

The Four Parishes News Magazine

BECKLEY
FOREST HILL
HORTON-cum-STUDLEY
STANTON St JOHN



Crocuses in Bury Knowle Park, 17 February 2018

March 2018



The editor writes:

This month's magazine has turned out to be a bumper issue with some interesting articles, including a double page spread on recent activities at Beckley School, some important information from Councillor Walsh about possible routes for the proposed 'Oxford to Cambridge Expressway', one of which would have a direct impact on our four parishes. There is also a wealth of information about forthcoming concerts and events and you will find details of a wide range of activities in each of our villages during March.

We also welcome some new advertisers this month and I would encourage you to browse through the pages at the back of the magazine to discover the variety of services on offer from local businesses.

Since I took over as editor, I have become more aware of the many volunteers who support this magazine by giving generously of their time. In addition to the 'Content Providers' listed on the opposite page, there are several people involved in the highly efficient distribution system that gets the magazine to your door at the beginning of the month. We are extremely grateful to all of them.

Julia Stutfield

Our cover photo ...

was taken by Peter Stutfield, who lives in Forest Hill.

**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.
Please send them to:**

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The closing date for the next issue is 15th March 2018

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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Letter from the Vicarage

God never stops telling us how much He loves us, and mercifully He also has shown us and tells us what is best for us. Jesus showed us by washing the disciples' feet that He came to earth as a servant leader, and He spoke of all that we can do to enrich our lives and the lives of others.

When asked what was most important in life Jesus was clear that we should love God and love others. But how can we love God and do anything for Him? Jesus said that as we love and care for others so we are showing love and care for Him. He highlighted helping those in greatest need:

Feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, welcoming strangers, clothing those needing clothes, visiting the sick and those in prison. Jesus said that when we care for others like that we are showing care for Him.

On the 18th March we have our Tearfund Sunday Service and Tear Fund lunch in Horton-cum-Studley. Do come and join us as we make this a special Sunday in our lives, a Sunday that will make a difference in the lives of those around the world who are needier than us. All are most welcome. Come to the service and/or to the lunch and be a part of us all showing our love for God and for others in the world.

Let me also warmly invite everyone to come to a service over the Easter period and remember how God has shown His love for all of us.

All best and blessings,

Andrew

Save the date - Invitation from Deirdre Young

Saturday 5 May 2018, 3 pm - 5 pm

Please come for tea and cake in Stanton St John Village Hall to celebrate my 80th birthday (just bring yourselves, no presents or cards).

Church Services in the Four Parishes, 1 - 25 March 2018

	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
4 Mar	11am Parish Communion	9.30am Parish Communion	9.30am Family Service	11am Morning Prayer
		4pm Family Service (Village Hall)		
		6pm Taize		
11 Mar Mothering Sunday	9.30am Mothering Sunday Service at Stanton St John		9.30am Mothering Sunday Service	11am Mothering Sunday Service
	4pm Evening Prayer (Book of Common Prayer)			
18 Mar	11am Morning Prayer (Book of Common Prayer)	9.30am Parish Communion	11am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)	11am Tearfund Service & Lunch
			6pm Iona Evening Service	
25 Mar	10am Joint Benefice Service at Horton-cum-Studley			
		7pm Church without Walls (Village Hall)		

Church Services in the Four Parishes, 26 March - 1 April 2018

	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
26 Mar		8pm Compline		
27 Mar			8pm Compline	
28 Mar				6.30pm Cantata
29 Mar Maundy Thursday	7.30pm Holy Communion			
30 Mar Good Friday	2pm Reflection	12 noon Reflection	12 noon Reflection	2pm Reflection
1 Apr Easter Sunday	11am Parish Communion	9.30am Parish Communion	9.30am Parish Communion	11am Parish Communion

Additional Information

Mothering Sunday services in all churches on 11 March are an opportunity for the whole family to come and say a big 'thank you' to mums who work so hard throughout the year and to think of those who are far away or no longer with us. Flowers will be provided for distribution to all.

During the four days leading up to Good Friday on 30 March, each of our four parish churches has something special to offer, ranging from **Compline**, a simple service of quietness and reflection at the end of the day, to a beautiful and moving sung **Cantata by Dietrich Buxtehude**, and the **Communion Service for Maundy Thursday**, which focuses on Christ's final hours with his disciples before the ordeal of his betrayal, arrest and crucifixion. Everyone is welcome to all of these events and services - see the schedule above for times and places.

CHURCH NOTICE BOARD

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The APCM will be held on Wednesday 25 April in the Millennium Hall, Horton-cum-Studley at 7.30pm for 8.00pm. All four parishes will be meeting there together for the vicar's report and separately for their own parish business. Refreshments will be available at the start. If you wish to be able to vote at that meeting you need to be on the electoral roll of one of our four churches (*see next item*).

Church Electoral Roll

If you are already on the Electoral Roll for one of the churches in our four parishes, you do NOT need to complete a new form this year. If your name is not currently on the roll but you would like it to be included then you must complete an application form. To qualify for membership you must be living in the parish or be a regular worshipper at the church concerned. For further information and forms, please contact Rev'd Andrew Pritchard-Keens or a Church Warden (see contact details for each church on page 4).

GENERAL NOTICES

Lost painting

I paint every Tuesday at the Village Hall in Stanton St John. On Tuesday 23 January I arrived home without my painting and the only explanation I have, is that I put it on the car roof before driving home, and it must have fallen off, either in Boults Lane, or somewhere along the road towards Oxford which I took and then via Elsfield. I am offering £20 for the safe return of my painting if anyone found it. 01865 515453

Heather King



The Otmoor Flyer

The Otmoor Flyer is the name of a sixteen-seater bus which serves four of the Otmoor villages. This initiative came about after standard bus services were discontinued due to the austerity cuts in funding.



The Otmoor Flyer serves Horton-cum-Studley and Beckley on Tuesdays and Fridays, and Forest Hill and Stanton St John on Mondays and Thursdays. It is thanks to the hard work of a group of Parish Council representatives from each of the villages that this very valuable bus service has been procured. Although it is a fairly limited service, leaving at 10.30am and returning from Oxford (in Broad Street) at 1.15pm, it is invaluable for members of these rural communities who, for one reason or another, don't drive a car. At £3 for a return ticket, it is also a lot cheaper than taking a taxi in and out of Oxford.

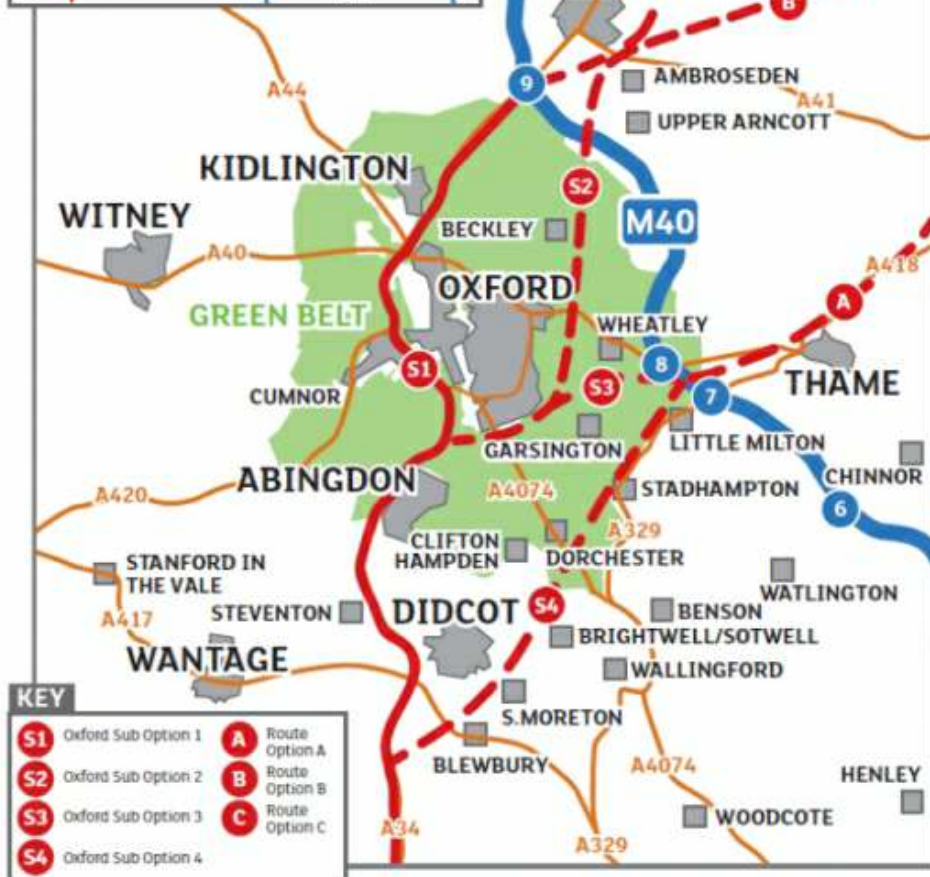
A Bus Token Card with 5 return journeys costs £15, 10 return journeys - £30 and 20 return journeys - £60. Cards can be purchased at Stanton St John Village Shop (01865 351532), from Jill Meyjes, 12 Forge Close, Horton cum Studley (01865 351496), Dee Hazell, The Old Chapel, High Street, Beckley (01865 358809) and Malcolm Leeding, 86 Mickle Way, Forest Hill.

I would strongly urge as many parishioners as possible to purchase a Bus Token Card, whether you use the bus regularly or not, as the service needs to be heavily subsidised for it to survive. All four Parish Councils have given financial support to enable the Otmoor Flyer to run as it does. Those who use the bus benefit not only from the freedom it provides them to go into Headington or Oxford City Centre, but also to socialise with friends and acquaintances on a regular basis. For example, the Flyer is available to take villagers from Horton-cum-Studley to the regular coffee morning at the community pub in Beckley on Fridays.

I commend the following people for their hard work on this project: Jill Meyjes, John Battye, Malcolm Leeding, David Polgreen, Barbara Jewell, Ann Purse and Dee Hazell. It's a real pleasure to take over from Dee as the treasurer for the Otmoor Flyer Organising Group. We've all agreed that, until a regular bus service is restored, the Otmoor Flyer is fulfilling a vital need, especially for people who would otherwise be stuck at home.

Kate MacFarlane

OXFORD TO CAMBRIDGE EXPRESSWAY POTENTIAL ROUTES



Proposed Oxford to Cambridge Expressway

The Department for Transport has pledged to create an 'Expressway', i.e. a dual carriageway from Oxford to Cambridge. The Expressway is designed to support a proposed 'Growth Corridor' stretching from Oxford via Milton Keynes to Cambridge, which is to deliver 1 million new houses in the area by 2050. Work on the Expressway is due to start by 2025.

Route S2 of the proposed Expressway would severely affect the parishes of Forest Hill, Stanton St John, Beckley, Horton-cum-Studley, Murcot and Fencott. Although the exact route has not been published it would spur off the A34 between Abingdon and Oxford, go past Garsington, across Shotover, between Sandhills and Forest Hill and through Stanton St John. It would certainly destroy parts of Rectory Farm, possibly Woodperry House and then cross the Horton Road east of Beckley near Beckley Park. It would then cross parts of Otmoor between Murcot and Fencott, and meet the M40 to the south of Bicester. This route is remarkably similar to one of the proposed routes for the M40, which was rejected.

The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) Oxfordshire is campaigning for a public inquiry into the Oxford-Cambridge 'Growth Corridor' and 'Expressway', so that decisions are open and transparent. The Oxfordshire Expressway Action Group [EAG] has been formed to oppose all the southerly routes (CPRE have produced a useful map, reproduced on the opposite page, showing these on their web site - <http://www.cpreoxon.org.uk/campaigns>) and we have submitted evidence through them.

Locally, I want to encourage our parishes to work together specifically to oppose route S2. The decision will be made on which 'corridor' this summer. I will discuss this with each Parish Council and then hold a meeting so we can work together to oppose route S2.

Cllr John Walsh, Forest Hill and Holton Ward, SODC

A Feast of Music

Three out of our four churches are hosting one or more concerts during March, with a variety of performers, including the Oxford Welsh Male Voice Choir and the Choir of Lincoln College, Oxford.

Most concerts are free with a retiring collection but tickets for the Oxford Welsh Male Voice Choir will be available from Stanton St John Village Shop. The three Sunday afternoon concerts at St Nicolas are followed by tea and home-made cake.

Lincoln College Choir, St. Nicolas Church, Sun 4 Mar, 3pm



The choir of Lincoln College makes a welcome return to St Nicolas, Forest Hill, for a recital of choral and organ music featuring repertoire from their forthcoming tour to Malta.

The choir holds a reputation as one of the finest mixed-voice chapel choirs at the University of Oxford and we are delighted that they have agreed to take precious time out during term to come and sing for us.

Pergolesi 'Stabat Mater', St Nicolas Church, Sun 11 Mar, 3pm

Julia Stutfield (soprano) and organist Claire Woodham, are performing Pergolesi's moving 'Stabat Mater' again this year, together with Pippa Thynne (alto). This lyrical setting of the traditional Latin text addressed to Mary at the foot of the cross was composed by Italian composer Giovanni Battista Pergolesi not long before his death in 1736 and has been popular ever since.

As with all Sunday afternoon concerts at St Nicolas, the programme will last about 45 minutes, after which tea and cake will be served.

Oxford Welsh Male Voice Choir, Beckley Church, Sat 17 Mar, 7pm

Concert by the Oxford Welsh Male Voice Choir and friends with accompanying items, and refreshments in the interval. **Tickets, £10, available from the Abingdon Arms, or on the door.** Profits in aid of Médecins sans Frontières.



The concert was suggested by the choir themselves, in memory of Lyn Davies, who lived in Beckley for many years and was a keen member of the choir.

Gesualdo 'Tenebrae', St. Nicolas Church, Sun 18 Mar, 3pm

Carlo Gesualdo was an Italian prince, born in the south of Italy around 1561, who is best known for having murdered his wife and her lover. He composed a number of unaccompanied vocal pieces, in which he experimented with word painting through extremes of harmony. The St Nicolas Consort, under the direction of Marie Power, will perform some of the 'Tenebrae Responsories' for Holy Saturday which contain many vivid examples of his unique and extraordinary musical style.

Buxtehude Cantata, St Barnabas Church, Wed 28 Mar, 6.30pm

'Membra Jesu nostri' (The Limbs of our Jesus) is a cantata by Dietrich Buxtehude composed in 1680. It is divided into 7 parts each addressing a different part of Christ's crucified body: feet, hands, sides, breast, heart and face. The mediaeval Latin text is full of sorrow and love and the music is poignant and beautiful.

The cantata will be performed by a group of 10 solo singers brought together by Julia Stutfield and Marie Power for this occasion.

'More than a pub' programme at the Abingdon Arms

*Thursday 1 March, 3.30 - 4.30pm: **Children's After-School Activity Café** -*

Primarily intended for Beckley Primary School pupils, who must be accompanied by parent or carer. Mosaic-making with Becky Paton, cost £3.50 per mosaic for materials. Please book place with Aimee Butterfield at aimeebutts1@yahoo.co.uk

*Friday 2 March, 10.00 - 11.30am: **Community coffee morning** -* Coffee and biscuits £2, but espresso coffees and cake available too. This is an opportunity to meet old and new friends and neighbours from all our villages.

*Sunday 4 March, 7.00 - 8.30pm: **Literary presentation*** - 'John Ruskin's autobiography, Praeterita' by Prof Robert Hewison, Lancaster University.*

*Tuesday 6th March, 12.30pm: **Women of Beckley lunch.***

*Wednesday 7 March, 12.30pm: **Men of Beckley lunch.*** Of course, the women and men of other villages may use the pub for their social meetings too!

*Sunday 11 March, 6.30 - 8.30pm: **Folk music evening*** -* an Acoustic 'sing-around': bring your instruments and your voices, or just come to listen; An informal gathering and (mainly traditional) folk music. No entry charge.

*Tuesday 13 March, 2.30 - 4.30pm: **Table games** -* Games may include Jenga, scrabble, bridge, backgammon, chess; children's games may be added. Do come along, with your games set and a partner if you wish.

*Thursday 15 March, 3.30 - 4.30pm: **Children's After-School Activity Café** -* as above (1st March)

*Sunday 18 March, 6.30 - 8.30pm: **Jazz session*** -* Kevin Armstrong (guitar), Mark Hodgson (bass), Mark Doffman (drums). No entry charge, but wine will be raffled.

*Saturday 31 March, 10.30am - 12.00/12.30pm: **Easter community walk** -* 5 miles or 3 miles. Meet outside the pub, and then return after walk for drink / lunch.

* Drinks and delicious hand-made bar snacks available for sale at Sunday evening sessions.

Further information about programme on website www.bacbs.org
or contact Mike Hobbs at mike.jd.hobbs@gmail.com

FOREST HILL

News from St. Nicolas Church

Please see **pages 6 and 7** for details of all church services during March.

Thanks to Derek Jewell who kindly came to play the organ for Candlemas on 28 January and to Julia Stutfield who led the St. Nicolas Choir. If you enjoy singing and are interested in joining the choir, please contact Julia Stutfield on 07766 103427.

Our morning service on Mothering Sunday (11 Mar) is at Stanton St John so posies of flowers will be distributed at our Evening Prayer service at 4pm.

Sunday 25 March is Daffodil Day and 'Antiques Roadshow' at Shotover House, Wheatley, 2 – 4.30pm, by kind invitation of Alexander and Camilla Stanier. This annual opportunity to visit the private grounds of Shotover House is not to be missed. The whole family can enjoy a short walk around the grounds, followed by tea or coffee and home-made cake. There is disabled access, and dogs (on leads please) are welcome. Once again Holloways Auctioneers will be in attendance to give expert valuations of your antiques and collectables in return for a nominal fee. You can even bring photographs of furniture or other bulky items to find out more about their provenance. Gifts of cakes and produce to sell on the day are also most welcome; contact Jane Walker on 01865 872399.

Entry to Daffodil Day is £3 per adult or £10 for a party of 4 adults which includes free parking. There is no charge for children as long as they are accompanied by an adult. **Tickets are available** on the day or you can pre-book them with a credit or debit card **on our website** at www.stnicolasforesthill.org/shop.

Don't forget the clocks also go forward on 25 March.

On **Saturday 31 March we will be decorating the church for Easter** from 10.30am. New helpers are most welcome. Just turn up, and bring some flowers if you can, refreshments provided.

Forest Hill with Shotover Parish Council

Village Clean Up – 3 March

The Parish Council in conjunction with SODC are supporting the Great British Spring Clean. If you can spare a couple of hours on Saturday 3 March from 10am – 1pm then please meet at the Village Hall, Forest Hill. Litter pickers, gloves and bags will be provided, however if you have your own gloves and equipment that would be great. We aim to target the three roads into the village and the recreation ground. If you require any more information please contact the Clerk whose details are below.

There is no Parish Council meeting during March. The next meeting of the Council will be a brief one following on from the Annual Parish Meeting which is to be held on Thursday 5 April at 7pm in the Village Hall. The Annual Parish Meeting is where clubs and groups from within the Parish are invited to attend and give a brief update of what they have been doing throughout the year. All parish residents are welcome to attend.

You can contact Helen Cross, the Parish Council Clerk on email: foresthillwithshotoverpc@gmail.com or tel: 0844 884 3328. The website address is: www.parishcouncil.com/foresthillwithshotover/

Current Agendas and Minutes are posted on the two notice boards; outside the Village Hall and at the end of Mickel Way. Archive Agendas and Minutes can be found on the website.

<p>Health and wellbeing for the over 60s at Forest Hill Village Hall</p> <p>To book contact: Conor Grogan on 07717 326660 conor.grogan@southandvale.gov.uk</p> <p> <small>Listening Learning Leading</small></p> <p> </p>	<p>Activity : Senior Circuits When: Tuesday 13 March 2018 Time: 10.30 am – 11.30 am Price: £5</p> <p>Activity : Tai Chi When: Wednesday 14 March 2018 Time: 2 pm – 3 pm Price: £5</p>
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HORTON-cum-STUDLEY

News from St Barnabas Church

Please see **pages 6 and 7** for details of all church services during March.

Tearfund Service & Lunch

Please join us at the **Tearfund Lunch on Sat 18 March** at 12.15pm in the Millennium Hall and help provide funds to support Ethiopian Christians. The offering from the morning service at 11.00am will also be given to help fund the project.

Tearfund Project Report, February 2018

Our contributions are enabling Ethiopian Christians to organise people from poor families into self-help groups. They work mainly with women from the poorest families in urban areas who require support on a number of fronts including literacy and education & training on HIV & AIDS, health, hygiene and sanitation.

3723 people have been trained this last year in health and hygiene! Here's how: 7 workshops were held and 9 consulting support workshops, which were delivered for 3 self-help groups working on means to prevent disease. In total, 72 people were trained, among them 13 women. All trained facilitators then delivered their own training to other groups on a weekly basis to achieve the remarkable total of 3273.

The self-help group members are also starting to put into action the things they have learnt: building toilets, water taps, digging pits for rubbish, and using boiling water. This is so encouraging to see!

Baa Swindells

With great sadness we heard that Baa passed away peacefully in her sleep on Mon 29 Jan, age 96. Baa grew up in the village on Manor Farm and returned to the Alms Houses in her later life. Baa's funeral will be on Sat 10 March, 2pm at St Barnabas Church and afterwards at The Millennium Hall. All are most welcome. Baa's wishes were for no wreaths, please. She always enjoyed a few simple stems from friend's own gardens. Donations to Helen House Children's Hospice, in memory of her only grandchild, Beatrice Carr. A portion of these will be gifted to R.O.S.Y. (Respite Nursing for Oxfordshire's Sick Youngsters).

Parish Council

This month's meeting will be held on Thurs 8 March at 7.30pm in the Millennium Hall. All residents are invited to attend and may raise any issues at the beginning of the meeting.

The **Annual Village Spring Clean will take place from 9 - 12 March** . We do urge residents to litter pick from around their section of the village. Pickers and sacks may be collected from the drive of our Parish Clerk's house, Kimber, Horton Hill during this period. Filled sacks of rubbish should be deposited in her drive to be collected by Cherwell District Council after the 12 March.

We are applying for a **grant to purchase a cardiac defibrillator**. For a successful application we must train a number of residents. If you are interested please contact Alexia Lewis on 01865 351025.

Coffee and Chat

The next **Social Coffee Morning will be held on 10 March** at 10.30am in the Millennium Hall. We will finish very promptly due to a hall booking later in the day. Everyone welcome. Further details from Rachel Hawes on 01865 351540.

Women's Institute

The **next meeting will be held on Tuesday 13 March** at 7.45pm in the Millennium Hall and will take the form of an Annual General Meeting. We do urge members to attend, as we need to talk about the future and re-elect officers. After the business section we will have a social session with refreshments. We welcome all ladies in the village and further details can be obtained from the President Barbara Jewell on 01865 351315.

Gardening Club

Our **next meeting will be held on Tues 20 March** at 8.00pm in the Millenium Hall when Avril Hughes will talk about " Iran- flora and more". Visitors are very welcome. (£3.00 if you are not a member). This year the club will be helping Beckley School to develop its garden- we hope to inspire a new generation of gardeners. If you have any questions about the plants in your garden, the gardening club is happy to help. Just contact the chairman, Susan Burge on 01865 351310.

Horton cum Studley Gardens open for NGS Charities

Sun 8 April and Sun 17 June Hilltop Cottage and Upper Green (2 -5pm)

Sun 2 Sept Upper Green (2 – 5.30pm)

For more information about our programme see the website:

www.horton-cum-studley.org.uk/community/clubs/

Social Night at Studley Wood Golf Club

On the last Friday of each month a number of locals join together at Studley Wood Golf Club for a social evening which includes a meal. If you are new to the area it is a great way of meeting others. A notice is normally put out on The Green the week before as a reminder and if you email Iveta (Manager) at iveta@studleywoodgolfclub.co.uk she will send you the menu choice. If you need any more information ring Ruth on 01865 351444.

Wanted!! Otmoor Challenge Fête Coordinator

We urgently need someone to take on the job of Fête Coordinator for the Otmoor Challenge on Saturday 2 June. The job requires some work between now and then, but can mostly be done by phone/ email. The Coordinator will be a member of the Otmoor Challenge Association (OCA) Committee. Meetings are likely to be held 2/3 times between now and 2 June. The job could be done by a small group.

The main responsibilities are to liaise with stallholders and voluntary organisations (e.g RSPB) to arrange their stall spaces and to ensure the smooth running of the fete on the day. (The Coordinator has no responsibility for car parking, bar, PA system, First Aid, runner and walker activities, WI teas, Evening Bash and Pig Roast.) The children's entertainment in the central area (go-karts, bouncy castle etc) have already been booked, and is run entirely by their proprietors. The Wantage Silver Band is already booked!

Could you take on this important job and help the Otmoor Challenge continue in its 39th year? This is the biggest event in the Horton-cum-Studley community year. If you would like to talk in more detail, please phone Andrew Pennington, chairman of the OCA, on 01865 358800.

STANTON ST JOHN

Stanton St John Parish Council

The Parish Council is closely monitoring the preliminary plans surrounding the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway. One of the potential routes is planned to come very close to Stanton St John, crossing Otmoor to link to the M40. *(See article on pages 10 - 11)*

The Council had a meeting on 19 January which included the usual deliberations over Planning Applications and village maintenance. We decided to donate £250 to the Maple Tree Children's Centre in Wheatley which serves our area and will soon no longer receive County Council funding. The Council also donated £75 to the Campaign to Protect Rural England.

By the time you read this, the Council should have a new Parish Clerk and we will publish our new postal address in the next Newsletter. Meanwhile you can contact us at stantonstjohnnpc@gmail.com and see council documents including minutes and agendas at www.parish-council.com/stantonstjohn

Stanton St John WI

Stanton St John WI will hold their **Annual Meeting on Tuesday 20 March** at 7.30pm. This is the time for electing our Committee and President and also an evening of relaxation, catching up, a quiz and a Bring and Buy in aid of ACWW (when we raise funds to support women world wide). We look forward to seeing all our members.

Don't Miss the Coffee Morning!

All villagers from **Stanton St John and the other parishes** are welcome to join us at our Coffee Morning on **Saturday 10 March from 10am-12 noon.**

We plan to provide tea and coffee and cake and an opportunity to sit down and chat to neighbours and friends and perhaps stock up on your supply of home-made cakes.



Stanton Village Hall

March 4th

4:00 - 5:30pm

Activities designed to entertain and tell children about the teaching of Jesus: treasure hunts, crafts, singing and dancing, story time and games.

Includes dinner for the children

*Please email Jo Allen for any further information:
contactjoallen@gmail.com*

Stanton St John Parents and Toddlers

Stanton St John Parents and Toddlers meets on alternate Thursday mornings for coffee and cake in the village hall between 10.30am and 12 noon. Our dates in March are:

March 8 and March 22

Please do pop in and join us. For more details contact Fenella
fenellapritchard@icloud.com

Annual Spring Clean of SSJ roads

We plan to do our **annual litter picking campaign on Saturday 17 March** starting at 10am at the Village Hall. A couple of hours concerted effort makes a huge impact on the verges and general environment. Come and join us - your own stout footwear and gardening gloves required, but litter picking tool and High Viz jacket supplied by SODC.

Stanton Strollers

We will be meeting outside Beckley Village Hall at 2.30pm on Wednesdays from 21 February for 6 weeks before returning to Stanton. Enjoy yourself while improving your health. These very sociable walks with Stanton Strollers are suitable for Nordic walkers of all ages and levels of ability. For more information contact Joy Morris -
feldenkrais.oxford@gmail.com

BECKLEY

St Mary's Church

Please see **pages 6 and 7** for details of all church services during March.

We shall be decorating the church on Good Friday afternoon, 30 March, starting at about 2 pm. If you would like to help, do come along. Everyone is very welcome. If you have any flowers or greenery you could bring, that would be much appreciated, but otherwise, just come!

Church Cobwebs!

If you have not looked inside the church recently, you will not have seen the wonderful transformation in the clerestory windows, which are now free of the terrible cobwebs! We are hugely grateful to Ian Bush and his colleague from Royal Oak Farm (the Oxfordshire Stove Company), who so kindly did the work.

Beckley Art Group

We continue to thrive with new members joining each term. It might be our reputation of the best coffee and chocolate biscuits to be had on Friday mornings (during term time) that swings it for some people but our opportunity to meet, advise and critique each other is very valuable. Fortunately due to the very generous size of the new village hall we can still welcome more 'would be' artists- come and try, we are in the hall 9.30am-1pm.

**Health and wellbeing
for the over 60s at
Beckley & Stowood
Village Hall**



To book contact:

**Conor Grogan on 07717 326660
conor.grogan@southandvale.gov.uk**



Activity : Feldenkrais (Taster)

When: Wednesday 7 March

Time: 2.30 pm – 3.30 pm

Price: Free

Activity : Tai Chi

When: Monday 12 March 2018

Time: 3 pm – 4 pm

Price: £5

Activity : Pilates

When: Thursday 15 March 2018

Time: 2 pm – 3 pm

Price: £6.50

Beckley and Stowood Parish Council

The March Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 1 March at 8.00pm at Beckley Village Hall.

Beckley and Stowood Neighbourhood Plan: the whole plan is available on Beckley and Stowood website – [www.beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk/parish council](http://www.beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk/parish_council). Hard copies are available at the Village Hall and The Abingdon Arms, Beckley. Any queries to Ginette Camps-Walsh 01865 351762 or camps.walsh@btinternet.com.

Minutes and agendas are available on the website www.beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk along with other Beckley news and information.

Information on the **village mini-bus service** – The Otmoor Flyer – can be found on the website www.beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk/parishcouncil. The mini-bus comes to Beckley on Tuesdays and Fridays and picks up at 10.40am from the bus stops. Tickets are available from Stanton St John Village Shop.

For information on the new Beckley Village Hall, please see www.beckleyvillagehall.org and to make a booking please contact Stuart Marshall, Booking Secretary at booking@beckleyvillage.org.

Friends of Beckley School

Friends of Beckley School (PTA) would like to say a huge thank-you to those who supported our recent successful Christmas tree sale. We are pleased to announce that this raised £799 which has been used to enhance the resources at Beckley School.

With the help of F.O.B.S. fundraising, last year Beckley School created and restocked an attractive and impressive new library.

Beckley School are now looking to further develop their IT suite. This is our main fundraising project for 2018. In this aim we would welcome any contributions or sponsorship. For more information please email: beckleyfobs@gmail.com

The Friends of Beckley School has charitable status which means donations may be tax deductible.

FOCUS ON : BECKLEY SCHOOL

Athletics

Fifteen pupils from Years 5 and 6 represented the school at The Wheatley Partnership Sports Hall Athletics tournament. The children showed great skill and commitment, recording some memorable wins and an overall team position of 4th place. Well done to all of our budding athletes.



Science Visits



Children in Skylark and Hobby Classes have continued to receive regular bi-weekly visits from the Structural Genomics Consortium (SGC). In a recent session, children manipulated the pH of different solutions, causing some very exciting and inspiring results, as can be seen in the photo.

SIAMS Mid-Term Review

All Church of England Dioceses use the framework for the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) under Section 48 of the Education Act 2005. Mrs Daly, from Oxford Diocesan Board of Education, recently visited Beckley to undertake a comprehensive mid-term review of our school. She observed Collective Worship, spent time in classrooms and talked to a Governor and groups of pupils from across the school. Mrs Daly's comments included: "there are good relationships between the church and school and the community and the school" and, possibly the most pleasing: "pupils speak very positively about the school and describe it both as a happy place and one big family."

Starling Murmuration

Alex in Hobby Class had the superb idea to take a group of fellow pupils to the RSPB reserve on Otmoor to witness the stunning daily starling murmuration. A huge thank you to Alex and Mr Davey for organising this spectacular and memorable event.



Apple Trees



Beckley Community Orchard kindly donated six young apple trees to school. The trees were grafted by members of the Orchard Team last year and have been cultivated until they were ready for use. Children of the School Council enjoyed planting the trees on the school field, which will be cherished for many years to come.

Beckley Pupils on the Radio

We welcomed some rather special visitors to school – Lilley Mitchel, a presenter with BBC Radio Oxford and Cas Lester, an acclaimed local author. They asked children from across the school questions about books they have recently read. The interviews formed part of the Lilley Mitchell Show that was broadcast 7th February.



Water into Wine



We are delighted that Reverend Andrew has continued with his weekly visits to Beckley School, leading worship and strengthening the links we have with the church. In this photo, children watched as water was turned into wine before their very eyes!

Schools Concert

Year 4 visited the Sheldonian Theatre in Oxford for the annual Schools Concert. The children learnt about the different instruments of the orchestra and relished in the opportunity to experience a range of entertaining classical pieces.

IMPS Visit

Year 6 travelled to the John Radcliffe Hospital to take part in the Injury Minimisation Programme for Schools (IMPS). This involved learning basic resuscitation, what to do if someone is choking or unconscious and how to prevent accidents happening in the first place, all valuable skills to have.



Real Easter Eggs



Despite Easter being one of the most important occasions in the Christian calendar, recent surveys show that nearly half the population does not associate Jesus with Easter, placing him fourth in relevance behind Easter eggs, hot cross buns and the Bank Holiday.

The Real Easter Egg 2018 campaign aims to reverse this trend by encouraging people to give an egg from The Meaningful Chocolate Co. which comes with a copy of the Easter story in the box, is made of Fairtrade chocolate and supports charitable projects.

Real Easter Eggs are distributed by Traidcraft and can be purchased from Headington Fairtrade, 104 London Rd, St Andrews Bookshop, St Clements and some supermarkets.

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