

The Four Parishes News Magazine

BECKLEY
FOREST HILL
HORTON-cum-STUDLEY
STANTON St JOHN



Rainbow over Beckley Church, June 2022

July/August 2022

The editor writes:



After a month of frantic activity, I, for one, am hoping for a little bit of leisure time over the summer. I'm sure I can't be the only person to feel as if I have been playing 'catch-up' over the last few weeks as everyone tries to make up for so much lost time in 2020 and 2021.

Editing this magazine continues to be both a chore and a source of considerable satisfaction and pleasure. I couldn't do it without the help of my two wonderful Assistant Editors who provide me with both creative and practical support and are always on hand for ideas and advice when needed. We are extremely grateful to all our regular contributors, and to everyone who takes the trouble to submit a photograph or an idea for consideration. We also appreciate the support of our many local advertisers, the commitment and efficiency of our printers, and the loyalty of the volunteer distributors who make sure that the magazine is delivered to your door.

We will be back again in September after an all too short summer break. Meanwhile, keep safe and well and I hope you enjoy the rest of the summer!

Julia Stutfield

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

Our cover photo ...

was taken by Christina Weir from Beckley on 19 June 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**

Reverend Anthea Beresford
Vicar

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We welcome contributions or notices for future issues.

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The closing date for the Sep 2022 issue is 15 Aug 2022

The Four Parishes News Magazine is produced under the auspices of our four village churches for the benefit of the whole community. 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. If you are interested in getting involved, please email Julia at 4parishesnewsletter@gmail.com.

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

Editor: Julia Stutfield

**Assistant Editors: Jonathan Barker
Anthea Beresford**

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

To advertise in the magazine please email JULIA
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Church Services in the Four Parishes, July 2022

	St Nicolas, Forest Hill with Shotover	St John the Baptist, Stanton St John	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Beckley	St Barnabas, Horton-cum- Studley
3 July <i>Third Sunday after Trinity</i>	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	11am Morning Prayer
	4pm Children's Service at St Nicolas			
	6pm Taizé Service via Zoom			
10 July <i>Fourth Sunday after Trinity</i>		9.30am Morning Prayer	9.30am Morning Prayer	11am Holy Communion
	11am Benefice Zoom Service			
	4pm Messy Church at Stanton Village Hall			
	6pm BCP Choral Evensong at Forest Hill			
17 July <i>Fifth Sunday after Trinity</i>	11am BCP Morning Prayer	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am BCP Holy Communion	11am Morning Prayer
	4pm Family Church does Forest Church Bernwood Forest, Oakley Road, OX33 1BJ (meet at car park)			
	6pm Iona Service at Beckley			
24 July <i>Sixth Sunday after Trinity</i>	10am Benefice Holy Communion Service at Forest Hill			
31 July <i>Seventh Sunday after Trinity</i>	11am Morning Prayer	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Prayer	11am Morning Prayer
	6pm Church without Walls in Stanton St John Village Hall			

Church Services in the Four Parishes, August 2022

	St Nicolas, Forest Hill with Shotover	St John the Baptist, Stanton St John	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Beckley	St Barnabas, Horton-cum- Studley
7 August <i>Eighth Sunday after Trinity</i>	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	11am Morning Prayer
	4pm Children's Service at St Nicolas			
	6pm Taizé Service via Zoom			
14 August <i>Ninth Sunday after Trinity</i>		9.30am Morning Prayer	9.30am Morning Prayer	11am Holy Communion
	11am Benefice Zoom Service			
	4pm Messy Church at Stanton Village Hall			
	6pm BCP Choral Evensong at Forest Hill			
21 August <i>Tenth Sunday after Trinity</i>	11am BCP Morning Prayer	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am BCP Holy Communion	11am Morning Prayer
28 August <i>Eleventh Sunday after Trinity</i>	10am Benefice Holy Communion Service at Horton-cum-Studley			

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.

Anthea, our Vicar, is supported by a team of voluntary clergy, lay ministers and churchwardens. Space permitting, their details are listed on page 4 of this magazine, but when page 4 is required for a list of church services, the information can be found in previous issues, which are available at www.fourparishes.org.uk/magazine.

A letter from Anthea

Hi everyone



Those of you with a good memory will realise that this week has seen the second anniversary of my moving here to the benefice pass by. And this coming week sees the second anniversary of my licensing here. It is hard to believe!

And what a 'two years' it has been! I was speaking to someone about it on Friday, and, as they observed, it has been the most remarkable time in history (nothing to do with my move, I hasten to add!) They observed that whilst the older ones amongst us have been through times previously unimaginable (or as I considered, only written about in science fiction books), young children might indeed be left expecting this kind of thing to happen every few years, as being quite normal, having not been influenced by years of life experience. That was an interesting thought left for me to ponder on.

From conversations with parents of younger children, it seems that this year in particular, and perhaps because of the oddity of the previous two years, the end of the school year is already long awaited. For some, the wait is not too long, for others, a little more patience is needed. It is however wonderful to hear about school plays, concerts and musicals happening once again. Children are excitedly rehearsing, and I am sure parents and grandparents are eagerly awaiting watching and listening to these events once more. I am looking forward to going to Beckley School for the Skylark and Hobby classes Production. I am also looking forward to welcoming Tufted Duck class into Beckley Church, to have a look round. It is great these things are once again happening.

I know not everyone is fortunate enough to be able to go away on holiday, and indeed for some, there is not much worse a thought than leaving behind the familiar surroundings of home, to go somewhere unfamiliar. It is sad that, just as we are once again free to travel, it has become so difficult, for a variety of reasons. If you do plan to travel, I hope you get to your destination safely, and have a wonderful break.



Whatever your plans for the summer months, I hope there is time for some relaxation, and a chance for a change of pace and routine. Whatever pleasure we get from 'pressing on' with things, it is healthy to step back and let ourselves take breath. Taking a sabbath rest is Biblical, and good for our wellbeing.

News at the moment seems to be increasingly alarming, as the cost of living continues to rise at a drastic rate. It is hard for people to ask for help, but I hope we can continue to look out for the most vulnerable amongst us, and offer help and support where possible, perhaps anonymously if necessary. We have proved what a caring community we are throughout Covid, and in the pulling together to help visitors from Ukraine. It has been heartening to hear about, and indeed to see, kindness, generosity and care in action.

On a lighter note, I hope you can enjoy some lovely summer weather in the beauty of our surroundings. We are so fortunate with a multitude of choice of places to visit. Bertie and I have enjoyed walks locally, as well as slightly further afield. It is always lovely to walk with others, so please do give me a shout if you would like to meet up. It is a good opportunity to chat!



I wish you all a good summer. As I said earlier, try to have a change in routine - after all, a change is as good as a rest! For those going away, I hope you travel safely, and have a great time. I look forward to hearing holiday stories on your return.

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

Anthea

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

CHURCH MATTERS

Church opening, and services

All the churches in the benefice are open daily:

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

Advent challenge and beyond

I hope you enjoyed reading through the Genesis, last month.

As we continue through the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible, let's read Exodus in July and Leviticus in August. There are 40 chapters in Exodus, so to get through it in July, we need to read a chapter a day each weekday, and a couple of chapters each day at the weekend giving ourselves a light day on the final Sunday! There are only 27 chapters in Leviticus, so to get through it in August, we need to read a chapter a day, and then have four days rest at the end of the month!

As I have said, these books can be a bit of a slog, but I have found that I have grown to love them as I have read them more. It is important that we read the Old Testament, as well as the New, and we are making good progress - we are over halfway through the Old Testament already, before this reading over the summer. So happy reading! 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 Anthea for invitations if you wish to be included.

	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Morning Prayer at 9am (Not 8, 13, 15, 27 and 29 July)		√		√
Evening Prayer at 6pm (not 12, 14, 26 and 28 July)	√		√	
Benefice Book Group at 7.30pm (not 14 and 28 July)			√	

Book Group

The Book Group continues to meet virtually by Zoom on a Thursday evening at 7.30pm. We are reading: *How to Hear God: a simple guide for normal people* by Pete Greig. If you would like to join the Group, please do get in touch with Anthea. All are welcome.

Diary dates for benefice-wide children and family church activities

Please refer to the list of church services on pages 4 & 5 for further details, including start times. More information about these activities can be found at www.fourparishes.org.uk/children-and-families.

Please always look out for email updates.

Children's Service at St Nicolas	Messy Church	Family Church
3 July	10 July	17 July**
7 August	14 August	
4 September	11 September	25 September
2 October	9 October	23 October
6 November	13 November	27 November
4 December (St Nicolas Day celebration with Christingle)		
11 December Joint Christmas Party (details to be announced nearer the time)		

**Please note the change in date due to school holidays.

Home Group Study on Romans

The study of the Book of Romans, meeting in Horton-cum-Studley, is taking a summer break, resuming again in mid-September. If you are interested in being involved, please contact Annie Payne on 01865 351018, or by email at anniefpayne@gmail.com.

GENERAL

Support for Ukrainian Refugees



By the end of June, we will have welcomed at least 15 families across the 4 parishes. We are nearing the end of the arrivals now and thank the villages for all their support which has taken so many different forms. Unbelievable what can, and continues to, be achieved. The guests and hosts alike are most grateful. Much of the paperwork is out of the way for many, and for the rest there are plenty of experienced residents and guests around to help guide them through the processes.

It feels like just as routines have started to be the norm the summer holiday season is around the corner. This will necessitate changes and hopefully will give rise to new opportunities for people to meet.

The Horton-cum-Studley pop-up bar and fish n' chip Saturdays have been a tremendous success, relaxed and blessed with fine weather, enabling children to play and adults to get to socialise. Studley Golf Club kindly provided meals for Ukrainian families that attended the village supper night. The Jubilee celebrations also offered opportunities to jointly share in celebrations. Local businesses continue to offer employment opportunities and children's sports clubs coaching.

Needs are also changing for our guests. Help with English language and conversation is in great demand. If you are not on our radar yet and can help, please get in touch. Support, local to families, is very welcome. Help can be offered in all sorts of ways. So, if you have a Ukrainian family living near you, do make contact with the hosts and the families and find out how you might help - offering a coffee or a meal, to take them out for the afternoon, lifts, shopping trips, listening to a child read.....etc.

More generally, the demand for lifts may increase over the summer as people want to get out to discover Oxford and its surroundings. If you can help out here, please register your interest with David Slingo on pdslingo@gmail.com.

For more information, contact Lisa Mynheer on lismynheer@gmail.com (07786 705785) or Kate Salter on katesalter@icloud.com.

Have your say: The OxCam Arc

Editor's note: we are aware that we have published many articles about the OxCam Arc and Expressway over the last few years, all of which have opposed the Government's plans. In the spirit of dialogue and fairness we would welcome any articles which take an opposing point of view.

The Great Deb-Arcle?



Recent Freedom of Information requests

by Stop the Arc reveal a great deal more about the current chaotic state of the Oxford to Cambridge Arc plans than any Government source will publicly admit to.

The promised ministerial-level Arc Growth Body to oversee all Ox-Cam Arc developments was quietly shelved at around the time, towards the end of last year, that Michael Gove disbanded the 40-strong dedicated Ox-Cam Arc 'team' in the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).

The results of last year's first and only official public consultation on the Arc Spatial Framework were presented to the Arc Leadership Group (ALG) in January of this year but have still not been made public. According to the CEO of the company which ran it "the consultation responses showed significant opposition to further growth of the south-east without the sincere consideration of alternatives (which is now evolving)." Well, there's a surprise. Ministers and others could have saved themselves a great deal of time and resources by looking at the freely-available results of our campaign's alternative consultation showing that more than 90% of people are against the Ox-Cam Arc plans in their original form (<https://tinyurl.com/5MinSurveyResult>).

Subsequently we heard that the Government seems to have dropped the idea of developing an Arc Spatial Framework altogether; the originally proposed second and third spatial framework consultations are presumably cancelled.

(continued over)

In an Arc Leadership Group meeting in October 2021, attended by Christopher Pincher (then Minister of State for Housing), and just a few months after he denied there was ever any Government housing target for the Arc, it was concluded that "If we can stop using words like 'growth' and 'sustainable' and start talking about things like 'doubling nature' and the 'green arc' we might start getting over this huge hurdle of public acceptance of the Arc."

In trying to establish a reason for its own existence the Arc Leadership Group now wishes to move ministerial responsibility for whatever remains of Arc plans from Mr Gove's DLUHC to the Departments for Industry and/or International Trade.

Perhaps, instead, the Arc Leaders should apply to join the Ministry of Greenwashing?

David Rogers Secretary, Stop the Arc
david.rogers@zoo.ox.ac.uk

* * * * *



John Howell MP writes...

June 2022

When I wrote last month, we were anticipating the Jubilee Weekend and the celebrations that were planned. The national celebrations were certainly a credit to all of the planning, and it was lovely to see Her Majesty the Queen at her public appearances. I think tea with Paddington Bear was one of the favourite events and shows that even in her 9th decade Her Majesty still has a great sense of humour.

In May I joined thousands of other people across the country in the Big Plastic Count. It was an interesting exercise where you have to count the single use plastic you throw away over a 7-day period. Some of the time I was at home, at others I was in the office or away. Overall I was quite

shocked at just how much single-use plastic I get through in the different settings. The office is pretty good, with glass replacing plastic water bottles and corn-starch wrapping used for many documents that are sent to me. But I was quite taken aback at just how much single use plastic there still is for food products. Clearly some of this is avoidable and the exercise certainly raised the profile of the need for us to cut back further.

I know that some people have been caught up in the backlog of passport applications. During the pandemic, around five million people delayed applying for or renewing their passports which has led to huge demand now that international travel has opened up. My team has been helping as best we are able and where the need to travel cannot have been anticipated, or where the delay in an application being processed has been longer than the advertised time, we have been able to assist some people. The Home Office has been doing all that it can to increase output and it does seem that the situation is beginning to ease. However if you are planning to travel and need to apply for or renew a passport please do so as soon as possible and do not rely on being able to get a fast-track appointment as these are like gold dust. The official guidance is still to allow up to 10 weeks to get a passport. There is little that my team can do with late applications.

Another thing to watch out for are the new barcoded postage stamps which Royal Mail has introduced. If you have bought stamps recently you may have noticed the change with the addition of a barcode alongside the image of the Queen's head. If you have a stock of stamps, you can still use them until the end of January 2023. If you cannot use your stock before then you can swap them for new ones. Full details are available on the Royal Mail website under the heading 'Reinventing stamps for the next generations.'

In any month a wide range of issues are raised with me from things in the general media to specialist issues. With the help of my team I do my best to respond to all polite correspondence but sometimes it may take a while, especially if an issue needs research. If there is an issue that concerns you please do share your thoughts. Email is the easiest way if you have access to that. My email address is john.howell.mp@parliament.uk.

'Not Just Black Birds'

by Lyn Ebbs

This month's article carries on June's theme of black birds; this time two from the crow family (corvids), their similarities and differences. Of the corvids, there are two frequently confused species: the carrion crow and the rook. These black birds are hard to tell apart at first, or even second, glance. A rule of thumb for novice bird watchers is that if you see one rook, it's a crow but if you see lots of crows, they're rooks. This confusion has existed for many hundreds of years.

In the Middle Ages one of the occupations open to a young boy in a farming community was out in the fields, making loud noises, acting as a bird scarer or 'scarecrow'. But they weren't trying to guard cereal crops from carrion crows, their job was to disturb seed-eating rooks. The role is possibly what is being celebrated in the stained-glass roundel, reproduced in the Millennium Window in St John the Baptist Church in Stanton St John. It's said to be of a bird scarer. There was even a bounty on rooks' heads in Elizabethan times: one penny for three heads to be precise. Though by the reign of her successor, James I, it was recognised that the omnivorous rooks did more good by eating chafer grubs than the harm caused by eating grain, and the bounty was rarely collected.



Not that crows had a much better image. Carrion-eating might be their job description but unfortunately the crows have a reputation of not always waiting for the animal to die. They will also take live chicks and small mammals. They have been severely persecuted for centuries, but they flourish despite their notoriety - they are great survivors.

It can be difficult to distinguish crows and rooks by appearance, but one clue is where you see them. Though their environments overlap, crows are more at home both in towns and in wilder areas. Rooks are part of the farmed environment, favouring neither built-up areas or completely wild country.

Their sociability is one feature that we find rather endearing about rooks. While the solitary crow is regarded as somewhat sinister, we have a more benevolent attitude towards rooks. A characteristic bird of the agricultural countryside, studies have suggested that rooks actually moved into the British Isles with our agrarian ancestors. Without agriculture we wouldn't have rooks at all.

Adult crows and rooks are a similar shape and size - rooks are only a little smaller than crows - and both have all-over black plumage. Rooks have a slightly baggy-trousered look with looser feathers around their knees. And in bright sunlight their plumage has an iridescent sheen. The most noticeable difference in appearance, when you get a closer look, is the prominent patch of bare skin at the base of the rook's bill. But this feature isn't fully developed until they are two years old. Young rooks that have just left the nest in June and are wandering the countryside in roving bands of fellow adolescents are at their most carrion crow-like, making the task of identification even harder.



Crows build single nests, usually in the middle crown of a tall tree, while rooks' noisy, communal nest colonies - rookeries - have become a metaphor for disreputable, close communities. Slum dwellings in Victorian London were referred to as rookeries of thieves. If you live near a rookery and have watched the birds flying out to their feeding sites early in the morning or returning at dusk, you have a perfect illustration of another case of mistaken identity. 'As the crow flies' is much more likely to refer to the faster flying rook, which travels considerable distances between feeding areas and roosts. It's worth taking a closer look at these species, they are not just boring black birds.



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

Save the Date: Fund Raiser for the People of Ukraine

JONNY AND THE JIVE TONES

50's/60's rock n roll, featuring guest Anna Gillingham on vocals, and
OLD GOLD (Easy listening)

Saturday 3 September at Exeter Hall, Kidlington, 7pm - 11pm
LICENSED BAR

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mossdurrant17@gmail.com

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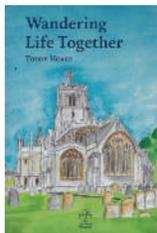
Sokolović | 18, 19 & 20 August

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Prokofiev | 13, 14 & 20 August

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WANDERING LIFE TOGETHER

Toddy Hoare

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Available via Amazon

Something for everyone drawn from life
with a sprinkling of scriptural and theological

thoughts, reflections over the years, a response to lockdown and
current events linked to church festivals spent at home. School,
hospital, birth, death, grief, places, holidays ... In short a bit of "Where
are we going and how did we get here?" Above all I have enjoyed
writing these thoughts so I hope you enjoy reading them.



BECKLEY

Beckley Church

Details of all church services and general church news can be found on **pages 4 - 9**. Any changes to the published schedule of services will be on our website www.fourparishes.org.uk.

Beckley Open Gardens

We had a great afternoon with 14 gardens open for viewing, as well as home made ice creams, cakes and drinks to refresh us, and plants for sale to inspire us.

Thank you SO much to all who worked hard in the planning and preparation, on the day, and in clearing away afterwards. Thank you to all those who opened their gardens for us to see, to John Wing for the invaluable use of his field as a car park, and to the RSPB for their stall.

Sadly I didn't get round to all of the gardens, so look forward to seeing those another year! I had some lovely conversations as I walked around the village and the gardens.

Sorry to the youngsters for having to cancel the children's garden workshop due to Covid.

We raised an amazing £2,446 for Church funds. Thank you so much everyone!

Anthea

Service of Morning Prayer on 14 August at 9.30am

During the service Beckley Church is going to be presented with a report by The Arts Society, which is an inventory of the features of the whole building, with relevant historical background.

This report is the culmination of four years of work by The Arts Society, and we are excited to receive this invaluable document.

Liz Rhodes from The Arts Society will be there to present the book, along with some of those involved in the work. It would be great to have people from the village there to say thank you.

Beckley & Stowood Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held **during the last week of July at 8pm at Beckley Village Hall** – date tbc, please check the website for details nearer the time.

A meeting will not be held in August and the first meeting after the summer holidays will be on **Thursday 1 September at 8pm at Beckley Village Hall**.

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

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

Fix My Street Super User Volunteers



Oxfordshire County Council created OXTOG – Oxfordshire Together – to mobilise and support a team of volunteers around the County to help look after their own roads, pavements and public rights of way. As part of OXTOG there is a growing team of volunteers known as Fix My Street Super Users.

The Super Users are, in effect, the 'eyes and ears' of the County Council Highways Officers and are trained to report and action certain road repairs, specifically potholes and damaged kerbs, on low-speed, minor roads using Fix My Street.

The Volunteer Co-ordination team at Oxfordshire County Council is currently recruiting more Fix My Street Super Users in this area. The training takes place online in small groups.

If you already use Fix My Street and can walk around your town or village regularly (or even daily) and would like to find out more, please contact: volunteercoordinationteam@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

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

Our monthly events will mostly take a break in August and resume in September.

Pub quiz

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

Community Walks

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

New! Coffee and Cake Mornings at the Abingdon Arms

First Wednesday of the month, starting 6 July. Meet your friends and make new ones over coffee and cake at 11am. Will continue in August.

Jazz Evening 17 July, 6.30 to 8.30pm

With Bossa Nouveau, Pete Oxley (guitar), Ollie Weston (saxophone) and Keith Fairbairn (drums/percussion). £10 entry.

Forthcoming Sunday Evening Talks at the Abingdon Arms

Sunday 31 July, 6.30pm Mark Stanley-Price: *Rewilding: a fad or a transformative approach for conservation?*

Trained in Oxford as a zoologist, Mark has spent his career in conservation, mostly in East Africa and West Asia. Apart from charity management and governance, his main technical interests have for years been reintroductions, which have morphed into conservation translocations and then rewilding. Resident in Oddington since 2012, Mark is an associate of Oxford University's Wildlife Conservation Research Unit. He has spent the years in Oddington planting native trees and shrubs on 1½ acres, and is now pleased to call this rewilding.

Sunday 25 September, 6.30 pm. Pam St Clement, well-known for her long association with the BBC series East Enders as Pat Butcher, on her work in theatre and television.

FOREST HILL

News from St Nicolas Church

Details of all church services and general church news can be found on **pages 4 - 9**. Any changes to the published schedule of services will be on our website www.fourparishes.org.uk.

Cream Teas and Music at St Nicolas

The weather was decidedly inclement for our first Cream Teas of the year on Saturday 18 June but a few brave souls came to enjoy tea and music in the garden, and a few more made it to the concert and drinks afterwards.

The remaining dates are:

Saturday 23 July, Sunday 28 August, Saturday 24 September

Cream Teas with music in the church garden from 3pm - 5pm, followed by an informal concert in the church at 5.15pm lasting around 45 minutes and rounded off by drinks in the garden.

If you have never visited our lovely historic church, this is a perfect opportunity to have a look around, and to meet old and new friends from the village and elsewhere in an informal setting.

Payment for cream teas can be made by cash or card. Admission to the concert is free but any donations will go towards the upkeep of the church.

If you would like to contribute to the music on any of these dates, please contact Julia Stutfield on 07766 103427 or julia.stutfield@gmail.com.

Forest Hill with Shotover Parish Council

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

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

You can contact the Parish Council Clerk, email address: theclerk@foresthillwithshotover-pc.org or tel: 0844 884 3328, during the hours 9am to 5pm.

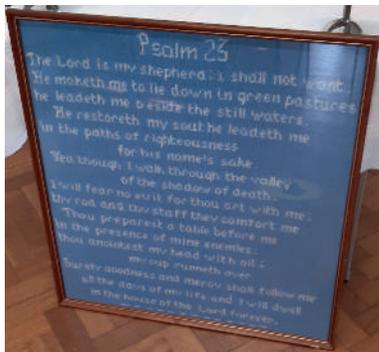
The Maple Tree at Forest Hill

The Maple Tree Baby and Toddler group at Forest Hill will continue to take place in the Village Hall throughout July and August, **every Thursday from 11am to 12pm.**

During the school holidays we are hoping to welcome back some of the children who have moved on to nursery. We are also happy to host older siblings, especially if we have some warning so that we can provide appropriate resources for them. All children, even older ones, need to be accompanied by a responsible adult.

For more information, contact Laura Spencer (laura@mapletree.org.uk) or Julia Stutfield (07766 103427).

Mystery solved!



The photo on the left is of a framed ‘tapestry’ which is stored in the vestry of St Nicolas Church. It features the words of Psalm 23 (‘The Lord’s my Shepherd’) and is actually knitted as a single piece. It is a highly skilled and intricate piece of work, as well as being very unusual, but no-one appeared to know anything about it, hence the appeal for information In the June issue of this magazine.

We are delighted that Susan Strange from Forest Hill has been able to fill in some of the missing details, courtesy of a close friend of hers. Apparently, the friend’s mother-in-law, a Mrs Flitney, had spent some time in India during the Second World War with her husband, who was stationed there . While Mrs Flitney was in India, she became friends with the maker of the ‘tapestry’ and when they both returned to England after the war, the friend presented it to her as a memento. Her daughter-in-law had it framed and for many years it hung in her hallway.

After Mrs Flitney’s death, the family decided that it should be presented to a church and it was given to St Nicolas but for some reason this was not recorded at the time.

HORTON-cum-STUDLEY

News from St Barnabas

Details of all church services and general church news can be found on **pages 4 - 9**. Any changes to the published schedule of services will be on our website www.fourparishes.org.uk.

Support for Ukranian Refugees



Many people in the Four Parishes, especially in Beckley and Horton-cum-Studley, are working hard in a number of different ways to welcome and support Ukranian refugees. Please see **page 10** for more information.

Messages of thanks

Pete Whitaker would like to say a big thank you to all those who have purchased plants from outside the Church. Just under £400 has been raised for the Ukrainian refugee families.

Thank you for the donations of non-perishable goods into the food box inside the church. Individual boxes of assorted groceries were recently delivered to 12 local Ukrainian families. We continue to be grateful for non-perishable donations of tins, jars and dry store cupboard items.

Thank you too for the ongoing regular support for the Tiggywinkles box in the church porch, for dog food and towels, which are taken to Tiggywinkles Wildlife Hospital every month.

Cream Teas in the Churchyard

Cream teas will be served in the churchyard on **Sunday 24 July and Sunday 4 September**, 2-4pm to raise funds for the church. All welcome.

Date for your Diary, Saturday 1 October

Michaelmas Fayre, Manor Farm. By kind invitation of Colin and Caroline Badger.

More details to follow in the September Four Parishes Magazine.

Save the Date, Saturday 15 October

Harvest Supper in the Millennium Village Hall.

More details to follow.

New posting for our postman

Our much loved and helpful postman Richard (Ricki) Harris is moving on to another location. Over the last eleven years his positive approach to delivering our mail has brightened up our days. Nothing has been too much trouble, he has given people time and has helped where needed on his rounds. If you would like to give Ricky a gift, please catch him on his round before his last day, 4 July. We will really miss him and send him off with our thanks and very best wishes.

Horton-cum-Studley Gardening Club news

This is the time when descriptors such as luxuriant, verdant, fecund can joyfully be applied to the contents of the garden. However, they don't take account of the disease and pests that may at the same time be playing an incredibly determined and destructive role, requiring considerable time and effort to repel. Such is the life of the gardener, with many lessons in patience and enormous pleasure when results are good!

A group of members enjoyed a visit to Bridewell Gardens at Wilcote, near North Leigh, in May. We ambled round the walled garden through various delightful areas, admiring flowerbeds and pristine vegetable plots, all with a pleasant, domestic atmosphere. This is a therapeutic garden where those recovering from mental illness learn garden skills and gain new confidence in life. Its users, known as Bridewell Gardeners, are supported by a skilled professional team, working together with volunteers. Find out more at <https://www.bridewellgardens.co.uk>, including details of their open days.

On 12 July we shall visit Filberts at North Moreton, near Didcot. The garden is used for teaching RHS courses, with different areas giving students a range of opportunities to develop their skills in horticulture. It has a large collection of clematis which cascade over walls, shrubs and hedges, and a knot garden is filled with lilies. It has many ideas for our own gardens. Do get in touch if you would like to join this afternoon visit.

Enjoy the garden during these summer months and if you don't enjoy your own, then this is the time to refresh the spirits in one or more of the many wonderful gardens open to us.

Victoria Hunt and Melanie Jones, Joint Chairmen
vicoriahunt@me.com or melaniejones@cbtoxford.com

Millennium Village Hall

Having written last month that my MVH piece would be the last, I find I am boring you again. I promise this really is the last one!

The AGM is on 16 June (3 days after I am writing so it will have been and gone by the time you read this). A new committee will have been voted in and I will have stood down. The outcome of that meeting should appear in the September issue of the Four Parishes Newsletter.

It is good to report that the hall will be handed over in good repair and with healthy bookings. Ben Short had the idea of a pop-up bar and we have coincided this with the Fish and Chip van. That has been hugely successful but we have been blessed with warm, dry evenings. The only downside has been the half hour queue at the van, but with a drink in hand and in warm sunshine, it has proved a very good social occasion. The children enjoy playing on the field and at one point there were enough older boys to form a football team. It would be a great opportunity for a dad to offer some formal coaching.

Tennis coaching for children has restarted and it is great to see the courts being used. The surface has been cleaned of algae and I am told the courts are playing well.

I am delighted that Natalie Parish is heading the group of mums developing a plan to refurbish the play area. Re-reading the latest inspection report from RoSPA it is surprising that they have not condemned it already - the next inspection will be coming shortly so 'fingers crossed'!

Future fish and chip evenings are: 8 July, 6 August, 3 September, 1 October. A bar will be open on each of these occasions and we can now accept card payment as well as cash. After 1 October, the fish and chip van will continue to come monthly but we may not run the bar. However, that is a decision for the new committee so please watch this space.

Finally, can I again express many thanks to David Russell (bookings), Barry White (facilities) and to Pete Whitaker (general maintenance). We could not have managed without them. Thanks also to Barbara Jewell for organising supplies from dustbin liners to loo rolls, paper towels and hand wash as well as organising the cleaning. We continue to be complimented by outside hirers for the facilities offered.

Derek Jewell



THE OTMOOR CHALLENGE

Cancellation of the Otmoor Challenge 2022 - Saturday 11 June

You will have heard that we had to cancel the Otmoor Challenge that was due to be held on Saturday 11 June. This decision had to be taken at very short notice, as we became aware that there was a risk to the safety of our runner competitors that was not solvable in the limited time before the event date. The crux of the problem has arisen from regulations affecting the control of road traffic where runners transfer from cross-country to main roads, where it has become apparent that our method of control is no longer in line with current traffic rules. We have decided to institute a full review of the event, including seeking advice from all agencies so that we can ensure full compliance for future events.

We are particularly grateful to everyone who had volunteered to help support this event and apologise to those who intended to participate in the run or walk for the short notice announcement. Our current plan centres on the Otmoor Challenge taking place under the new system in June 2023, however, we are still investigating whether it might be possible to arrange an event later this year. This, of course, is subject to being able to expedite our review and undertake the necessary actions.

We will keep you informed as to our progress.

*Nick Tribble
Chairman, Otmoor Challenge Association*

Sunday 7 August - Safari Lunch around the Village

(This is a lunch party with successive courses prepared and eaten at the homes of different hosts).

More details about the cost of tickets and where to get them will be in the July Horton-cum-Studley Village Newsletter.

Also, if you think you could volunteer your home as a venue for one of the courses please get in touch with Ruth at ruth.david@live.com.

Horton-cum-Studley Parish Council

The Annual Parish Meeting took place on 25 June. Unfortunately only 5 Parishioners attended. The Parish Council meet informally once a month via Zoom on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7.30pm, with formal meetings once per quarter in the Village Hall.

The **next informal meeting is 14 July**. If you would like to attend, please contact the Parish Clerk Alexia Lewis via email clerk@horton-cum-studley.org.uk

There will be no meeting in August and the next full Parish Council meeting will be on **Thursday 8 September**.

Sarah Foxcroft, Chairman Horton-Cum-Studley Parish Council

* * * * *

STANTON ST JOHN

Stanton Church

Details of all church services and general church news can be found on **pages 4 - 9**. Any changes to the published schedule of services will be on our website www.fourparishes.org.uk.

Midsummer Music, 1 July

On Friday 1 July Oxybaroxy (Oxfordshire Youth Baroque Strings) will be playing in Stanton Church at 7.30pm.

Oxybaroxy (Oxfordshire Youth Baroque Strings) directed by Mark Levy will present a programme of Baroque concertos by Purcell, Handel, Bach, Telemann and local composer William Hayes, Oxford Professor of Music in the 18th century. It will feature young soloists from Oxfordshire County Music Service.

Admission is free, with a retiring collection in aid of Stanton church and the Oxfordshire Fund for Music. Refreshments will be available before the concert. Nikki Gresswell has also kindly invited concert goers to picnic in the gardens of College House. This will be a fantastic concert! Please support it!

Stanton St John Parish Council

Welcome to our new Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer

We are pleased to welcome Anita James, our newly appointed Parish Clerk & RFO. The email address for the Council and Clerk remains the same: stantonstjohnpc@gmail.com.

Jubilee lunch

A big thank you to everyone involved in making the village Jubilee lunch such a success: organisers, providers and putter-uppers of gazebos and tables, chair carriers, providers and arrangers of the lovely table flowers and bunting, cooks and clearer-uppers, and everyone else who came together and made it such a delightful party for all of us.

Meeting dates

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on **Monday 18 July at 7.30 pm** in the Village Hall. There is no August meeting, so after that the next will be on **Monday 12 September**.

Stanton St John WI

Stanton St John WI is delighted to have **Sue Holden O.B.E. and one of the team from the Barton Community Hub** to explain what they do to support vulnerable people in the area, how the Hub was started and how they plan to continue to help families who are struggling. Our meeting is on **Tuesday 19 July at 7.30pm in Stanton St John Village Hall**. As usual any interested visitors will be most welcome.

Contact us at: stantonstjohnwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk for further details.

We also have a provisional plan to go on an Oxford River cruise in August. So far we have "pencilled in" Tuesday 16 August tbc. Times and costs will be discussed at our next meeting.

Monthly Coffee Mornings in Stanton Village Hall

Come for tea, coffee and cake (10.30am - 12.00pm). Everyone is welcome!

20 July, 17 August, 14 September.

For further details, please contact:

Sue Baker 01865 351449 or Sarah Coyne 01865 358876.

Stanton St John Village Hall

It is with sadness that I am announcing the stepping down of activity in respect of Stanton St John Village Hall by both Dave and Sheila Pullen. A change in their personal circumstances has necessitated this, although they continue to reside in Stanton St John.

On behalf of the everyone I would like to express my heart felt gratitude to them both for their support and hard work over the years. They have been stalwarts of the community and I count myself very fortunate to have had both their friendship and mentoring. We wish them our best wishes and I know they can always call on our help and support going forward.

Below is a photo of Gordon Hicks presenting a thank you gift of vouchers to Dave following the village-wide collection. This collection was really well supported by villagers old and new and shows how the Pullens' sterling work over the years has been appreciated by all.



Future Bookings

Judy Nisbet has very kindly agreed to manage the bookings of the Hall and this has taken place with immediate effect. Contact details are as follows:

Tel: 01865 351448

Email: judy@robertnisbet.com

Address: 1 Silver Birches, Stanton St John, OX33 1HH

A big thank you to Judy and notification will be made regarding any future changes to the booking arrangements which for now are through any of the above means of communication. Bank details for on-line payment can also be supplied.

Village Hall Prices

The prices for the Hall have not been increased for some considerable time and small increases will be introduced from 1 July 2022. Any existing contractual arrangements will, of course, be honoured. We will continue to offer preferential rates where a booking is of a community or charitable nature. Where existing charges are £30 these will increase to £40. These are for half day or evening bookings. A day booking increases from £50 to £60. A full day and evening from £60 to £80.

Relaxation of rules post Covid

We are all glad the Covid restrictions have come to an end but we do request that care is still taken when using the Hall. Common sense prevails and the Hall should always be cleared and facilities left as they would expect to be found. A deposit of £30 may be requested where it is deemed appropriate and where it may be necessary to arrange cleaning of the Hall after hire. This will be returned following a satisfactory inspection and sign-off.

Playground

A gentle reminder that the playground is not supplied by the Village Hall. This is maintained and controlled by the Parish Council.

In the event that any further information or clarification is required then Russell Warner will also be able to help. Contact details are:

Tel: 01865 351817

Email: russell.warner@morfactor.com

Thank you again, Sheila and Dave.

*Russell Warner, Chairman
Stanton St John Village Hall Management Committee*

Dave and Sheila Pullen would like to thank everyone who gave to the collection that Rowan collected at Stanton Village Shop. The collection was £500. Thank you. We didn't expect anything. Thank you once again.

Dave and Sheila

Last Word

A Prayer for Ukraine

In February, when war in Ukraine began, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York wrote a prayer for the country and its people. Since then, this prayer has been a part of our online and church services, and our regular prayers for peace, throughout the Four Parishes.

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

*Archbishop Justin Welby
Archbishop Stephen Cottrell*



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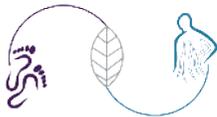
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Red Hill, Forest Hill, September 2021