

The Four Parishes News Magazine

BECKLEY
FOREST HILL
HORTON-cum-STUDLEY
STANTON St JOHN



Pheasant in a garden in Stanton St John, October 2022

October 2023

The editor writes



As I write this, the rain is lashing down outside and it's blowing a gale. Summer seems to have disappeared overnight and we are definitely moving into Autumn.

Looking through the pages of this magazine, there is still plenty to celebrate in October, with harvest festivals in our beautiful historic churches, community coffee mornings, lunches and suppers, a Michaelmas Fayre, an Autumn Sale, Craft Workshops for children, a Jazz Night, an Art Exhibition - the list goes on and on.

How lucky we are to live in our small, caring communities, where newcomers are made to feel welcome and there are plenty of opportunities for people to contribute as much or as little as they feel able. If you are new to the Four Parishes, we hope you will soon feel at home here.

As always, we are grateful to our advertisers, without whom the magazine would not be financially viable. Please support them as much as possible.

Julia

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

Our cover photo

was taken by

David Brown in his garden in Stanton St John, October 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

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 November 2023 issue is 15 October 2023

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

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

Beckley	Vacant at present. Send direct to the editor.
Forest Hill	Linda Goffey 01865 873078 linda@goffey.co.uk
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

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, October 2023

	St Nicolas, Forest Hill with Shotover	St John the Baptist, Stanton St John	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Beckley	St Barnabas, Horton-cum- Studley
1 October <i>Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity</i>	11am Harvest Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	11am Morning Prayer
	4pm Children's Service at St Nicolas, Forest Hill			
	6pm Church Without Walls at Stanton St John Village Hall			
8 October <i>Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity</i>		9.30am Harvest Service of Morning Prayer	9.30am Morning Prayer	11am Animal Welfare and Blessing Service
	4pm Messy Church at Stanton St John Village Hall			
	6pm BCP Choral Evensong at Forest Hill			
15 October <i>Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity</i>	11am BCP Morning Prayer	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am BCP Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion
	6pm Iona Service at Beckley			
22 October <i>Twentieth Sunday after Trinity</i>	10am Benefice Service of Holy Communion at Forest Hill			
29 October <i>Bible Sunday</i>	11am Morning Prayer	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Prayer	11am Holy Communion
	4pm Family Church does Forest Church at Bernwood Forest Celebration of Light			
	6pm Taizé Service via Zoom			

Please check the website www.fourparishes.org.uk for any updates. If you are not on the church mailing list and would like an invitation to a Zoom service or a regular reminder of weekly services, please email Anthea: anthea@fourparishes.org.uk.

A letter from Anthea

Hi everyone,



I absolutely love how we can often get a huge amount of joy by simply watching others having fun, enjoying themselves, learning new skills and being with each other. Today saw us have the first Children's Craft Workshop of the autumn in Beckley Church. It was an absolute delight to welcome 11 children aged 4-10 from Beckley School into the Church, along with parents and grandparents, to look at the theme of harvest – obviously very topical as we are celebrating harvest in each of our churches in the Four Parishes over September and October. Fabulous Lay Minister Betty Dye had once again come up with a story and activity to share with the youngsters, to hopefully grab their interest and give them something fun to do. It was wonderful watching on as they learnt to make a bread dough – although some knew quite a bit about it already – and then make a savoury and a sweet roll.

It was wonderful watching on as the older children helped the younger ones; the younger ones gradually grew in confidence; the adults had fun chatting together and helping the children as they all worked together initially in making a batch of dough, and then individually as they crafted their rolls (I think they were perhaps called swirls as the dough was flattened and then rolled up once the 'tasty bits' had been put on top).

At times it was chaotic! It was a little messy – some parents were grateful for second sets of school uniform at home ready for the next day! The truth is the children were far better than the adults at being quiet when we were asked to be, so Betty could give the next bit of instruction.

It was great seeing three generations working together having fun and learning something new. It was great hearing some adults say they had never made bread, and also having a nine-year-old professionally demonstrate kneading the dough, without being shown how first.

Younger siblings watched on attentively. Conversations flowed. Tea, coffee, and squash were drunk, and biscuits munched. By the end, each child had two swirls to take home to bake, and we look forward to hearing how tasty they were when eaten.

One of the volunteer helpers declared at the end that she had not had so much fun in a very long time. That was wonderful to hear – it is so true that we can get enormous joy from the most unlikely place – helping out with a group might not be where we expect to get great enjoyment – and yet, as we help others, we can so often get great pleasure too.

This is a delight of doing things in community, across generations. They may be activities outside our comfort zones, but working as a team, we can lean on the strengths of each other.

There was peace and harmony, joy and laughter, and a sense of achievement as the youngsters went home with their swirls to bake.

Would it not be wonderful if this were a model for how the world is – generations working together towards a collective common goal which does no-one else harm, having fun and enjoyment whilst doing it. I am writing this the day before the International Day of Peace 2023 – the 42nd such day (if I have got my maths right). It is with sadness that I reflect that this day is needed, but it feels more necessary now than perhaps at any other time in my lifetime – a reminder that there is not peace in the world.

We continue our prayers for peace in the Four Parishes – in our weekly Morning and Evening Prayers, as well as the twice weekly Prayers for Peace. Do come and join us if you can. And if the Children’s Craft Workshop sounds like fun, do bring your children along in November and December if you can.

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

Anthea

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



CHURCH MATTERS

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

Celebrating Harvest across the Benefice

We have had wonderful Harvest celebrations in Beckley and Horton in September, and are looking forward to them in Forest Hill and Stanton this month as follows:

Village Church	Date and time	Harvest Service
Forest Hill	1 October at 11am	Holy Communion
Stanton St John	8 October at 9.30am*	Morning Prayer

**Please note that unfortunately we are unable to have the shared lunch after the service on 8 October as planned, due to many people being away, so we have moved the service time back to the usual 9.30am slot.*

On 11 October 11.45am-1.30pm, there is a light lunch in Stanton Village Hall in place of the usual coffee morning, as a harvest gathering (see also page 27).

Ongoing midweek activities on Zoom

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

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

Book Group

The Book Group continues to meet virtually by Zoom on a Thursday evening at 7.30pm. We are currently reading *Singing in Babylon: Finding Purpose in Life's Second Choices* by Jeff Lucas. Once we finish this, we will be starting *Kingdom of Fools* by Nick Page. If you would like to join the Group, please do get in touch with Anthea. All are welcome.

Acting the Bible

What's in a name? This is an interesting question and might well depend on what the 'name' is for. I recently had the delight of meeting my new great nephew who was then just a few days old. His middle name is my Father's name. I have not discussed this with my nephew, whose son it is, but he had a very special and close relationship with my Father, his Grandfather, so his name is being handed down in honour and memory of him.

When thinking about groups, the name is often used to describe 'what they do'. For this reason, the 'Open the Book' team, is changing its name to 'Acting the Bible', to more readily 'explain' through its name, what they do.

The team take stories fresh from the pages of the Bible, and make them into mini dramas, to be acted out by themselves, together with Beckley schoolchildren. Through this, it is hoped that the Bible stories are brought alive, and remembered by the children, especially as they too are involved in the acting.

The scripts are also used in our monthly children's benefice services and Messy Church services. If you are not sure what it is all about, but it sounds interesting, do come along and find out more (see pages 5 and 10 for more details of timings).

Prayers for Peace

As the war continues in Ukraine, and as God's peace is not present throughout the world, we continue to pray for peace. We meet for 15 minutes at 12pm on Wednesdays and Saturdays in October across the benefice as follows:

Beckley: 11 and 21

Forest Hill: 4 and 14

Horton-cum-Studley: 18 and 28

Stanton St John: 7 and 25

HOLD THE DATE

All Souls': Stanton Church, Sunday 5 November at 6pm

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. There will be refreshments afterwards, and a chance for a chat if you would like to.

If you are able to attend in person, that is wonderful, but if you would like someone remembered, and cannot attend, please do not worry, they can still be remembered on the day, and a candle lit in their memory. Whether or not you can attend, would you please let Anthea know the names of loved ones you would like remembered, and their names will be read out during the service.

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. If you are unable to come but would like a loved one remembered and a candle lit for them, please do let Anthea know.

Dates for diary for children and family church activities

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

Please always look out for email updates.

Children's autumn craft workshops

The first Children's craft workshop in **Beckley Church** this autumn is

happening just after this magazine goes to print. Hopefully we will have such a wonderful time that children will be looking forward to the next two, in November and December. The workshops are aimed at primary school children, and are run by the 'Acting the Bible' 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 are light refreshments, and it is a great time for parents to catch up too. Please hold the dates:

Wednesday 8 November: Remembrance Workshop

Wednesday 6 December: Christmas Workshop

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

Home Group Study on the Gospel of John

The study group looking at the Gospel of John meets on Mondays at 2.30pm at Studley Farm House, Horton-cum-Studley. If you are interested in being involved, please contact Annie Payne by email at anniefpayne@gmail.com.

The Otmoor Flyer Bus Service into Headington and Oxford

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Mondays & Thursdays

Forest Hill and Stanton St John

Picks up at 10.30am in Forest Hill

Bus stop in Powell Close and Stanton Road

Picks up at 10.40am in Stanton St John

Bus stop outside the village shop

Tuesdays & Fridays

Horton-cum-Studley and Beckley

Picks up at 10.30am in Horton-cum-Studley

Bus stop is the bus shelter on the Brill Road

Picks up at 10.40am in Beckley

Bus stop next to red post box on the High Street

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

Return Journey from Oxford and Headington:

Picks up from Broad Street outside Balliol College at 1.15pm

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

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

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



Malcolm Leeding, Forest Hill – Tel: 01865 872034

The Abingdon Arms, Beckley – Tel: 01865 655667

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



GENERAL



**MEET
THE GOVERNORS**

South Oxfordshire constituency meeting and public talk

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


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

Agenda

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

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

ouh.nhs.uk/about/governors



OUH - Appeal for Volunteers

Bereavement and Voluntary Services at Oxford University Hospitals, based at Sobell and Katharine House, are currently aiming to recruit a number of new volunteers. Post covid these services have experienced a high demand and without additional volunteers, the waiting list will continue to get longer.

All volunteers go through a thorough training and selection process, which means they will become active in early 2024. We cannot express

how important it is to have a good early response to our recruitment drive over the next 2 months.

Bereavement Volunteers and Volunteer Companions are needed to support both Katharine House and Sobell House Hospice. Within Sobell House we also require volunteer support on our In-Patient Unit and Volunteer Drivers to help us in the transportation of our patients and equipment.

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

The Maple Tree Children's Centre

Hello from The Maple Tree!



The children are back at school and the nights are drawing in – autumn is truly here again, so why not treat your little one to a visit to The Maple Tree to brighten their day? We have sessions to fit all interests:

Mondays: Messy Mondays at 10:00-11:30am

Tuesdays: Story and Rhyme-Time at 10:00-11:30am

Wednesdays: Baby and Bump Cafe at 10:00am-12:00pm

Thursdays: Little Explorers at 10:00-11:30am and Twinnies at 2:00-4:00pm

Fridays, a new session: Little Chatterboxes* at 10:00-11:30am

Family Fun at 10:00-11:30am, 3rd Saturday every month

Village Outreach: The Maple Tree at Forest Hill Village Hall on Thursdays from 11:00am-12:00pm.

**Little Chatterboxes is in response to parent and teacher concerns about the lack of communication and language skills of children entering reception. Join us on Friday mornings for tips and tricks to enable children to become more effective communicators!*

We are here to help if you need advice or support: 01865 236700 or 07849 466249.

Laura Spence, Manager

The Maple Tree Centre, Littleworth Rd, Wheatley, Oxford OX33 1NW

Email: info@mapletree.org.uk

Website: www.mapletree.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheMapleTreeWheatley

Do wasps deserve their bad image?

by Lyn Ebbs

If you have ripe fruit in your garden or went out for a cream tea in the warm September weather, you might have been unhappy about the fact that wasps wanted to share these treats with you. We have been in meteorological autumn for a month now, regardless of what the thermometer has said recently, and wasp nests are actually closing down; wasp colonies don't last the winter in our climate. You might see individual large wasps on warm days in autumn - they are recently mated queens looking for somewhere sheltered to hibernate.

Not all will survive the cold but those that do will set out to form new colonies as the weather warms up in spring.



Common wasp - Lyn Ebbs

By May, the queen will have built a small nest made from chewed up wood and saliva to create a paper-like material, in which to lay the eggs of the first workers. Initially she divides her time between feeding the larvae and nest building. Once the eggs have hatched

into sterile female workers, the colony will start to grow. The workers take over nest building and collecting food for the developing larvae.

Nest locations traditionally used natural cavities, but they also thrive in manmade structures such as sheds and lofts, another situation where they come into conflict with us. Though the mated queen may survive for up to a year, most worker wasps will only live for a few weeks. Colonies only last one year and once the new queens depart, all the other wasps in the colony die.



Wasp nest - Lyn Ebbs

With respect to their diets, wasps are a bit of a contradiction. Though the adults look fierce, they mostly feed on nectar but they are voracious predators, catching largely insect prey. These prey items include flies, aphids, caterpillars and other invertebrates.

But the worker wasps don't eat the prey they kill, they chop them up and carry parts back to the nest to feed to the larvae. The larvae produce a

sugary liquid that the adults consume and, as they are relatively short-lived, the adults don't need protein. While the nest is growing in the warmer months, and they are taking large amounts of insect material to feed the young, their sugary reward is readily available. Later in the summer males and fertile females hatch. These mate, the females becoming next year's queens. By September, the nests are at maximum capacity, with lots of adults and few larvae. This is when wasps are most visible and, without their supply of larval honeydew, they need to get their sugar fix elsewhere. Nectar is one natural source, along with overripe fruit, but jam scones or fizzy drinks are also an easy target.



Common wasp - George McGavin

If wasps have a scary reputation, their larger cousins, hornets, seem even more formidable. They have similar warning colouration but instead being yellow and black, they are chestnut-brown and yellow. But hornets' fearsome reputation is unwarranted, they will only sting humans if attacked.

Like common wasps, they are social insects with a similar life cycle. Both adults and larvae eat mainly insects, adults also take spiders. The queens may supplement their diet with tree sap (as they are doing in this picture) and windfall fruit. They also stock up on nectar before hibernating.

The fearsome-looking hornet may not be a well-loved insect, but it is actually much less aggressive than the common wasp. It is also an important pollinator and a predator of species that feed on plants and crops. Each summer, social wasps in the UK capture an estimated 14 million kilogrammes of insect prey such as caterpillars and greenfly. Perhaps we should be calling them gardener's friends instead of trying to swat or trap them. Either way, by maintaining harmony in the ecosystem, they play a crucial role. We certainly would not be able to cope in a world without them.



Hornets - Lyn Ebbs

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

Operation Christmas Child

Operation Christmas Child is part of Samaritan's Purse, a Christian charity that sends shoe boxes of toys to children in need around the world at Christmas.



Many of you in the Four Parishes have supported this charity individually or through your church, school or community groups. For many years Ian and Erica Cave in Beckley have coordinated the collection and delivery of the boxes from the Four Parishes to the depot. This year I will be doing this on their behalf.

Detailed instructions for preparing and packing the shoeboxes are available online at www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/. Suggestions for suitable gifts include:

TOYS: A football and pump, cuddly toys, dolls, toy cars, small musical instruments, yo-yos, skipping ropes, balls, small puzzles etc.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES: Pens, pencils and sharpeners, crayons or felt pens, stamps & ink pad sets, writing pads or notebooks, solar calculators, colouring & picture books etc.

HYGIENE ITEMS: Toothbrush, bars of wrapped soap, comb or hairbrush, flannel etc.

OTHER ITEMS: Hat, gloves, scarf, sunglasses, cap, socks, T-shirt, flip-flops, hair accessories, jewellery set, watch, wind-up torch etc.

A list of **prohibited items** is available on the website.

If individually or as part of a wider group you would like to send a shoe box (or several) and would like me to collect them for delivery to the depot then please contact me. There will be drop off locations in all the parishes from 13-20 November and more information will be in next month's newsletter.

If you prefer, you can pack a virtual shoebox or simply make a donation at www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child.

With many thanks.

Louise Waite, Stanton St John
T: 01865 358428 / l.waite@yahoo.co.uk

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.

Beckley & Stowood Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Monday 9 October at 7pm in Beckley Village Hall**. Any changes to the published meeting dates will be on the website www.beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk.

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

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

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



Beckley and Area Community Benefit Society Ltd

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

Cake and a Cuppa

1st Tuesday of every month, 3.30pm. Meet neighbours or other parents and their children for cake, a drink, and a chat in the The Abingdon Arms.

Pub quiz

1st Wednesday of the month, 7.30pm. Thanks to The Abingdon Arms, there's a free round of drinks for the winning team.

Community walks

3rd Sunday of the month, 2pm start. Dogs on leads are welcome on these gentle, approximately two-hour walks. Email info@bacbs.org for details.

Sunday evening talks

Last Sunday of the month, 6.30pm in the pub

Talks are usually from local experts and cover a wide range of topics. Note that the talks will no longer be Zoomed, so do come and join us in the pub for a drink and to listen in person! If you absolutely can't make it and would like to listen to a recording or would like more information, email info@bacbs.org or go to bacbs.org/events.

The October talk, on Sunday 29 October at 6.30pm, will be on Long Covid. The speakers will be Emily Fraser, Consultant Chest Physician at the Churchill Hospital, and Emma Tucker, Post COVID Rehabilitation Specialist.

On 26 November at 6.30pm Professor Alan Allport, 'recovering academic' from the University of Oxford turned ecologist will talk about the Trap Grounds Nature Reserve in North Oxford.

BACBS Good Neighbour Scheme

The Good Neighbour Scheme serves Beckley, Elsfield, Stanton, Forest Hill, and Woodeaton and gives lifts to those with no other transport – for example, to the doctors and village shop in Stanton as well as lifts to the Barton/Green Road roundabout.

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

BECKLEY BONFIRE & FIREWORKS NIGHT



At Beckley Village Hall and Playing Field

SATURDAY 4 NOVEMBER

You are cordially invited to the Beckley Bonfire and Firework Night at Beckley Village Hall playing field, Woodperry Road. Gates open at 5.30pm. The bonfire will start at 6pm, followed by fireworks at 6.30pm

Hog roast provided by The Abingdon Arms and refreshments, including mulled wine and homemade cakes.

Car parking is available on the playing fields.

ENTRY FEE - £5 for adults and children over four years.

CASH ONLY please



13 Middle Road, Stanton St John
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stantonvillageshop@gmail.com



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FOREST HILL

News from St Nicolas

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

Ride and Stride 2023

I rode to visit my usual 5 churches after leaving work in Garsington, ending up at our own St Nicolas where I was surprised to find out that at nearly 4pm I was the first visitor there. It was the same at Holton 2 hours earlier, but perhaps the very hot weather had something to do with it! Thank you to all my sponsors, I will be contacting you soon. *Pat Fraser*

Events in October/November at St Nicolas

Sunday 8 October, 6pm

Choral Evensong with the St Nicolas Consort, celebrating the 400th Anniversary of the great Sixteenth Century English composer William Byrd. The music includes the *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis* from Byrd's 'Great Service' and other works by Byrd.

Saturday 14 October, 10am-12pm

Organ Open Morning for anybody interested in hearing, playing or learning about the organ at St Nicolas. This is the last Open Morning of the year but if you miss it and want to arrange a private session, please email Peter Stutfield at peter.stutfield@gmail.com.

Sunday 12 November, 6pm

'Far from Home'. A concert of music and readings reflecting on the impact of war throughout the ages. Contributions from anyone who would like to read, sing or play an instrument are particularly welcome, as are requests or suggestions for the programme. The concert is free but we will be collecting for one or more war-related charities. For more information contact Julia Stutfield (07766 103427 or julia.stutfield@gmail.com).

Christmas Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 19 December, 7pm - 'Nine Lessons and Carols' in St Nicolas Church

Thursday 21 December, 6pm - Carol Singing in and around the Village Hall

Jazz on the Hill

Tuesday 10 October, 7.30-9.30pm, Forest Hill Village Hall

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 11am-12pm

The Maple Tree Baby & Toddler sessions in Forest Hill Village Hall are a wonderful way for parents and carers of small children to meet and chat in a friendly and supportive environment. If you have a new baby or are expecting one soon, why not drop in to introduce yourself to us or get in touch with Julia Stutfield 07766 103427 or julia.stutfield@gmail.com.

Forest Hill Village Email List

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

Forest Hill with Shotover Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Thursday 19 October at 7pm in Forest Hill Village Hall**. Dates of future meetings can be found on the Forest Hill website www.parish-council.com/foresthillwithshotover and on the Village Hall noticeboard. Current agendas and minutes are posted on the noticeboard outside the Village Hall. Archived agendas and minutes can be found on the website.

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

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

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

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.

Summer Cream Teas in the churchyard

Thank you so much to everyone who supported our Cream Teas this summer. We were certainly blessed with sunshine on 3 September. The two cream teas raised a much appreciated £250 towards church funds.

Bible Study, Monday afternoons

Bible study continues on Monday afternoons, 2.30pm at Studley Farm House, looking at St John's Gospel. All are welcome.

Contact Annie Payne (anniefpayne@gmail.com) for more information.

Events in October/November at St Barnabas

Saturday 7 October

Michaelmas Fayre, Manor Farm, Oakley Road, 12 -2pm



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.

Stalls include raffle, cakes, produce/plants, toys, Christmas and nearly new; books; Teas and coffees; Childrens games; Soup, hot-dogs and rolls; Spiced apple juice. Please see separate flyer included with this edition of the Four Parishes Newsletter (or the back cover of this magazine) for further details.

If you have contributions for stalls, please contact Lisa Mynheer (01865 351340 or lisamynheer@gmail.com) or Lynn Whitaker (01865 358838 or lyndawhitaker@btinternet.com). Alternatively, bring them on the day.

Sunday 8 October at St Barnabas

11am : Animal Welfare and Blessing Service



We will be in the churchyard if weather permits so 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.

3-4pm : 2023 Pumpkin, Potato and Sunflower Measuring

Tea, and biscuits will be available. All proceeds divided between Parkinson's UK and St Barnabas Church. Bring all your pumpkins, potatoes (still in their buckets) and sunflowers along. All shapes and sizes welcome.

Saturday 14 October

Coffee and Chat in St Barnabas Church, 10am-12pm

Everyone is welcome to share 10 minutes or an hour or so with neighbours and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee. Dogs welcome.

Friday 3 November

Pop-Up Pub in St Barnabas Church, 6 - 8.30pm

Families welcome. Come and meet up with fellow villagers for a beer, wine or soft drink.

Saturday 4 November

Village Supper in the Millennium Village Hall, 6.30pm

Adults: £12, Children (12 and under): £6. Tickets from Lisa Mynheer (07786 705785 or lisamynheer@gmail.com). Deadline for ticket sales will be 1 November to allow organisation of catering.

Please inform of any allergies or dietary requirements when ordering tickets. Plant based options available.

To minimise the work involved on the evening so that we can all enjoy it, we are asking people to provide their own: Plate; Bowl; Glass; Cutlery; Drinks

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

Horton-cum-Studley Parish Council News

Looking after our village environment is an important part of the role of the Parish Council. Residents are encouraged to report any concerns. Recently we have responded to several concerns including a report about hornets at the foot of the tree next to Jilly's Gate and another about overgrown hedges causing pathway obstruction, particularly roadside paths.

The hornets' nest was reported promptly to Oxfordshire County Council since it was at a public footpath. OCC has the responsibility (and resources) for dealing with this and we have followed up with them to expedite the issue. In the case of overgrown hedges, where these form the boundaries of residents' properties, we ask that the resident addresses the issue. In other cases where ownership is not clear, the Parish Council may act to get the obstruction removed.

Speeding vehicles continue to be a concern despite the introduction of the 20-mph speed limit. The Parish Council has invested in new Vehicle Approach Signs (VAS) with additional messages about the 20-mph limit, in an effort to deter drivers from excessive speeding. Unfortunately, the new signs are not expected until October, such is the demand for them with the county wide increase of rural villages with 20-mph limits.

If you want to report a concern or if you use email and want to join the village email circulation list for up-to-date information, please contact Alexia Lewis, Parish Clerk, at hortoncumstudleyparishcouncil@gmail.com.

Millennium Village Hall

We will shortly commence some maintenance/replacement of items at the playground. Any suggestions for changes to the current range of activity structures will be welcome.

Wine Tasting – Friday 6 October 6pm in the MVH

This is the final wine tasting of the year. Taste and stock up for Christmas! Advance booking and £10 payment to Derek Jewell 07845 147865 or Stuart MacFarlane 07906 216549 s.macfarlane799@btinternet.com.

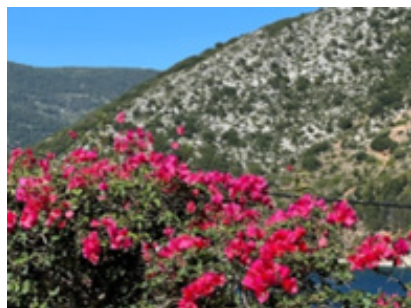
Hall contact details:

For bookings hcshallbookings@gmail.com

For treasurer treasurerhcsmvh@gmail.com

Horton-cum-Studley Gardening Club

I'm writing this from the Greek island of Ithaca, where a week of cool,



wet and rainy weather has just coincided with a heatwave in the UK! It is a sobering reminder of the changes taking place in our climate. Greece has obviously just suffered one of the most terrible summers with wildfires destroying large areas of forest, along with homes

by devastating floods. There is an acute awareness here of the need to respect nature, and to try to protect flora and fauna in the face of ever-changing conditions.

It is tempting to feel thrilled at the prospect of some plants from warmer climes establishing themselves in the UK as our climate gets warmer, but worth remembering that these should only ever be acquired from reputable UK suppliers and NEVER brought back from holidays abroad, as this poses a huge risk of importing pests and diseases which may afflict native species.

We were lucky to have one of the few perfect summer evenings for our social evening in Sarah Randolph and David Rogers' beautiful garden in Horton-cum-Studley. We are very grateful to them for allowing us to share it and enjoy a well-supported and delightful event.

On the subject of protecting our native fauna, Hugh Warwick will join us on 17 October for tips on encouraging hedgehogs back into our gardens. On 21 November, Avril Hughes will be telling us about the delights of a woodland garden.

We are delighted to be welcoming so many new members to the Club, from Horton and neighbouring villages. Long may it continue! For now, greetings from Ithaca and looking forward to seeing everyone in October.

Melanie Jones Chair mjcbt2013@gmail.com 07766 708303

Village Night at Studley Wood Golf Club

The Village Night at Studley Wood Golf Club continues on the last Friday of each month. People gather about 7pm for a drink and food is served at 7.30. The menu is two or three courses and will always include meat,

fish and vegetarian options. This is not exclusive to Horton-cum-Studley residents but to anyone who enjoys a social night, meeting new faces.

Those who are already on the emailing list are sent a menu the week before the event and food orders are required as soon as possible thereafter.

If you would like more information please email Ruth on ruth.david@live.com or Linda on lindadingle49@gmail.com.

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ALMSHOUSE VACANCY

A vacancy currently exists at The Almshouse Cottages, Horton-cum-Studley for a single person or a married couple. Preferred applicants will be elderly, retired persons of limited financial means, who are in a good state of health but now in need of sheltered accommodation. Preference will be given to those from the parishes of Chilton, Waterstock, Beckley or any other within 6 miles of the almshouse buildings.

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For further details about the vacancy and an application form, please contact:

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Oxford OX1 4JL

Tel: 01865 726016

email: arobson@sidleys.co.uk

STANTON ST JOHN

Stanton Church

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

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

In October instead of coming for coffee, come for a **Light Lunch** on **11 October, 11.45am-1.30pm**. Everyone is welcome! For further details, please contact Sarah Coyne 01865 358876.

Tea, Coffee and Cake resumes on **15 November, 10.30am-12pm**.

Some Christmas Dates for your Diary!

Saturday 2 December, Stanton Church, 7pm

Ashley Goodall and the Shotover Singers return to Stanton Church with a well chosen selection of carols to help us get into the Christmas spirit.

Friday 9 December, Millenium Green, 6 – 8pm

Village Celebration 'Turn on the lights' (see also page 29).

Stanton St John WI

Those of you who enjoyed the atmospheric music provided by Nick Gill for our Centenary Party last November will be pleased that he is coming to give us the lowdown on the background of some of his music on Tuesday 10th October. His talk is entitled "A Jazz Tour Of Harlem in 1932". Our meeting starts as usual at 7.30pm in the village hall. Those of you who missed him, are in for a treat.

Save the Date, Saturday 28 October

We are holding a late **Autumn Sale and Coffee Morning between 10am and 12 noon** on Saturday 28 October in Stanton St John Village Hall.

Early Christmas Gifts, Plants, Preserves and beautiful Crafts as well as delicious Cakes and an opportunity to catch up with friends and neighbours from the surrounding villages over a cuppa in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

Don't miss it!

Stanton St John Parish Council

Public Meeting on Wednesday 18 October at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

The Parish Council has agreed to re-engage with the District Council to produce a Neighbourhood Plan for Stanton St John. All parishioners are welcome to attend this Public Meeting to find out more about creating the Neighbourhood Plan, which will carry some weight in the town planning processes governing our parish. Ricardo Rios from SODC will be in attendance to help explain the significance of having a Plan for the village and the input which the whole village can make in forming an updateable plan for the future of Stanton St John.

20mph Speed Limit

You will have noticed that we now have a 20mph speed limit in the village, as promised by the County Council almost a year ago. We are grateful to the Oxfordshire County Council Highways team for all the work that went into setting this up. A new 20mph speed-detecting VAS sign will also be installed to replace the 30mph one on the B4027 near the Talkhouse.

Further work is planned for Pound Lane, Cox Lane and Shepherd's Pit Road, but we await decisions and schedules from the County Council for our proposals for these areas before we consult with residents.

Wi-Fi at the Village Hall.

A Gigaclear fibre optic connection has been installed at the Village Hall, enabling access to the internet for events and activities in the Hall. Many thanks to Russell Warner of the Village Hall Committee and Michiel Stofferis of the Parish Council who have given their time to organise this.

Garden bonfires

If your autumn tidying jobs in the garden make you think of bonfires, please keep in mind the recommendations offered by SODC: if possible, consider home composting, SODC's own collection services for garden waste or bulky house waste, or your local waste recycling centre.

If you do feel a bonfire is the best or only option, please try to reduce the risk of nuisance smoke by avoiding days when the wind is strong or blowing towards other people's homes, and ensure you only burn dry garden waste.

Stanton Community Choir



By popular request, there will be a **Stanton Community Choir** at the 'Turn on the lights' event on **Friday 9 December**, led by David Willcocks and Sue Baker. All singers, whatever age, are welcome!

Rehearsals will be in **Stanton Village Hall on Sundays - 12, 19 and 26 November from 5.45 – 6.45pm**. All are welcome!

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

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 2023/2024. 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 27 October 2023.

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.

Last Word

A Prayer for Ukraine

In February 2022, when war in Ukraine began, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York wrote a prayer for the country and its people. This prayer is still used in our church services and prayers for peace and is even more relevant today, not just for Ukraine but for all the places in the world where conflict and hate prevail.

God of peace and justice,

we pray for the people of Ukraine today.

We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.

*We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.*

*We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.*

*Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.*

We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Amen

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SATURDAY 14TH & SUNDAY 15TH OCTOBER
THURSDAY 19TH - SUNDAY 29TH OCTOBER



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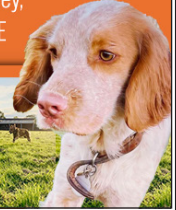


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Saturday 7 October

St Barnabas, Horton-cum-Studley

MICHAELMAS FAYRE

12 - 2pm

Manor Farm, Oakley Road, Horton-cum-Studley

By kind invitation of the Badger family

This is always a delightful and truly traditional country village event and 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 village church open and in good order.

If you have contributions for stalls or offers of help, please contact key stallholders directly, or Lisa Mynheer (T: 351340; E: lisamynheer@gmail.com) or Lynn Whitaker (T: 358838; E: lyndawhitaker@btinternet.com). You can also bring things on the day (but see note below re Toys, Christmas & Nearly New).

STALLS include:

- RAFFLE – Lis Pugh (donations gratefully received)
- CAKES & HOME BAKED – Caroline Badger (no fresh cream, please)
- PRODUCE & PLANTS – Carol Welch
- BOOKS & PICTURES – Nick Mynheer
- TOYS, CHRISTMAS & NEARLY NEW* - Lynn Whitaker
- CHILDREN'S GAMES
- TEAS & COFFEES – Lisa Mynheer
- LUNCHESES – Lisa Mynheer (Soup & Roll; Hotdogs)

We look forward to seeing you there!

*Please leave donations in church porch before Wed 4 Oct. If you need Lynn to collect, please call 07795 550851. No items on the day!