

The Four Parishes News Magazine

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



100th Birthday Celebration, Horton-cum-Studley

September 2024

The editor writes



louiseflanagaphotography

The more observant among you may have noticed that my 'thumbnail' picture for this section has changed three times this year. The original is now over 10 years old and I really felt that it needed updating; the more recent one was a somewhat misguided attempt at a 'selfie', but the latest iteration was taken by a 'proper' photographer at Marjorie Perry's 100th birthday party and it is definitely an improvement!

Like Anthea (see page 6), I can't work out where the time has gone since the last magazine, but I did enjoy having a whole month without a print deadline and the break has enabled me to approach this month's issue with renewed energy and enthusiasm.

I am delighted to say that we have some more new advertisers this month - please make sure that you check them out and support them if you can. As usual, there is also a lot going on in our four villages so do make a note of the dates if you see something coming up that interests you. We are lucky to live in such a vibrant caring community and it is all too easy to take it for granted.

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 Louise Flanagan from Horton-cum-Studley. Marjorie Perry is clearly enjoying her stylish departure from her 100th birthday party, with Andrew Payne as chauffeur! See also page 26.

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

anthea@fourparishes.org.uk

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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 2024 issue is 15 September 2024

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

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

Beckley Judith Rawlinson judithrawlinson@hotmail.co.uk

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

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

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

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

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

Ministry Team

Vicar

Reverend Anthea Beresford

anthea@fourparishes.org.uk

Tel: 01865 351839 Mob: 07876 527514

Associate Priests

Reverend Hugh Lee

hugh.lee@btinternet.com Tel: 01865 316245

Reverend Stephanie Bullock

stephaniebullock9@gmail.com

Licensed Lay Ministers

Betty Dye

betty.dye10@gmail.com

Canon Prof. Nicholas Orme

n.i.orme@exeter.ac.uk

Churchwardens

Beckley

Georgina Robson

Tel: 01865 351637

ginarobson5@gmail.com

Forest Hill

Jane Walker

Tel: 01865 872399

lyttleton@btinternet.com

Pat Fraser

Tel: 01865 875679

triciaann49@gmail.com

Horton-cum-Studley

Andrew Payne Tel: 01865 351018

stbarnabas.churchwardenpayne@gmail.com

Julia Slingo

Tel: 07766 659524

stbarnabas.churchwardenslingo@gmail.com

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 and Stanton St John. It is funded by advertising revenue, which is used to cover the printing costs. We are dependent on volunteers to assemble the content, book and invoice the advertisers, compile and edit the magazine, collect it from the printers and distribute it throughout the four parishes.

Editor: Julia Stutfield

Assistant Editors: Jonathan Barker, Anthea Beresford

Church Services in the Four Parishes, September 2024

	St Nicolas, Forest Hill with Shotover	St John the Baptist, Stanton St John	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Beckley	St Barnabas, Horton-cum- Studley
1 September <i>14th Sunday after Trinity</i>	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	11am Morning Prayer
	4pm Children's Church at St Nicolas, Forest Hill			
8 September <i>15th Sunday after Trinity</i>		9.30am Morning Prayer	9.30am Morning Prayer	11am Holy Communion
	4pm Crafty Church at Stanton St John Village Hall			
	6pm BCP Choral Evensong at St Nicolas, Forest Hill			
	6pm Church without Walls at Stanton St John Village Hall			
15 September <i>16th Sunday after Trinity</i>	11am BCP Morning Prayer	9.30am Holy Communion		11am Morning Prayer
	6pm Iona Service at Beckley			
22 September <i>17th Sunday after Trinity</i>	10am Benefice Service of Holy Communion at Horton-cum-Studley			
	4pm Family Church does Forest Church at Bernwood Forest, Horton-cum-Studley			
	6pm Taizé Service on Zoom			
29 September <i>18th Sunday after Trinity</i>	11am Morning Prayer	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am BCP Holy Communion	11am Morning Prayer

Please check the website www.fourparishes.org.uk for any updates. If you would like to be on the mailing list, please email Anthea: anthea@fourparishes.org.uk.

Further information about activities for children and families in the Four Parishes can be found at <https://www.fourparishes.org.uk/children-and-families>.

A letter from Anthea

Hi everyone,



Where does time go?! I hope I have not started many of my letters this way – as it is something I am forever wondering...in many ways it seems like only yesterday when I was writing the letter for the July-August Four Parishes News Magazine – and here we are already moving rapidly towards September!

Today started incredibly dull, with miserly rain which I hate – if it rains, I think it should at least do so properly to give us a good soaking, and then stop! I am not of course wishing for torrential rain, but enough to make it feel worthwhile to put the waterproofs on to go out. But as I have been sitting in my study, I have noticed the sun breaking through, and shadows of the plants outside, dancing on the ceiling as they are swaying in the breeze. It feels as though the end of the day will be brighter than the start – rather more summery as it should be!



Today is an important day for many youngsters, as it is ‘results day’, as was last week for the older age group. Youngsters will have been making decisions about their futures, based on these results. The results are not the be all and end all, and this can be a stressful time for youngsters as they make decisions about next steps. The results can open opportunities perhaps not previously considered. I hope all in our community have achieved what they were hoping for, and my thoughts are with them as they take their next steps, whatever they might be.

I hope the summer holiday period has given an opportunity to many for a change in pace, and time with family and friends. I have heard of some lovely holidays taken with grandchildren and grandparents, friends and other family members. There have been some ‘big birthday’ celebrations, and wonderful parties. I have heard of others who have plans to get away as the main summer holiday season comes to an end, and it is a bit quieter, as youngsters return to their studies, at whatever level that might be. We think of all those youngsters stepping into the next stage of their studies, and wish them well, whether that is to be the first day at nursery, school,

college or university, or simply back into the 'new year' where they are.

We have had the excitement of the Olympics and other sport over the summer. If watching sport is your thing. I hope you have managed to make some time for that. Maybe you have even been inspired to start training for whatever sport takes your fancy!

As we look back over the summer before leaping forward towards the autumn, reflecting on the lovely activities we have taken part in, I want to pause for a moment and think of the tragic event in Stockport that has rocked our summer. The lives of three young girls tragically snatched away, as they met for a summer club, innocently going to enjoy dancing; something that was happening in communities up and down the country, yet there, evil and tragedy struck. There are no words. We can only hand this to God, and pray for the girls' families, friends, and all those caught up in the tragedy, made all the worse, if possible, by the violence that then prevailed in several parts of the country. We can only look on in horror and utter sadness.

There are times when we are simply left speechless, only able to open our hands to God, crying out to him for our broken world. But let's not allow evil to win. Let's remember good times from this summer, and look forward to the autumn, to new beginnings for many, knowing that God is with us in tragedies and difficulties that we and others face, as well as in the good times. Simple answers may not be forthcoming, but we always have hope, and do not walk alone.

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

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

Four Parishes welcome to Matthew Schrecker



Matthew is currently at Ripon College, Cuddesdon, training for ordained ministry in the Church of England as a part time student. As part of his training, he will be on placement with us in the Four Parishes from 1-8 September to experience ministerial life in a rural setting. I am very excited to welcome him and to work with him during this time. Whilst his time with us is short, I pray that it is fruitful and helpful as part of his journey towards ordination. I look forward to my discussions with him, as we discuss ministry in this setting and compare notes on training for ministry while still working. I am sure we will make him very welcome and encourage him during his time with us.

Matthew has written a little introduction to himself and his family for us:

Matthew grew up in Sheffield on the edge of the Peak District and spent a lot of his childhood out walking in the hills, especially with his dad and step-mum. He read maths at Warwick University and then moved to Oxford for a DPhil, again in maths, at Keble College. While at Keble, he was particularly involved in altar-serving, preaching, and praying in the chapel, and began exploring the possibility of ordained ministry. He also began attending the church of St Mary Magdalen's, where he met his wife, Naomi, who was studying history and serving at the same parish church. Matthew and Naomi bonded over their shared love of food (both eating and cooking), books, and choral music.

A research job in Wisconsin, USA, took Matthew across the Atlantic for two years before a second position at University College London combined with the pandemic to bring him back to the UK. As Naomi began training for ordained ministry in the Church of England shortly after, they have been living nearby ever since, first in Cuddesdon, and now in Oxford. Naomi and Matthew had their first child, Martin, last October. Matthew is excited to come on placement to the Four Parishes as part of his own training, and to meet everyone in the first week of September.

Advent challenge and beyond

How has your summer reading gone? I hope you have had a fruitful time as you have been reading through the Psalms and started on Paul's letters. Perhaps the longer summer days have made it a little easier to keep up. I confess I have been doing a bit of catching up and have the targets in sight. I hope this encourages you if you have slipped behind a little. We are doing really well. Please do not give up now!

For September, for the Old Testament, we need to finish Psalms, read the whole of Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs, and up to chapter 10 of Isaiah. For the New Testament we need to finish 1 Corinthians, read the whole of 2 Corinthians and Galatians, and up to chapter 3 of Ephesians.

This probably sounds rather daunting, but it is no harder than any other month we have already conquered, and if we manage this, we are three-quarters of the way through the Bible! That would be amazing, and leaves us on the downhill run to finish the reading in a year! Let's keep going and continue to encourage one another. We can do this! Please do let me know how you get on.

Ongoing midweek activities on Zoom

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

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

Book Group

We are reading *Mere Christianity* by C S Lewis. If anyone would like to join us, please do get in touch with me.

Home Group Study on the Gospel of John

The study group is resuming on 30 September following the summer break. It is continuing its look at the Gospel of John on a Monday afternoon at 2.30pm at Studley Farm House, Horton-cum-Studley. Anyone from around the Four Parishes is welcome to join in. If you are interested in attending, please contact Annie Payne by email at anniefpayne@gmail.com.

Activities for younger children and families in the Four Parishes

Families with children are always welcome to join in worship at any of our four village churches, but we do have some regular activities which are particularly suitable for younger children. If you would like to receive regular updates and reminders email anthea@fourparishes.org.uk to be added to the mailing list. Below are some dates for your diary.

Children's Service at St Nicolas Forest Hill 4 - 4.30pm	Messy Church Stanton St John Village Hall 4 - 5pm	Family Church Bernwood Forest Horton-cum-Studley 3 - 4pm winter, 4 - 5pm summer	Children's Craft Workshops Beckley Church 3.30 - 4.30pm
1 September	8 September	22 September	
6 October	13 October	27 October	11 October
3 November	10 November	24 November	8 November
1 December			
8 December Children's Christmas Party, Stanton Village Hall, 4 - 5pm			

Children's Church at St Nicolas is led by Anthea along with Julia Stutfield from Forest Hill. This brief (30 mins) and friendly service aims to encourage children to become familiar with the experience of being in church. The format includes songs led by members of the St Nicolas Choir (with percussion instruments for younger children), and simple, structured prayers. At the heart of the service is a bible story, presented in an engaging and inclusive way, with 'Acting the Bible' scripts (as used in Beckley School) specially adapted for St Nicolas.

'Crafty Church' (our new name for 'Messy Church') builds on Betty Dye's popular craft workshops and is led by Anthea, together with Betty. It includes a short drama, prayers, a craft activity, some songs, and light refreshments. We chat together as we do the craft activity and eat and drink.

'Family Church does Forest Church' is led by Laura Mermet-Burnet from Horton-cum-Studley, along with Anthea. We meet in Bernwood Forest where worship is intermingled with outdoor play, woodcraft, a walk, and an opportunity for appreciation of the natural world. Our relaxed get togethers always end with refreshments of cake and fruit. Attendees can bring their dogs along. All ages and not just families are warmly welcome!

Children's Craft Workshops in Beckley Church re-start this autumn on the dates below from 3.30-4.30pm. These are aimed at primary school children, and are run by Betty Dye with help from the 'Acting the Bible' and 'Crafty Church' teams and other volunteers – 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 and if you have never been before, why not come along, and bring a friend?

Friday 11 October: Harvest Workshop

Friday 8 November: Remembrance Workshop

Prayers for Peace

As the war continues in Ukraine, with the awful situation in the Middle East, and as God's peace is not present throughout the world, we continue to pray for peace. We will meet for 15 minutes at 12pm on Wednesdays and Saturdays in September across the Four Parishes as follows:

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

For more information about any of the items in this section of the magazine, contact me, **Anthea Beresford** (see details on page 4).

A message from Jacob Mayho



I want to say a huge thank you for giving me the opportunity to do my placement with you this summer. I have enjoyed, been challenged (positively) and been encouraged no end by all I have met and will take my happy memories and experiences from my time with you!

I am very grateful to all in the churches for their welcome to me, Rebecca and Luke, it has been a pleasure to get to know so many wonderful people!

A massive thank you also to Anthea for her willingness, sacrifice of time and kindness, and for all her support during my time here. Thank you for all of the chances to ask questions and to see your lived and thoughtful leadership in action.

Continuing to pray for you all and the churches and your ministry!

Jacob

GENERAL

Wheatley Refugee Group

The Wheatley Refugee Group are holding their next **collection for Global Aid Network (GAIN), and the Asylum Welcome Foodbank on Saturday 14 September from 10am - 12 noon in the URC** (United Reformed Church), High Street, Wheatley OX33 1UE.

GAIN is a worldwide relief and development organisation that supports refugees in Bosnia and Greece, poor communities in Romania and provides aid to places such as Ukraine, Syria and Morocco.

GAIN collect: excellent quality clothing for men, women and children; brand new underwear and socks; sleeping bags and mats; blankets and rugs. <https://www.globalaidnetwork.org.uk>.

On Thursday 12 September at 7.30pm there will be a talk by GAIN in the Merry Bells Village Hall, Wheatley, about their work - everyone welcome.

Asylum Welcome are pleased to receive donations of packaged and tinned food (no meat) and toiletries for weekly deliveries to clients who are in urgent need. <https://www.asylum-welcome.org/services/foodbank/>.

For further information please contact WheatleyRefugeeGroup@gmail.com.

BARN (aka Garage) SALE



**Highway House Barn,
opposite Highway House, Rectory Road,
Great Haseley, OX44 7JG**

Saturday 12 October 2024, 10.30am to 4pm

All proceeds will go to St Peter's Church,
Great Haseley.

Everyone is welcome. If you are unable to make those dates, an appointment can be made by calling Eric and Clare Lowry on 01844-279312.

Surplus household, office and garden equipment, pictures, fridge, chairs and lots more will be on offer.

The Maple Tree Autumn Programme

Check out our website www.mapletree.org.uk or email info@mapletree.org.uk for more information about our activities for babies and pre-school children. Or call us on 01865 236700 or 07849 466249 for advice or support.



Laura Spencer, Maple Tree Centre Manager, Wheatley

- **Monday: Messy Mondays at 10-11.30am**
Twinnies at 2-4pm
- **Tuesday: Once Upon a Rhyme-Time at 10-11.30am**
Celebrating Sounds at 1.30-3pm
- **Wednesday: Baby Cafe at 9.30am-12pm**
(Health Visitors attend 1st Wednesday of every month)
- **Thursday: Little Explorers at 10-11.30am**
Maple Tree at Forest Hill Village Hall at 10.30am-12pm
- **Friday: Little Chatterboxes at 10-11.30am**
- **Saturday: Family Fun at 10-11.30am, Saturday 21 September.**



PRaise!



St Mary's Church in Wheatley is launching a new Junior Choir (initially for girls and boys aged 9-14), starting on 15 September. The choir will meet from 4-5.45pm on Sundays (with a break for refreshment and games) and will then take part in a new all-age Evening Service at 6pm.

No musical knowledge is required. All we expect is that children in the choir:

- love to sing and want to get the best out of their voices
- are able to read confidently
- are prepared to turn up regularly

Choristers can earn medals with the Royal School of Church Music's **Voice for Life** training scheme. This is a church choir but we welcome singers of any faith or none and membership is **free**.

For further information and to sign up, please contact choir@stmaryswheatley.org.

Beyond the Pale

by Lyn Ebbs

Sometimes it's difficult to identify wild birds because the feathers differ in colour so much from the illustrations in bird guides. At other times, it's obvious what bird you're looking at, but it's paler or darker than expected or has odd patches of atypically coloured feathers. The differences are most likely due to mutations in plumage pigmentation. The most common pigments in birds are melanins, which are added to feather cells as the feathers grow. The melanins are produced in cells found mainly in the skin and feather follicles; in addition, these cells need another chemical to start pigment production.

I've referred to 'melanins' in the plural as there are two forms which determine feather colour, one produces blacks and greys, the other reddish browns and buff. Depending on the concentration and distribution they can produce a wide range of feather colours. There are many mutations that can cause atypical plumage colours in birds, but I'm just going to concentrate on the ones where colour is missing.

When describing plumage colour, we use two different words that both mean 'white': albino from the Latin, albus, and leucistic, from the Greek, leukos. If you've kept pet mice or rats you might be familiar with albino animals, with their white fur and pink feet and eyes. The same mechanism produces albinism in birds – no colour in beaks, feet and eyes, and white plumage. These animals and birds have inherited a condition where they lack the chemical which triggers melanin production. Wild birds with albinism rarely survive - because of the lack of eye pigment, their poor eyesight makes them very vulnerable and most die soon after fledging.



House Sparrow - Tauheed Ahmad Nawaz



Leucistic Marsh Harrier - Sue Carruthers

Albinism is an all-or-nothing mutation, a bird is either albino or not, so a common misnomer used by birders refers to birds as 'partial albinos'. If you have a blackbird in your garden with a few white feathers it's showing 'partial leucism'. This is also an inherited condition, but this time the actual pigment cells are

absent from some or all of the areas of the skin that would normally supply melanin to the growing feathers. The extent of white feathering can vary from just a few feathers to the plumage being completely white. Eye pigments aren't made the same way, so leucistic birds have normal coloured eyes and normal eyesight.

I have written before about one of the birds of prey that breeds on Otmoor – the Marsh Harrier. This year a pair has raised a very unusual family of four. Two of the youngsters have conventional juvenile plumage – chocolate brown with a tan coloured cap. The other two, however, show partial leucism and are really stunning birds. I'm grateful to one of my fellow volunteers, Sue Carruthers, for her beautiful photos.



We wish these two youngsters well, as the dangers of leucism are numerous. Being obviously more conspicuous, there's a greater risk of predation – though that may not apply to a bird the size of a Marsh Harrier. It's generally accepted that leucistic birds have a shorter lifespan. The loss in pigments leads to a weakened feather structure over time, resulting in increased wear. If birds rely on visual feather cues to attract a mate, leucistic birds may be less successful, although often they do breed and rear young.

Another partial loss of colour is 'dilution', where it's the number of pigment granules that are reduced. The lower concentration of granules forms a weaker colour. The most common form is a reduction of about 50% in both types of melanin, the black form and the brown form. In birds with this mutation 'pastel', black feathers will turn grey and reddish feathers will turn buff. A famous local example is a male Pochard that has spent several winters with us at RSPB Otmoor.



I hope, by introducing these individual characters to you, I have been able to illustrate this very simplified account of a complex subject.

Lyn Ebbs has lived in Stanton St John for 36 years and has been volunteering at the RSPB Otmoor Reserve at Otmoor Lane, Beckley, since 2009.

Planning and Development News

Oxford City Local Plan Examination in Public

I attended the 3-day Initial Hearings of the Examination in Public of Oxford City's emerging new Local Plan on 11 - 13 June. This was to examine the legal aspects, housing numbers and duty to co-operate, so the Inspectors could decide if the Plan could go onto full Examination.

This is important to us as LnBB (Land north of Bayswater Brook) and other former Green Belt developments around the ring road - Northfields and Grenoble Road were a direct result of Oxford City's last/current Local Plan. Oxford demanded that SODC and the other surrounding councils co-operate and build Oxford's inflated 'unmet' housing need on the edge of Oxford.

Oxford City Council had worked with Cherwell District Council alone, to produce housing and job forecasts for the whole of Oxfordshire, including the other district councils, without involving them. SODC in particular, is unhappy about this. The Inspectors expressed concern about the housing numbers and how they were derived, lack of co-operation and forecasts for jobs – 30% of all jobs in Oxfordshire were forecast to be in Oxford City. Oxford has again inflated housing numbers, wishing again to export these to surrounding districts, including SODC. Our concerns were exacerbated when the County Council representative stated their policy was that any houses exported under the duty to co-operate to other districts should be built on the edge of Oxford (as with LnBB). We objected, as this would destroy more Green Belt countryside on the edge of Oxford (possibly in our parishes) and would increase traffic congestion significantly around the ring road and through our villages.

It was thought that the Inspectors would make their decision as to whether this Plan could proceed to a full Examination in August, but it appears to have been delayed probably until September.

The Labour Government has also promised to reform the planning process and designate some Green Belt land as 'Grey Belt' so it can be developed. This could also affect our parishes.

LnBB - Update

There is still no confirmed date from SODC for the LnBB (Wick Farm and

Lower Elsfeld part of the site) to go to the SODC planning committee, although early October has been mooted. Cllr Bearder has informed us that the County Council Highways now have no objections, Natural England now have no objections and the Environment Agency now has no objections about building on Flood Zones 2 and 3, but their objection about the lack of capacity to treat sewage remains.

Ginette Camps-Walsh, Beckley



Are you looking for a kind and experienced carer?

I am a self employed private carer with over 20 years of experience across care and companionship roles. I have undertaken challenging nursing care for clients with debilitating and terminal illnesses and now care for a lovely lady with anxiety and mild confusion. My clients tend to become my friends. I am trusted and valued by my clients and their families and to reflect this, I can provide very good references. I am looking for a role closer to my home near Bletchington.

I have an NVQ in adult care and have completed other training with certification. I am DBS checked and have full public liability insurance. I am also a qualified massage therapist and have an interest in nutrition.

If you are looking for a reliable, positive minded and knowledgeable carer with a good heart and a natural interest in people's wellbeing, please do send a message to jackiemarsh522@gmail.com

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.



‘More Music for a Village Organ’ on 3 August was another wonderful recital on our refurbished organ, played this time by the highly esteemed organist Paul Hale, whom we were privileged to welcome here. There were about 50 people in the audience and we enjoyed works by J S Bach, César Franck, Hubert Parry and others. Drinks and nibbles afterwards helped to make it a special village event. Very many thanks to all who attended, and donated £320 towards the stonework repairs we are planning.

Concert by the Galliard Trio, Saturday 14 September, 5pm

The Galliard Trio (flute, oboe/cor anglais, and harpsichord/bassoon) will make a very welcome return to Beckley Church for an evening of Mozart, Handel, Saint-Saëns and Bach. This will be followed by drinks and nibbles and a chance to meet the musicians. The concert will be free but we would be grateful for donations to the stonework repairs to the Church.

Ride + Stride for Churches 2024

Don't forget Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust annual 'Ride and Stride' on Saturday 14 September.

Find sponsors, and take part by cycling, walking, horse riding, or with a mobility aid. Raise funds for OHCT to enable them to continue to support churches with grants for repairs and improvements. Half of the amount you raise can be given to a church or chapel of your choice.

For further information email rideandstrideoxon@ohct.org.uk or tel: 07831 690524, or contact ginarobson5@gmail.com, tel: 01865 351637.

Beckley Art Group Exhibition 2024

Beckley art group, which meets every Friday morning, is holding its usual annual exhibition in Beckley Village Hall during the weekend of **12/13 October from 10am to 4pm**. Twenty artists will be exhibiting about 100 paintings, with a considerable range of styles.



The excellent tea bar will be there too! So put the date in your diary and come along to enjoy the show!

Beckley & Stowood Parish Council

The next monthly meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Monday 9 September at 7pm in Beckley Village Hall**. Meeting dates, agendas and minutes can be found on the website www.beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk. The Clerk's email address is clerk@beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk.

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

Notice of Referendum on the adoption of the Beckley and Stowood Neighbourhood Plan

A **referendum will be held on Thursday 5 September 2024** to decide on the question below:

'Do you want South Oxfordshire District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Beckley and Stowood to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?'

Voting will take place at Beckley Village Hall Polling Station on 5 September. A copy of the Notice of Referendum is available on the website www.beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk and on the notice boards in the High Street and at Wick Farm.

Save the date

Saturday 2 November - Beckley Bonfire and Firework Night at the Village Hall and Playing Field.

Beckley and Area Community Benefit Society Ltd

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

BACBS continues its popular events at our community-owned pub The Abingdon Arms, Beckley, to which all are welcome. Do come, enjoy, and support your local pub.

Pub quiz

1st Wednesday of every month. The next quiz will be on **4 September at 7.30pm** – with pizza! Table bookings advisable - or you can just turn up and join an existing team.

Community walks

3rd Sunday of every month. Come for a gentle stroll for a couple of hours and meet your neighbours. Our next walk will be on **15 September, 2pm start**.

Sunday evening talks

Last Sunday of the month, 6.30pm. Talks are usually from local experts and cover a wide range of topics. Do join us in the pub for a drink and a stimulating evening! For more information email info@bacbs.org.

On **Sunday 29 September, John Young of Beckley** will be talking on **A life in international development**. John Young trained as a veterinarian and has spent most of his career working in and for developing and emerging countries in Africa, Asia and South-East Asia. Starting as a clinical vet for a milk cooperative in Sri Lanka with Voluntary Service Overseas volunteer he has moved into research and policy work on a wide range of development challenges for charities, governments and intergovernmental agencies in over 20 developing countries. In this talk he will describe some of the good, bad and ugly projects he has been involved in and why it is essential that wealthy countries like the UK continue to invest in projects to improve the lives and livelihoods of people in developing countries.

On **Sunday 27 October, Adrian Pennink** will give his talk **Gabon: the last Eden** introducing a feature documentary film, two years in the making, about protecting Gabon's precious rainforest.

In November, Beckley's **Aris Karastergiou** will give a talk on **astrophysics**, aimed at the lay person. In December we'll reprise our very popular adult and children's Christmas Crafts instead of having a talk.

Beckley and Area Community Benefit Society Ltd (BACBS)

New open share offer

Support the future of the Abingdon Arms



Beckley & Area Community Benefit Society Ltd (BACBS) bought the freehold of The Abingdon Arms in 2017, following an extraordinary effort by the community, which raised the £470,000 needed to wrest it from Brakspear's and turn it into a community pub. Since then, BACBS has leased it to tenants who run the day-to-day pub business. BACBS now needs to grow its capital reserves so that further improvements can be made to the pub for the benefit of both customers and staff. For example, the old wooden single-glazed windows need replacing, and the flat above the pub is in poor repair and only accessible via the bar. If we could renovate the flat above, and even provide independent access, it would make the pub more attractive to present and future tenants, thus further enhancing the pub's prospects.

BACBS is looking to attract further investment from residents living in Beckley and surrounding villages, particularly those who have moved into the area since the original share offer in 2017. However, anyone, including existing shareholders, with an interest in helping to secure the future of The Abingdon Arms, is welcome to invest. By investing in the Society, you will support The Abingdon Arms, without which its surrounding communities would be much the poorer in so many ways.

You can find the share prospectus and application form at www.bacbs.org/openshareoffer (or, for convenience, use the QR code displayed here). Alternatively, if you would like to discuss this with us, then please use the email address info@bacbs.org.



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 + Stride for Churches 2024

It's time for Ride and Stride and I will be riding again this year. Half of the money I make comes back to St Nicolas, half to Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust. If you feel you can sponsor me, please email me at triciaann49@gmail.com.
Pat Fraser, Churchwarden Forest Hill

St Nicolas Organ – Open Morning, Saturday 14 September

This is an open invitation to listen to, play, or learn about our Victorian organ. Drop in any time between 10am and 12pm, when St Nicolas organist, Peter Stutfield, will be there to welcome you. This is the last session in 2024, but if you have been intending to come and have not yet managed to do so, ring Peter on 01865 876848 to arrange to meet.

Cream Teas and Summer Music at St Nicolas

The last Cream Teas and Music at St Nicolas in 2024 is on **Saturday 21 September**. Cream teas will be served from 3 to 5pm, followed by a concert at 5.15pm and drinks in the church garden afterwards. Local musicians of all ages and abilities are invited to perform in the garden during the afternoon, or to take part in the early evening concert in the church in June, July or September. Please contact Julia Stutfield (07766 103427 or julia.stutfield@gmail.com) for more information.

'Pop-Up Coffee Shop' in Forest Hill Village Hall

Friday 20 September, 10.30am -12.30pm

Tea, coffee and cake
All profits to local charities

More information from Julia Stutfield
07766 103427 or julia.stutfield@gmail.com



Halleluiah!

Assistant Editor, Jonathan Barker writes: *“It’s 30 years or more since they resurfaced Main Street and Church Hill, rather than just fill in the pot holes, and I thought it might be nice to acknowledge this in a humorous way in the magazine with a ‘Halleluiah’!*



As well as resurfacing the road, the contractors did a major upgrade to the drainage on Church Hill, so there is a good chance that we will be able to walk to the bus stop without getting wet feet this winter!



Interested in a local fitness class?

Yoga? Pilates? Circuit training?

Your opinion counts to tailor a class for the village

Please complete survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LCBBFC2> or scan QR code. Paper survey forms available at St Nicolas Church entrance or by email for home printing. All ages/abilities welcome



Further information from: Prue (prudenceleeding@gmail.com), Jovita (jovitai@gmail.com) or Sarah (sidlington@icloud.com)

WANTED: Fitness instructors to hold a class in Forest Hill

Forest Hill with Shotover Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Thursday 5 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 and the website. Archived agendas and minutes can be found on the website. You can contact the Clerk by email at: theclerk@foresthillwithshotover-pc.org.uk or telephone 0844 884 3328, between 9am and 5pm.

Open letter to the village

The Parish Council received a number of complaints in June about the grass mowing in the Cemetery. The complaints related to the timing of the mowing, which should have been done in early June, and the state in which the Cemetery was left after the grass was finally cut on 21 June. Councillors visited the Cemetery to investigate, and all the complaints were agreed to be completely valid. The problems were due to a miscommunication with a new contractor and have since been addressed. The Parish Council offers whole-hearted apologies to everyone affected by this, and we are grateful to people for bringing the situation to our attention. We have been assured that it won't happen again.

Blocked pavements by the Rec

A reminder to residents to be mindful of how they park and to not block pavements with vehicles which make access difficult for pedestrians.

Over 150 bus services, just one ticket

New county-wide bus ticket: a new ticket that works across different bus operators has been launched, costing £6.50 a day for unlimited travel for adults and £3.50 for under-19s. Find out more: www.mybusoxfordshire.org.uk; and <https://www.mybusoxfordshire.org.uk/post/youth-fares>.

Dog fouling in public places

A reminder to dog owners that it is an offence to allow your dog to foul and then not clear it up. We all share public spaces so let's respect each other's rights to enjoy them.

Forest Hill Village Hall

To hire the village hall, email Dawn Dunbar: dunbardawn@ymail.com.



Jazz on the Hill at Forest Hill Village Hall Tuesday 10 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. Parking available in the village streets. Wheelchair accessible.

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

The Thursday morning 'stay and play' sessions for babies and toddlers in Forest Hill Village Hall continue to run every week throughout the year*. Older siblings are also welcome during the school holidays and we love to have news of any children who have left us to move on to nursery or school. Snacks are available for the children as well as tea and coffee for the adults and Laura Spencer, Manager of The Maple Tree in Wheatley, is usually in attendance, along with our regular volunteers.



These sessions are a wonderful way for parents, grandparents and carers of small children (ages 0 - 4) to meet and chat in a friendly and supportive environment; since 2022 we have welcomed well over 90 different families from Forest Hill, Wheatley and beyond! There is no need to pre-book, and it is fine to arrive at any time from 10.30am onwards. Parking for 2 or 3 cars is available immediately outside the hall and it is also possible to park in the street not too far away.

If you have a new baby or are expecting one soon, why not drop in to introduce yourself to us or you can find out more by getting in touch with Julia Stutfield 07766 103427 or julia.stutfield@gmail.com.

***Due to annual holidays, there will be no session on Thursday 26 September.** See page 13 for a full list of activities run by The Maple Tree.

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.

Popup Pub and Social at the 'Dog and Collar'!

We look forward to seeing you all at St Barnabas on **Friday 6 September and Friday 4 October, 6-8.30pm**. Just for clarity, the profits are used to fund the monthly license fee and any leftovers are donated to the church towards running costs. The church Treasurer signs off on the figures each month. We are grateful to the Mynheers for managing and stock-rolling the bar.

Coffee and Chat, Saturday 14 September, 10am-12pm

Everyone is welcome to pop in to spend some time with neighbours. No charge but donations welcome.

Cream Teas at St Barnabas Sunday 1 September, 3-5pm

Cream teas will be served in the churchyard to raise funds for the church. All welcome.

Ride + Stride for Churches 2024

'Ride and Stride' will be taking place this year on Saturday 14 September. You can take part by cycling or walking around Oxfordshire Churches and raise monies for Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust. For more information contact lyndawhitaker@btinternet.com or visit <https://ohct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/> for a list of suggested routes.

Marjorie Perry 100



Many congratulations to Marjorie on reaching her 100th birthday in July. We were so happy as a village community to be able to host a village party for Marjorie to celebrate such a special birthday and as a community, wish her good health and happiness in the coming year. Thank you to everyone who contributed in so many ways to making the afternoon such a happy occasion.

louiseflanaganphotography

The Big Weigh-In and Sunflower Measure 2024

Sunday 6 October, 3-4 pm at St Barnabas Church.

Tea and biscuits will be available. All proceeds divided between Parkinson's UK and St Barnabas Church

Bring all your spuds, pumpkins and sunflowers along and see who comes out on top this year. All shapes and sizes accepted!

Horton-cum-Studley Parish Council

Information about the Parish Council, including dates of meetings, agendas, minutes and policies can be found on the village website: <http://www.horton-cum-studley.org.uk/>. Current agendas and minutes are also posted on noticeboards at both village bus stops. If you use email and would like to join the village email circulation list, please contact Alexia Lewis, Parish Clerk at hortoncumstudleyparishcouncil@gmail.com.

FixMyStreet

Oxfordshire County Council is looking for FixMyStreet 'Super User' volunteers. Following training, a Super User will be able to review potholes logged on FixMyStreet (provided they are within the 20mph zone of the village) and if they meet the criteria for repair, can request that a pothole or blocked drain can be dealt with within a 28-day period. The Super User is not responsible for logging all potholes, villagers should continue to use FixMyStreet as normal. If you are interested, please pass your details to the Parish Clerk.

Garden fencing

Enquiries have been received about the obligations on property owners to maintain garden fences, especially where they are adjacent to farmland with views over open countryside. Such obligations are often found in the property deeds or can be checked with neighbouring properties to establish boundaries. On a practical level, there may be safety issues for the owner of the farm and the garden resident, with a need to keep any farm animals safe.

Dog Waste

A reminder to pick up after your dog. The Parish Council has received several complaints about dog foul being left on Church Lane and Ragnall's Lane.

2024 Horton-cum-Studley photography competition

Please send in your photos for the annual photography competition (kindly supported by the Parish Council).

Photos should be taken around Horton-cum-Studley or Otmoor, suitable for use in the village calendar and photographers must be residents of Horton-cum-Studley. Maximum of 3 photos per person. Open to all ages.

There is an Amazon gift token for the overall winner, plus copies of the village calendar for all winning photographers.

Suggested themes are listed below, but you are not restricted to these. If you have a good image suitable for the village calendar that has not been entered into a previous village photography competition, please send it in!

- *Farming - Animals and Wildlife*
- *The Otmoor Challenge - Village Events - Villagers*
- *Landscapes - Village Buildings*
- *Winter and Christmas - Sunsets and Sunrises*
- *Autumn/Michaelmas/Halloween*

Send entries (high-resolution files) with a title for each image to: hortoncumstudleyparishcouncil@gmail.com. **Closing date 6 September.**

Millennium Village Hall

The AGM was held on 17 July, which was Barbara Jewell's date of retirement from the Hall Committee. Barbara was unfortunately unable to attend, and we recorded our thanks on behalf of the village for her many years of valued contribution to the smooth running of the Hall, either as representative of the Parish Council or as independent volunteer.

We were also grateful to other members of the committee, all of whom were willing to continue in their roles and were duly re-elected. Particular thanks to Daisy East for her work as Treasurer, with the Annual Accounts showing a small surplus before Depreciation of the building and other assets, and to Ben Short and Tori Fleet for their continuing work on our proposed on-line booking system and website respectively. Hire income has returned to pre pandemic levels, and expenditure in the coming year will include a significant amount on replacing the playground structures, and more minor internal/external maintenance on the hall itself.

Barbara's position on the Committee needs to be replaced, and residents are encouraged to become involved in our valued Village asset by joining the committee, involving a few hours a month of your time.

Contact details: Treasurer – treasurerhcsmvh@gmail.com Bookings – hcsallbookings@gmail.com Stuart MacFarlane – s.macfarlane799@btinternet.com.

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



MICHAELMAS FAYRE

Saturday 5 October

12.00 – 2.00pm

Manor Farm, Oakley Road

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT and HELP PLEASE

Please contact key stall holders directly or Lisa Mynheer - (01865 351340) lisamynheer@gmail.com if you have **contributions for stalls** or **offers of help**. Alternatively, bring contributions, except Bric-a Brac* on the day. Thank you.

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 & BRIC-A-BRAC** – Julia Slingo (*Please leave donations at the back of the church before Mon 30 Sept.)
- **CHILDREN'S GAMES**
- **TEAS & COFFEES** – Lisa Mynheer
- **LUNCHES** – 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.

Gordon Douglas William Curtis 1936 - 2024



Gordon Curtis was born in Bath in 1936. He studied at the City of Bath Boys' School (now Beechen Cliff School), where he excelled at rugby and music, learning the piano and oboe. He was also a chorister and server at Ascension Church. On leaving school he was conscripted into the RAMC and trained at the Royal Army Medical College at Millbank; he played the organ at a church in Paddington, before being posted to Cyprus.

After National Service he trained in haematology and bacteriology at the United Bristol Hospitals, before moving back to Bath to work in the bacteriology laboratory at the Royal United Hospital. He continued his music-making, playing at Holy Trinity Church and assisting his organ teacher Ben Maslen at St Mary's, Bathwick. He played the oboe in Bath Symphony Orchestra from November 1959 to May 1963.

In 1962 he met Christine, a nurse and fellow music lover, and they were married in September 1963, living first in Bath and then at Winsley, near Bradford-in-Avon. When Gordon took up a position in 1966 at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, they moved to a house in Beckley, and their first daughter Helen was born soon after, followed in 1969 by Madeleine.

In 1974 the family moved to Horton-cum-Studley, where Gordon played at St Barnabas Church; the 1881 Bryceson organ had been built for a house in Eastbourne, and it was decided to replace this with a redundant organ of suitable size. The instrument at St Bartholomew Church, Nettlebed, fitted the bill, and in 1977 Gordon assembled an enthusiastic team of parishioners who dismantled and transported it to Horton-cum-Studley. He and Richard Vendome built an "Italianate" instrument in their spare time, incorporating new pipework by Denti of Crema in the style of Antegnati and a historic Bordone rank by Serassi, a gift from Giovanni Tamburini. The opening recital was given in September 1985 by James Dalton, Organist of the Queen's College, Oxford. Gordon also assisted with the installation of the organ at St George's Basilica, Gozo, Malta.

Gordon's musical skills were much in demand. He sang tenor in the Oxford Bach Choir and took over from Ted Ogden as conductor of the

Studley Singers. There were some joint ventures with the Islip Players, and local GP Julie Todd recalls a production of the Gondoliers which was her introduction to the world of Oxford Music Theatre; “Gordon brought local singers and players together to enjoy the best of classical music. I joined the Studley Singers in the last years of their active life and was very grateful for the friendships made”.

In the field of microbiology Gordon was highly respected, and he enjoyed travelling to international symposiums, sometimes accompanied by Christine. The “Handbook of Culture Media for Food and Water Microbiology”, which he edited with Janet Corry and Rosamund Baird, is the standard reference work on the subject, now in its 3rd edition.

Gordon was a member of the British Institute of Organ Studies council and meticulous editor of the BIOS reporter for nine years (2015-23). Before retiring from the John Radcliffe Hospital in 2001 he had already embarked on the MA course in organ historiography at Reading University, in which he combined his musical interests and his scientific research skills. He toured the south-west and further afield with his notebook and camera documenting the organs of William Sweetland; a trip to play and examine the splendid organ of Dursley Tabernacle in Gloucestershire was particularly memorable. His excellent book “A Provincial Organ Builder in Victorian England: William Sweetland of Bath” (Ashgate, 2011) is a significant contribution to the history of British music, as is his article “Old Bailey Records (1674-1913) as a source of information on organbuilders” (BIOS Journal vol.35, 2011).

Much of Gordon’s retirement was spent transcribing and type-setting music of the Pietà in Venice for the Schola Pietatis Antonio Vivaldi (Oxford), and his edition of Giovanni Porta’s substantial cantata “Il Ritratto dell’Eroe” (1726) is a triumph of scholarship.

Gordon was received into the Catholic Church in 1994 and his Requiem Mass took place on Tuesday 16 July 2024 at Our Lady of Light, Long Crendon. In the words of Sweetland’s great-granddaughter Angela Calvert-Jones, “Gordon was always extremely modest, a very good and reliable friend, who will be missed.”

Richard Vendome

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 in Stanton Village Hall, 10.30am-12pm

Monday 9 September

Wednesday 2 October

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

Save the date!

Saturday 30 November: Village Celebration 'Christmas Lights' 6 –7.30pm on the Millennium Green. Further details to follow.

Stanton Community Choir

By popular request, there will be a Stanton Community Choir at the 'Christmas Lights' event on 30 November, led by David Willcock and Sue Baker. All singers, whatever age, are welcome! Rehearsals will be in Stanton Village Hall:

Sunday 3 November, 4.45–5.45pm

Sunday 17 November, 5.45–6.45pm

Sunday 24 November, 6.45–7.45pm

Any questions, email Sue Baker on susanjbaker24@gmail.com.

Save the date!

Saturday 7 December: Ashley Goodall and the Shotover Singers - Advent Carols at 7pm in Stanton Church. Further details to follow.

Stanton St John Film Club Autumn Screenings

Saturday 28 September - My donkey, my lover and I (see also next page)

Saturday 2 November - One Life

Saturday 14 December - The Holdovers

Stanton St John WI

Stanton St John WI had a lovely day out at The Old Rectory, Albury, last month.



Meetings resume on **Tuesday 10 September at 7.30pm** in Stanton St John Village Hall with an illustrated talk "Strictly Nature" by Simon Booker.

Photographer Simon became engaged with the local wildlife during lockdown and will talk to us about nature in Oxfordshire and beyond.



So, this is a reminder to WI members and an invitation to prospective members to join us. (WI members free, guests £4).

For further details please email stantonstjohnwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk.

Film Night in Stanton St John Village Hall Saturday 28 September at 7.45pm



The Stanton St John Film Club presents the first movie of the season:



"A good long walk with great company. Delightful French comedy follows Antoinette and her strong, silent companion as they make their way across the Cévennes"

The doors will be open at 7pm and before the film delicious cakes and drinks will be available whilst the bar will serve wines.

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

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

Stanton St John Parish Council

At our July meeting two new members were co-opted onto the Parish Council and the full Council is now: Andrew Clark (Chair), Dina Cooper (Vice Chair), Greta Shepherd, David Elliott, (and newly appointed) Justin Worrall, and David Polgreen.

The new Parish Council will be meeting for the first time on **Monday 17 September at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**

It is anticipated that the LNBB development Planning Application from Christ Church College is likely to be presented to the SODC Planning Committee this autumn, and our Council will be looking further at traffic matters in the village, along with lighting and our Neighbourhood Plan.

* * * * *

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Beckley and Area Community Benefit Society Ltd (BACBS)

New open share offer

Support the future of the Abingdon Arms



Beckley & Area Community Benefit Society Ltd (BACBS) bought the freehold of The Abingdon Arms in 2017, following an extraordinary effort by the community, which raised the £470,000 needed to wrest it from Brakspear's and turn it into a community pub. Since then, BACBS has leased it to tenants who run the day-to-day pub business. BACBS now needs to grow its capital reserves so that further improvements can be made to the pub for the benefit of both customers and staff. For example, the old wooden single-glazed windows need replacing, and the flat above the pub is in poor repair and only accessible via the bar. If we could renovate the flat above, and even provide independent access, it would make the pub more attractive to present and future tenants, thus further enhancing the pub's prospects.

BACBS is looking to attract further investment from residents living in Beckley and surrounding villages, particularly those who have moved into the area since the original share offer in 2017. However, anyone, including existing shareholders, with an interest in helping to secure the future of The Abingdon Arms, is welcome to invest. By investing in the Society, you will support The Abingdon Arms, without which its surrounding communities would be much the poorer in so many ways.

You can find the share prospectus and application form at www.bacbs.org/openshareoffer (or, for convenience, use the QR code displayed here). Alternatively, if you would like to discuss this with us, then please use the email address info@bacbs.org.

