

The Four Parishes News Magazine

BECKLEY
FOREST HILL with SHOTOVER
HORTON-cum-STUDLEY
STANTON St JOHN



Middle Road, Stanton St John

June 2025

The editor writes



As usual, having got this magazine almost ready to be sent off to the printer, I now need to think of something to write for this section. It is, of course, entirely my own fault! The previous editor was sensible enough not to attempt an introductory message and I'm not really sure why I thought it would be a good idea, but like so many things, it has somehow gained a momentum of its own.

One thing that I have been thinking about recently is the importance of volunteers in the life of our community. This magazine, for a start, is entirely dependent on them. The editor, assistant editors, village representatives, distributors, and all the residents who write articles and send in photographs do it for the benefit of others. In a wider context, most of the societies and activities that are featured in the magazine are run or supported by volunteers and we are all enriched as a result. This month's magazine happens to include appeals for volunteers in some specific roles but there are always opportunities if you look for them.

There is plenty going on in our four villages over the summer. If you don't want to miss out, I would urge you to look through the whole publication and not just the section for the village that you happen to live in.

Don't forget that you can use the QR code to read this magazine on your phone or tablet when you can no longer find the paper copy.



Julia

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 sent to us by Julian Money, who managed to take 'a rather unusual view of Middle Road, Stanton St John completely car free'.

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

Vicar: Reverend Anthea Beresford

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We welcome contributions for future issues, but please get in touch with the editorial team beforehand at 4parishesnewsletter@gmail.com to discuss any piece you'd like to write. Contributors typically live in the Four Parishes, or have a strong personal connection to the area. The editors reserve the right to reject any submitted content at any stage of the editorial process.

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

The closing date for the July/August 2025 issue is 15 June 2025

To advertise in the magazine please email JULIA
adverts.4parishesnewsletter@gmail.com

News or notices for the individual 'Village pages' should be sent to:

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Forest Hill Stephanie Kitchen 07966 045144
stephanie.kitchen@bopenworld.com

Horton-cum-Studley Carol Welch 01865 358122 carol_welch20@hotmail.com

Stanton St John Sue Baker 01865 351449 susanjbaker24@gmail.com

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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The Four Parishes News Magazine has 10 issues per year and is distributed free of charge to approximately 850 addresses in Beckley, Forest Hill, Horton-cum-Studley and Stanton St John. 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, June 2025

	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
1 June <i>7th Sunday of Easter Sunday after Ascension Day</i>	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	11am Morning Prayer
	4pm Children's Church at St Nicolas, Forest Hill			
	6pm Taizé Service via Zoom			
	6pm Church Without Walls at Stanton St John Village Hall			
8 June <i>Pentecost (Barnabas the Apostle 11 June)</i>		9.30am Holy Communion		11am Holy Communion
	4pm Crafty Church at Beckley Church			
	6pm BCP Choral Evensong at St Nicolas, Forest Hill			
15 June <i>Trinity Sunday</i>	11am BCP Morning Prayer	9.30am Holy Communion		11am Morning Prayer
	6pm Iona Service at Beckley Church			
22 June <i>1st Sunday after Trinity</i>	10am Four Parishes Service of Holy Communion at St John the Baptist, Stanton St John			
	4pm Family Church does Forest Church at Bernwood Forest, Horton-cum-Studley			
	6pm Taizé Service via Zoom			
29 June <i>Peter and Paul, Apostles 2nd Sunday after Trinity</i>	11am Morning Prayer	9.30am Holy Commion	9.30am BCP Holy Communion	11am Morning Prayer

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,

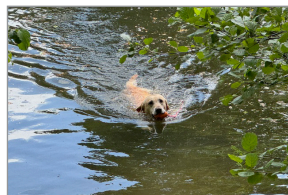


I wonder if any of you have watched any of the television series 'Pilgrimage'. First broadcast in 2022 there have now been four series, each following a group of celebrities, taking what the advertising calls '*a journey of a lifetime*'. In each of the series, *'the pilgrims will visit key places of worship and rural communities, but will this journey of a lifetime change the way they think about themselves and their beliefs?'* The most recent series reminded me of having watched the first, so I decided to start at the beginning once more.

Each of the series tells of the journey taken by the pilgrims, people of differing faiths, practicing and non-practicing, as well as those who are unsure about faith, and those who would say they are of no faith. The first was in the Scottish Isles, following St Columba, then Portugal, Wales, and finally the Alps. I have thoroughly enjoyed each series, and loved hearing the differing experiences. It has been interesting hearing the individual stories, and how each coped not only with any spiritual aspect of their travels, but also the emotional side of the journey, including the group dynamics and physical aspects. It was interesting to see how experiences affected different people, and how each individual described those experiences.

I think I was especially drawn to the programme as I would love to go on a pilgrimage myself – I have tentatively looked at doing part of St Cuthbert's Way with a friend, but our planning has not got very far!! It rather stalled when we failed to enlist her husband as our driver!! We had hoped that the lure of peaceful days without us, might have been enough, but it turned out it was not! I would love to hear any stories of walking pilgrimages any of you have been on.

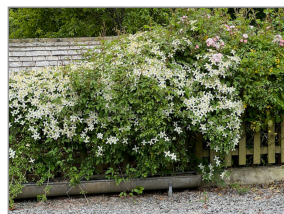
In the meantime, I am fortunate enough to once more be away on my annual retreat. Bertie and I are settled into the lovely cottage which has been our bolthole for I think the last three years. It was wonderful taking Bertie for his first walk after arriving here yesterday. He could have taken himself! He was SO excited. I opened the gate, and he automatically



turned the right way, tail wagging, in excited anticipation of where we were off to...the river for a swim of course, so he could chase his toy to his hearts content. It was delightful to see his joy – as my Mum often said while she was visiting recently – they may not talk but they do as good as doing so, by the way they act.

It feels good doing something that will refresh me, as well as something Bertie obviously enjoys too. He sits patiently by me as I read my books, as I sit quietly, but makes it very clear when it is time for us to go out!

As ever, as I wander on our walks, I love looking at the flowers, the differing foliage, feeling the breeze on my face, and watching the clouds racing on by, listening to the birds singing, and looking for wildlife. I never cease to marvel at the beauty of creation, which draws me into the presence of the creator.

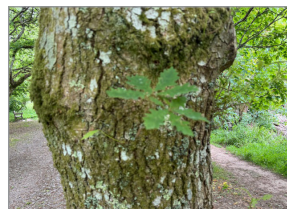
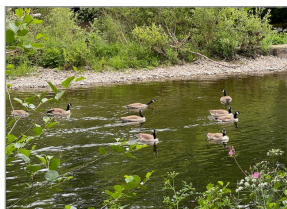
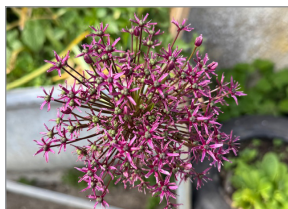


I realise how fortunate I am, as most do not have the luxury of doing what I am doing. And some indeed would hate it! How fortunate that we are all different! That we connect with different things. That different things bring us joy and satisfaction.

As we look to Pentecost later this month, may we be refreshed by the Holy Spirit, whether or not we are able to take time away from the busyness and routine of day-to-day life. If, like some of the pilgrims I spoke of earlier, you are someone of another faith, or no faith, may you be refreshed by whatever brings you refreshment.

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

Prayers for Peace

As the situation in the Holy Land and the Middle East continues to move further and further away from the tentative peace of the now crumpled ceasefire, with discussions for peace in Ukraine seemingly making little progress, and news of unrest from Yemen, Sudan and Myanmar continues to come through, it is clear that God’s peace is not present throughout the world, so we continue to pray for peace. We will meet for 15 minutes at 12pm on Wednesdays and Saturdays in June across the Four Parishes as follows:

Beckley	11 and 21
Forest Hill	4 and 14
Horton-cum-Studley	18 and 28
Stanton	7 and 25

Ongoing midweek activities on Zoom

We are continuing Morning and Evening Prayer and the Four Parishes Book Group on Zoom as detailed. Please do get in touch with me for invitations.

	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Morning Prayer at 9am		Y		Y
Evening Prayer at 6pm	Y		Y	
Four Parishes Book Group at 7.30pm			Y	

Advent challenge and beyond

I wonder how your reading of the New Testament is coming along. At the time of writing this, I remain still slightly behind! So as with last month, I still have a little catching up to do. I hope to bring you better news next month on my personal progress. If you are behind, please do not get dispirited but keep going. Let’s encourage each other.

In June we will aim to finish our reading of John and read up to chapter 20 of the Acts of the Apostles. I look forward to hearing how you get on.

Book Group

In June we will be starting a new book, yet to be decided at the time of going to print, so this might be a good time to join us if you have been thinking about doing so. We meet virtually by Zoom on a Thursday evening at 7.30pm for an hour. Please do get in touch with Anthea in you would like to come join us. New members are always welcome.

Home Group Study on Acts of the Apostles

The study group is continuing its look at the Acts of the Apostles. The group meets on Monday afternoons at 2.30pm at Studley Farm House, Horton-cum-Studley. New members are always welcome, and anyone from around the Four Parishes is welcome to join in. If you are interested in being involved, please contact Annie Payne by email at anniefpayne@gmail.com.

Children's Craft Workshops in Beckley Church

The next two Children's Craft Workshops in Beckley Church are now planned. The first is on **Friday 6 June from 3.30-4.30pm**. We will be looking at **God of the universe** where we will make the sun, moon and stars with bread. The second session is planned for **Friday 11 July from 3.30-4.30pm** and will be looking at **God of our lives**, where we will be making fridge magnets of seaside objects. So there is lots of fun planned.

The workshops are aimed at primary school children and are run by the 'Acting the Bible and 'Crafty Church' teams, and other helpers – 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 book in beforehand by emailing betty.dye10@gmail.com. Thank you.

Betty Dye

For more information about any of the items on pages 8-9 of the magazine, please contact me, Anthea Beresford.

Email: anthea@fourparishes.org.uk

Telephone: 01865 351839 Mobile: 07876 527514

GENERAL

Volunteering Opportunity: Layout Designer

The Four Parishes News Magazine is looking to recruit a Layout Designer with experience of Adobe InDesign software.

The role of the Layout Designer will be to create specific pages of the magazine, with text and images arranged in accordance with the overall 'house style' of the publication. Currently this work is all done by the Editor, and you will be working under her supervision. You will need to own, or have access to, a current licence for Adobe InDesign and you will ideally have experience of working in collaboration with another InDesign user. Other qualities required are:

- The ability to work to a deadline
- Good communication skills
- A good command of spelling and grammar

This position is entirely voluntary, as are all the roles associated with this magazine. If you would like more information, please contact Julia Stutfield at 4parishesnewsletter@gmail.com.

Hello from the Maple Tree!



We have a new **Mums' Café at 2-3pm on Tuesdays**. It is designed especially for new mothers and offers a safe space to come and chat to other mums and mums-to-be. It is a place to make friends and share your experiences, whether good or challenging.

We will be holding our **Spring Draw on the afternoon of Wednesday 18 June**. You do not have to be present to win, but you do have to have raffle tickets £1 each, available at The Maple Tree (including the Thursday morning sessions in Forest Hill Village Hall), with fabulous prizes, such as £150 in cash, hampers, goody baskets, wines and many others.

We need a **volunteer on Monday mornings from 10–11.30am and on Monday afternoon from 2-4pm**. Do you have any spare time and enjoy working with children and families? If so, please email Laura@mapletree.org.uk.

The Maple Tree Children's Centre, Littleworth Road, Wheatley is a Registered Charity (number 1174117). More information on our regular activities can be found at www.mapletree.org.uk or www.facebook.com/TheMapleTreeWheatley.

The Otmoor carer



Qualified private carer with over 20 years of niche and generalist experience seeks day work or live-in work. I have a well earned reputation and exceptional local references.

I have undertaken challenging nursing care for clients of all ages, honing skills like catheter management, hoist lifting and medication assistance. I am often called upon when clients become forgetful or less confident than before; or perhaps when they need support at close quarters to regain their mojo and smiles. It is normal for the client and their family to need time to adjust to a new chapter and I can help with navigational support.

I aim to improve and extend life as much as possible through nurturing companionship, organisational support, familiarity exercises, postural and skeletal care, nutrition and friendship.

I am fully insured and DBS checked.

I live on Otmoor. **If you have a care need and would like a bespoke care service that is more affordable than agency cover, contact me at theotmoorcarer@gmail.com.**



THE OXFORD COFFEE FESTIVAL

Saturday | 25.10.2025 | The Kings Centre, Osney Mead, OX2 0ES
www.theoxfordcoffeefestival.co.uk

* Early Bird Offer Valid Until June 30th



Does this make sense?

by Lyn Ebbs

We don't rely on our sense of smell to the same extent as we do sight, hearing or even touch. But during Covid, where its loss was one of the frequent symptoms, we became more aware of how much we depend on it. Combined with our sense of taste, it's essentially a way of getting information about airborne chemicals to our brains. How does our capacity to detect these signals, odours, compare with other animals? I don't have space to provide detail about how we detect smell. It involves the obvious organ, the nose; the olfactory nerve, which sends smell-related messages to the brain, and areas of the brain where we recognise odours that we have smelled before.



The European Mole is high on the list of British animals with a really good sense of smell. If you spend most of your life in an underground tunnel, unsurprisingly, sight and hearing are not going to be your go-to senses for finding food, compared to smell and touch. Like us, it takes air in through its nostrils and processes the scent

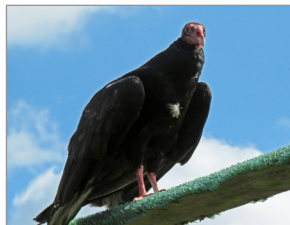
molecules in the brain. It can follow scent trails to their source, a real benefit when following earthworm tunnels underground. In the absence of a trail, they obtain stereo cues from their two nostrils, giving them directional information with each sniff, as they hunt for prey. They use similar methods when it comes to finding a mate: both males and females mark their burrows with urine containing odorous substances – lovely.

Fish, of course, have the added challenge that they need to detect smells – chemical signals – under water. Salmon, in particular, have the reputation that they can detect their birthplace, and, remarkably, tracking studies have shown this to be true. Their life cycle in itself is remarkable: they hatch in shallow gravel beds in freshwater streams and spend their juvenile years in freshwater rivers. They then migrate to the ocean as adults and live like sea fish, and return to their freshwater birthplace to reproduce. And this homing behaviour has



been shown to depend on their olfactory memory.

Which brings us to birds. For some reason, early ornithologists seemed to be reluctant to accept that birds have a sense of smell. Over time researchers showed that they had functioning olfactory systems similar to other vertebrates and some had a very acute sense of smell indeed. An American species, the Turkey vulture uses smell as well as sight to detect carrion. Field researchers were able to demonstrate this by showing that the birds were able to find concealed carcasses. But it was oil-pipeline engineers who were key to identifying the chemical attractant. To help them detect gas leaks, they added a substance that smells like rotten cabbage, ethyl mercaptan, to the gas. It's also released from decaying organic matter and is detected by vultures, and the engineers were able to home in on the leaks because of the vultures flocking overhead.



At this time of year when evenings are warm enough to sit out in our gardens until after dark, it is noticeable that some flowers, such as honeysuckle, smell stronger at night-time than they do during the day. This makes them very attractive to moths which, while they have similar



neural pathways carrying the chemical messages, in the absence of nostrils detect scent using other body parts. Moths “smell” these cues with sensitive receptors on their antennae. The insects can thus distinguish countless plant and insect chemicals carried on the wind in a process called chemoreception. As well as detecting food sources, female moths produce scents called pheromones to attract males, and the males use their antennae to pick up this scent. This is why the antennae of many male moths are feathered so as to increase their surface area and make them more sensitive. Recent studies have established that moths are important, but often overlooked, nocturnal pollinators of a wide range of plants.

Lyn Ebbs has lived in Stanton St John for 37 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.

Book Borrow, Exchange, Swap, in the Church

There are plenty of books of many kinds in the church, on the pew next to the bookcase! The church is open every day, so do come and have a look. If you borrow a book, please would you note your name and the date in the notebook provided, so that we can see how much the 'system' is being used. Please return borrowed books, or bring an equivalent book instead!

Concert in Beckley Church, Sunday 15 June at 4pm



Medieval Women in Song

Beckley Church is hosting a concert by Voice, an exciting female vocal trio. The programme celebrates women in medieval music as composers, icons, and narrators and includes a pre-concert talk by Professor Elizabeth Gemmill.

Tickets and programme details are available from the Oxford Festival of the Arts website <https://artsfestivaloxford.org/events/voices-trio-medieval-women-in-song/>. The organisers strongly advise buying tickets in advance because their concerts are often sold out and there may not be any tickets on the door.

Full Price Tickets £15 / Concessions £12 / Students + Under 18s £5.

Coffee (or tea!), Cake and Chat



Saturday 28 June, 10.30am-12pm in Beckley Church

Please drop in for coffee (or tea) and cake, and a chance to catch up with friends and neighbours, and meet newcomers.

This will be the fourth of our new monthly coffee mornings which are proving very successful. In future they will be on the **last Saturday** of each month.

Beckley and Area Community Benefit Society Ltd (BACBS)

Open share offer

The share offer to support the future of The Abingdon Arms is still open. Shareholders are entitled to 10% off food and drink at the pub: for further information email theabingdonarms@gmail.com.

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

BACBS continues its popular events at our community-owned pub, The Abingdon Arms, Beckley, to which all are welcome. Do come, enjoy, and support your local pub. For more information email info@bacbs.org.

We are taking a break in August so there will be no More than a Pub activities then.

Pub quiz

1st Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm - with pizza! The next one will be on Wednesday 4 June. Table bookings advisable - or you can just turn up and join an existing team. We suggest that teams should comprise no more than six people. No charge to enter, and thanks to The Abingdon Arms, there's a free round of drinks for the winning team.

Community walks

Walks are usually on the 3rd Sunday of the month. On gentle walks of about two hours, we enjoy our neighbours' company, the countryside, and some fresh air. Our next walk will be at 2 pm on 15 June. More detail will be available at <https://bacbs.org/events> nearer the time.

Sunday evening talks

Last Sunday of the month, 6.30 pm in the pub.

1 June - note change of date to avoid a clash with another event) Andrew Myatt: 'Oxford's Forgotten Stories – Faith, martyrs and miracles'. Andrew will look at the forgotten stories of how Oxford was founded in about 700AD through some miracles, the turbulence of faith and politics in the Middle Ages, as well as some of the 'heroes of the faith' right up to CS Lewis.

29 June - Maurice East: 'Headington Quarry - the village that built Oxford'. Join local tour guide Maurice East to discover the history of this forgotten industrial landscape and hear how the historic beauty of the University was created in a village which was once one of the most wild

and feared places around Oxford.

27 July - Anna Beer: ‘ “Murder She Wrote” – Oxford style’ will be exploring what exactly delights us in crime fiction and asking just why so many murder mysteries are set in Oxford. Anna has been thinking a lot about these matters as she has just published her first murder mystery. And it’s set in Oxford (and a village nearby...)

More information about the BACBS More than a Pub activities can be found at <https://bacbs.org/events>.

BACBS Good Neighbour Scheme

The Good Neighbour Scheme gives lifts to those with no other transport – for example, to the doctors and village shop in Stanton as well as lifts to the Barton/Green Road roundabout, where there are regular buses into Headington and central Oxford. The scheme serves Beckley, Elsfield, Stanton, Forest Hill, Woodeaton, and Noke.

To request a lift, ring either 07514 791910 (if no answer, leave a message) or email BACBSgoodneighbour@gmail.com. If you know of anyone who might need help, and perhaps does not know this service exists, please do let them know. If you would like to volunteer, please email the above address.

Beckley & Stowood Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Monday 9 June at 7pm in Beckley Village Hall**.

Meeting dates, agendas and minutes can be found on the village website www.beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk. The Clerk’s email address is clerk@beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk.

For information on Beckley Village Hall please see www.beckleyvillagehall.org and to enquire about a booking, please contact the Booking Secretary, Mel Green, at booking@beckleyvillagehall.org.

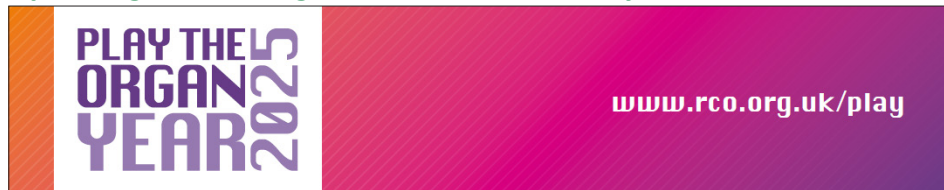
Wheelie bin stickers ‘20 is plenty’ are available from the Clerk and can be picked up at the monthly Parish Council meetings or from the Abingdon Arms Pub. The stickers are for wheelie bins only as they are more effective if they are not a permanent feature in the village and only visible on bin day.

FOREST HILL

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.

Open Organ Morning at St Nicolas, Saturday 21 June



This is "Play the Organ Year 2025"! Please come along if you are interested in hearing, playing or learning about our 1883 Pipe Organ in a very user friendly way. I promise this will not be scary!

Drop in any time between **10am and 12.30pm**, when I will be happy to demonstrate. Bring some keyboard music if you like. All ages are welcome, but children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Ring me on 01865 876848 or use the contact form at <https://www.stnicolasforesthill.org/contact> for more details, or if you would like to arrange a more convenient time to visit.

Peter Stutfield, Organist, St Nicolas Church

Cream Teas and Summer Music at St Nicolas

Dates for our popular cream teas and informal summer concerts are:



Saturday 28 June

Sunday 27 July

Sunday 24 August

Cream teas will be served **from 3.30-5pm**, with tables laid out in the church garden and a gazebo available for shade or shelter if the weather is less than ideal! There may be live music in the garden during the afternoon and there will be a short **concert in the church at 5.15pm**, usually involving local musicians, with drinks in the garden afterwards. The atmosphere is friendly and informal, and it is a delightful way to meet old and new friends, as well as supporting our beautiful ancient church.

Forest Hill with Shotover Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Thursday 26 June at 7pm in Forest Hill Village Hall.**

Dates of future meetings can be found on the Parish Council website: www.parish-council.com/foresthillwithshotover and on the Village Hall noticeboard. Current agendas and minutes are posted on the noticeboard outside the Village Hall and the website. Archived agendas and minutes can be found on the website. You can contact the Clerk by email at: theclerk@foresthillwithshotover-pc.org.uk or telephone 0844 884 3328, between 9am and 5pm.

Dogs in Forest Hill

The Parish Council has been made aware of reports of un-controlled dogs in our village and know that more than one resident has recently experienced unfortunate dog-related incidents. These events should remind us all of the importance of responsible dog control.

A dog is deemed out-of-control if:

- It injures some individual
- Makes someone fearful that it might injure them
- Attacks someone's pet
- The individual thinks they may get injured while stopping the dog

Dogs are a beloved part of many families. However, we all need to ensure that our village is a safe and welcoming place. If you see a dog behaving aggressively or roaming without an owner, you should report it to the police 101/999 or the SODC Dog Warden 01491 82 32 03.

Have you considered being a Parish Councillor?

Due to a recent resignation, Forest Hill with Shotover Parish Council has a casual vacancy for a parish councillor.

The following introduction to the work of parish councils is from the National Association of Local Councils website <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/>.

Parish councils and councillors make a massive difference to local people's quality of life. They are passionate about their communities and seek to make a change to help improve their residents' lives.

Parish councils run numerous services, depending on the council size. Examples include allotments, celebrations and festivals, community buses, litter bins, parks and open spaces, street lights, and giving the community a voice on planning matters with principal authorities and developers, local police and health services, and the government.

Councillors are elected to represent the local community, so you must live or work in the parish or town council area. Becoming a councillor is a rewarding experience as you can make a change in your community to help improve residents' lives.

A councillor's role has three main areas:

Decision-making - Councillors decide which activities to support, where money should be spent, what services should be delivered, and what policies should be implemented by attending meetings and committees.

Monitoring - Councillors ensure that their decisions lead to efficient and effective services by monitoring how well things work.

Getting involved locally - As local representatives, councillors have responsibilities towards their constituents and local organisations. These responsibilities often depend on what a given councillor wants to achieve and how much time is available.

If you would like more information specifically related to Forest Hill, please speak to one of the Parish Councillors (you will find their names on the Parish Council website www.parish-council.com/foresthillwithshotover) or come along to a Parish Council meeting.

To apply, please email the Clerk theclerk@foresthillwithshotover-pc.org.uk for an application form.

Forest Hill Village Hall

Our Victorian village hall provides a welcoming communal space for all to use. Regular events include weekly exercise classes and a baby and toddler group, as well as the monthly 'Jazz on the Hill'.

To hire the village hall, email Stephen Robinson: spr500@gmail.com.



The Maple Tree at Forest Hill, Thursdays 10.30am-12pm



The Thursday morning 'stay and play' sessions for babies and toddlers continue to run in Forest Hill Village Hall every week throughout the year. There is no need to book, but please email julia.stutfield@gmail.com if you have any questions.

For a full list of activities run by The Maple Tree Children's Centre in Wheatley, see www.mapletree.org.uk.



Jazz on the Hill at Forest Hill Village Hall **Tuesday 10 June, 7.30-9.30pm**



Join Julie, Will and their musician friends to celebrate jazz with plenty of opportunity for instrumentalists and vocalists to make music with a house band, and to take the seat in the rhythm section as well if wished. Or just come to listen and soak up the atmosphere! All welcome. No need to book, just turn up on the night. Soft drinks available, bring your own alcohol if desired. Suggested donation by card or cash £5. Parking available in the village streets. Wheelchair accessible.

The group will be taking a break in July and August, but will return on Tuesday 9 September.

Choral Evensong at St Nicolas, Sunday 8 June, 6-6.45pm

Did you know that Choral Evensong at St Nicolas has the highest average attendance of all our weekly church services? As with all 'headline' statistics, this is a bit misleading, because choir members bump up the numbers, but the singers come because they find it spiritually uplifting to join in leading the music for this much-loved traditional service in the calming atmosphere of our beautiful ancient building.

If you have ever wondered what Choral Evensong is all about, why not come and find out? A friendly welcome awaits you and you can join in with some of the singing or just listen if you prefer. In the summer we have drinks in the church garden afterwards. What's not to like?

Julia Stutfield (07766 103427)

Forest Hill Village Hall Needs You!

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HORTON-cum-STUDLEY

St Barnabas 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.



The Dog and Collar (St Barnabas)

The Dog and Collar at St Barnabas opens its doors for the next popup social on **Friday 6 June, 6-8.30pm**.

Come and join friends and fellow villagers for a beer, wine or soft drink. Everyone is welcome!

Coffee and Chat

Saturday 14 June, 10am-12pm

Everyone is welcome to pop into St Barnabas Church to spend some time with neighbours for coffee and cake. No charge, but donations always welcomed.

Summer Cream Teas in St Barnabas Churchyard 2025

Cream teas will be served in the churchyard on **Sunday 6 July and Sunday 3 August, 2.30 – 4.30pm** to raise funds for the church.

All welcome.

Giant Sunflower and Pumpkin Competition

Would you like to grow a giant pumpkin or a giraffe-like sunflower?



There is still time to get your plants from end of Mill Lane, Horton-cum-Studley.

The weigh-in is Sunday 5 October 3-4pm.

Good Luck!

Cathy Jenkins

Ragnall's Lane, Horton-cum-Studley: advance notice of work

During June and July work will be carried out on Ragnall's Lane involving the use of machinery and restricting normal use.

The work has been commissioned by RSPB, after consultation with Oxfordshire County Council (Rights of Way), Horton-cum-Studley Parish Council, relevant landowners and some interested local parties.

1. Restricted byway and track repairs (2-13 June subject to weather conditions)

The work will regrade the existing stone track to its original condition to a width of approximately 3 metres. The track will be topped dressed, following guidance recommended by the British Horse Society.

The section between Otmoor Farm and the overhead electricity line will be completed first. The grips will be cleared out to facilitate drainage, but the width will not be increased into field entrances.

The contractor is MP & KM Golding and the plan has been agreed with OCC Countryside Access Officer (Northeast) tracy.sutton@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

2. Installation of power line by SSEN (16-20 June and 2-5 July subject to weather conditions)

The work will involve the section between Otmoor Farm and the entrance to the SSI/firing range (by the pump house on Otmoor).

Signage along the entire track will show how access is affected, summarised as:

Access on foot – It will be possible to pass on foot. Please be prepared to wait and then follow the advice of the machinery operator in order to pass.

Vehicle access – At the end of each day, the track will be left suitable for access on foot and for permitted 4x4 vehicles. Vehicular use of the track during reconstruction is at the risk of the individual.

Please contact Otmoor.Admin@rspb.org.uk if you have any queries.

Horton-cum-Studley Parish Council News

Vehicle Weight restrictions

We have raised with Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) concerns about the number of vehicles going through the village which appear to exceed the permitted weight limit of 7.5 tonnes. OCC has confirmed the location of weight restriction signs which for our village start at the top of Horton Hill (the junction of Oakley Road and Brill Road) and continue towards and including large parts of the B4027, including Forest Hill, Islip and Barton. The locations are shown on Google maps below.

Whilst vehicles can travel to access addresses within the restricted area, they are otherwise prohibited in the interest of safety for residents and other road users or to protect weak structures (e.g. bridges). If you have witnessed a suspected breach of a highway weight restriction by a vehicle you can report it to Oxfordshire Trading Standards Service online at: <https://service.oxfordshire.gov.uk/reporhighwaysbreach>.

Here are the locations of the signage for our area:

Junction at Horton Hill/Oakley/Brill Road

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/G6RXA3hAFAfgrXSf9>

A40E 2nd exit to Forest Hill

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/6fd5LzmvAPnLsK3E9>

A40E 1st exit to Forest Hill

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/Vsb9rhF3bHBff8jf6>

Headington roundabout exit to Barton

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/mrzJA7QEMo1Hdpa49>

A34 exit to Islip

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/kmiUq5NFAgjoWUr59>

A34 exit to Islip

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/7yhZquEK7Aa3KMmYA>

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on Thursday 8 May 2025 and we were fortunate to have two speakers this year on themes of conservation:

Olivia Field – Vice-Chair CPRE Oxfordshire (Council for Rural Protection of England)) outlined the vision for the CPRE and several campaigns within

Oxfordshire where CPRE are active. These included: the Botley Solar Farm; the Abingdon Reservoir; Hedgerow Heroes; and the Green Belt Way. Information was shared about a community Audit, the Noke Solar Farm, the 'Ox/Cam Arc' and a New Towns Taskforce.

David Wilding – RSPB (Otmoor Reserve) illustrated the positive results of work by RSPB volunteers and staff to improve the population of curlews on Otmoor. Amongst the activities was that of a fast reactive team deployed to erect a 20m fence around the nests of curlews, protecting eggs from local predators and thus contributing to an increase in the curlew presence on Otmoor.

Parish Council meetings, open to all in the village, are normally held on the **second Thursday of each month, 7.30pm in the Millennium Village Hall**, although an August meeting is not usually held.

David Slingo, Chairperson

Trek to Everest Base Camp for YoungMinds

Thank you to all who have so kindly sponsored/donated to raising funds for Young Minds.

My fundraising target is £2,495. To contribute, go online to my fundraising page on Givestar. Type <https://givestar.io/> into web browser and search for my campaign, which is called **Summit the stigma**.

Layla Whitaker, Horton-cum-Studley

Millennium Village Hall

The **AGM will be held on Wednesday 18 June 2025 at 7.45 pm** for drinks/snacks and 8pm start. This is an opportunity to quiz the committee on the running of the hall and its facilities, and to volunteer to join the committee for the next year.

Our website is now live at: www.hortoncumstudleymillenniumvillagehall.co.uk. Bookings can be made using the embedded booking system.

Contact details:

Treasurer – treasurerhcsmvh@gmail.com

Booking enquiries – hcshallbookings@gmail.com

Stuart MacFarlane – s.macfarlane799@btinternet.com

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.

Monthly Coffee Mornings in Stanton Village Hall, 10.30am-12pm

Come for tea, coffee and cake on **Friday 27 June!** Everyone is welcome. For further details, please contact Sue Baker 01865 351449.

Oxybaroxy Concert, Sunday 6 July at 7pm

OxyBaroxy (Oxfordshire Youth Baroque Strings) is an Oxfordshire Music Service Chamber Group, which offers young string players the opportunity to explore 17th and 18th Century string repertoire using Baroque bows and period performance practice. This popular and talented ensemble is performing in Stanton church once again in July. Entry to the concert is free but there will be a retiring collection in aid of Oxfordshire Fund for Music and Stanton St John Church.

Stanton St John Women's Institute



We learned such a lot from our talk by Laura Bristow, Fundraising Manager for Emmaus and one of their companions, Lisa, at our meeting in May. It's good to know that we have this charity nearby in Oxford which is able to provide support for homeless people and help them get back on their feet.

On **Tuesday 10 June** our talk will be **Top of the Greasy Pole** by **Mike Brook**. Mike presents a political broadcast on behalf of all parties and none! He will give us a collection of amusing stories about some of the 54 individuals who have served in 10 Downing Street.



As usual the meeting is at **7.30pm at Stanton St John Village Hall** – it's open to all, so please come along and enjoy the friendly atmosphere with the members of SSJ WI.

Stanton St John Parish Council

At the Parish Council meeting held on 22 April, several local matters were discussed of interest to residents.

Highways officers met with councillors and a resident in March to review issues including potholes, flooding and ditch maintenance. The council continues to press for restoration of trees at Shepherds Pit and is progressing a lighting review.

A public meeting to discuss traffic calming measures was held on Thursday 22 May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, following work by the Traffic Working Party.

Councillors have formally joined other local parishes in opposing the proposed creation of a large Oxford Unitary Authority. A joint letter was submitted to the Minister for Devolution outlining local concerns about the impact on services and representation.

In response to resident feedback, the Council has written to Oxfordshire County Council requesting that the 108 bus continue to stop at the Village Shop, highlighting its importance as a local service point.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 16 June at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

* * * * *





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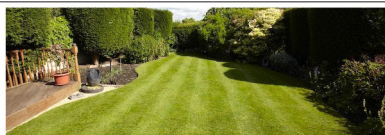
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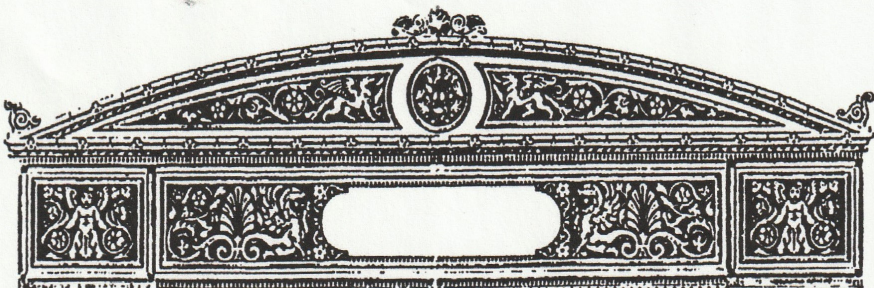
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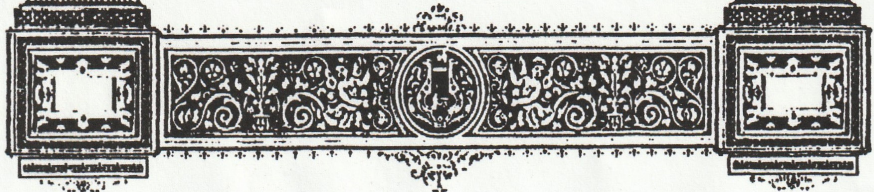
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Bicester, Pioneer Square (Stand I)	-	-	1120	1430	-
Langford Village, o/s Medical Practice	-	-	1130	1440	-
Blackthorn, Bus Shelter	-	-	-	1449	-
Piddington, o/s Arncott Road Bus Shelter	-	-	-	1454	-
Horton-cum-Studley, opp Forge Close	0715	0905	1145	1505	-
Beckley, opp The Abingdon Arms	0723	0913	1153	1513	-
Forest Hill, adj Powell Close	0732	0922	1202	1522	1634
Stanton St John, Main Road (Cox Lane)	0736	0926	1206	1526	1638
Beckley, opp The Abingdon Arms	-	-	-	-	1643
Headington, Shops (Stop HS2)	0754	0936	1216	1536	1653
Headington, Brookes University (Stop B5)	0759	0941	1221	1541	1658
Oxford, High Street (Stop L2)	0814	0955	1235	1555	1713

Oxford, High Street (Stop T2)	-	1010	1310	1610	1745
Headington, Brookes University (Stop B2)	-	1021	1321	1621	1801
Headington, Shops (Stop HS6)	-	1025	1325	1625	1805
Forest Hill, adj Powell Close	-	-	1334	1634	1814
Stanton St John, Main Road (Cox Lane)	-	-	1338	1638	1818
Beckley, o/s The Abingdon Arms	-	-	1343	1643	1823
Horton-cum-Studley, adj Forge Close	-	1035	1350	-	1830
Boarstall, adj St James's Church	-	1040	1355	-	-
Piddington, opp Arncott Road Bus Shelter	-	1046	-	-	-
Blackthorn, Bus Shelter	-	1051	-	-	-
Langford Village, o/s Medical Practice	-	1100	1410	-	-
Bicester, Pioneer Square (Stand I)	-	1110	1420	-	-