

The Four Parishes News Magazine

BECKLEY
FOREST HILL
HORTON-cum-STUDLEY
STANTON St JOHN



Blue Tit on apples in Stanton St John

October 2022

The editor writes:



Another month, another magazine, but who could have guessed what momentous changes would occur in between!

Due to the timing, there is little in these pages to reflect local activities during the period of mourning between the death of her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 8 September and her state funeral on 19 September, but behind the scenes each Village Church and Parish Council quietly played their part, providing books of condolence, special commemorative church services, formal announcements, arrangements for laying of flowers and other things.

Now that the moving and impressive national ceremonies are over and we are more or less back to normal, there will be people in our community who are anxious about what the future holds, and we must try to look out for them as much as possible. There is also a lot to be thankful for. Activities which have been prevented or severely restricted by COVID-19 for much of the last two years are generally being resumed, and you will find plenty to interest you in the individual village pages.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed articles or photographs this month.

Julia Stutfield

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

Our cover photo ...

was taken by David Brown in Stanton St John, September 2022

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

4parishesnewsletter@gmail.com

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

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We welcome contributions or notices for future issues.

Please send them to the Editor at 4parishesnewsletter@gmail.com.

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

Recent issues of the magazine are available to view online at

www.fourparishes.org.uk/magazine

To advertise in the magazine please email JULIA

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

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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

Church Services in the Four Parishes, October 2022

	St Nicolas, Forest Hill with Shotover	St John the Baptist, Stanton St John	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Beckley	St Barnabas, Horton-cum- Studley
2 October <i>Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity</i>	11am Harvest Holy Communion	9.30am Harvest Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	11am Animal Welfare and Blessing Service
	4pm - Children's Service at St Nicolas			
	6pm - Taizé Service via Zoom			
9 October <i>Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity</i>		9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Harvest Service of Morning Prayer	11am Morning Prayer
	11am - Benefice Zoom Service			
	4pm - Messy Church at Stanton Village Hall			
	6pm - BCP Choral Evensong at Forest Hill			
16 October <i>Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity</i>	11am BCP Morning Prayer	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am BCP Holy Communion	11am Harvest Holy Communion
	6pm - Iona Service at Beckley			
23 October <i>Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity</i>	10am Benefice Holy Communion Service at Beckley			
	4pm - Family Church does Forest Church Bernwood Forest, Oakley Road, OX33 1BJ (meet at car park)			
	6pm - Church without Walls in Stanton St John Village Hall			
30 October <i>All Saints' Day All Souls</i>	11am Morning Prayer	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Prayer	11am Holy Communion
	6pm - All Souls Service at Stanton St John (see page 7 for more information)			

A letter from Anthea

Hi everyone,



I am writing this the week after the funeral of Her Majesty the Queen. Most people I have spoken to since the funeral have described how they were glued to their television screens - even those who were quick to say they would not consider themselves royalists. Scenes across the country and across the world have been unprecedented. The Queen was the longest serving monarch until her death, and it has been clear that people wanted to say thank you for her commitment to service and duty, and promises made decades ago by a young lady.

Whilst she was of an exceptionally good age, her death seemed sudden at the end. Only two days earlier we saw pictures of her meeting the new prime minister. She looked old and frail, but was still working, and those who met with her in those last days have commented how 'on the ball' she still was.

The outpouring of grief has been incredible to witness. Carpets of flowers were laid in many places across the British Isles and further afield. People have signed books of condolence - electronic and paper copies. Being able to express their grief has been important. Some have queued for incredible lengths of time to go and see her lying in state. I do not think I could physically stand for that long! Thousands of others lined the streets to witness her final journey from Balmoral to London, and on to Windsor, to her final resting place.



In special services held across the benefice in all our churches during the period of mourning, I have spoken of the comfort us as Christians can take from the knowledge of the Queen's strong faith, which she spoke increasingly of over the years, especially in her Christmas broadcasts. Presumably this would have been a strength to her at the end, and should give us comfort too. And we have the good news and hope of the gospel

message, to comfort us at this time. That does not mean that losing a loved one is not painful, and difficult to bear. The earthly loss is always hard when we lose loved ones. But for Christians, death is not the end of the story.

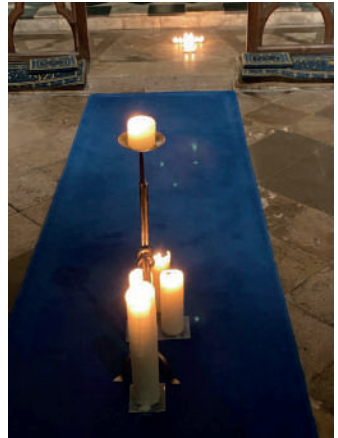
Perhaps the death of the Queen has brought to the forefront of our minds



the recent, as well as not so recent, losses of loved ones which has been hard. At the end of the month on **Sunday 30 October at 6pm in Stanton Church, we will be celebrating All Souls'** (All Souls' Day falls on 2 November, so we are celebrating on the nearest Sunday).

All Souls' is the time in the Church calendar when we remember and give thanks to God for loved ones no longer with us. There will be a short reflective service, when loved ones can be remembered by name, or in the silence of your hearts.

Many of us have lost loved ones recently who we would like remembered. Others have lost loved ones some time ago, and still their loss is painful to bear. This is an opportunity to remember before God, by name, loved ones we have loved, but no longer see, whether that is recently or longer ago. Please do think about joining us. Please let me know the names of loved ones you would like remembered, and their names will be read out during the service. If you are unable to come to the service but would like a loved one remembered and a candle lit for them, please do let me know.



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

Anthea

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

CHURCH MATTERS

Church opening, and services

All the churches in the benefice are open daily:

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

Advent challenge and beyond

This month we are reading the final book of the Pentateuch, Deuteronomy. There are 34 chapters, so a chapter a day every day, and an extra one for four of the five weekends in October. Again, it is not the easiest read, but we can do it! I have grown to appreciate Deuteronomy with more reading of it. Please do let me know how you get on.

Ongoing midweek activities on Zoom

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

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

Book Group

The Book Group continues to meet virtually by Zoom on a Thursday evening at 7.30pm for an hour. We have just started a new book: *God is good for you: a defence of Christianity in troubled times* by Greg Sheridan, so this is a great time to join us. If you would like to, please do get in touch with Anthea. All are welcome.

Home Group Study on Romans

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

Diary dates for children and family church activities

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

Please always look out for email updates.

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

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

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

Friday 11 November: Remembrance Workshop

Friday 2 December: Christmas Workshop

Prayers for Peace

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

Horton-cum-Studley	Saturday 1 Oct, Wednesday 19 Oct, Saturday 29 Oct
Forest Hill	Wednesday 5 Oct, Saturday 15 Oct
Stanton St John	Saturday 8 Oct, Wednesday 26 Oct
Beckley	Wednesday 12 Oct, Saturday 22 Oct

Introducing our Ordinand, Jack Belloli

In the summer I was approached by a tutor at Ripon College Cuddesdon, and asked to consider having a student on Ministerial Placement with us in the benefice as part of their training for ordained ministry in the Church of England. I met Jack to discuss what he needed from his placement, what we might have to offer, and whether there was a good fit. I am delighted to have Jack with us from mid-September to late December. I am sure we will make him very welcome and encourage him during his time with us. I pray that his time with us is fruitful and helpful as part of his journey towards ordination.

Anthea

I'm delighted to be spending my Sundays with you over the next few months, as I head into my third and final year of training for ordination. One of the things I was looking forward to most about training at Cuddesdon would be the chance to do in-depth academic study of the Bible and theology from Monday to Friday but to balance it with seeing congregations in action at the weekend, and to notice how the two can shape and enrich each other.



As it happens, the Sunday side has been a little compromised: in my first year because COVID left the entire placement on Zoom, and in my second because I was encouraged to focus on the final exams for the Oxford BA degree. So please do help to rectify that when you see me: feel free to introduce yourself, ask me questions, and tell me a bit about what the life of God's Church in this place means to you and the difference that it makes to your lives.

I'm also especially looking forward to having my first experience of rural and multi-parish ministry. I grew up in Hounslow in West London, where my parents still live, and I spent most of the ten years before I moved to Cuddesdon in Cambridge, where I began discerning a call to the priesthood while I was writing my PhD on contemporary experimental theatre. I've yet to learn to drive, and it's only since I've invested in an electric bike that this prospect has really opened up to me. I loved my first cycle down Wheatley Road in the autumn sunshine - please pray for continued good weather, and for forgiveness if you hear me muttering under my breath as I struggle to remove my waterproofs, should the worst happen!

GENERAL

Wheatley Library

Following on from the success of our Summer Reading Challenge, we have numerous upcoming events at Wheatley Library over the coming months.



As well as one-off talks, we're also delighted to begin offering some regular activities! A big thank you to everyone who followed up on our call for volunteers, it's great to see so much interest in helping the community.

Please see our list of events below:

Rhymetime

Every Friday at 10.30am.

Storytime

Every 3rd Saturday of the month at 10.30am.

Digital Helper Sessions (one-to-one support with technology)

Available by appointment on alternate Wednesday afternoons.

A History of Palestine in Twelve Photographs. Talk with Roger Hardy on his new book 'The Bride: An illustrated History of Palestine 1850-1948', **Wednesday 26 October at 10.30am.**

Talk by Gareth Morris, volunteer presenter for the RNLI, to discuss the history and lifesaving work undertaken by the charity, and how to stay safe in and around water, **Wednesday 23 November at 10.30am.**

Please note that as we're in the early stages of starting up our communal activities again, there may be unforeseen changes to times and dates.

Follow us on www.facebook.com/FriendsofWheatleyLibraryOxfordshire for updates. For any other queries, please contact us by calling 01865 875267, or email us at wheatley.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

*Charlie Boddington,
Wheatley Library Manager*

*Wheatley Library, The Merry Bells, High Street, Wheatley, OX33 1XP
For opening hours and other events see the relevant page at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk.*

WOODEATON MANOR SCHOOL JOB VACANCIES

Woodeaton Manor School is a Special Needs School for pupils with emotional and social difficulties. We are currently looking for an **enthusiastic, supportive and flexible individual, who understands the nurture approach, to join our fantastic team of Teaching Assistants**. The village of Woodeaton (near Beckley) has no public transport so it is essential that you can provide your own transport. Details of the role are:

Hours of Work: 33.5 hours per week, term time only (38 weeks per year + 5.31 weeks paid holiday)

Salary Details: Grade 6 point 8–13 (depending on experience)
£20,852 - £23,023 pro rata (£15,724 - £17,361 per annum)

Job/Person Summary

The suitable candidate will be working with small groups of children and young people to support their learning, both inside and outside of the classroom, under the direction of our Readiness for Learning Lead and HLTAs. There is also the expectation to support our learners in line with the National Curriculum, Code of Practice, and Woodeaton Manor School Policies and Procedures.

Please do not be discouraged from applying if you have not previously worked at a Specialist Provision as comprehensive training will be provided, including an induction program and ongoing training from our onsite Educational Psychologist and experienced staff team.

Safer Recruitment

Oxfordshire Schools are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. This post involves the type of work with children and young people that requires applicants to undertake a Disclosure and Barring Service check. The possession of a criminal record will not necessarily prevent an applicant from obtaining this post. All users are considered confidentially and according to the nature of the role and information disclosed.

Application Procedure

If interested please contact the school on (01865) 558722 or email office.7002@woodeaton.oxon.sch.uk.

We are also looking for a **Kitchen Assistant to work under the guidance of the School Cook** in our busy school kitchen that provides home cooked breakfast and lunch to our pupils and staff. Details of the role are:

Hours of Work: 18 hours per week, term time only (8am – 2pm Wednesday to Friday, although this could be flexible for the right candidate)

Salary Details: Grade 5 point 5 - £19,650 pro rata (£10.19 per hour)

If interested please contact the school on (01865) 558722 or email office.7002@woodeaton.oxon.sch.uk.

AN EVENING WITH

Gaz Coombes

& FRIENDS

WITH GAZ COOMBES / WHEATLEY PARK SOUL BAND /
NIKKI AMBERS / BOHEMIAN

SATURDAY 15 OCTOBER 2022

WHEATLEY PARK SCHOOL

SATURDAY 15TH OCTOBER 2022

WHEATLEY PARK SCHOOL OX33 1QH
DOORS OPEN 6.15 / FIRST ACT 7PM

LICENSED BAR & SILENT AUCTION
TICKET INFO: MAPLE TREE.ORG.UK

The Maple Tree

All proceeds to The Maple Tree

TICKET INFO: MAPLE TREE.ORG.UK

Horton-cum-Studley Gardening Club

warmly invites you to its next meeting on 18 October
when Anna Steven will talk on 'Cotswold Arts & Crafts Gardens'

Speaker meetings usually take place on the third Tuesday of the month at The Millennium Village Hall, OX33 1BF, at 8pm. Do join us to try out a meeting at the guest charge of £3, or to join at the current annual fee of £10. For more information, contact our Chairperson, Melanie Jones, at melaniejones_uk@yahoo.co.uk or visit our website at www.horton-cum-studley.org.uk/community/clubs.

This year we have enjoyed summer visits to Bridewell Gardens near North Leigh and to The Filberts at North Moreton. Our final meeting of the year will be on 15 November, when Robert Longstaff will talk on 'No Dig Gardening'.

Have your say: Tidying up the Countryside by Professor Christopher Bulstrode CBE

Apparently I have been appointed an official parish verge-side litter collector. I am delighted, as I have been doing it unofficially for years



Rubbish "Gone to earth"
in the hedgerow.

but now I am 'on the books'. I have a yellow jacket, and I have bought a wonderful 3 foot grabber which means I can pick up the dastardly pieces of rubbish without having to bend too far down (risky at my age). An electric bike wafts me down the lanes, and carries my rubbish sack. When I have 3 or 4 bags gathered together by the road side I contact Vikki at Biffa on behalf of SODC and literally within days Biffa have cleared it away. It is a great service.

So far this year I have collected nearly 90 bags of rubbish from the road-sides around Stanton St John.

At first it was hard work. There was a back-log of fly-tipping, with bags of domestic rubbish, car tyres, and furniture to drag out of the hedges; but now the job is much easier. The drug dealing that went on at the top of Shepherd's Pit Lane seems to have stopped now we have got rid of the syringes, and needles.

Rectory Farm are a huge help as they clear all the litter from their 'Pick-your-own' car park every day. Not so helpful are the good citizens who put up flyers all over the village then don't take them down when their time is past. Careless littering is a nuisance. Deliberate littering is infuriating.

Some people seem to chuck the same rubbish in the same place almost every day. It is usually cigarette packets, beer cans or crisp packets. It just seems to be part of their car journey to and from work. I wonder who they are.

It is one of life's paradoxes that the lovely potatoes produced in the fields around Stanton St John are collected, taken away, processed and then put into brightly coloured packets which then litter the road-side.

I can't prove it, but once a verge or farm gateway is cleared, the clean road-side seems to dissuade others from dumping, so the verge stays clean. I suspect that sub-consciously people only litter where there is some already piled-up.

Dog walkers are now paragons of virtue. I used to get little green bags of dog poo left hanging from hawthorn branches. Now they dispose of them properly.

Further away from Stanton St John, down Menmarsh Road, there is more dumping of furniture and bags of domestic rubbish. The brambles and blackthorn are stouter and the ditches deeper there too, so it is brutal work.

But that seems to have decreased too, now that there are no piles to add to.

I suppose I ought to try to extend my area out to Bernwood Forest, across to Bayswater road and along to Forest Hill, but so far I have enough on my plate. I hope that as you whizz along in your hermetically sealed car you notice the difference. It certainly keeps me busy, and the view from my bicycle is sublime.



Christopher Bulstrode, Stanton St John
Email: cb51@me.com

Christopher is originally a Channel Islander who has lived with Vicky Hunt in Stanton St John for 20 odd years.

He was awarded the CBE for work with Doctors of the World in Haiti, Gaza, Nepal and Sierra Leone all of which had much worse litter problems!

“Notes on the Rural Landscape”:

Irrigation Part 2 - The Wider World

Last month I examined the approach to irrigation in the UK with a particular focus on Rectory Farm. This article deals with Irrigation on the larger world scale.

Irrigated agriculture contributes 40% of the total world's supply of food. 20% of the world's cultivated land is irrigated. This ranges from 60% in Bangladesh, the world's highest percentage, to, for example, Pakistan at 53%, Israel at 33%, Cyprus at 21%, Holland 11%, USA at 5%, and the UK at 0.4%, about the same as Finland. Interestingly many African countries, like Uganda, Senegal, Nigeria, Kenya and Ghana which one might think could do with irrigation have an even lower percentage of irrigated cultivated land than the UK.

Some 70% of the world's water is "used" in Agriculture. 30% is thus "used" for domestic consumption and industrial use. However the word "used" must be interpreted very carefully. Domestic consumption of water - that is the stuff that comes out of the tap and is called potable water - is around 80% reused in the UK. For agriculture and for any piece of land with growing plants, the water "used" either **evaporates** directly from the soil or **transpires** from the plant via the roots when the plant photosynthesizes. The combined process is called **evapotranspiration**. That means this water is lost to the "system", or at least the immediate local system: the water will fall back down as rain somewhere, though not necessarily in the same country. Therefore the loss of water (as it cannot be reused) in agriculture is more significant than the bare numbers suggest. Which is why the first thing that water companies do in a "drought" is to implement a "hose pipe ban" as that water is 100% lost and not 80% recycled.

In Cyprus (and Israel and other "naturally" water short countries we have visited on irrigation tours) there is integration of their agriculture, domestic and industrial water distribution systems. For example some twelve years ago Cyprus found itself in the position of having to import potable water in tankers from Greece. This was not a situation the people of Cyprus could sustain and big investments in water storage, treatment and distribution were made. The new treatment plants and systems in Limmasol in Cyprus are able to recycle effectively 100% of their domestic water. Thus when

you flush the loo in Cyprus it takes 23 hours to turn that back into potable water and come out of the tap again.

In other countries (not the UK) there is what is called “Purple” water, which is treated water that falls short by a few treatment stages of becoming potable water (called “Blue” water). Purple water can be used for agricultural irrigation for the mainly Citrus fruits that Cyprus specializes in, though it cannot be used for crops like lettuce where the irrigation water can get directly onto the leaves and the crop is eaten raw.

Most of the rain in Cyprus falls in the mountains to the north. This water is now stored in a number of man-made reservoirs at height with gravity systems to feed the domestic system. Most elegantly, in times of flood and surplus, this water is pumped into the aquifers that Cyprus lies on. Traditionally Limmasol had pumped its water from its aquifer which had become reduced in volume and led to the initial water shortage. This “new” water is now being stored very simply in a naturally occurring “reservoir” and can be pumped out when it is needed. It has the secondary effect of maintaining the fresh water level at a sufficient height in the aquifer to stop the ingress of sea water (salt) which would have been a major long term catastrophe.



A huge reservoir abstraction tower in Bulgaria

Many countries, including the UK, suffer from both flooding – too much water, and “drought” – too little water; therefore it is **water management** that is the major problem to be addressed. This is management across time, i.e. winter to summer or wet to dry spells, and across place i.e. wet to dry areas of the country. Each country has its own unique situation and its potential solutions. The UK in comparison with many countries in the world has the least to worry about **today** and **potentially**, but perhaps for that very reason manages its water resources in one of the least capable ways. The rest of the world has a lot to teach the UK about water management, as they have had to do it.

*Richard Stanley
Rectory Farm, Stanton St John*

'Finches for Colour'

by Lyn Ebbs

One of the families of birds that brings some colour to our gardens is the finch family. Originally birds of woodland which specialise in eating seeds, their bill shapes are adapted for a particular range of weed or tree seeds. Our familiarity with them is most likely related to the amount of bird seed that we put out for the birds in our gardens, as we made good the loss of woodland habitat and its food supply.

Chaffinches are the probable source of the name for the whole family. Finch is a corruption of 'finc', its name in Old English, and, although not obvious, is an example of onomatopoeia. The male chaffinch has a rather monotonous call, usually written nowadays as 'pink', so the ubiquitous bird that says finc, is called finc(h). Its habit of searching the threshing floors in farms for stray seeds earned it the description chaffinch. Because they are so widespread, we often overlook the lovely subtle colours of the male's plumage: steel blue cap, salmon pink breast, a glimpse of lime green on its rump and the flash of white in the wings as it flies.



The chaffinch's even more colourful cousin, the goldfinch, has one of the prettiest collective names of any bird, a 'charm'. This again comes from Old English, 'c'irm', but actually refers to the tinkling calls made by flocks of goldfinches and not their appearance. They are slimmer than the chaffinch, with finer bills especially suited to their favourite food of thistle seed. When nyjer seed was introduced to the selection of bird food for sale, goldfinches seemed to be particularly attracted to it which has given us the opportunity to look at them more closely. One colloquial name for them is 'seven-coloured linnet' but I haven't been able to come up with more than five: buff, black, white, red and yellow. The last shows up as the flash of gold in their wings as they take flight and gives them their more usual name.



The other finch defined by its colour is the greenfinch, and it is definitely green, a subtle olive-green shade, with bright yellow wing flashes. It's a chunkier shape than either of its cousins with a heavier bill. They nest semi-colonally and also quickly adapted to the seed mixes at garden feeding stations. Sadly, the greenfinch population has declined dramatically because of infection with trichomonas to which they became susceptible in the early 2000s.



Trichomonosis is a common disease in pigeons and doves but seems to have 'jumped' species to devastating effect. The disease is spread by saliva from infected individuals but maintaining good garden hygiene can help. Watching greenfinches on seed feeders, they are obviously messy eaters, they also feed partially digested seed to their young so, if infected, are more likely than some other species to pass the disease on. In our own garden, the number we regularly saw fell from 20 to 40 in 2005 to just ones and twos in recent years.

The last finch I want to mention is the bullfinch, named, like the bulldog, for its stocky body and thick neck. The colours are just about perfect: a deep red-pink breast and face, grey back, black cap and a very obvious white rump as it flies away. Although bullfinches do come into gardens they are more commonly associated with hedgerows and woodland. They feed on seeds and shoots of fruit trees and sometimes on insects in summer. They were



considered a pest species as they feed on and damage the buds of fruiting trees, such as cherry. They are shy birds, so a rear view as they fly away is often the only glimpse you will get. Their call is a quiet low-pitched short whistle but, surprisingly, they are good mimics. In the 19th century the birds were highly prized, and a finch trained to whistle three melodies would make a lot of money for the country folk who raised and taught them.

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

BECKLEY

Beckley Church

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

Decorating the Church for Harvest Festival

We shall be **decorating the church on Saturday 8 October**, and anyone who would like to help will be warmly welcomed! If you could spare flowers and greenery, or autumn berries or fruit, that would be wonderful. Please bring them **at 10am**.

Our **Harvest Festival service will be at Morning Prayer on Sunday 9 October at 9.30am**. After the service, the harvest gifts will be taken to the North Oxfordshire Community Food Bank in Kidlington. They are very grateful for any donations, but particularly need tinned fruit, tinned vegetables including potatoes, rice pudding or custard, cereals, washing up liquid, cleaning materials, soap powder, and they ask that foods should have a best before date of at least 6 months, if possible.

Beckley Art Club & 'Tate Beckley'

<https://beckleyart.com/>



The telephone box in the village (AKA Tate Beckley) has some paintings from the 'tree' exhibition' that was in the church over the Jubilee celebrations. Further paintings will appear over the next months. Because of damp, we can only exhibit waterproof items such as ceramics in the winter. If you would like to exhibit, please contact either john.stradling@gmail.com or lizbixby@me.com.

Don't forget our annual exhibition in the village hall, weekend of 8 and 9 October.

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

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

7.30 pm on the first Wednesday of the month (5 October) in the bar at The Abingdon Arms. No need to book - just turn up.

Community Walks

These gentle, approximately two hour, walks usually start at 2pm on the third Sunday of the month (16 October). Dogs on leads are welcome. Details of individual walks will be emailed around the community and are available at <https://bacbs.org/events> a few days before each one.

Coffee and Cake Mornings at the Abingdon Arms

First Wednesday of the month at 11am, next one 5 October. Come and join us for coffee, cake and a chat!

Sunday Evening Talks at the Abingdon Arms

Sunday 30 October, 6.30pm.

Stephen Hyde: *Gene therapy and cystic fibrosis*



Stephen is Professor of Molecular Therapy, John Radcliffe Hospital.

Cystic fibrosis is a severe inherited disorder appearing in childhood and mainly affecting the lungs.

Sunday 27 November, 6.30pm.

Peter Saunders: *Burma: a very troubled country, challenges for health care.* Peter, Royal College of GPs trainer and Beckley resident, has been involved with a project in Myanmar (formerly known as Burma), to help strengthen their health care provision.

Beckley & Stowood Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Thursday 6 October at 8pm at Beckley Village Hall**. Any changes to the published meeting dates will be on the website www.beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk. The Clerk's email address is clerk@beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk and Parish Council information can be found on the website. For information on Beckley Village Hall please see www.beckleyvillagehall.org and to enquire about a booking please contact Sarah Kearney, at booking@beckleyvillagehall.org.

FOREST HILL

News from St Nicolas Church

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

Ride and Stride - a message from Pat Fraser

Thank you to all you kind people who sponsored me for Ride and Stride. I visited three churches in Wheatley on my way home from work, then round to Holton, home for some lunch, then down to St Nicolas to end my ride and be there to book in our visitors. I have made over £100.00.

Decorating the Church for Harvest Festival

We shall be **decorating the church on Saturday 1 October at 10.30am**. Whether or not you have ever joined us before, please simply turn up at the church and we shall make you most welcome. If you are able to bring a few flowers, greenery, fruits or vegetables, that would be wonderful.

Our **Harvest Festival service will be on Sunday 2 October at 11am**. After the service, the produce used to decorate the church will be donated to the Oxford Community Soup Kitchen in Cowley.

St Nicolas Flower Rota

Visitors to St Nicolas Church often comment that it looks well looked after



and appears to be much loved. We are extremely grateful to the dedicated team of volunteers who contribute to the upkeep of the church behind the scenes - cleaning the interior, maintaining the garden, and providing fresh flowers in the church almost every week of the year.

If you have a love of flowers and enjoy arranging them, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please consider joining our team of volunteers who each take it in turns to put flowers in the church a few times a year. Contact Judy Brown on 01865 872343 for more information. Thank you.

Saying 'Goodbye' to our Postman



On Saturday 17 September, we held a tea party in the Village Hall for Chris Simmonds, our postman, who left us in July, after 36 years of delivering our mail.

Following a collection around the village, we were able to present him with a substantial gift.

Thank you to all those who provided food and attended the party.

Forest Hill with Shotover Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on **Thursday 3 November at 7pm in Forest Hill Village Hall.**

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

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

Forest Hill Garden Club



RETURN of the QUIZ!



Forest Hill Village Hall, Friday 21 October, 7.15pm

£2 per team of 4-5 or join any table

(INCLUDES FREE GLASS OF WINE)

Prompt start at 7.30pm

Wine and nibbles available during the interval

DIG UP YOUR GARDENING KNOWLEDGE!



HORTON-cum-STUDLEY

News from St Barnabas

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

Cream teas

The September cream teas at St Barnabas raised £150. When this is added to the money raised in July, we have nearly £300 towards the cost of survey and remedial work being performed to some of the lovely oak trees in the churchyard. Thank you to everyone who helped, and to all who came to support these afternoons.



Animal welfare and blessing service, Sunday 2 October, 11am

All creatures, great and small are welcome to attend our annual animal welfare and blessing service. Please feel welcome to join in with or without the furry, feathered or woolly members of your family.

Michaelmas Fayre, Manor Farm, Saturday 1 October, 12-2pm

This event takes place by kind permission of the Badger Family. Stalls include Soup and Hotdog Lunches, Cakes, Produce, Gifts & nearly new, Books, DVDs, pictures, Raffle, and Toys. We look forward to seeing you there!

Decorating the Church for Harvest Festival

We will be **decorating the church on Friday 14 October from 10am**, and welcome anyone who would like to join us to help with this.

If you cannot help but would like to bring produce, greenery or flowers to decorate the church, please bring them along on that day or leave in the church beforehand. Produce includes items such as pasta, cereal, tins, long life milk etc.

The St Barnabas **Harvest Festival Service is at 11am on Sunday 16 October**, after which the food will be taken to the Thame Food Bank.

Harvest Supper, Millenium Village Hall

Saturday 15 October at 6.30pm

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



There will be a raffle for a Harvest Hamper. Donations of homemade jams, chutneys, cakes, garden produce etc. and offers of help with food preparation on the day or to make a fruit crumble gratefully received.

To minimise the work involved on the evening, we are asking people to provide their own Plate, Bowl, Glass, Cutlery, Drinks.

Tickets available from Lisa Mynheer (lisamynheer@gmail.com or 07786 705785). The deadline for ticket sales is 10 October.

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

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

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

Pumpkin Weigh-In and Sunflower Measure, Sunday 16 October

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

Cathy Jenkins



Horton-cum-Studley Gardening Club

At the time of writing, two or three weeks before arriving on your doormat, the soil remains warm and now holds a little moisture. It is a good time for planting, particularly for any bulbs not already in, though there is no hurry for tulips, which tolerate planting as late as December.

I have been astonished that much of the growth in my small garden has revived, with dahlias, salvias and roses giving enormous pleasure (despite the usual dreaded rose ailments, such as blackspot), and the re-growth of many chopped geraniums continuing to provide a green background.

Herbaceous borders and perennials may be falling apart by now and if all that foliage recovered from the summer heat and drought, it may be harbouring slugs and snails, so some cutting back and clearing out before leaf fall forms a compost for the borders could provide a feast for garden birds.

As an insufficiently focused, or skilled, gardener, by whom windows of opportunity are often missed, my raised bed is now empty of all but a few herbs and its light soil is in need of tlc, probably in the form of peat-free compost and horticultural grit, plus vermiculite for water retention and aeration. I aim to use that recipe for the heavier clay beds in the early spring.

In case you want to take time out before later autumn, **Waterperry Gardens has its annual Apple Weekend on 8 and 9 October**, with apples and juices for sale, and information and advice freely available. This is also the time to plan an arboretum trip for autumn colour.

Two speaker meetings are arranged before the end of this year:

Tuesday 18 October at 8pm Anna Steven: *Cotswold Arts & Crafts Gardens*

Tuesday 15 November at 8pm Robert Longstaff: *No Dig Gardening*

For website see: www.horton-cum-studley.org.uk/community/clubs

If you would like to know more, our Chairperson, Melanie Jones, can be contacted on melaniejones_uk@yahoo.co.uk (note the underscore after the name) and I am at stuck.mary@gmail.com. We hope to see you soon.

Mary Stuck

Millennium Village Hall

The committee is grateful to the 'Safari Lunchers' for an unexpected and generous £330 donation to the Hall playground fund, which is now approaching £2,000. Previous quotes for complete renewal of all playground equipment were over £40,000 so we have some way to go yet.

Suggested badminton court and club

Unfortunately, the Hall's ceiling height and pitch, mean it is way below the 22ft. height recommended for 'community' badminton, and likewise the floor area is too short in court length by about 4ft. Any other suggestions for activities in the Hall will be welcome. Table tennis anyone?

Hall hire bookings are gradually returning to pre COVID levels, important to cover annual running costs and a maintenance program. For example, repairs are in hand to the last few rows of brick paving outside the doors to the field.

In October the Hall will be the venue for the **Lucas Terrier Club Annual Show** - a rare breed - which rotates each year to convenient middle England locations. The Show is for Club members only, but dog lovers may be interested in www.lucasterrierclub.co.uk.

Horton-cum-Studley Parish Council

The Parish Council, offers condolences to King Charles III and his family at this difficult time. A book of condolence has been made available in St Barnabas Church to be signed.

The 20mph speed limit within the village has been under consultation and we are hopeful that it will be in place by the end of 2022. Whilst this won't stop individuals from speeding, the hope is that it will slow down the majority of drivers

The next Parish Council meeting will be face to face at the Millennium Village Hall at 7.30pm on Thursday 13 October.

Sarah Foxcroft

Chairman, Horton cum Studley Parish Council

Cherwell District Council: a message from our local councillors

As with the whole Country, Commonwealth and across the globe, we were shocked and saddened to hear of the sudden passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 8 September. The scenes unfolding on our TV screens show how much the Queen meant to us all in so many ways, and our thoughts and sympathies are with the Royal Family and all our residents. We wish King Charles III a long and healthy reign.

As a lot of government business is paused at this time, there are just a few updates from us:

Bus Passes for Ukrainian Guests

Cherwell District Council have been working closely with bus companies to offer a three-month free bus pass to any Ukrainian on the Homes for Ukraine scheme. Information about the scheme is available at <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/council/ukraine/guest-support-homes-ukraine-scheme/free-bus-pass>

Cost of Living

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

Keep In Touch

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

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

gemma.coton@cherwell-dc.gov.uk
angus.patrick@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

STANTON ST JOHN

Stanton Church

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

Celebrating Harvest

As you will have seen on the rota on page 5, we will be celebrating harvest in Stanton St John at **9.30am on 2 October with a Harvest Holy Communion service**.

If you have any produce or flowers to decorate the Church, please would you bring them to Church on **Friday 30 October or the morning of Saturday 1 October**, ready for the decorating of the Church in the afternoon of 1 October. After the Service the produce will be shared between The Porch and Cowley Food Bank.

Stanton St John WI

Our next meeting is at **7.30pm on Tuesday 18 October**. Our illustrated talk by Nicholas Brazil is entitled "Chile and Easter Island-Desert, Fire and Mysticism".

We look forward to seeing members and anyone interested in having a taster visit. Contact us on: stantonstjohnwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk.

Autumn Fair on Saturday 15 October.

Stanton St John WI are reviving their Autumn Fair. The Village Hall will be open from 10.30am-12pm and all are welcome

Do come and join us to enjoy tea or coffee and cakes.

Stalls will be offering Home-made Produce, including cakes, biscuits, jams and chutneys; also indoor and outdoor Plants, fresh produce from our gardens, Greetings Cards, Jewellery, and a variety of Artisan Crafts.

There will be a Raffle too, so why not try your luck?

Stanton St John Charities (Charity no. 202853)

Parishioners within Stanton St John are eligible to apply for help with winter fuel and heating costs for 2022/2023. With the probability of high fuel bills this winter applicants should ensure that any statutory financial support is accessed. The Trustees of the charity do not have the expertise to advise on these matters.

Persons of any age may apply but funds are limited and priority will normally be given to households which have no regular wage earner or are state pensioners.

If relatives or neighbours are aware of anyone who may benefit from the grant, but is unlikely to see this notice, the Trustees would be pleased to receive the information. Previous applicants will be contacted personally.

To assist them in the allocation, the charity trustees have requested that new applications be made on a form available from:

The Village Shop, Middle Road, Stanton St John.

The form should be returned to Richard Ebbs (Stone Cottage, Mill St.) or the village shop, in the envelope provided, by Friday 28 October 2022.

Information on the form will be treated in strictest confidence by the charity trustees.

Further information from Richard Ebbs:

01865 351491 or richard.ebbs38@btinternet.com.

Monthly Coffee Mornings in Stanton Village Hall

The next coffee morning is on **Wednesday 12 October from 10.30am - 12pm**. Subsequent dates for your diary are:

9 November

7 December

11 January 2023

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



Stanton St John Parish Council

Please note that our October meeting date has been changed to **Monday 24 October**.

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

Saying 'Goodbye' to our Postman



About fifty residents of Stanton St John gathered in the garden of the 'Talk House' on 2 August, to say farewell to our very helpful and friendly postman, Chris. A door to door collection in the village raised a handsome gift of £300 which was presented to him at our gathering. Chris and his wife

Linda are in the centre of the photograph.

Chris was like a friend to many of us in the village and he will be much missed.



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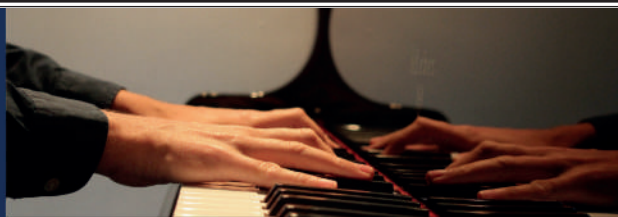
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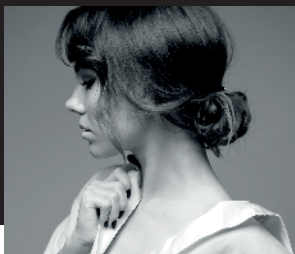
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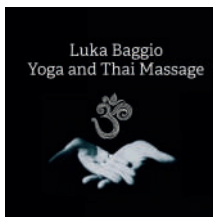
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