

The Four Parishes News Magazine

BECKLEY
FOREST HILL
HORTON-cum-STUDLEY
STANTON St JOHN



Cycle race in Horton-cum-Studley, July 2023

September 2023

The editor writes



The last month and a half has simply flown by, and I can hardly believe that it's time for another magazine, with the new academic year just around the corner and most people's holidays coming to and end or already a distant memory.

Nevertheless, there is much to look forward to and if you take the time to browse the pages of this issue, you will find details of all sorts of regular and one off events taking place throughout the Four Parishes this month.

Amazingly, no less than three of our historic churches are hosting special concerts in September, with singer Katie Grace Harris and Band in Stanton (16 September), a celebratory performance of Benjamin Britten's 'St Nicolas' cantata in Forest Hill (23 September) and an organ recital on Beckley Church's restored and renovated organ by Dr Edward Higginbottom (30 September). We are truly lucky to have such a range of cultural entertainment available on our doorsteps!

If your normal habit is to skip straight to 'your' village pages and ignore the rest of the magazine, why not try reading the other sections as well? I have lost count of the times I have drawn people's attention to articles that they would have found interesting and useful had they managed to find the time to read them, so please give it a go!

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 taken by David Slingo from Horton-cum-Studley on 2 July 2023.

David wrote "Here are a few photos taken at a recent bike race that came through HcS - organised through British Cycling it featured a circuit outside the village but was started from the Millenium Village Hall."

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 October 2023 issue is 15 September 2023

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

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

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Stanton St John

Vacant at present

The Four Parishes News Magazine has 10 issues per year and is distributed free of charge to approximately 850 addresses in Beckley, Forest Hill, Horton-cum-Studley, 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, September 2023

	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
3 September <i>Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity</i>	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	11am Morning Prayer
	4pm Children's Service at St Nicolas, Forest Hill			
10 September <i>Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity</i>		9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Prayer	11am Holy Communion
	4pm Messy Church at Beckley Church			
	6pm BCP Choral Evensong at Forest Hill			
17 September <i>Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity</i>	11am BCP Morning Prayer	9.30am Morning Prayer	9.30am Harvest Service of Morning Prayer	11am Harvest Holy Communion
	6pm Iona Service at Beckley			
24 September <i>Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity</i>	10am Benefice Service of Holy Communion at Stanton St John			
	4pm Family Church does Forest Church Bernwood Forest (meet at car park)			
	6pm Taizé Service via Zoom			

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 whether you are a glass half full person or glass half empty, or have an Eeyore or Tigger personality (if you would admit to such a thing!) I am generally a glass half full person, (although a full glass of my favourite tippie is of course more preferable!!) I'm not sure I quite have the energy these days to be a Tigger!! Eeyore is rather adorable, despite a reputation for being a little miserable. Irrelevant to personality type, I do love Winnie the Pooh though.

Despite being optimistic and looking on the brighter side of life, I confess I have been rather run down this summer by the weather. What has happened to those lovely long evenings with time enough to sit in the garden with a relaxing drink before dinner, and then finishing off the day with a lovely walk just before bedtime because it is light for so long? I perhaps have not managed to take advantage of all the opportunities there have been, but they do seem to have been few and far between this year. And now I find myself noticing how quickly the nights are drawing in! And only a few weeks ago I was even tempted to put my heating on as it was so chilly, but I resisted temptation as it seemed crazy to do that in August!



Enough of that negativity though! If you are interested in sport, it has been a pretty good summer with some exciting cricket and football. In men's cricket, I do not recall a series of test matches being quite so closely fought (although an early declaration did not help us). And the women's series was exciting too. And fancy an English football team winning on penalties to progress through a tournament – quite a rarity. Overall, if an English fan, maybe not quite the results we would have liked, but some exciting games to take our minds off the wind and rain. Let us not mention rugby though!

The weather has made my shrubs shoot up, despite a good prune earlier in the year. My grass has not seen many cuts because of the weather, so

you may think I am doing ‘no mow July and August’!

Despite the weather, in these latter few drier days, it has been lovely to hear the combine harvester in the fields around me, followed by seeing the bailed straw. The farm workers have worked through the night, or finished late, to catch the windows in the weather. I do not know the quality of the harvest, but at least it is in hand.

As I walked Bertie today, I treated myself to some blackberries from the hedgerow. They were tasty! I forgot to take a photo to show you them! I am waiting for my apples to ripen ready for picking.

Harvest is a lovely time of year – although of course different crops are being harvested throughout the year. A farmer’s work is never finished! But traditionally we think of harvest being August/September/October, depending on the crop and where you are. Many of you have been harvesting your fruit, vegetables and flowers and I have been fortunate to have shared in some of these – thank you so much for these.

As we think of harvest, I look forward to us celebrating in each of our churches (see details on page 8). They are always so beautifully decorated. And as we celebrate, we give thanks for God’s provision to us, and think of others not as fortunate as ourselves, and share our riches with those less fortunate. This is especially important in these difficult times, when families are struggling with the cost of living.

Please do get in touch if life is hard and 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

All the churches in the benefice are open daily. Beckley: 10am-6pm; Forest Hill, Horton-cum-Studley and Stanton St John: 10am-4pm.

In addition to the church services listed on page 5, there are other activities during the week, details of which appear below. **All are welcome to join these activities. Please email me (Anthea) anthea@fourparishes.org.uk if you would like to know more about any of the items in this section of the magazine.**

Celebrating Harvest across the Benefice

We are looking forward to celebrating Harvest across the benefice. Please see the individual village pages for more information, but here is a summary so you can hold the date:

Village Church	Date and time	Harvest Service
Beckley	17 September at 9.30am	Morning Prayer
Forest Hill	1 October at 11am	Holy Communion
Horton-cum-Studley	17 September at 11am	Holy Communion
Stanton St John	8 October at 11am	Morning Prayer

Confirmation

Following the July/August article about the forthcoming Confirmation Service which will be led by Bishop Gavin, Bishop of Dorchester, I am pleased to advise that this will be held at **St Barnabas Church, Horton-cum-Studley on 3 December at 11am**. There will be no other services in the benefice that day. All are welcome to the service.

If you have not been confirmed, and have been thinking about it, or have any questions about what it is, please do get in touch with me (Anthea) as soon as possible. Confirmation classes will begin in September, and individuals involved will be consulted about the timing of this.

Prayers for Peace

As the war continues in Ukraine, we continue to meet for 15 minutes at 12pm on Wednesdays and Saturdays in September to pray for peace:

Beckley: 13 and 23

Horton-cum-Studley: 2, 20 and 30

Forest Hill: 6 and 16

Stanton St John: 9 and 27

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
Morning Prayer at 9am		√		√
Evening Prayer at 6pm	√		√	
Benefice Book Group at 7.30pm			√	

Dates for diary for children and family church activities

Children's Service at St Nicolas, Forest Hill 4 - 4.30pm	Messy Church Stanton St John Village Hall 4 - 5pm * Beckley Church	Family Church Bernwood Forest Horton-cum-Studley, 4-5pm 3-4pm from Nov.	Craft Workshop Beckley Church 3.30-4.30pm
3 September	* 10 September	24 September	20 September
1 October	8 October	29 October	
5 November	12 November	26 November	8 November
3 December (St Nicolas Day Celebration with Christingle)			6 December
10 December (Christmas Party SVH 4-5pm)			

Please always look out for email updates.

Children's autumn craft workshops

We are looking forward to the Children's craft workshops in Beckley Church this autumn on Wednesdays from 3.30-4.30pm. 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:

Wednesday 20 September: Harvest Workshop

Wednesday 8 November: Remembrance Workshop

Wednesday 6 December: Christmas Workshop

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

Book Group

The Book Group continues to meet virtually by Zoom on a Thursday evening at 7.30pm. We are currently reading *Singing in Babylon: Finding Purpose in Life's Second Choices* by Jeff Lucas. We will be starting a new book in October: *Kingdom of Fools* by Nick Page.

Home Group Study on the Gospel of John

The study group looking at the Gospel of John is resuming after the summer break on Monday 18 September at 2.30pm at Studley Farm House, Horton-cum-Studley. If you are interested in being involved, please contact Annie Payne by email at anniefpayne@gmail.com.

A letter from Hugh and Anne Lee

Dear Friends,

As many of you know, we have had a very difficult 9 months which started with Anne having a totally unexpected heart attack in November last year followed by a number of complications and culminated on 4th August this year with the death of our beloved daughter, Kate, from pancreatic cancer, which had been diagnosed in the middle of January.

We are so grateful to the many people in the 4 parishes for all the overwhelming support we have received, from cards and e-mails to food and flowers. After her heart attack Anne received over 90 cards and e-mails from people in the 4 parishes and since Kate's illness progressed and following her death every post, electronic and real, brings more and more expressions of your love and sympathy.

As some of you will know, Kate and Stephen were married in Stanton St John church on 29th May 1999. We must look at our photographs as there are several which show people like Dave and Sheila Pullen and Olive and George Lees. On that very happy occasion we were thrilled with the support you all showed. Now that our news has been bad, we have been just incredibly grateful for all the love and care you have shown us. And the practical ways in which you have shown it.

It has also helped enormously to know that people have been praying for us and that you have all "just been there" for us. Thank you.

With our love and very grateful thanks to you all,

Hugh and Anne Lee

Ride and Stride, Saturday 9 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.

To take part, you need to find sponsors and cycle, walk or ride by horse to visit as many churches as possible. 50% of the money raised can be given to a church of your choice, and the remainder goes to the OHCT itself to augment its funds. Some people in the Four Parishes have been raising money in this way regularly for several years so please respond generously to any appeals for sponsorship! Volunteers are also needed to greet and sign in any visitors from other churches during the day.

GENERAL

Dame Elizabeth Holford's Charity Applications for Bursaries welcomed

The Charity was set up in 1720 when Dame Elizabeth Holford left £500 to establish a school for the children of Stanton St John and Forest Hill. The Charity came into being in 1988, following the closure of the school at what is now the Holford Centre, in Stanton St John. The Charity's area of benefit now includes Stanton St John, Forest Hill with Shotover, Beckley, Horton-cum-Studley and the ecclesiastical Parish of Elsfield. Applications for grants are invited from school aged children and young people up to the age of 25 who are or who have parents resident in the area of benefit, for help in their educational needs.

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

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

The Trustees are meeting next on Monday 4 September.

Land North of Bayswater Brook (LnBB) Update

During February and March SODC received over 150 responses from the public, parishes and community groups objecting to the three recent planning application for Land north of Bayswater Book and in addition 2 petitions one of 3,200 signatures and another 63 from most Wick Farm residents, who will be surrounded by the development. These responses were in addition to the statutory consultees e.g., Highways, Natural England, Historic England etc.

Some of the responses from the statutory consultees showed clear dissatisfaction with the information provided in the over 550 planning documents submitted.

Natural England - *“the application could have potentially significant effects on Sidlings Copse and College Pond Site of Special Scientific Interest. Natural England requires further information in order to determine the significance of these impacts and the scope for mitigation Without this information, Natural England may need to object to the proposal.”*

National Highways - *“CTMP: No development shall take place until a detailed Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority (in consultation with National Highways)”.*

The County Council - *“as the Local Highways Authority, is currently objecting to planning applications further information or points of clarification required by the applicant, which can be reviewed by OCC.”*


There has been a significant victory. An additional listed building application to move ancient listed boundary stones in the former Oxford Preservation Trust field between Lower Farm and Wick Farm was objected to by Historic England. This is thanks to Mark of Headington Heritage, who carried out extensive research on the boundary stones to get them listed, to show that they had not been moved and their position is of historical significance. This means that Christ Church and their development partners will have to move their proposed bus road through this field. Please do look at the Headington Heritage website - www.headingtonheritage.org.uk.



There is no news about timing on when the LnBB applications will go to the SODC Planning Committee or how it will be divided up so it can be considered and we can comment.

Beckley and Stowood have developed a Neighbourhood Plan which contains mitigation policies to help address some of our concerns about LnBB. SODC and the Examiner wish to delete all our mitigation policies, probably due to fears of litigation. They may carry out a further public consultation on this. If this happens, we would be very grateful for your support and we will circulate details.

Ginette Camps-Walsh, Beckley



**MEET
THE GOVERNORS**

South Oxfordshire constituency meeting and public talk

Date: **Monday 16 October 2023**
Time: **7.00pm – 8.00pm, refreshments from 6.30pm**
Venue: **Merry Bells Village Hall, 89 High Street, Wheatley, Oxford OX33 1XP**

Come along and speak to your local governors so they can hear your views and experiences on the hospital services provided by Oxford University Hospitals and hear from Prof George Krasopoulos, Professor of Cardiac Surgery at Oxford Heart Centre on Understanding Heart Diseases and how to access services.

Agenda

6.30 – 7.00pm	Refreshments
7.00 – 7.15pm	Governors' Welcome Nina Robinson and Janet Knowles, South Oxfordshire governors
7.15 – 7.35pm	Understanding heart diseases and how to access services Prof George Krasopoulos, Professor of Cardiac Surgery, Oxford Heart Centre
7.35 – 8.00pm	Q&A
8.00pm	Close

Please register to attend via:
Email: ouhmembers@ouh.nhs.uk or call: 01865 231472

ouh.nhs.uk/about/governors

Elegant Egrets

by Lyn Ebbs

Oxford's network of rivers, canals and streams, plus nature reserves like RSPB Otmoor, give us plenty of opportunities to study members of the heron family. Three attractive white heron species are providing us with good views on Otmoor at the moment. In increasing order of size, they are Cattle Egret, Little Egret and Great Egret. In 1997, when the reserve was created, Little Egrets were rare in Oxfordshire, while both Cattle and Great Egrets were regarded as rarities throughout Britain. Now all three occur regularly on Otmoor and other parts of the county. Though none of them have yet bred on the reserve, Cattle and Little Egrets have bred on the island in Blenheim Lake.

It's not just the size difference that distinguishes them, they all have other easily recognisable features and different feeding techniques.

Cattle egrets, as the name suggests, like being with large grazing animals, so that they can grab the insects that their hooves disturb. Their plumage colour varies with age and the season but at this time of year, adults still have the orange-yellow head and chest plumes of the breeding season. They have yellow-buff legs and a yellow beak. Juveniles are all white, but the bill colour and their stocky build distinguishes them their more elegant cousins. Their arrival was very recent; there was a big influx of them into the UK in the winter of 2007-8 after which a pair bred for the first time in Somerset. In 2021, a first for Oxford, three nests were seen at Blenheim fledging at least 10 juveniles.



The Little Egret is all white throughout the year, also having attractive white plumes on crest, back and chest. But it has a black bill, black legs and yellow feet, used to flush prey when feeding in shallow water. Until the 1980s the Little Egret was a very scarce migrant to Britain. It appeared in significant numbers in 1989 and first bred in Dorset in 1996. Its UK colonization followed on from range expansion across northern and western France in previous decades. By 2001 the number of breeding



pairs had passed 100 and in 2015 it passed 1,000 pairs for the first time. They've bred in Oxfordshire in previous years and, while they haven't bred there yet, are seen in varying numbers, up to 20 plus, on Otmoor.

As the name suggests, the Great Egret is the largest of these three species. They can look similar to Little Egrets, but they are the same size as the familiar grey heron. Other notable features include black feet, yellow beak and a different fishing technique. Herons' necks have a permanent kink, the result of an elongated vertebra (the sixth from the skull), which attaches to its neighbours at a right angle instead of end-to-end. The kink forms a kind of hinge mechanism, enabling the bird to lunge forward at lightning speed and with astonishing precision. The shock of impact is absorbed by ligaments between the vertebrae.



You can find them over the summer months at Otmoor, usually just in ones and twos, but five were seen there at one time this year.

The elegant feathers of their breeding plumage almost proved the egrets' downfall. The fashion for extravagant styles of hat drove a trade in feathers. Between 1870 and 1920, bird skins were imported to Britain by the ton for the plumage trade. At its Edwardian peak, the trade was worth some £20 million a year (around £200 million in today's money). Thousands of bird species around the world were being hunted to extinction for the millinery trade, including the Great and Little Egret.



Emily Williamson bravely called out the insatiable slaughter of birds for millinery. She pushed back against the relentless tide of fashion. Together with Eliza Phillips and Etta Lemon, she grew her fledgling Society for the Protection of Birds to become, eventually, the UK's biggest conservation charity: the RSPB.

Lyn Ebbs has lived in Stanton St John for 35 years and has been volunteering at the RSPB Otmoor Reserve at Otmoor Lane, Beckley, since 2009.

Voyages of Discovery - my work behind the Iron Curtain

[Editor's Note: "There are plenty of well-travelled people in the Four Parishes with interesting stories to tell, so we thought it might be interesting to explore some of these. Here is our introductory article from Stanton St John resident, Karen Draisey."]

In the late 1970's, soon after leaving drama school, I was offered an acting role in an English language teaching series for East German television. I played Jenny, opposite an actor who played Dave, in a series of episodes that was shown in East German schools 8 times a week for the next 10 years and was intended to give the students a taste of what life in the UK was like. The first foreign language they learned in school was Russian and English must have been something of an academic exercise. In our TV series Jenny and Dave travelled around the UK, filming on location in England and Wales. Thus audiences saw, for example, the beauty of



Karen on location in Wales

the Welsh countryside juxtaposed with the plight of coal mining communities. They joined Jenny and Dave on a sightseeing tour of London that took in the sights and then ended up at Karl Marx's tomb in Highgate cemetery. This was the means whereby an entire generation of East Germans learnt English with no opportunity to see for

themselves how reality matched up to what they were watching - until 1989 and the fall of the Berlin Wall. After that they could travel, see the West for themselves and put into practice what the series had taught them. I had many memorable encounters, and still do, with East German viewers who were forced to watch Jenny and Dave every week in school and are able to reference the episodes. Nearly everyone finds it hilarious to remember us paying homage at Marx's tomb!

The television company (known as DEFA) was dissolved after German reunification in 1992, but the time I spent working there was the start of a journey that has taken me back to Berlin repeatedly. In 1978 I found it hard to disabuse people in East Germany of the ideas they had about what life was like in the West, just as we in the West only knew of the oppressive aspects of the communist regime and nothing at all about how people went about their daily lives. In East Germany, for example, there

was no unemployment, the elderly and the young were very well looked after, homosexuality was not illegal, and women had a much greater significance in the workplace than was the case here.

On a trip to Berlin in 2011, I visited the Stasi offices and had the existence of my Stasi file confirmed. Copies of internal documents in which I was named were sent to me from Berlin with the promise to let me know if more information turned up in the future. I feel strangely relieved that nothing more has been found. Most likely my file was among those that ended up in the shredder in the weeks after the Wall came down. I prefer to keep memories of friendships intact and I don't feel the need to know who was reporting on me. I do, however, enjoy dining out on the fact that I was an actor working behind the Iron Curtain in the 1970's and have a Stasi file to prove it!



Karen at Stasi Archive Offices

I visited Berlin again this year and met with the DEFA archivist, Mirko Wiermann. I was keen to find out what happened to the TV studios and to my colleagues after reunification. Mirko was an East German in his teens when the Wall came down. He spoke of the way in which, during the 40 years of the GDR, propaganda had worked both ways. Like most people he thought that German reunification was a good thing. But he also observed that the country he had grown up in was not one where people lived their lives in black and white. Yes there were privations, but people laughed and played, went to work and studied, had parties and looked out for each other. People in East Germany lost their jobs as industries and institutions were taken over by West German companies and authorities. Many felt that their lives were rendered insignificant by these changes whilst they were considered fortunate to have been saved from living under an oppressive regime. The latter was true, he freely admitted. But their status within the new Germany was now that of second class citizens. The country that they had grown up and lived in had disappeared.

My interest in the changes that have taken place in Europe over the past century remains strong. Now that I am 'retired' I find myself drawn back to Berlin, the city which holds endless fascination for me, and aim to continue my voyage of discovery!

A day in the life of a local beekeeper

by Maria Keenan

September is generally the time to test and treat your hives for varroa mites. The varroa is a tiny mite the size of a pin head that breeds in cells of larvae and deforms their growth. So we have to get this under control if you are to have a colony that can survive the winter. You can treat varroa with a variety of methods, vapping with oxalic acid, Apilife Var tablets which are placed into the hive and removed after a certain time, oxalic dribble (using a syringe to drip solution into the hive), or Apiguard - a tray of gel which the bees transport all over the hive.



varroa mite

By now the beekeeper will have taken off the summer honey crop leaving enough for the winter bees. Alternatively, you can now feed the colony approx 15kg of syrup so that they have enough stores going into winter.

The queen will start laying the winter bees which will live longer than the spring/summer bees whose lifespan is only about 6 weeks. Winter bees can live for around 4-5 months, long enough to sustain the colony and get them through the winter months.

In September the queen may stop laying for a few weeks. This is known as a brood break. You may be fooled into thinking that your hive is queenless especially if you can't find her! So now is not the time to be hasty. There may be a few drone bees left in the colony which will soon be booted out of the hive as their use has expired and they will be depleting the honey stores.

Some beekeepers chose to requeen at this time of year so that the colony can go into winter with a new, young queen. Occasionally the bees will also decide to supercede the existing queen if she is old or not a very good layer.

During the next few months the queen will slowly decline her egg laying until it is almost non existent in Dec/Jan compared to the 1000's that she may lay at the peak of Spring/Summertime.

It is during these months that the beekeeper must check that the colony has enough stores to get them through the cold, wet spell. The hive may

have a 'super' (storage box) of honey above or below the 'brood box' but if the colony is small and weak then they may not be able to reach those stores and will starve and die.

September and October can also be a time to unite colonies if they are weak and low in numbers. This is done by simply laying a sheet or two of newspaper across the brood box and placing the other colony's brood box over the top. Make a few tiny pin pricks into the newspaper to allow pheromones to transfer across. Don't forget to remove the queen that you don't want from one of the colonies. After all, you can only have one queen!

Autumn/Winter is a good time for the beekeeper to check stocks of items and re-order and make up frames, wax foundation and jars, not to mention cleaning up equipment. Apart from a blast of oxalic acid in Dec/Jan to kill any varroa, that is all we need to do with the colony. You can also check that they have enough stores by hefting the hive and, if needed, add some fondant on top of the crown board. There's no need to inspect during this time as you may do more harm than good. They should be left alone now until the spring when it all starts again.....

Maria Keenan lives in Forest Hill

The Otmoor Flyer Bus Service into Headington and Oxford

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Forest Hill and Stanton St John

Picks up at 10.30am in Forest Hill

Bus stop in Powell Close and Stanton Road

Picks up at 10.40am in Stanton St John

Bus stop outside the village shop

Tuesdays & Fridays

Horton-cum-Studley and Beckley

Picks up at 10.30am in Horton-cum-Studley

Bus stop is the bus shelter on the Brill Road

Picks up at 10.40am in Beckley

Bus stop next to red post box on the High Street

Bus stops on the London Road in Headington and at the Town Hall in St Aldates

Return Journey from Oxford and Headington:

Picks up from Broad Street outside Balliol College at 1.15pm

Picks up in Headington at the main gate into Bury Knowle Park at 1.30pm

TRAVEL CARDS COST £15 FOR 10 SINGLE JOURNEYS, obtainable from:

The Village Shop, Stanton St John – Tel: 01865 351532

Malcolm Leeding, Forest Hill – Tel: 01865 872034

The Abingdon Arms, Beckley – Tel: 01865 655667

Jill Meyjes, Horton-cum-Studley – Tel: 01865 351496



News from The Maple Tree

The Maple Tree is a well-respected and highly-valued charity in Wheatley, serving over 400 families each year



from the village, many surrounding villages and parts of Oxford. We run play-based early learning activities for children under 5 and their parents, and workshops and courses for parents and carers. We also host health visitor clinics and provide advice and support.

We are seeking a treasurer to join our team of trustees and help oversee our finances, prepare our annual budget and end of year accounts. **This is a voluntary role, and vital to the smooth running and sustainability of the charity.** Our current annual budget is approximately £90,000.

The treasurer would need to come with prior evidence of managing money, either with a bookkeeping or accountancy background or as part of a trustee or staffing role. If you are interested in finding out more about the role, we would be delighted to talk with you. Please contact Jane Lightfoot at jane@mapletree.org.uk.

More information about The Maple Tree can be found at www.mapletree.org.uk.

Registered Charity No. 1174117

A poster for the Beckley Art Exhibition. The background is a vibrant, abstract collage of colors including red, yellow, blue, and green, with a large white 'X' shape overlaid. The text is centered and reads:

Beckley Art Exhibition

Sat and Sun, 10 to 4
October 7th and 8th
Beckley Village Hall OX3 9UZ

BECKLEY

Beckley Church

Details of all church services and general church news can be found on pages 5 - 11. Any changes to the published schedule of services will be on our website www.fourparishes.org.uk.

Harvest Festival

We shall be **decorating the church on Saturday 16 September at 10am** and anyone who would like to help will be warmly welcomed! Our theme for the **Harvest Festival Service on Sunday 17 September at 9.30am** is 'May none go Hungry to bed tonight' and I am circulating the request that we come to church bringing with us 2 or 3 items of dry food to go to the food bank, although a bag of potatoes would also be very welcome!

On **Wednesday 20 September we are holding a Harvest Workshop** for children from 3.30-4.30pm in the church. See page 9 for more information.

Betty Dye

Organ Recital in Beckley, Saturday 30 September at 6pm

(see details overleaf) Please stay afterwards for a celebratory drink! It would be helpful if you could possibly confirm attendance to ginarobson5@gmail.com or susy.jepson@gmail.com.

Beckley Art Group - don't forget the Autumn Exhibition 7/8 October

The Beckley Art Group continues to meet every Friday morning in our village hall. There are about 20 members, not all from Beckley itself, but from surrounding villages, and even as far away as Oxford! The whole environment of the hall lends itself to relaxed artistic creativity, aided and abetted by a very social coffee break at 11am. The group has had a successful showing in the Stanton shop window earlier this year, and continues to show paintings in the pub, as well as organising exhibits in 'Tate Beckley' (AKA the old telephone box on Beckley High Street).

The highlight this year will again be the annual exhibition in the village hall, the weekend of 7/8 October, where there will be 100 or more paintings of very different styles, artistic diversity being one of the hallmarks of our group!

John Stradling for Beckley Art Group.

Saturday 30 September, 6pm

**Organ Recital on Beckley Church's restored and renovated organ
by Dr Edward Higginbottom**

Emeritus Professor of Choral Music, University of Oxford
Emeritus Organist and Fellow, New College Oxford.

Free admission, retiring collection for the organ fund

Beckley & Stowood Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Monday 11 September at 7pm in Beckley Village Hall**. Any changes to the published meeting dates will be on the website www.beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk.

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

Fix My Street – please report any road or street issues to the Oxfordshire County Council website or to the Fix My Street App. A photograph of the problem is useful too.

Beckley School Bus

Beckley School is in great danger of losing its bus as thoughtless parking is causing traffic chaos in the High Street and Church Street.

The bus needs to turn around in the junction of Church Street and the High Street when the children are dropped off and picked up. This manoeuvre is often not possible as people park at the junction which stops the bus manoeuvring and causes traffic gridlock. Please do think of local residents and the bus driver when dropping your children off or picking them up from school. **Please do not stop or park at or near the Church Street and High Street junction at school going in and coming out times – 8.30-9.15am and 2.45-3.30pm.**

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.

Beckley and Area Community Benefit Society Ltd

Improving the look of The Abingdon Arms

BACBS continues to support The Abingdon Arms and its tenants, and encourages other community activities. We have been instrumental in improving the external visual image of the pub in a number of ways. The low picket fence to the front was rotting away, and we decided to remove it entirely, which has had the additional benefit of allowing a larger seating area on the sunny south side. We also designed and installed an enclosure in the car park area to store the bins and barrels. This necessitated the moving of the electric vehicle (EV) charging point to a less than satisfactory alternative, but this was the best compromise. We organised a refurbishment and painting of the outside windows and doors and, finally, we have replaced the dreadfully faded swing sign, back to the original design.

More than a Pub events

The new MtaP year begins our usual exciting programme and some changes.

A new Cuppa and Cake session will begin at 3.30pm on Tuesday 5 September, replacing our old coffee mornings.

The Quiz Night, at 7.30pm on the first Wednesday of the month, will restart on Wednesday 6 September. Ever popular, it's a good idea to book a table if you want to sit in the main bar area!

Our monthly Sunday afternoon Walks will resume at 2 pm on 17 September.

And last but not least, September's Sunday evening talk will be by Lyn Ebbs, familiar to many from her articles in the Four Parishes Magazine. Lyn will be talking on 'The Otmoor Riots - What the Locals did at Full Moon'.

Note that we will no longer be providing an additional Zoom option for talks, but hope to record them and provide a viewing link subsequently.

BACBS Annual Members Meeting

BACBS will be holding its annual meeting on Wednesday 30 November. A formal invitation will be going out shortly. We are always looking for potential new committee members so, if you are interested, please contact John Stradling on 07831 604811 or john.stradling@ouh.nhs.uk. As ever, IT, PR and publicity skills would be much appreciated!

FOREST HILL

News from St Nicolas

Details of all church services and general church news can be found on pages 5 - 11. Any changes to the published schedule of services will be on our website www.fourparishes.org.uk.

Ride and Stride, Saturday 9 September

I will be taking part again this year, so if you would like to sponsor me, please get in touch. Many thanks for all your support over the years.

Pat Fraser, email: triciaann49@gmail.com

St Nicolas Organ Open Mornings

Anybody interested in hearing, playing or learning about the organ at St Nicolas is welcome to drop in on **Saturday 16 September between 10am and 12pm**, when Peter Stutfield will be happy to demonstrate.

Cream Teas at St Nicolas

Saturday 23 September, 3 - 5pm

Join us for the final Cream Tea of the year in celebration of the 750th Anniversary of the dedication of our church to St Nicolas.

750th Anniversary Concert at St Nicolas

Saturday 23 September, 5.30pm

Our September concert will include a celebratory performance of the first part of **Benjamin Britten's 'St Nicolas'** with tenor Jack Harberd singing the part of Nicolas. Singers from the St Nicolas Choir and Consort will be joined by pianists Alexandra Hewitt and Roger Simmonds and organist Peter Stutfield. The music includes a humorous song about the birth and childhood of Nicolas, some moving soliloquies by Nicolas himself, and a brilliantly evocative depiction of a tumultuous storm at sea and its aftermath. The final movement celebrates the consecration of Nicolas as Bishop of Myra and ends with a stirring arrangement of the well-known hymn 'All people that on earth do dwell', with full audience participation!

Tickets will be on sale via the St Nicolas website at £10 (children under 16 admitted free) or contact Julia Stutfield, email julia.stutfield@gmail.com or 07766 103427.

Obituary for Louise Gawne



Louise Gawne sadly died on 31 May 2023. Although she had lived in Woodstock for the last 15 years, she lived twice as long in Forest Hill, with her three daughters, from 1978-2008. She made some long lasting friendships from her time in Forest Hill, and kept in touch with many people.

Louise was active in the community as well as socially. She served on the Parish Council and for many years was a Trustee of the Holford Centre, Stanton St John. She was also an active member of the WI and contributed to the publication 'Forest Hill with Shotover: a portrait' by the Forest Hill Women's Institute, 1983. As well as contributing to the history of the village, she was keen on family history, researching and writing three books on her ancestors.

She loved to bring people together, welcoming newcomers to the village and introducing them to neighbours. She was a familiar figure walking her dogs (Joseph, then Annie) around Forest Hill and the surrounding countryside, and she had a deep love of nature. She was also a keen traveller, a talented artist, and a Crossword fiend.

She touched many people's lives and will be greatly missed.

Eleanor Gawne

Jazz Nights in Forest Hill Village Hall

Tuesday 12 September, 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.

Forest Hill with Shotover Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Thursday 14 September at 7pm in Forest Hill Village Hall**. Dates of future meetings can be found on the Forest Hill 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. Archived agendas and minutes can be found on the website.

Fix My Street - please report road or street problems, with a photograph, via the Oxfordshire County Council website or via the Fix My Street App.

20-mph wheelie bin stickers are available from the Clerk and can be picked up from the village hall before the PC meetings. Two stickers per household to be used on green and grey bins.

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

The Wider Rookery: Ground Management for Development

[Editor's Note: "In February 2021 we published a gently satirical account by Malcolm Leeding of the imaginary proceedings of a "parliament" of rooks. Malcolm has recently retired as a Parish Councillor after many



years of service and we thought we would publish this extract from a follow-up article he sent us. His original story can be found at <https://www.fourparishes.org.uk/magazine>."]

1. Having established, in an earlier report, a basis for action in matters of nest allocation, the Senior Rooks Working Party thought that this was an opportunity to clarify some guidance on other issues which could arise from time to time.

2. Feeding Areas

Creation of graded feeding areas for various age groups, extending the principles of the nest case. Factors to be taken into account:

(a) Ease of access from normal flight paths viz amount of vegetation,

size of trees;

- (b) How many areas would need to be provided to enable pecking in comfort, with not too many rules which work against community feeling.
- (c) How to ensure that not all of the best food ends up in the area of those birds with high-profile, assertive, large beak sizes. This would probably need a separate Pecking Party and take some time.
- (d) How to discourage other groups or species from “dropping in”. This was a problem for all species, and an element of pressure would be needed. What levels would be appropriate?
- (e) Older rooks would recite tales of yore when they had seen off, for instance, jackdaws, who had a reputation for cleptocracy. They did not give details of their methods, but they are, of course, the larger species!

3. Cawing Practice

This was a vital part of the general pattern of life, and all rooks were expected to have the skill. However, there needed to be protocols:

- (a) General silence in hours of darkness, apart from emergencies.
- (b) Some regard to seniority - do not “caw” across a senior rook.
- (c) Any choir practice to be held on the edges of the rookery.

4. Protection against Intruders, especially against ambitious hawks, ravens, egg collectors (rare)

All proposals to be approved by the appropriate Working Party.

5. Rearing of Young Rooks

The rookery expects parents to exercise reasonable control of the young, discouraging any ideas of “borrowing” sticks from other nests.

6. Visits to Other Rookeries

These are encouraged, especially to learn about other working practices, but not necessarily adopt them.

7. Implementation of these Rules

Any issues arising (as with the recent matter of nest allocation) are to be determined by the Council of Senior Rooks.



The Maple Tree at Forest Hill, Thursdays 11am-12pm

The Maple Tree Baby & Toddler sessions in Forest Hill Village Hall are a wonderful way for parents and carers of small children to meet and chat in a friendly and supportive environment. Sessions are run by Laura Spencer, Manager of the Maple Tree Children's Centre in Wheatley, with the help of regular volunteers from Forest Hill and Stanton St John.



We love to welcome new families from the Four Parishes and beyond: if you have a new baby or are expecting one soon, why not drop in to introduce yourself to us?

If you have any questions, contact Julia Stutfield 07766 103427 or julia.stutfield@gmail.com.

Forest Hill Village Email List

To receive reminders about community events in Forest Hill, sign up for our mailing list at www.stnicolasforesthill.org/community-events.

HORTON-cum-STUDLEY

News from St Barnabas

Details of all church services and general church news can be found on pages 5 - 11. Any changes to the published schedule of services will be on our website www.fourparishes.org.uk.

Cream Teas in the Churchyard

Cream teas will be served in the churchyard on **Sunday 3 September, 2-4pm** to raise funds for the church. All welcome.

Thank you so much to everyone who supported our July Cream Tea. Despite the grim weather we set up inside the church and we still enjoyed the scones, jam and tea. Damp spirits were improved even further, by a glass of Prosecco thanks to Andrew Payne.



A much appreciated £110 was raised towards church funds.

Coffee and Chat

Coffee and chat will be in the churchyard on **Saturday 9 September, 10am-12pm**. Everyone is welcome to share 10 minutes or an hour or so with neighbours and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee. Dogs are always welcome. Please drop in if you are walking past.

Harvest Festival

Annie Payne (anniefpayne@gmail.com) will be in church from **10am on Saturday 16 September** to decorate the church. Any donations of produce will be gladly received, as will help with decorating. All are welcome to our **Harvest Festival Service on Sunday 17 September at 11am**.

Organ Recital in Beckley, Saturday 30 September at 6pm

Organ recital on Beckley Church's restored and renovated organ by Dr Edward Higginbottom. Free admission, retiring collection for the organ fund. Please stay afterwards for a celebratory drink! It would be helpful if you could possibly confirm attendance to ginarobson5@gmail.com or susy.jepson@gmail.com.

Dates for your diaries

Saturday 7 October at Manor Farm, Oakley Road

Michaelmas Fayre (see page 32 for details)

Sunday 8 October at St Barnabas

11am Animal welfare and blessing service

3 - 4pm The 2023 Pumpkin, Potato and Sunflower Measuring. Tea, and biscuits will also be available. All proceeds divided between Parkinson's UK and St Barnabas Church. Bring all your pumpkins, potatoes (still in their buckets) and sunflowers along. All shapes and sizes welcome.

Saturday 4 November

Village social supper. More information in October issue.

We are also planning a Pop-Up Pub trial in the church as an opportunity to get together for a social drink. Please look out for dates coming soon.

Sunday 4 February 2024

The next 'Friends of St Barnabas' talk will take place at 6pm. It will be given by Professor Peter Heather of this village, Chair of the Medieval History Department and Professor of Medieval History at King's College London. Peter will talk on his latest book 'Christendom: The Triumph of a Religion, AD 300-1300.'

Calling all Photographers

We are ordering new postcards for visitors to buy. We would like to invite parishioners to submit photographs of St Barnabas Church or churchyard by the end of September. Thank you for those already submitted. Please send entries to carol_welch20@hotmail.com.

Thank you from Marjorie Perry



Many of us were so pleased to be able to offer our 'Many Happy Returns' birthday wishes to Marjorie on her 99th birthday in July.

Marjorie has asked us to say:

"Thank you to all those kind friends who left good wishes, gifts and messages. It was wonderful to be remembered and I always love to have visitors drop by".

Millennium Village Hall

Final wine tasting of the year – Friday 6 October 6pm Taste and stock up for Christmas! Advance booking and £10 payment to Derek Jewell 07845 147865 or Stuart MacFarlane s.macfarlane799@btinternet.com 07906 216549.

Just a reminder of Hall contact details: **Bookings:** hcshallbookings@gmail.com and **Treasurer:** treasurerhcsmvh@gmail.com

Otmoor Challenge 1 July 2023

It has been over a month since the Otmoor Challenge, and the committee is looking at the day to assess what went right and what could be improved. Overall, we were really pleased with how things went and were lucky with the weather. The new start time of 10am seemed very popular, particularly as the day warmed up. We had just shy of 300 people run, which is less than when compared with previous years but could reflect the later date. We implemented digital timing for the first time which was a huge success and something we plan to continue with.

So many people helped make the day a success. One undoubted star, was Alan Read - course organiser and planner. Runners and walkers were very complimentary about how well prepared and signed the course was. We are also extremely grateful to the amazing volunteers who provided refreshments throughout the day. The cakes were beyond expectations. Thank you to everyone who contributed. The event requires the help of so many people who can't all be named here, but we thank each and every one who helped as a marshal, on a water station, or at the registration area.

The race was particularly fast this year with the slowest runner coming in well under 3 hours. Race winner was Matthieu Marshall of Oxford City AC, who won in an impressive 1:16:08, nearly 7.5 minutes ahead of the runner-up. While fast, this did not match our course record of 1 hr 12 mins set in 2013. All results can be found on the home page of our website.

The Otmoor Challenge Association thanks everyone who helped. We do not yet have a figure for overall money taken, although initial counts indicate that our available amount for distribution is likely to be much reduced this year and will be published in a future Newsletter.

Nick Tribble, Chairman OCA



JOIN US at the St Barnabas, H-c-S

MICHAELMAS FAYRE

Saturday 7th October

12.00 – 2.00pm

Manor Farm, Oakley Road

Please contact key stall holders directly, or
Lisa Mynheer (T: 351340; E: lisamynheer@gmail.com)
or Lynn Whitaker (T: 358838; E: lyndawhitaker@btinternet.com)
if you have **contributions for stalls** or **offers of help**.

Alternatively, bring them on the day *

STALLS

- RAFFLE – Lis Pugh
(donations gratefully received)
- CAKES & HOME BAKED – Caroline Badger
(no fresh cream, please)
- PRODUCE & PLANTS – Carol Welch
- BOOKS & PICTURES – Nick Mynheer
- TOYS, CHRISTMAS & NEARLY NEW - Lynn Whitaker
*Please leave donations in church porch before Wed 4th Oct. If you need
Lynn to collect, please call 07795550851. No items on the day
- CHILDREN'S GAMES
- TEAS & COFFEES – Lisa Mynheer
- LUNCHESES – Lisa Mynheer
(Soup & Roll; Hotdogs)

This is always a delightful and truly traditional country village event for all ages. We hope that as many of you as possible can support it and use the opportunity to meet your neighbours and friends whilst at the same time helping to raise funds to keep our beautiful Victorian village church open and in good order.

News from Horton-cum-Studley Parish Council

Free electric blanket tests in Oxfordshire this autumn

Oxfordshire residents are being encouraged to take up this offer which are normally very popular, with places limited. Therefore, must be **pre-booked** by phoning **01865 895999** or emailing duty.officer@oxfordshire.gov.uk. Address and time slot will be provided at time of booking:

September 2023

- Monday 18 September – Oxford City
- Tuesday 19 September – South Oxfordshire
- Wednesday 20 September – Cherwell
- Thursday 21 September – West Oxfordshire
- Friday 22 September – Vale of White Horse

October 2023

- Monday 2 October – Oxford City
- Tuesday 3 October – South Oxfordshire
- Wednesday 4 October – Cherwell
- Thursday 5 October – West Oxfordshire
- Friday 6 October – Vale of White Horse

Shelley Edwards, Senior Community Engagement Officer for Oxfordshire County Council's trading standards team, explains *"If the condition of a blanket is allowed to deteriorate there is the possibility it could become faulty, risking injury and fire. We want to ensure that electric blankets are still safe for use. So, come along and encourage any elderly neighbours to attend too. It is better to be safe than sorry. The tests are free, as are the refreshments but remember to pre-book!"*

Testing electric blankets has taken place in Oxfordshire for over 20 years. The failure rate is still around 30 per cent, emphasising the importance of regular checking.

RSPB planning application - Otmoor Farm

Cherwell District Council has approved the application from the RSPB to develop Otmoor Farm, despite the many concerns raised within the village and presentations at the Planning Committee in Banbury by Parish and District Councillors.

(continued on next page)

RSPB again gave assurances that this will not become a visitor centre. They have also stated that: *“they take the safety of ‘Rights of Way’ (ROW) users seriously, and will instruct staff to drive slowly and give way to ROW users. Where additional space is required, there are passing places (gateways) which can be used. This is the RSPB Otmoor team’s current approach and will be continued. The approach will also be used to inform the Construction Traffic Management Plan to instruct construction workers. The site manager has encouraged the Horton-cum-Studley Parish Council, and others in the village, to share details of any incidents so that he can deal with any problems.”*

The Parish Council has proposed an extension to the 20-mph speed limit, and the RSPB support this. We will share details of the construction plan and any other relevant matter as these become known.



**KATHARINE
HOUSE
HOSPICE**



**SOBELL
HOUSE
HOSPICE**

PALLIATIVE CARE BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT SERVICE

We are looking to recruit volunteers for our bereavement service to provide support to family and friends who have lost someone close to them.

Our service offers the opportunity for people who are bereaved to share their experience of grief and their memories of the person who has died.

Are you - Warm, empathetic and a good listener? - Able to support other people’s expression of grief and distress?

Do you - Have 16 hours a month to spare? - Have your own transport? - Want to make a difference?

What we provide - Foundation level training given (approx 56hrs) - Ongoing training, supervision and support - Travel and phone expenses - Online mandatory training (approx 8 hours)

We do not recommend this work for those who have experienced a significant bereavement in the last two years and it is essential that all training is attended.

CLOSING DATE: 1 November 2023

If you are interested in finding out more or applying, please contact us at palcarevolunteerservices@ouh.nhs.uk 01865 225994 or 01865 225868.

www.khh.org.uk

www.sobellhouse.org

STANTON ST JOHN

Stanton Church

Details of all church services and general church news can be found on pages 5 - 11. Any changes to the published schedule of services will be on our website www.fourparishes.org.uk.

Monthly Coffee Mornings (and more!) in Stanton Village Hall

Come for **Tea, Coffee and Cake** on **13 September** and **15 November, 10.30am-12pm** or for a **Light Lunch** on **11 October, 11.45am-1.30pm**.

Everyone is welcome! For further details, please contact Sue Baker 351449 /Sarah Coyne 358876

Save the Dates

Sunday 8 October - Celebration of Harvest: Morning Prayer at 11am followed by bring and share lunch. More information to follow.

Saturday 2 December - Ashley Goodall and the Shotover Singers 7pm

Friday 9 December - Village Celebration 'Turn on the lights' 6 – 8pm

Stanton St John WI

On Tuesday 12 September we are holding an Open Meeting. Nicholas Mynheer, from Horton-cum-Studley, will be enthraling us with an illustrated talk about his work as a renowned British Glass Artist, Painter and Sculptor. See Wikipedia for more information!

Members are encouraged to bring along any interested partners, friends, neighbours or family, and as always, we welcome interested villagers who would like to drop by. Our meeting starts at 7.30pm in the Stanton St John Village Hall, and we provide coffee and tea etc after the talk.

We request a donation of £4 (suggested amount) to defray expenses. We also provide an optional glass of wine or soft drinks when you arrive. Most people donate £1 towards this wine fund.

Other September events will be a visit to the Ercol Factory near High Wycombe on 5 September and a guided tour of Oxford with Liz Woolley, on 19 September, followed by afternoon tea in Oxford.

For further information please contact: stantonstjohnwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

Stanton Parish Council

The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 25 September – a change from 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 noticeboard outside the Village Shop, and sent out by email to everyone on the SSJPC mailing list. If you would like to be included, please send a brief email to stantonstjohnpc@gmail.com.



*Katie
Grace
Harris*



Katie Grace Harris and Band

Stanton St John Church
16th September 2023

Music workshop: 1 - 2pm

Evening concert: 7.15 - 9.15pm

Katie Grace Harris is a multi-tasking, foot tapping, piano, dulcimer and accordion playing singer and story-weaver with a fast-growing reputation in the UK Folk world.

Katie will be coming to Stanton St John church in September along with AndyNice (Cello), Jo Gill (Viola/Violin) and Emma Coulthard (Flute and Whistles).

TICKETS:

Online from: www.katiegraceharris.com (in TOUR area) or from Stanton Shop

Workshop:

Adults: £5 or £2 with an evening concert ticket. Children: £2

All singers and musicians welcome to come and learn a song as a group. If you don't have an instrument Katie can teach you to play spoons! Those attending the evening concert will have the opportunity to join the band for one song.

Evening Concert:

£10 recommended price

(pay-a-little more or pay-a-little less options available. Under 16's free)

Reg Meuross: 'Integrity pours out of her performance and her as a person.'

Folk Weekend: Oxford - 'Pure joy...a treat'

Fatea Magazine - 'Beautifully written...songs and stories about real people and places'

Film Night

Saturday 30 September 7.45pm Stanton St John Village Hall

As the first film of the new season, Stanton St John Film Club presents:



The Duke

Based on a true story, Jim Broadbent plays a cussed Newcastle pensioner, who stole a Goya portrait in protest at government spending priorities. "A sweet-natured and genial comedy in the spirit of Ealing, which bobs up like a ping pong ball on a water-fountain" (Guardian, Feb-22)

Doors will be open at 7pm, with a film start at 7.45pm. Before and after the film, delicious cakes and drinks are available whilst the bar will serve wines and Duke cocktails.

Since only 60 seats are available in the Village Hall, please reserve your seats as soon as possible for screening via Judy Nisbet (judy@robertnisbet.com) or in the Village Shop.

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



13 Middle Road, Stanton St John
 01865 351532 / 07795 415819
 stantonvillageshop@gmail.com



We're open Monday to Saturday 9am-1pm & Sunday 9-11am, provide friendly service, deliver FREE across our 4 parishes on Tuesday, Thursday & Friday afternoons AND do bicycle repairs.

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 www.fmequityrelease.co.uk



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THE PUMPKIN PATCH



SATURDAY 7TH & SUNDAY 8TH OCTOBER / SATURDAY 14TH & SUNDAY 15TH OCTOBER
 THURSDAY 19TH - SUNDAY 29TH OCTOBER 2023

PYO PUMPKINS | FOREST SCHOOL CRAFTS | FARM CHARACTERS | PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES | FOOD TRUCKS | TRACTOR RIDES
 GARDEN GAMES | HARVEST FOOD & DRINK | FACE PAINTING

RECTORY FARM, POUND LANE, STANTON ST. JOHN, OX33 1HF. TICKETS GO ON SALE THURSDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER. FOR MORE INFO VISIT RECTORYFARMPYO.CO.UK/EVENTS/PUMPKINS

Local family business offering competitive septic tank and sewage treatment plant servicing, emptying, supply and installation



The KEE Services we offer:

- Septic tank & sewage treatment plant maintenance and emptying
- Inspection visits for peace of mind
- Routine maintenance & repairs
- Pumping Stations
- All sewage treatment plant refurbishments
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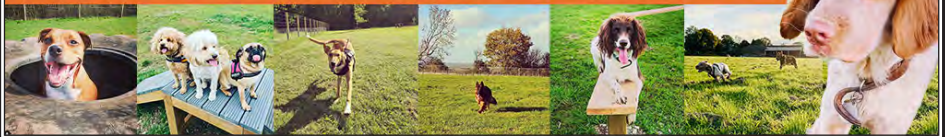


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Sessions are run by Maple Tree Manager Laura Spencer with the help of regular volunteers from Forest Hill and Stanton St John. See page 28 for more information