

The Four Parishes News Magazine

BECKLEY
FOREST HILL
HORTON-cum-STUDLEY
STANTON St JOHN



Pumpkin Weigh-in at Horton-cum-Studley, October 2021

November 2021

The editor writes:



This month we have a bumper issue with a range of events and articles, including the first in the new series of 'Knowing our Neighbours', which you will find on page 16. Jonathan Barker, one of our Assistant Editors, is curating these, with help from Kate MacFarlane. If you have any suggestions for candidates, please get in touch with Jonathan at

4parishesnewsletter@gmail.com.

Having missed out on so many aspects of Christmas festivities in 2020, many of us are really hoping to be able to meet together to sing carols and celebrate Christmas with friends and family this year. You will find plenty of dates to aid you in your forward planning so please get them in your diaries now! As I write, Covid cases are on the rise again and we are all being urged to be careful, but if we are, there is every hope that the vaccine will continue to protect us in a way that we could only dream of this time last year.

Please do everything you can to keep safe and well, and I hope to see many of you at events around the Four Parishes soon.

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 at the annual Pumpkin Weigh-in and Sunflower Measure at Horton-cum-Studley

For more details see pages 28-29

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

We welcome contributions or notices for future issues.

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The closing date for the Dec 2021 issue is 15 Nov 2021

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
adverts.4parishesnewsletter@gmail.com

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

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Church Services in the Four Parishes, November 2021

	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 Nov <i>3rd Sunday before Advent</i>	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	11am Morning Prayer	
	6pm Taizé Service via Zoom				
14 Nov <i>Remembrance Sunday</i>	10.45am Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial followed by Morning Prayer	9.30am Holy Communion and Act of Remembrance	10.45am Act of Remembrance in the Churchyard followed by Morning Prayer	10.45am Act of Remembrance in the Churchyard followed by Morning Prayer	
	4pm Benefice Remembrance Service via Zoom				
21 Nov <i>Christ the King Sunday next before Advent</i>	11am Morning Prayer (Book of Common Prayer)	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)	11am Holy Communion	
	6pm Iona Service at Beckley				
28 Nov <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i>	10am Benefice Service at Stanton St John Holy Communion				
	4.30pm Family Church Millenium Hall, Horton-cum-Studley				
	6pm Church Without Walls Stanton St John Village Hall				

Please note: mask wearing and social distancing at services are still encouraged, although they are no longer a legal requirement. Please do not attend in-person services if you have any symptoms of covid or flu.

If you are not on our regular mailing list and would like an invitation to a Zoom service, please email anthea@fourparishes.org.uk.

A letter from Anthea

Hi everyone,



Hands up those who do not like the clocks changing. Do not worry - I am not about to seek support for a campaign against it! I must admit, that in the autumn, I like the extra hour we gain, but I am definitely not keen on the 'spring forward' and the loss of an hour. It takes my body quite a while to catch up - even though it is such a small change. It must be my age!!

I think the real reason I do not like the clocks changing is that it signals the ever-shortening days. I used to love the lighter mornings again for that short while at this time of year, but I do not like the suddenly darker early evenings. This last week as I walked Bertie at 6pm, I realised it would be one of the last later walks this year. Long since passed are those lovely late summer evening walks, I so enjoy.



I confess I am not keen on the short days with those dark mornings and evenings. I function so much better when the sun is shining, there is a reasonable warmth in the air (I do not like it too hot!), and the sky is beautifully blue! I am not too fussy am I?

Today has been an interesting day. It started beautifully bright and sunny, although rather windy, with a chill in the air. One of those beautiful bright autumn days, a bonus at this time of year, as we move through the autumn, and on into the winter - the type of day that puts a spring in my step, and an automatic smile on my face. By contrast, it is now drab and grey, with miserly rain making it unpleasant to be out, but not raining 'properly'.



I am fortunate that I do not suffer from seasonal affective disorder (SAD), but I do think my demeanour and mood can be affected by the weather, the daylight, and my surroundings. I love how changeable the British weather can be - people from other countries are often intrigued by our preoccupation with the weather. One of the joys of living in this country is the ever-changing weather - it is rarely boring! I love cold, crisp winter mornings, and they are even better if there is snow on the ground - as long as I can sit and admire it, and do not need to get anywhere! I used to love getting snowed in - fortunately for me, still able to work, but also to enjoy the peacefulness that snow brought, and the beauty to my surroundings.

Whilst the weather is ever changing, and might affect our mood, there is no point in allowing it to, as we cannot control it. It is, as it is. It might reflect the storms of life we face - the bright sunny days when all is as it should be, when relationships are good, jobs secure, our health and that of our loved ones good. Then out of the blue comes a dark stormy time, when we face trouble and difficulty, loss of a loved one or a job, or a relationship floundering, each leaving us bereft.

Whatever the weather, whatever storms that may be going on around us, we can always trust and hold firm to the unconditional love of God, his ever presence, and the sure and certain hope that can be found in him.

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

Anthea



CHURCH MATTERS

Church opening and services

All the churches in the benefice are now open daily:

Beckley: 10am-6pm

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

We are able to sing in our churches again which is wonderful. Please do sanitise your hands as you come into the building. Mask wearing and social distancing at services are still encouraged, although are no longer a legal requirement. All are welcome. We continue to monitor Covid cases locally, and Government and Church of England/Diocesan requirements related to Covid, but we are planning positively, but safely, towards Christmas.

Remembrance Sunday: 14 November

We will be commemorating Remembrance Sunday throughout the Benefice. Please see the rota on page 5, individual village pages and the back cover of the magazine for more information about when the Acts of Remembrance and services are.

For any unable to get to the Acts of Remembrance and church services, there will be a **benefice wide Service of Remembrance at 4pm on Zoom**.

Advent challenge and beyond

I hope those of you still running with this project enjoyed the break last month! Having completed the New Testament I have been toying with what we do next - we obviously need to delve into the Old Testament now. I thought we might tackle the prophetic books. These are the books that prophets are traditionally attributed as the authors, rather than the only books where prophets are mentioned. There are 18 such books: the first six are known as the major prophets (simply based on their length); the next 12 are known as the minor prophets (as generally they are shorter books!) I thought we would start with reading Isaiah which is a lengthy 66 chapters, although it is not dense prose, so my hope is that two chapters a day during the week, and an extra one for each day at the weekend for three of the four weekends should help to see us through it in November. Happy reading! I look forward to hearing 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. The Book Group has just started its new book: 'Finding God in the Psalms' by Tom Wright. 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			√	

2023 Benefice Calendar

We did not get enough photos to produce a calendar for 2022, but the benefactors of the project are keen to aim to have a calendar for 2023. We are therefore going to have a **monthly competition from now until September 2022 for photos for a calendar for 2023.**

The subject can be of your choice, but all photos should be in 'landscape' (not 'portrait') format and of the highest possible quality. The idea is to have a calendar with month appropriate photos throughout the year.

Please do get photographing and email your entries in to Julia Stutfield at 4parishesnewsletter@gmail.com by the end of each month throughout the year. All the chosen photographs will be credited in the calendar, which will be sold in aid of the churches in the benefice.

Christmas card design competition

Thank you so much to those who took part in the competition, and for those who took the time to vote for the winners. The two designs receiving the most votes have been used to make Christmas cards to be sold in aid of the churches in the benefice. The cards can be purchased in the Village Shop, from Julia Stutfield (email 4parishesnewsletter@gmail.com or mobile 07766 103427) and from Anthea. They cost £3 for 10. You can buy all of one design or a mix of the two designs.

(continued over)

The winner of the Christmas Card competition is Lucie Mermet-Burnet, aged 7. Well done Lucie! Lucie is the overall winner, and winner of the children 11 years and under category.

The runner up is Grace, aged 7. Well done Grace! A great design.



And in third place is Peter Stutfield. Peter is the winner of the adult category.

The designs can be viewed at <https://www.fourparishes.org.uk/christmas-card-competition>.

The printed cards are on order now and will be available in the second week of November.



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



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Hugh Lee's 40th Anniversary Celebration

More than eighty people, including five families with young children, came to the joint benefice Communion in St Barnabas, Horton-cum-Studley on Sunday 26 September to join in the celebration of the 40th anniversary of Hugh Lee's ordination. The preacher was the Reverend Mike Rayner, Professor of Population Health at Oxford University and a fellow Minister in Secular Employment with Hugh.

Derek Jewell on the organ ably accompanied the hymns, which were chosen by Hugh and Anne and included a hymn about God in our workplaces, "We seek your kingdom throughout every sphere" written in 2016 and sung to the tune of 'Abide with me'. Julia Stutfield conducted a small group of singers from the Benefice, who sang an arrangement of the 23rd Psalm to the tune of 'Brother James's Air', including lovely solos by Julia and by James Herbert, Hugh and Anne's eldest grandson.



Most of the congregation came to a buffet lunch afterwards in the Millennium Hall wonderfully masterminded by Lisa Mynheer, with a wide range of people generously donating delicious food. (There are some wonderful cooks in the benefice!) There was a fantastic atmosphere and it was

one of the first occasions we have been able to get together since the start of the pandemic.

Hugh and Anne write:

We were completely overwhelmed by the service and the lunch party to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Hugh's ordination. And totally amazed by the presentations made to us. Thank you so much for the kind and undeserved words by Nick Mynheer, for the flowers, for the magnum of wine and for the extraordinarily generous cheque from you all. It was a wonderful occasion for us and fantastic that our two children and their families were able to be with us. Thank you everybody for making them so welcome.

GENERAL

Christmas Trees for Sale

All profits to Friends of Beckley School

The Friends of Beckley School are selling Christmas trees again this year in order to raise money for our school.

The trees are sourced from a sustainable plantation in Scotland and are premium quality Nordmann Fir (non-drop) trees.



If you would like to purchase a tree please **ensure your order is placed before 5pm Wednesday 24 November**. You will receive a confirmation email or phone call once your order has been received.

Collection will be from Millennium Hall, Horton-cum-Studley on Friday 3 December (4.30-6pm) or Saturday 4 December (9am-12pm).

Please use the order form enclosed with this magazine or contact Jenny Goad at BeckleyFOBS@gmail.com.

All the monies raised from sales will be used for resources and activities to enrich the learning of the children at Beckley School.

Stanton House, Stanton St John



Stanton House is in need of some **general housekeeping help**, three hours each morning, for five days a week. **This is a paid position** and it is hoped that the successful applicant will be available to start as soon as possible.

For more information, please contact the office: phone 01865 358807 or email office@stantonhouse.org.uk.

Stanton House is a charity (Charity number: 275205) whose objective is the encouragement and refreshment of Christians in a retreat environment.

Stop the Arc Group by David Rogers

Between July and October, the Government ran a public consultation on the Oxford-Cambridge Arc proposals, the first time we have ever been invited to comment on plans that have been developed over at least the last six years for the five Arc counties (Beds, Bucks, Cambs & Peterborough, Northants and Oxon). But, instead of plans, we got vacuous enquiries about whether or not we want clean water, fresh air, jobs, green spaces etc. etc., questions to which only an idiot would say 'No'. This lack of any detail was widely criticised by individuals, Councillors, Mayors and many MPs.

So concerned were we at this lack of detail that Stop the Arc, the Oxford POETS (Planning Oxfordshire's Environment and Future Sustainably) and others put together an alternative questionnaire in which we laid out some of the difficult choices ahead. Where should growth be - in the Arc or elsewhere? If in the Arc, how much growth should there be? We also asked if responders agreed with the Arc Environment Group's claim that "sustainable economic growth and the enhancement of the environment are compatible and achievable."

We closed our alternative survey on the same date as the official one. Despite our late start, we had 31% more responses than the Government's survey (3,843 vs 2,933). Given the chance to vote today, 93% of people would vote 'No' to the Arc, 4% would vote 'Yes' and 3% are still 'Don't know'. 92% of responders felt that it was 'probably..' or 'definitely impossible' to develop the Arc AND improve the environment at the same time.

People are prepared to accept a level of economic growth, but 92% want it to be no more than the national average rate. They want decisions to be taken locally, by elected representatives or referenda (63% and 67% in a multiple choice question), not by unelected bodies such as Local Enterprise Partnerships (3%) and not by those such as landowners and Universities who will profit from Arc development (1%). Thank you to all who filled in our survey. Please visit <https://tinyurl.com/5MinSurveyResult> for the full results.

David Rogers has lived in Horton-cum-Studley since the 1970s. He is a retired Professor of Ecology from Oxford University and was a key campaigner against the Expressway, which the Government has now cancelled.

'What's in a (bird's) name: myths, legends and symbols' by Lyn Ebbs

We have had a close connection with birds from ancient times, so it is not surprising that, along with giving them names, we attached extra meanings to these names, then added more symbolism on top. Take as an example the eagle: have you ever wondered why the bible rests on the back of a golden eagle as a church lectern? Multi-layered symbolism is at work here. In the New Testament, the apostle, St John, has a key role in spreading the gospel - the word. The four gospel writers were each symbolised by a different animal and St John's symbol is the eagle. St John represents the word of God; the eagle represents St John and the eagle carries the word on its back out to the congregation.



You might think that this symbolism, as well as its physical size and power, would mean that the golden eagle would merit the title King of the Birds. But according to a Greek legend, when the birds were choosing who

deserved the title, they decided that it should go to whichever could fly the highest. The eagle soared high into the sky, as far as it could go, but a tricky little wren had hidden in its back feathers; it flew even higher and claimed the title. The other birds were annoyed and ordered another contest: who could go lowest. This time the wren crept into a mouse's hole and won again. As a bird that can be seen exploring holes



and crevices, this seems a fairer result. Its scientific name, beloved of pub quizzers, draws from this: *Troglodytes troglodytes* means "cave dweller".

The bird with the most royal name must surely be *Regulus regulus*, the scientific name for the goldcrest. This name is a diminutive, meaning "kinglet" or "prince", and refers to the little gold "crown" that its crest becomes during the breeding season. The goldcrest is the smallest British bird weighing in at 4.5 -7 g, which is less than a 20p coin. Perhaps the most

surprising fact about goldcrests is that large numbers of them migrate to Britain in the autumn across the North Sea from Scandinavia. People found it hard to believe that these tiny birds could make this journey unaided and, as their arrival coincided with that of woodcocks, they decided that goldcrests were hitching a ride on the woodcocks' backs, which earned them the name of "Woodcock's Pilot".



Some of you will no doubt remember Reverend Brenda Knight, who died in 2016, and was a great source of information about Stanton St John, where she lived for nearly 90 years. Among the stories that she told me was that Cox Lane in Stanton was originally Cock's Lane and referred to woodcocks carrying out their twilight flight displays, or roding, there. However, there was a Stanton family called Cox, some of whom were churchwardens, so you must decide for yourself the most likely derivation.

One last double-barrelled name, *Milvus milvus*, just means "kite" in Latin and is the scientific name of fairly recent local resident, the red kite. One of Shakespeare's characters, Autolycus, in *The Winter's Tale* warned "when the kite builds, look to lesser linen". Autolycus himself was a "snapper-up of unconsidered trifles" and admitted to stealing bedlinen, so was he maligning the kites' reputation? Following their reintroduction in the



Chilterns in the 1990s, many red kite nests were monitored and chicks tagged to track the movement of the species. These checks revealed that kites did indeed have a habit of collecting strange trophies. Items discovered included socks, gloves, tea towels and handkerchiefs. These random items are used as a form of decoration, perhaps to advertise to other kites in the area that the nest is in use. In Shakespeare's day, washing was left on hedges to dry, from where it was easy for red kites to steal; so, this is one myth that is actually a true story.

Lyn Ebbs has lived in Stanton St John for just over 33 years and has been volunteering at the RSPB Otmoor Reserve at Otmoor Lane, Beckley, since 2009.

'Knowing our Neighbours': Tim Dixon

"I'm naturally an optimist: it's still possible to stop the most damaging effects of climate change, but we haven't got long - only 10 years to turn things round - and Carbon Capture is one way we can do it".

Tim Dixon has lived in Horton-cum-Studley for over 20 years and for most of that time has been working as a capture carbon (or CO₂) expert. That is finding ways of burying CO₂ back underground where it came from and so helping alleviate the worst effects of climate change. Until recently most people had never heard of carbon capture, but now it has become one of several innovative plans to save the planet from overheating and Tim Dixon is at the vanguard of this internationally important work.

Tim studied physics at Hull University followed by an MBA at Oxford Brookes.



In 2002 he began work with the UK government (seconded from AEA Technology at Harwell) just when Carbon Capture was starting up. "I was at the right place at the right time, but after AEA Technology was privatised I wanted to stay in the 'not for profit sector' and have the freedom to work on things that need to be

worked and not just to make money." Now Tim works with a wide spectrum of organisations from oil companies to Greenpeace.

Tim is now General Manager of IEAGHG, an international research organisation focussed on carbon capture. "I am just an expert in knowing experts and joining them up", he says. This month he's going to COP26 in Glasgow. "We are funded by 36 countries and companies and my job will be to provide information to other countries, particularly in the developing world, who want to investigate whether they can do carbon capture. "The beauty is they often have the right geology to store CO₂, it is their own natural resource to use, and my personal motivation is to help them get moving."

As Tim says: "The world's climate is getting warmer because we have been pumping billions of tons of CO₂ into the atmosphere mostly from burning fossil fuels. A warming planet brings more extreme weather with floods, fires

and rising sea levels on the increase. We have all seen this happening over the last 12 months both here in the UK and across the world in Australia and America. The more CO2 emitted into the atmosphere the worst it's going to get".

Carbon Capture is one of many solutions to tackle climate change but is not without its critics. Some environmental campaigners see it as 'greenwashing', enabling the fossil fuel industry to keep burning fossil fuels whilst pretending to do something about CO2. Tim thinks differently: "What matters is not what is coming out of the ground but what is going into the atmosphere. If we can capture CO2 before it gets into the air it minimises the harm."

Tim has been attending COP conferences for 21 years, since COP5. "I feel my biggest achievement was as the EU negotiator at COP17 in Durban, South Africa in 2011 where we got carbon capture recognised. "Across the world there are now 27 large-scale carbon capture projects but it's not yet enough to make a big difference to climate change. "Hydrogen and renewable energy, such as wind and sun are coming online faster than ever, but they can't do it all, particularly for heavy industry, and to stop the worst effects of global warming the world will need 3000 Carbon Capture plants by 2035." In October 2021 the UK Government selected two carbon capture sites in the north of England as part of its fast-track scheme to cut 20-30 million tonnes of CO2 a year from heavy industry by 2030. A clear acknowledgement that the importance of Tim's work is being recognised, but much more needs to be done.

In his downtime Tim loves birdwatching on Otmoor and running, sometimes doing both at the same time. "I think people think I'm a bit eccentric running with binoculars but that's nothing compared to my 26 year old son Guy who



recently broke the world record for the fastest 'six person costume' at the London Marathon this year. Dressed as a huge caterpillar his team beat the record by 1 hour 25 minutes doing it in 4 hours 34 minutes." Tim didn't mention how more CO2 would

need to be captured from all their puffing and panting.

Jonathan Barker

Focus on Families

Friends of Beckley School

Christmas Trees



The Friends of Beckley School are delighted that we will be selling Christmas trees again this year in order to raise money for our school

If you would like to purchase a tree please ensure your order is placed before **5pm on Wednesday 24 November**.

For more details, see the order form enclosed with this magazine, or email Jenny Goad at BeckleyFOBS@gmail.com.

Many thanks for your support.

Vicky, Lisa and Jenny, FOBS committee

The Maple Tree children's centre charity

Hello from The Maple Tree!

In addition to all our regular activities in Wheatley, the Maple Tree baby and toddler group at Forest Hill has welcomed 31 families since June, with an average attendance of 6 children every week.



We are grateful to the regular volunteers from Forest Hill and Stanton St John who make this possible. If you have a baby or toddler please come to Forest Hill Village Hall on Thursday mornings between 11am and 12 pm. It is all very friendly and informal and we would love to meet you (see page 25 for more information).

The Maple Tree is here to help you, if you need advice or support: 01865 236700 or 07849 466249. Check out our Website and Facebook pages for our online sessions, special events and helpful information!

Email: info@mapletree.org.uk Website: www.mapletree.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheMapleTreeWheatley

Laura Spencer, The Maple Tree Centre Manage

BECKLEY

Beckley Church

Details of all church services can be found on page 5. Any changes to the published schedule will be on our website www.fourparishes.org.uk.

Harvest

Our Harvest Festival service on 10 October was well-attended, and the church seemed almost full, which was wonderful!

Very many thanks to everyone who brought flowers and produce or helped to decorate the church, which looked beautiful.

The harvest gifts were given as usual to the North Oxfordshire Community Food Bank in Kidlington.



Remembrance Sunday: 14 November

The Act of Remembrance will start in the churchyard at 10.45am. After the sounding of the Last Post, the 2 minute silence at 11am, and the Reveille, the service will continue in the church.

Christmas dates for your diary

There will be more information on all of these activities in the December/January edition of the Four Parishes News Magazine, but here is a quick summary for your diaries:

- **Wednesday 15 December: Looking for the Light on Zoom 7pm**
- **Sunday 19 December: Family Church Christmas Party 4.30pm (in Horton-cum-Studley)**
- **Sunday 19 December: Carols and Claret 6pm**
- **Friday 24 December: Messy Crib Service 4pm**
- **Friday 24 December: Holy Communion 11pm at Horton-cum-Studley**
- **Saturday 25 December: Holy Communion 10am**

Beckley & Stowood Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 4 November 2021 at 8pm in Beckley Village Hall (tbc). Parish Council information, including agendas and minutes, is available on the website www.beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk. The Clerk's email address is clerk@beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk if you wish to contact the Parish Council to raise a question for the next meeting.

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

The Otmoor Flyer: no need to book but tickets must be purchased in advance of travel – Please wear a mask on board – Pick up 10.30am opposite the Abingdon Arms Pub and Return 1.15pm to Beckley. Further information and tickets from Jill Meyjes Tel: 01865 351496. Tickets also available from Stanton St John Village Shop: £15 for 10 journeys.

The H5 bus is run by Stagecoach from Bicester through Islip, along B4027, the Bayswater Road, through Barton Park **to the John Radcliffe Hospital and Headington shops** and back. It runs every hour starting at 6am in Bicester and 7am at the JR and runs until after 7pm Monday to Saturday. New bus stops have been installed near New Inn Farm on B4027 (Forest Hill to Islip road) near its junction with New Inn Road.

You can report a highways matter to Oxfordshire County Council on 01223 849731 outside normal office hours – including evenings, weekends and bank holidays. The call adviser will discuss the urgency of the issue and take appropriate action as required. During normal working hours, people should continue to call the council's customer service centre on 0345 310 1111. If the situation is potentially life threatening, people should call emergency services on 999.

Save the Date: Saturday 6 November 2021 – Beckley Firework and Bonfire Night – gates open 5.30pm, bonfire at 6pm and fireworks at 6.30pm – Beckley Village Hall and Playing Field – Parking on playing field – Refreshments – Entry Fee £5 (cash only) for adults and children over four years (subject to Covid-19 restrictions on the day).

Beckley and Area Community Benefit Society

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

Monthly Community Walks

The next walk will be on Sunday 21 November 2pm-4pm, location TBA, with a further walk on Sunday 19 December 2pm-4pm, location TBA.

Sunday Evening upcoming talks

Sunday 28 November, 6.30pm. Plants, Magic and Medicine, a talk by **Dr Sue Burge**, retired consultant dermatologist and former Director of Clinical Studies at The University of Oxford. Sue lives in Horton-cum-Studley, where she is a keen gardener, regularly opening her garden to the public for the National Garden Scheme, and chairing its gardening club. **THIS TALK IS ON ZOOM ONLY, web link on the BACBS website.**

Sunday 5 December, 6.30pm. Anthea Dobry from Church Street in Beckley will be **Not Going Quietly**, live in the pub for 40 minutes or so. 'Not Going Quietly', written by Anthea's aunt Angela Howard, exists variously as radio, playscripts and an anthology of short stories. For this More Than A Pub evening a dramatic monologue introduces us to the vintage comedy of 'Mabel Fawcett Dodds' and her life in 'far from superior' sheltered accommodation. **A collection will be taken for entertainment funds at two local care homes: St Andrew's and Cleeve Lodge Care.** It would be lovely to see you there.

Sunday 12 December, 6.30pm. Otmoor, the Changing Year, a talk by **Peter Barker**. A passionate advocate for Otmoor and its wildlife, and for open wild spaces, Peter is author of "The Birds of Otmoor" which will be published this autumn by the Oxford Ornithological Society and convenor of the Otmoor Birding website <http://otmoorbirding.blogspot.com>. **THIS TALK WILL BE IN THE PUB AND ON ZOOM.**

Talks and walks will continue in the new year - watch this space, or the website!

Shoe Box Appeal - Operation Christmas Child

This is a reminder that similar to previous years there will be a **Shoe Box collection for Samaritan's Purse International Relief Project** for poor children.

Samaritan's Purse (Charity Number 1001349) is a non-profit, Christian organisation providing church support and emergency relief and development assistance to the victims of war, famine, natural disaster, and disease, with the aim of demonstrating God's love to all and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Leaflets describing the project (size of boxes & gifts which are appropriate) will be available from Erica & Ian Cave at Whistlers Cottage, Common Road, Beckley, OX3 9UR. Tel : 01865 351226. Copies will also be put on the table in Beckley Church and the School.

You can also find instructions on how to prepare a Shoe Box at www.samaritans-purse.org.uk. Or for those who prefer to telephone, the Samaritan's Purse number is 020 8559 1180 or email Info@samaritans-purse.org.uk.

Please deliver, or we will collect, "Made up Boxes", which are due to be taken to Collection Depots between Monday 15 November and Monday 22 November 2021.

'Far from Home'

Concert in St Nicolas Church, Sunday 14 November, 6pm



Music and readings by members of our village community reflecting on the impact of war throughout the ages.

There is no charge for entry but pre-booking is preferred to help us keep everyone covid-safe.

Please contact Julia Stutfield
07766 103427 Julia.stutfield@gmail.com
or Jane Walker 01865 872399.

Retiring collection in aid of the British Legion



FOREST HILL

News from St Nicolas Church

Details of all church services can be found on page 5. Any changes to the published schedule will be on our website www.fourparishes.org.uk.

Harvest

Our Harvest Festival service took place on Sunday 3 October. Thank you to Judy Brown, Linda Hurren and Rosemary Waknell who decorated the church so beautifully. Thanks also to Peter Stutfield who supplied a multitude of his beautiful home-grown dahlias.

Fruit and vegetables from the festival were sold on the Produce Stall and the donations of £72 were sent to Helen & Douglas House Hospice in Oxford. Non-perishable produce was kindly taken by Gina Robson to the North Oxfordshire Community Food Bank in Kidlington.

Cream teas and music

Last month we said a huge 'thank you' to all those who helped to make these Sunday afternoons over the summer so enjoyable - caterers, bakers, musicians, singers, washers up, gazebo erectors and dismantlers, furniture movers, cashiers, and all those who have attended. We are delighted to report that the combined events raised £717 for St Nicolas Church.

Remembrance Sunday: 14 November

We will meet for the Act of Remembrance at 10.45am by the War Memorial in the Cemetery. This will be followed immediately by a service of Morning Prayer in church.

At 6pm there will be a concert in the church to commemorate Remembrance Sunday (see page 22).

There will not be a house-to-house poppy collection this year, but instead there will be an opportunity to collect a poppy from a box outside Lyttleton, Main Street.

Christmas Bazaar

Due to the ongoing concerns around Covid, we have regretfully decided not to hold this event this year.

Christmas dates for your diary

There will be more information on all of these activities in the December/January edition of the Four Parishes News Magazine, but here is a quick summary for your diaries:

- **Sunday 5 December: Children's Service with Christingle 4pm**
(preceded by workshop in the village hall - see below)
- **Sunday 12 December: Advent Carol Service 4pm**
- **Wednesday 15 December: Looking for the Light on Zoom 7pm**
- **Sunday 19 December: Family Church Christmas Party 4.30pm (in Horton-cum-Studley)**
- **Tuesday 21 December: Traditional Nine Lessons and Carols 7pm**
- **Friday 24 December: Crib Service 4pm**
- **Friday 24 December: Holy Communion 11pm**
- **Saturday 25 December: Holy Communion 10am at Stanton St John**

*Christingle Workshop for Children,
Forest Hill Village Hall*

Sunday 5 December 2:30-3:30pm

Come and make a Christingle (and learn a new song about it) then join a procession, with candles, to St Nicolas church at 4pm for a short service with stories and songs, and a St Nicolas tradition - chocolate coins in your shoe!

There is no charge for this activity, which is particularly suitable for children aged 4-11, but pre-booking is required to help us keep everyone covid-safe. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Please contact

Julia Stutfield 07766 103427 or julia.stutfield@gmail.com
or Jane Walker 01865 372999.



Village Get Together

A date for your diaries: **Sunday 21 November**

Village Tea in Forest Hill Village Hall 3-5pm. An informal get together and all are very welcome.

A chance to chat to your neighbours and to meet and welcome families new to the village.

If you would like to bake a cake for the occasion please drop off to Ramblers, opposite The White Horse pub or call Julie on 01865 874132 for collection.

To keep everyone safe we would ask that you do not attend if you have any symptoms of covid or flu.

The Maple Tree at Forest Hill



The Maple Tree baby and toddler group at Forest Hill continues to take place in the Village Hall, **every Thursday from 11am to 12pm** including half-term and school holidays. We keep the hall well ventilated with windows and doors open as much as possible, so please make sure that you and your child are wearing warm clothing if you are thinking of coming along.

Laura Spencer from The Maple Tree runs the sessions with the help of local volunteers, and it is turning out to be a wonderful friendly space for parents, carers, grandparents (and even a great grandparent) to meet and chat while the babies and children play safely. The photo shows our youngest ever visitor: 1 day old (yes, really!) Rosalind from Forest Hill, who came to visit us in October.

We have been delighted to welcome families from each of our four villages and beyond. If you are a parent, grandparent or carer or you know someone who is, do please encourage them to come and give us a try.

There is no need to book, but if you have any questions, please contact Laura Spencer (laura@mapletree.org.uk) or Julia Stutfield (07766 103427).

Forest Hill with Shotover Parish Council Community Emergency Plan - Volunteers needed

The parish council are required to have an emergency plan to identify and prepare for any major incidents, hazards or extreme weather threats that could impact hugely on parish residents and their properties.

In preparing the plan the parish council are seeking volunteers to help in the event of any emergency incidents. Are there any first aiders, chainsaw owners and 4 wheel drive owners who are prepared to help and have their names and contact details in the plan in case of the need to contact them? The parish council would love to hear from you. Please contact the parish clerk, details below, or talk to a member of the parish council for more details.

The date of the next meeting is Thursday 4 November, at 7pm in Forest Hill Village Hall. Meetings are open to the public and have an open session where residents can bring attention to any village issues.

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.pariah-council.com/foresthillwithshotover/index.asp.

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

Obituary



Gillian (Jill) Pledge
24 November 1937 - 10 August 2021

Jill moved to Forest Hill 60 years ago and lived with John in Mickle Way.

She passed away after a short illness.

Jill will be sadly missed by her family and friends.

Her funeral took place in August.

HORTON-cum-STUDLEY

News from St Barnabas

Details of all church services can be found on page 5. Any changes to the published schedule will be on our website www.fourparishes.org.uk.

Remembrance Sunday: 14 November

We will meet for the Act of Remembrance at 10.45am in the Churchyard. This will be followed immediately by a service of Morning Prayer in church.

Christmas Dates for your Diary

There will be more information on all of these activities in the December/January edition of the Four Parishes News Magazine, but here is a quick summary for your diaries:

- **Wednesday 15 December: Looking for the Light on Zoom 7pm**
- **Sunday 19 December: Carol Service 3pm**
- **Sunday 19 December: Family Church Christmas Party 4.30pm**
- **Friday 24 December: Crib Service 4pm**
- **Friday 24 December: Holy Communion 11pm**
- **Saturday 25 December: Holy Communion 10am at Beckley**

Animal Service

We had our Thanksgiving Service for Animals at St Barnabas on 10 October. We were so lucky that the weather was fine so we could meet in the churchyard and thank God for the gift of animals in our lives. Twelve dogs - the youngest Millie Molly Mander at just twelve weeks was so well behaved and the oldest was a veteran of fourteen years who even joined in the hymns with the occasional 'gruff'. Not forgetting one very angry Mynheer cockerel and one extremely well-behaved Whitaker rat- Rollo.



(continued over)

Anthea shared her memories of dog ownership including a story of her dog who had ended up sliding off the roof! We also took time to remember and pray for animals throughout the world who are not so fortunate as our own. Lynn read a beautiful poem which is included below. The photo shoot was a bit chaotic and sadly rather late as some of the dogs had already left! Thank you so much everyone great and small, feathered or hairy, who came. Thank you, Anthea and Bertie for a lovely service.

Carol Welch



*I'll tell you a secret regarding the park
It's most confidential you must keep it dark.
You go by the path to the trees by the pond.
But that's not the place it's a little beyond.
Now turn to the left and a fountain you'll see.
Ahead on the right is an apple tree.
Look for the seat that is marked with a stone
And that's where I've secretly buried my bone.
(Author unknown)*

2021 Pumpkin Weigh-in and Sunflower Measure

Results of the pumpkin weigh in and sunflower measuring: a colourful year for pumpkins and a massive year for sunflowers

It was a very strange year for pumpkin growing. The pumpkin plants were all grown from the seeds of last year's winner. However, nineteen pumpkins of a variety of colours have appeared.... green, duck egg blue, orange and yellow and they produced a wonderful display outside St Barnabas for the weigh in on Sunday 17 October.

Special mention must go to the husband and wife entries of Derek and Barbara Jewell (15.6 and 5.1kg), brother and sister entries of Maisie and William ?? (1.04 and 1.77kg) and a last minute entry by Shalya ?? (2.9kg). It was great that Adrian Wood found Alex's pumpkin hiding under the foliage and he brought it to be weighed (5.3kg). Thanks Adrian, Alex was a great supporter of this competition and has produced some beautiful pumpkins in previous years.

Overall pumpkins were smaller this year but much more colourful. Third place went to Mike Baker (19.6kg), second place to Chris Mullen (20.7kg) and first place to Cathy Jenkins (24.3kg). Cathy now has two wins in a row and hoping to make it three next year so get your patch prepared early to knock her off top spot!

Sunflowers were magnificent and there were eleven entries - three of them were over 3 meters tall. William came third (315cm), Cathy second (318cm) but undoubtedly the star of the show was Judy's giant which measured 340cm. That is going to be tricky to beat next year Judy so perhaps you should try a pumpkin?

Many thanks to everyone who took part, through your donations we have raised £249 for Parkinson's UK. Hope to see you all again in 2022 and maybe some others will be tempted to have a go.

Cathy Jenkins



Alex Wood 1947-2021

Alex was born in Rugby in 1947, and she went to Dame Allan's School, in Newcastle on Tyne. After leaving school, she started nursing training at Paddington Hospital, London before making a career change, moving to St. Cross Hospital, Rugby and becoming a haematology student.



After qualifying, she enjoyed a long and successful career in the NHS. Rugby is also where she began a long and successful relationship, with Adrian. Adrian had the staff transport contract for Rugby hospital. Alex was often on call at night, in case of emergency, and

so she was supplied with a 'bleeper' to alert her at home.

Those of us here today who are over the age of forty will know that technology in the 1970s was not always so great. And this is where we reach the Romeo and Juliet moment in Alex and Adrian's story.

On nights when Adrian arrived to collect Alex for an emergency call, if the bleeper hadn't worked properly, he would have to throw gravel at her window to wake her. Only when a sleepy Alex raised the sash window to reassure Adrian that she was awake, would Adrian be able to relax.

I recently asked Adrian if his gravel throwing skills had improved over many months. He replied that they never did; by that time, he and Alex were a couple and, more importantly, he was usually on the inside of that sash window.

In 1983 they fulfilled a dream of driving a Land Rover across the Sahara Desert in Africa. They lived in the Land Rover for eight weeks and had many adventures on their journey.

When they returned to Rugby, Alex won a senior position at The Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, and moved from there to the John Radcliffe hospital. Adrian and Alex moved to Horton-cum-Studley, where they would realise another dream by building a new house in 1996.

If Adrian was Alex's first love, her garden was certainly her second - especially the flowers she grew, which she even knew by their Latin names.

She was a founder member of the village gardening club, and part of the team who won a silver medal at the Chelsea Flower Show in 1994.

Anyone who accompanied Alex on a walk through the village will know that she always kept a pair of secateurs in her pocket. Any branch or bramble that had the audacity to loom across the pavement would be swiftly dealt with!

Everyone in the village knows just how involved Alex was in village life, taking on many voluntary positions over the years. She served for three years as booking secretary for the village hall, arranged church flowers on a rota, and completed the central altar-rail kneeler tapestry, which bears her name.

She was a member of a flower arranging club with Leigh and Lyn. She loved the weekly Pilates class at Pauline's and missed it terribly during the lockdowns. She also came to craft weekly and completed beautiful embroideries which were later to be framed.

Many elderly people in the village have good cause to thank her for her thoughtful visits. I know that she visited Anneka once a week after she became frail, so her husband Basil could go out to play bridge.

Alex never tired of finding new ways to enjoy the world around her. Recently she became intrigued by the International Space Station. She discovered that she could receive a notification from NASA that told her when the space station would be visible in the night sky from our village. So late one evening, she decided to venture to the bottom of her long garden, where she could get the very best view, and was thrilled to spot it passing over, a glimmering light crossing the dark sky above.

We were all so sad to hear of her passing. She died suddenly on 14 September, of an aneurism of the aorta; she was in her own home, with Adrian by her side. We will all miss Alex terribly, but will remember her as the happy, helpful, and kind person that we were all privileged to know so well.

May she rest in peace - preferably in a beautiful garden.

Jacky Chipperfield

Horton-cum-Studley Gardening Club

Autumn is here. Yellows, oranges and reds are starting to dominate the landscape. It has been a good year for berries in the hedgerows and for apples in our garden. The blackbirds are enjoying the windfalls and the Great Spotted Woodpecker has been making the most of the hazelnuts, which he hammers open after wedging the nut in a crack in his favourite apple tree. Look for empty shells scattered under a favoured "anvil" tree in your garden.



We are shocked and saddened by the sudden death of Alex Wood, who was a founding member of the club and a long-serving committee member. Alex contributed to the success of the club in so many ways. She was a keen gardener and a gentle, kind and caring neighbour. We are going to miss her very much and our sympathy goes to her husband, Adrian.

I am still unsure if we will be in the hall or meeting remotely again by 16 November when Chris Brown discusses "Plants and the stories they tell". Please check the website for more information www.horton-cum-studley.org.uk/community/clubs/

Visitors are always welcome to our meetings.

Sue Burge, Chairman

Horton-cum-Studley Parish Council

The Parish Council continues to meet remotely on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7.30pm. If you wish to join, please contact the Parish Clerk hortoncumstudleyparishcouncil@gmail.com. We will be meeting face to face in the Millenium Hall on Thursday 9 December.

We have been made aware that evidence of Hare Coursing has been found in fields locally. If you witness Hare Coursing, phone the Police on 999 but do not approach the participants. If you find evidence of Hare Coursing, please relay information on dates and locations to the Police on the non-emergency number 101.

The Otmoor Challenge

Like a Phoenix rising from the ashes, the Otmoor Challenge came back to life on Saturday 25 September.

Although not the Full Monty (if we are staying with the theme of fiction), the walkers of the Four Parishes, and others, stepped up to the start line and walked either 5 or 13 miles around the outstanding beauty of Otmoor, in warm and dry weather.

The courses had been prepared and signposted through the good offices of Colin Jenkins and Alan Read, assisted by Chris Mullen, so brambles and overgrown undergrowth caused no problems.

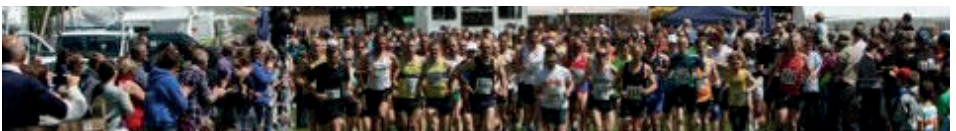
Regrettably, only 68 adults and 10 children took the opportunity to enjoy the day in the fresh air whilst supporting the Otmoor Challenge. Only a few villagers came down to the Millennium Hall to enjoy the delicious tea, coffee and cakes laid on by the Stanton St John WI, under the direction of Annie Anderson. However, most of the walkers indulged in the fantastic cakes donated by our supporters, taking the opportunity to put back on the pounds lost in walking.

Nick Tribble is taking over chairmanship of the Otmoor Challenge Association, and we will be looking closely at plans for the future of the Challenge. Like many other villages, we are finding that it is becoming more difficult to organise events, with more rules and regulations, and, inevitably, more costs. These can be overcome with time and effort, but, above all, they need people to get involved in the organisation and planning.

The future of the Otmoor Challenge could be bleak unless active support is forthcoming. Please come forward and offer your help. Don't let Horton-cum-Studley become an event-free desert.

SAVE THE OTMOOR CHALLENGE!

Andrew Pennington (retiring chairman, OCA)



Millennium Hall Committee

Christians in Sport have again been here recently and the Bikers will have been camping on the field 15 -17 October.

There has been no news from the group of mothers who accepted the responsibility of finding ways to fund a complete renovation of the play area. It is getting urgent as the recent inspection has virtually condemned it. Villagers may remember that a quote for renewal from the firm that originally installed it amounted to £32,000.

Dog fouling continues to be a problem. I think it is up to everyone using the field to police this if they see someone not picking up.

On a good note, there is to be another **wine tasting on Saturday 20 November at 12.30pm**. The theme will be 'Wines for Christmas'. Please let me know if you intend to come (derek.jewell@ndm.ox.ac.uk or 01865 351315). The charge will be £5 per head. We will not need to restrict numbers but for catering purposes it would be good to know approximately how many are coming. Children are welcome to play on the field.

Derek Jewell

Email: derek.jewell@ndm.ox.ac.uk Telephone: 01856 351315

* * * * *

STANTON ST JOHN

Stanton Church

Details of all church services can be found on page 5. Any changes to the published schedule will be on our website www.fourparishes.org.uk.

Meeting with villagers

Thank you so much to all those who joined us for the meeting on 16 October for our conversation, and to The Reverend Canon Charles Chadwick for facilitating the event. Thanks also to those who made such delicious cakes to help our thinking and talking! We look forward to continuing the conversation over the coming months and years.

STANTON ST JOHN (continued)

Remembrance Sunday: 14 November

There is a service of Holy Communion and Act of Remembrance at 9.30am at the Church.

'Turn on the lights' Friday 3 December, 6 - 8pm

Come to our Village Celebration!

- Switching on of our Village Christmas tree lights
- Carol singing
- Hot dogs
- Mulled wine
- Raffle
- Craft stalls in the Village Hall

If anyone would like to book a stall, please contact Elaine Warner on elaine.warner@icloud.com.

Concert in Stanton Church Saturday 4 December, 7 - 8pm

The Shotover singers will be singing in Stanton Church on Saturday 4 December. Come and enjoy listening to them sing and joining in old favourites! Some of the singers also sing in 'Circle' who have produced an album, 'Like this' available from circle@circlemusic.co.uk. The link to taster and digital tracks is <https://circle.hearnow.com/like-this>.

Christmas dates for your diary

There will be more information on all of these activities in the December/January edition of the Four Parishes News Magazine, but here is a quick summary for your diaries:

- **Sunday 5 December: All-age Advent Carol Service, time TBC**
- **Wednesday 15 December: Looking for the Light on Zoom 7pm**
- **Sunday 19 December: Family Church Christmas Party 4.30pm (in Horton-cum-Studley)**
- **Sunday 19 December: Carol Service 6pm**
- **Friday 24 December: Crib Service 4pm**
- **Friday 24 December: Holy Communion 11pm at Forest Hill**
- **Saturday 25 December: Holy Communion 10am**

Dr Pinks Charity

The Trustees welcome applications from young people under the age of 25 years who live in the village of Stanton St John.

Small grants are available for those in further education and apprenticeships. The awards will be for the academic year 2022. Applications in writing to Deirdre Young, 4 Simms Close, Stanton St John, OX33 1HB.

Closing date 31 January 2022.

Thank you

Sheila Pullen would like to thank everyone for their messages of support, cards and flowers and to let you know that she is doing nicely.

Monthly Village Coffee Mornings

Now that we're out of lockdowns we thought it would be good to set the ball rolling with a village coffee morning. Everyone is welcome to come along to the village hall in Stanton St John on the **2nd Wednesday of the month from 10:30am - 12pm** for coffee, cake and a chat.

Dates for your diary are:

10 November, 8 December, 12 January, 9 February.

For further information or to volunteer to help please contact Sue Baker (01865 351449) or Sarah Coyne (01865 358876).

**CAROLS AT STANTON
ST JOHN CHURCH
4TH DEC 7PM - 8PM**

THE SHOTOVER SINGERS

WELL KNOWN CAROLS FOR YOU TO JOIN IN
WITH AND GET INTO THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT.
ADMISSION FREE .
DONATIONS TO CHURCH FUNDS GRATEFULLY
RECEIVED.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT SUE BAKER
susanjbaker24@gmail.com



COME, SING, AND LISTEN TOGETHER

Stanton St John Parish Council

A Helping Hand :

We are happy to pass on this message of thanks received through the parish council website:

“On the evening of Tuesday 12 October, one of my colleagues, Maria (travelling from Essex), got lost trying to find Stanton House for an overnight stay ready for a team meeting the following day. She knocked on a door and the incredibly kind occupant not only took time to explain where Stanton House was, but actually led her to the house by driving ahead. She arrived around 10pm. The following day Maria went to look for the house she called at to say thank you, but was unable to find it.

If this was you - thank you so much for helping.”

Eddy McDowall

Oxfordshire Association of Care Providers

eddy.mcdowall@oacp.org.uk

Village Christmas Tree

Plans are under way for a village Christmas tree this year on the Millennium Green, as a focal point for some welcome get-togethers during the festive season. Many thanks to all those working to make this happen.

Queen's Jubilee Year 2022

The Parish Council is also starting to consider possible ways to celebrate the Queen's platinum jubilee next year. This might for instance be a village picnic or street party, probably on Sunday 5 June, at the end of the special four-day bank holiday weekend. There is also a national tree-planting scheme under way, the Queens' Green Canopy, which seems worth considering. Other ideas are welcome! Please send to stantonstjohnpc@gmail.com or phone the clerk on 07708 307747.

Playground inspections

The playground behind the village hall is inspected comprehensively once a year and checked at least once every month. If you notice anything that needs fixing, please let the Parish Council know by email at stantonstjohnpc@gmail.com or by phoning the clerk on 07708 307747.

(continued over)

**PARISH CLERK VACANCY - 10 HRS/WEEK, WELL PAID
FLEXIBLE HOURS, MOSTLY FROM HOME**

SSJ PC is looking for a new **Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer**, to start as soon as possible. The Clerk provides clerical and administrative support for councillors, and manages the council's accounts and financial records.

Training is available on specific aspects of the role.

Familiarity with the area is an advantage, but it's not necessary to live in Stanton St John, providing you are able to visit the village once or twice per month for meetings.

- Are you happy to work independently, mainly at home?
- Do you have excellent oral & written communication skills?
- Are you proficient with Word & basic Excel functions?

If so, and you are interested or have any questions, please contact Andrew Clark, Chair of SSJ Parish Council, on 01865 351615, by Monday 22 November at the latest.

Covid Support Network

Many thanks to all the volunteers on our Contacts and Helpers lists who have agreed to keep this network in place through the winter months. Updated lists will be circulated in the parish as soon as they are complete.

SSJ Transport Representative

Thanks to John Battye, SSJ Transport Representative, for keeping the parish council updated on Oxfordshire County Council transport policies. He has kindly shared his contact details in case anyone has any questions on this area: john.battye1@gmail.com, or 01865 358984.

The Traffic Working Group has met and is exploring what practical options there are for addressing the priority concerns identified in the survey, as reported earlier this year. We will be meeting shortly with OCC Highways department and Tim Bearder, our SODC and OCC councillor, and will then formulate specific proposals and present these to parish residents for further consultation.

Large trucks on village roads

If you see a heavy vehicle driving on weight-restricted roads in SSJ which you think should not be there, and you can provide details, you can report this directly online at <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/business/trading-standards/weight-restriction-enforcement>, or the Parish Council can follow it up if you send a photo, time & date, registration number of the vehicle and (ideally) the name of the company to stantonstjohnpc@gmail.com.

Brown bins

In response to residents' concerns about the suspension of garden waste collections, we asked SODC to provide a skip for green waste in the car park on a specific day. This was under consideration but as subscribers will be aware the regular collection service has now been restarted. Since this will initially be every four weeks, rather than fortnightly, SODC is allowing twice the usual amount, with the extra waste to be placed in cardboard boxes, old compost bags or bin bags. For any questions please contact SODC at gardenwaste@southandvale.gov.uk or by phone on 01235 422600.

Stanton St John W.I.

Stanton St John WI celebrate their 99th birthday on Tuesday 16 November. We plan to have a lunchtime meal at the Talkhouse but will inform members of the arrangements closer to the date.

We are also delighted to resume our **Coffee Mornings on Saturday 20 November**. Residents from the four villages are very welcome, and it is hoped that this first get together since lockdown will be the start of a regular entry in your diaries.

Coffee, tea or soft drinks and seasonal mince pies and shortbread will be served from 10.30am until 12.30pm. This may be a chance to catch up with friends and neighbours that you have missed seeing due to covid restrictions. We certainly look forward to seeing you all again.

Further details from stantonstjohnwi.@oxfordshirewi.co.uk.

Stanton Film Club, Saturday 11 December

Save the date for the next meeting of the Film Club. Look out for details in the December magazine.



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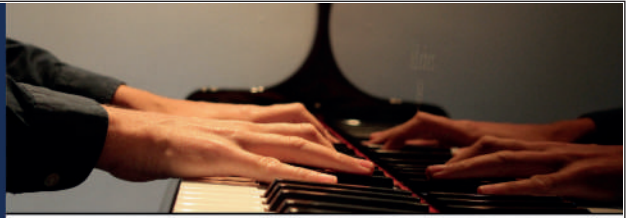
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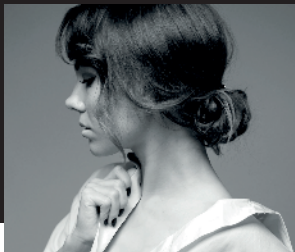
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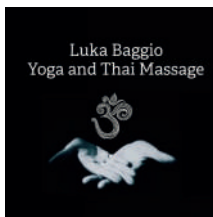
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Remembrance Sunday 14 November 2021



Services and Events in the Four Parishes



Time	Place	Description of Event
9.30am	Stanton St John Church	Service of Holy Communion and Act of Remembrance.
10.45am	Beckley Churchyard	Act of Remembrance in the Churchyard, followed immediately by a service of Morning Prayer in church.
10.45am	Horton-cum-Studley Churchyard	Act of Remembrance in the Churchyard, followed immediately by a service of Morning Prayer in church.
10.45am	Forest Hill War Memorial	Act of Remembrance by the War Memorial in the Cemetery, followed immediately by a service of Morning Prayer in church.
4pm	Online via Zoom	Service of Remembrance (contact anthea@fourparishes.org.uk for an invitation).
6pm	Forest Hill Church	'Far from Home' Concert in aid of the British Legion Poppy Appeal (see page 22)

