of the Hall – naturally thanks are due to Derek too. We know he will retain his interest in this village facility, perhaps particularly wine tasting events!

The AGM on 16 June was attended by residents Chris and Liz Pugh, and David Slingo, with apologies from Annie and Andrew Payne, Natalie Parish, and Pete Whitaker.

Committee roles and members for 2022/3 were confirmed:

Chair - Stuart MacFarlane [s.macfarlane799@btinternet.com](mailto:s.macfarlane799@btinternet.com)

Treasurer – Daisy East [treasurerhcsmvh@gmail.com](mailto:treasurerhcsmvh@gmail.com)

Bookings – Ben Short (and Tori) [hcsballbookings@gmail.com](mailto:hcsballbookings@gmail.com)

Cleaning & consumables - Barbara Jewell

Tennis Club - Geoff Harrison, Anthony Chicken, Nick Venables

There were no volunteers for the position of committee Secretary, and offers will be gratefully received. Chris Pugh proposed a vote of thanks to the committee for their time and efforts over the past year.

The committee benefits from the input of the Parish Council, and current PC Chair Sarah Foxcroft will take on the PC representative role as Trustee, following Barbara Jewell stepping off the PC after many years of service.

The Hall, courts and grounds are in good condition. The play area was erected in 2008, and some items of equipment need attention this year either to prolong their life or to be replaced. Tennis Club members have voted in favour of the erection of a practice wall at the end of one of the courts, and that will be another item to consider this year.

*Stuart MacFarlane, Chair MVH*

## Safari Lunch

It was a lovely day for the Safari Lunch in August as 27 diners, mostly local, ambled through the Village for their three courses. It was organised by GTs and we were delighted when a couple new to Beckley joined us having seen our advert in the Four Parishes Magazine. £330 was raised and will be donated to the Horton-cum-Studley playground fund.

# STANTON ST JOHN

## Stanton Church

Details of all church services and general church news can be found on **pages 5 - 9**. Any changes to the published schedule of services will be on our website [www.fourparishes.org.uk](http://www.fourparishes.org.uk).

## Stanton St John Parish Council

### High risk of countryside fires in present drought conditions

At the time of writing, everything is still exceptionally dry in the fields, verges, hedges and woodland around us at the moment, and the slightest spark could cause a wildfire. We have doubtless all seen recent news reports of uncontrollable countryside fires which put lives, crops, buildings and the natural environment at risk. PLEASE TAKE EXTRA CARE and think carefully when out and about, including on roads and footpaths, and even in our immediate, familiar surroundings.

Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue and wildlife charities are advising:

- Pack a picnic, not a barbecue
- Don't leave bottles or glass lying around, as sunlight shining through glass can start fires. Take them home and or put them in a waste or recycling bin.
- Never light open fires in the countryside
- Never throw cigarette ends out of car windows
- Extinguish cigarettes properly and don't throw the cigarette end on the ground
- Try to avoid garden bonfires while the drought conditions persist - particularly if there's a breeze which could carry sparks.

### Next Parish Council meeting - Monday 12 September

Please note that the **next meeting is on the second Monday in September**, instead of the usual pattern of third Monday in the month. There was no meeting in August.

Minutes and agendas for Parish Council meetings are published on the website at <https://www.parish-council.com/stantonstjohn> and also on the noticeboard outside the Village Shop.

## Film Night, Saturday 24 Sept, 7.45pm Stanton St John Village Hall

The Stanton St. John Film Club is restarting the 2022/2023 season with the musical biopic:

# ELVIS



*The life of American music icon Elvis Presley (Austin Butler), from his childhood to becoming a rock and movie star in the 1950s while maintaining a complex relationship with his manager, Colonel Tom Parker (Tom Hanks). "In Baz Luhrmann's fairy-tale vision, Elvis' manager is the evil stepmother, while Austin Butler's King is the princess locked in a tower" (Independent)*

Doors will be open at 7pm, with a film start at 7.45pm. It is a long film (2h 39min), so best to bring some cushions for extra comfort (we'll have a short break in the middle). Before and after the film, delicious cakes and drinks are available whilst the bar will serve wines and "Blue Suede Shoes" 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](mailto:susanjbaker24@gmail.com)) or in Stanton Village Shop.

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



## Stanton St John WI

**On Tuesday 20 September at 7.30pm Stanton St John WI will host a talk by Dr Janice Kinory entitled "Women of the HEIR Project".** This stands for Historic Environmental Image Resources, featuring historic photographic images dating from the mid 19th Century onwards. Anyone interested is welcome to join us in the village hall for a nominal charge of £4.

We are also planning to create our own collection of photos relating to our WI and the local area for our 100th birthday celebration in November. We would be very grateful if anyone in the neighbourhood, WI member or otherwise, would be willing to loan suitable photographs that we might scan. For further details email [stantonstjohnwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk](mailto:stantonstjohnwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk)

## Monthly Coffee Mornings in Stanton Village Hall

The next coffee morning is on **Wednesday 14 September from 10.30am - 12pm**. Come for tea, coffee and cake! Everyone is welcome. For further details, please contact Sue Baker (01865 351449) or Sarah Coyne (01865 358876).

\* \* \* \* \*



# Apple pressing

We would love to press your unwanted apples and pears to make award-winning juice again this year. Please call to arrange a drop-off time, or if you have any questions.



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## A Prayer for Ukraine

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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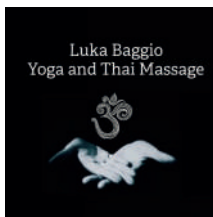
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