

The Four Parishes News Magazine

BECKLEY
FOREST HILL
HORTON-cum-STUDLEY
STANTON St JOHN



Rainbow, Summer 2020

December 2021/January 2022

The editor writes:



Incredibly, as we approach the end of 2021, I have completed my third year of editing this magazine. On the other hand, given that my predecessor did it for 15 years, I guess I am still a relative newcomer!

Fortunately, I still find it very rewarding, which is just as well, because there is a lot of work involved! Now that I have two wonderful Assistant Editors, I have no idea how I managed without them and of course there would be no point in doing it without the support of the various contributors and of the distributors, who tramp around in all weathers delivering magazines to everyone in our four wonderful villages.

We are truly grateful for the support of our many loyal advertisers and of course we need everyone to read and engage with the content as much as possible.

We have some exciting plans for 2022 which I will share as they come to fruition. Meanwhile it remains to wish you all a happy Christmas and a safe and peaceful New Year.

Julia Stutfield

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

Our cover photo ...

was taken by Julian Money.

Julian sent this stunning photo to us last year, and I have been saving it for the right moment. The rainbow has been a symbol of hope for thousands of years, so it is something to hold on to as we move into 2022.

If you have taken a photo which you think might be suitable for the cover of the next magazine, please email it to 4parishesnewsletter@gmail.com

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

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The closing date for the Feb 2022 issue is 15 Jan 2022

The Four Parishes News Magazine is produced under the auspices of our four village churches for the benefit of the whole community. It is funded by advertising revenue, which is used to cover the printing costs.

We are dependent on volunteers to assemble the content, book and invoice the advertisers, compile and edit the magazine, collect it from the printers and distribute it throughout the four parishes. If you are interested in getting involved, please email Julia at 4parishesnewsletter@gmail.com.

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

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**Assistant Editors: Jonathan Barker
Anthea Beresford**

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

To advertise in the magazine please email JULIA
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Church Services in the Four Parishes, December 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 |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| 5 Dec <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i> | 11am Holy Communion | 9.30am Holy Communion | 9.30am Holy Communion | 11am Morning Prayer |
| | 4pm St Nicolas Day Children's Service | 3.30pm All-age Advent Carol Service | | |
| | 6pm Taizé Service via Zoom | | | |
| 12 Dec <i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i> | 4pm Advent Carol Service (St Nicolas Choir) | 9.30am Morning Prayer | 9.30am Morning Prayer | 11am Holy Communion |
| | 11am Benefice Zoom Service | | | |
| 15 Dec (Wed) | 7pm Benefice Zoom: Looking for the Light | | | |
| 19 Dec <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i> | 11am Morning Prayer (BCP) | 6pm Carol Service | 6pm Carols & Claret | 3pm Carol Service |
| | 4.30pm Family Church Christmas Party Horton-cum-Studley Millenium Village Hall | | | |
| 21 Dec (Tue) | 7pm Nine Lessons & Carols at St Nicolas, Forest Hill | | | |
| 22 Dec (Wed) | 7pm Benefice Carol Service on Zoom | | | |
| 24 Dec (Fri) <i>Christmas Eve</i> | 4pm Crib Service | 4pm Crib Service | 4pm Messy Crib Service | 4pm Crib Service |
| | 11pm Holy Communion at Forest Hill | | 11pm Holy Communion at Horton-cum-Studley | |
| 25 Dec (Sat) <i>Christmas Day</i> | 10am Holy Communion at Stanton St John | | 10am Holy Communion at Beckley | |
| 26 Dec (Sun) | 11am Holy Communion Benefice Service at Forest Hill | | | |

Church Services in the Four Parishes, January 2022

| | St Nicolas, Forest Hill with Shotover | St John the Baptist, Stanton St John | Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Beckley | St Barnabas, Horton-cum- Studley |
|--|--|--|---|--|
| 2 Jan <i>Epiphany</i> | 11am Holy Communion | 9.30am Holy Communion | 9.30am Holy Communion | 11am Morning Prayer |
| | 4pm Children's Service | | | |
| | 6pm Taizé Service via Zoom | | | |
| 9 Jan <i>Baptism of Christ</i> | | 9.30am Holy Communion | 9.30am Morning Prayer | 11am Holy Communion |
| | 11am Benefice Zoom Service | | | |
| | 4pm Epiphany Carol Service at Forest Hill (St Nicolas Choir) | | | |
| | 4.30pm Messy Church Stanton St John Village Hall | | | |
| 16 Jan <i>2nd Sunday of Epiphany</i> | 11am Morning Prayer (BCP) | 9.30am Morning Prayer | 9.30am Holy Communion (BCP) | 11am Morning Prayer |
| | 6pm Iona Service at Beckley | | | |
| 23 Jan <i>3rd Sunday of Epiphany</i> | 10am Holy Communion Benefice Service at Beckley | | | |
| | 4.30pm Family Church Horton-cum-Studley Millennium Village Hall | | | |
| 30 Jan <i>Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)</i> | | 9.30am Holy Communion | 9.30am Morning Prayer | 11am Morning Prayer |
| | 6pm Candlemas (St Nicolas Choir) | | | |
| | 6pm Church Without Walls Stanton St John Village Hall | | | |

A letter from Anthea

Hi everyone,



Last week I had two most amazing walks around the fields with Bertie. Bertie had another dog for company, so he was incredibly happy! As you know, I walk quite a lot - not long distances I hasten to say, in case you get the idea I trample many miles a day!

So, what was so special about these walks? Well one was because I experienced the most beautiful sunset, which, as the saying goes, 'kept on giving'! It was one of those days when I timed the walk exactly right, and the sky looked as though it was on fire. It really made my heart sing, witnessing the beauty of the clouds and the sun. I marvelled at God's creation.

The other walk was so very peaceful. It was a beautiful bright day - a slight chill in the air, but dry overhead and underfoot. I think it was the peacefulness that especially struck me - it is wonderful meeting people and chatting - but this particular day had the specialness of being quiet, giving me the opportunity to ponder, to think and to pray. It is great getting away from the desk, to have the cobwebs blown away a little, and to have the space to let my mind wander.

I guess that because I was with the dogs, it made me ponder on life from

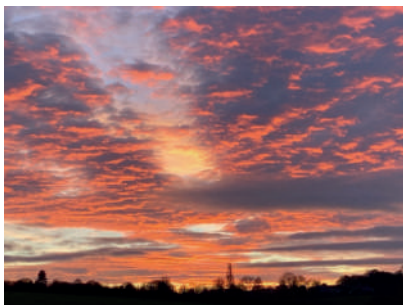


their perspective as I perceive it. Now, with everything, there is good and bad. And things are never quite as simple as we might like them to be. But I thought of Bertie - perhaps quite a lucky boy - and his life. It seems that, assuming they are well cared for, dogs live contented lives. They seem to 'live in the moment'.

When I get ready to leave the house, Bertie seems to recognise the signs, and tends to get into his bed, sighing a little, but resigned to what will happen. When I return home, without fail, he is pleased to see me! He does not seem to hold on to the fact I have been out and be sulky, he is simply pleased to have me back home. He seems to live in the present,

enjoying what he has at that time. I get no sense he is looking back on the past and my absence, or that he is looking ahead and concerned of a pending absence. He simply seems to live life in the present.

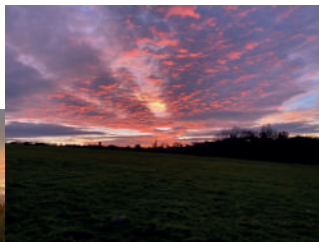
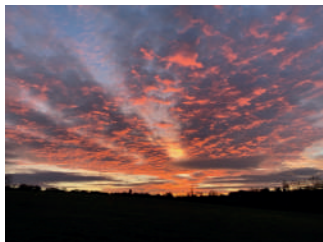
Now I am no dog psychologist, but this seems to me, in simple terms (and I acknowledge life is not always simple!) that that is a good way to try to live. We often have pains and hurt from the past, but holding on to them does not help us or make things any better. Being concerned about the future, when we do not know if our concerns will ever come to fruition, is not good for us either. Being in the present, coping with what life is throwing at us at that time, is probably more than enough for us.



We are about to enter Advent, the period of watching and waiting for the coming Messiah, and Christmas, when celebrate the birth of Jesus, the light of the world, the Word made flesh, Emmanuel, God with us. As we do this, may we try to live in the present, with Jesus as our guide, our mentor, and our help, as we face the struggles and difficulties of life. He has promised to be there for us - in the tough times and to share the joys of life too.

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 as we celebrate Christmas.

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

Covid and our churches over the Christmas period

We will continue to monitor the Covid situation and latest guidance from the Government and Church of England/Diocesan, but as we gather in greater numbers over the Christmas period, which is wonderful, social distancing becomes more difficult. We therefore strongly suggest that people consider wearing a mask while in the church buildings. There will be hand sanitiser available as you enter the building and during Holy Communion services, which we ask that you use. We also ask that you consider taking a lateral flow test before coming, and that you stay away if you are feeling unwell. Our buildings will be well ventilated, so please do wrap up especially warm. By following these precautions, we can gather in large numbers to celebrate Christmas in the many different ways we are planning in all our churches, and keep each other as safe as possible, in these continuing difficult times.

Remembrance Sunday

Acts of Remembrance and Remembrance Sunday Services took place on Sunday 14 November around the Benefice, as they did in towns and villages up and down the country, and further afield. The individual fallen soldiers from our parishes were each remembered by name, and crosses and wreaths were laid in their memories. Each year it is striking to hear the long list of names for such small villages - young men lost, never to return home. It was good to see so many villagers turning out to pay their respects, and to remember the sacrifice of others. It was wonderful to be joined by a horse and some dogs as well! Thanks to all those who read the names, led the services, played the organ, piano, recorder, trumpet and bugle, and for those who decorated the churches so beautifully, and made sure the churchyards looked their best for the day.

The day was rounded off with a concert in Forest Hill, entitled 'Far from Home', (see also page 28) which featured local musicians playing and

singing, with storytelling, poetry reading, and audience participation in singing well known wartime songs. Thank you to all those who made the evening possible.

Advent challenge and beyond

It seems staggering to think this endeavour started a whole year ago. Since then, many have been involved in reading various books of the Bible. Those still regularly reading are well into the Old Testament now. I hope those that read Isaiah in November enjoyed it, and I suggest the next book for us to tackle as we make our way through the prophets, is Jeremiah. There are 52 chapters. A suggestion is to read two chapters a day during the week, one on each day of the weekends, and give yourselves a day off on Christmas Day and Boxing Day! This will get you through the book in December.

I think it would also be great if we all thought about reading the Gospel of Luke again day by day during Advent, again starting on 1 December, ending on Christmas Eve. The Gospel of Luke is the Gospel the lectionary readings focus on in this coming year, so having it fresh in our minds, especially as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the light of the world, the Word made flesh, Emmanuel, God with us, on Christmas Day, would be an especially good thing. I look forward to hearing how you get on!

Please do not take on too much - this is supposed to be a good thing for us, and not a pressure for us to keep up.

Ongoing midweek activities on Zoom

We are continuing Morning and Evening Prayer and the Benefice Book Group on Zoom as detailed. The Book Group continues reading 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 | | | √ | |

Living in Love and Faith

What is this? A quote from the cover of the Living in Love and Faith book: *'Living in Love and Faith sets out to inspire people to think more deeply about what it means to be human and to live in love and faith with one another. It tackles the tough questions and the divisions among Christians about what it means to be holy in a society in which understanding and practices of gender, sexuality and marriage continue to change'*.

We are being encouraged by the Church of England, to engage in local conversations on these issues, so do please think about coming along, and being part of this.

What is involved? You are invited to take part in a **five-week course**, starting on **Tuesday 18 January at 7.30pm**, with each session lasting **1½** hours. We will meet in **Stanton Village Hall**, and there will be tea, coffee and biscuits to encourage conversation!

Where can I find more out about this? This link takes you to the Church of England resources produced to aid the conversations. <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/living-love-and-faith>. There is a lot of information for you to browse if you wish to, to learn more about the course and what is involved.

What happens next? Let Anthea know if you would like to take part in the course. There is no need to purchase or read the large Living in Love and Faith book, but others who have already undertaken the course suggest that each participant having a copy of the course booklet, priced at £4.99, is helpful (although not essential). Please let Anthea know if you would like a copy of the course booklet.

We are each invited to make our own response to our experience of attending the course, or by engaging with the Living in Love and Faith resources individually. The survey can be found here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LLFcourse>. We are also encouraged to report back on the experience of the course as a group.

Please do get in touch with Anthea if you have any questions.
anthea@fourparishes.org.uk Tel: 01865 351839

Church activities and families

We have some really exciting news to share. We are augmenting our already well-established Family Church activity for families with pre-school and primary school children, with two further activities. These will all take place on Sunday afternoon, and are open to everybody. Although the activities will be primarily designed for children, it would be great to have older people coming along as well, to share in the fun and worship. All these activities are monthly.

First Sunday of every month at 4pm:

Children's Service in St Nicolas Church, Forest Hill

For more information, please see page 27.

Second Sunday of every month at 4.30pm:

Messy Church

The first Messy Church will be on **Sunday 9 January 2022 in Stanton St John Village Hall**, but the hope is that we can move this around the different village halls, depending on availability. The activity will last around an hour. Parents need to accompany their children. There will be a Bible story and some gentle teaching and conversation about the story, a craft activity, music and food. Teas and coffees will be available for parents during the afternoon. We hope everyone will have fun, build supportive relationships with each other, learn about Jesus, and gently grow in their faith.

Fourth Sunday of every month at 4.30pm:

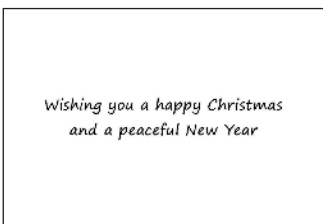
Family Church in Horton-cum-Studley Millenium Hall

This fabulous family-oriented café church will continue in Horton-cum-Studley Millennium Village Hall. The activity will last around an hour. It is a relaxed and fun worship for the whole family. All are welcome (no matter your level of faith or whether you are coming for the first time). There will be a Bible story and conversation about the story, a craft activity, fun live music, games and supper for the whole family. We hope everyone will have fun, build supportive relationships with each other, learn about Jesus, and gently grow in their faith.

Christmas cards for sale

The Four Parishes Benefice Christmas cards have arrived! And they look amazing! Thanks again to Lucie and Grace for their fantastic designs.

Packs of 10 cards for £3 can be ordered and paid for via the Four Parishes website at <https://www.fourparishes.org.uk/shop>. The message inside the cards is: 'Wishing you a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year'.



Individual cards can also be seen in Stanton Village Shop, and purchased for £1 each (cash only).

All proceeds go to the Four Parishes Benefice for the work of the churches in our communities.

When you order your cards online, you can arrange collection from a designated person in each of our villages. Cards will also be available to purchase in church before or after a service.

If you have any queries, please do get in touch with Julia Stutfield or Anthea.

2023 Benefice Calendar

Thank you to Kate MacFarlane from Horton-cum-Studley, who has already submitted some lovely photographs for the 2023 calendar. Please get photographing and email your entries in to Julia Stutfield at 4parishesnewsletter@gmail.com by the end of each month from now on and throughout 2022. All the chosen photographs will be credited in the calendar, which will be sold in aid of the churches in the benefice.

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.

* * * * *

GENERAL

Situations Vacant

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

Stanton St John Parish Council 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.

Starting salary: £15 per hour (approx. 10 hours per week) to be reviewed after second-year appraisal; plus administrative and travel expenses.

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, ph: 01865 351615. The post is vacant at the time of writing, but will be filled as soon as we find the right person.

Beckley Village Hall Booking Clerk Sought



Flexible hours and working from home. Part time post approximately 25 hours per month managing online booking system (Hallmaster), salary to be confirmed. Candidate should have good interpersonal skills, competency in IT systems including email, MS word, MS Excel and web browsing.

Reply to: booking@beckleyvillagehall.org.

Closing date Friday 17 December.

Have your say

COP26 - Why working in the UK Government climate unit changed my mind about the chances of success of the Glasgow climate deal

Will Blyth moved to Forest Hill in 2009. He has spent almost 2 years working part-time with the UK team that led the negotiations leading up to COP26. Here, he gives an inside view of the campaign to accelerate the transition from coal to clean sources of electricity.

COP26 was the 26th instalment of the so-called 'Conference of the Parties'



to the international climate treaty. These annual events attract representatives of virtually every country in the world plus companies, financial institutions, NGOs, youth groups, community groups and media. This time it was the UK's turn to host, and Glasgow was a particularly big milestone.

It wasn't the last chance to save the planet as some were hyping, but it probably was the last chance to save the climate negotiation process. Agreed in Paris in 2015, this requires countries to make commitments to reduce emissions, then ratchet up the ambition of these pledges every five years. The pledges made at Paris would limit warming to around 2.7°C. Glasgow was the first test of whether countries would tighten ambitions.

Changes in fundamental economics and public attitudes in the past 6 years have tilted the playing field towards stronger action on climate change. I was surprised to observe that peer pressure was also an important factor, which seems to work at all levels of society from school playgrounds to global leaders' summits. Used well, it can make coalitions start to crumble. Each time someone breaks ranks, it leaves the remaining members of the group more exposed.

The UK team began cracking open these politically entrenched positions by introducing 'campaigns', working with smaller coalitions to accelerate progress in sectors like energy, transport and forests.

In the case of electricity, the campaign focused on accelerating the shift from coal power, responsible for 28% of global CO2 emissions, to clean

alternatives. The campaign focused on three areas: politics, finance and technical capacity. On politics, diplomacy resulted in 20 new countries signing up to commitments to accelerate transition from coal. On finance, agreement was reached by Japan, S. Korea and China, the main sources of international finance for coal power, to stop financial support for new coal plant in other countries. Technical assistance also helped build trust that countries would get the support they need to build clean alternatives to coal power.

I was particularly involved in preparing the “Green Grids Initiative - One Sun One World One Grid”, launched by India and UK PMs Modi and Johnson to accelerate the roll-out of the necessary grid infrastructure needed for clean energy.

These campaign outcomes also enabled inclusion of text on coal ‘phase-down’ in the final COP26 ‘Glasgow Declaration’. Although there was disappointment that the text was diluted at the last minute (from ‘phase-out’ to ‘phase-down’), such language is usually rejected outright by heavy coal-using nations. That the text survived negotiation at all is a step forward, being the first ever such reference in formal treaty text covering all countries of the world.



This plethora of sectoral deals makes success harder than usual to judge. Estimates of the overall impact on global warming range from 1.8-2.4°C depending on assumptions about how pledges are implemented. More needs to be done to ensure global temperatures remain well below 2°C (the target set in Paris). But prospects look a lot healthier than they did 6 years ago. With this level of warming, there will still be adverse impacts, but it now looks much more likely that we will be able to avert worst-case scenarios. That surely is grounds for optimism. Now the hard work starts of ensuring that the pledges not only get tightened over time, but more importantly get implemented in practice. We all have a role to play in holding leaders, companies and ourselves to account in achieving this.

Will Blyth

'Robins - a cute image hides a feisty nature'

by Lyn Ebbs

What could be more appropriate for December than the image of a fluffed-up robin redbreast? But 'red' breast? It certainly isn't a colour that



you would find under red on a colour chart. Well, when we named robins, we didn't have a word for orange - 'red' covered every shade between yellow and purple. Orange, as a colour, arrived here with the fruit in the 15th century. An alternative name for the bird, which better described this rusty orange, was 'ruddock' - Chaucer refers to the 'tame ruddok' in his

'Parlement of Fowles'. But redbreast seems to have stuck and, like other birds closely associated with humans - Jack Daw and Mag(gie) Pie, they acquired a nickname, too: Robin. It's a diminutive of Robert and was a name given to our favourite outlaw, Robin Hood, and, as an alternative name for the sprite, Puck - Robin Goodfellow. So, it was a suitable name for one of our tamest songbirds with a bold nature and cheeky attitude. With time 'robin' took precedence as the bird's name and now, if you look in a bird guide, you will find *Erithacus rubecula* listed as 'European robin'.

Apart from their tameness, robins have a few other unusual characteristics. Unlike most songbirds, male and female robins look identical and both sing. In addition, apart from some time off during the summer moult, they sing all year round. This is a good time of year to familiarise yourself with the robin's song as few other native songbirds sing in December. The slightly wistful tone is in keeping with the drawing down of daylight at this time of year.

That's one reason why robins have become associated with Christmas. Another arose in the mid-1800s when the sending of Christmas cards took off. Early designs showed a robin with an envelope in its bill. Postmen of the day wore bright red coats and, themselves, had the nickname Robins. It didn't take long for the robins to evolve from symbolising the messenger to becoming the message in their own right.



A likely reason why we have such a fondness for robins is their boldness. Those of us with gardens or allotments are sure to have stories or images of robins which accompany us when we are digging or otherwise exposing invertebrate prey for them. And there are numerous tales of unusual nesting sites they have chosen. In my own experience a pair successfully raised a brood in a half-used bag of potting compost that we had left outside the greenhouse.



For all their reputation for friendliness to humans, robins are aggressive to their own kind. Features that we find endearing - the boldly displayed red breast and the year-round song are actually ways that robins defend their territories. Both sexes sing because both males and females hold territory, but why? It is partly to do with their feeding method: sitting on a low perch waiting for insects or worms to come into view below, then dropping down to catch them. Another robin might scare off a good meal, hence the territory-holder's need to keep intruders at bay.

By mid to late winter, robins are already making preparations to pair up for the breeding season and the male's song, as well as warning off other males, is an advertisement to females that he will make a good mate. If the rival is not deterred, the red breast comes into its own. The opponents face each other and show off their red breasts to maximum effect. On the ground they will puff themselves up and point to the sky, while on a perch they will lean forward if the rival is below them or lean back if the rival is above. Most visual encounters prompt a quick withdrawal by a rival, but occasionally these lead to a fast and vicious fight.



One last feature that helps the robin's attractive image is the dark and, comparative to our own, large eye. This means that the robin sees well enough to be the first bird up before dawn and the last you see (or hear) as you switch on the lights at dusk. Keep your ears open for these feathered carol singers this Christmas.

Lyn Ebbs, Stanton St John

Local Plan Update: Land North of Bayswater Brook

Second Draft Masterplan Consultation

The site promoters of Land North of Bayswater Brook, via their PR company, Camargue, recently gave two webinars on a second draft Masterplan, to Parish Council and local community representatives. They have yet to produce an Environmental Impact Assessment or Transport Infrastructure model on which to base the transport and roads plan. If you would like to read their promotional brochures you can find them on their updated website: <https://www.bayswateroxford.co.uk/enquiry-by-design/>.

Significant changes have been made to the Masterplan, compared with their earlier version. Both can be found at http://www.beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk/?q=community/parish_council/LnBB, along with a detailed presentation on transport. The main differences are as follows:

- Access from the west via the Elsfield Road is now a T-junction rather than a spider-like roundabout.
- The school has been moved west from near Wick Farm, which is flatter ground.
- The development near Sydlings Copse and College Pond SSSI has been removed with more dense development elsewhere and agricultural land retained rather than a suburban park.
- The new proposed footpaths to alleviate the SSSI have been removed.
- Housing has been moved away from Bayswater Brook which floods.
- The housing numbers remain at 1,100. This is the number for the whole site including the separate Bayswater Farm site, envisaged allocation approx. 250 dwellings so total housing for this part – Wick Farm and Lower Elsfield should be 850 max.
- The whole Local Plan has approximately 8,000 homes above the housing need.
- The road starts in the north west, then goes through the middle of the site, (through Flood Zone 2) north around Wick Farm meeting the Bayswater Road just south of Stowford Farm onto the Bayswater Road.
- There is a pedestrian and cycle bridge over the A40 ring road near the turning into Barton Park as required in Local Plan.

- There will be provision of additional buses using the roads in Barton Park through to Barton, but to the JR and central Oxford only, with possible provision of a bus to the science park.
- LnBB offers no public transport, pedestrian or cycling facilities above that currently available in Barton where there is at least 1 car per household. An additional 1,100 cars on local roads – likely to cause gridlock at peak times.
- There is no link road and no alleviation for our local roads or the ring road and Headington roundabout as required in the Local Plan.
- An additional bus lane is proposed on the northern ring road onto the Headington roundabout which would have priority over other traffic, exacerbating congestion.
- There is no consideration or alleviation of traffic on local roads – Woodeaton, Elsfield or Bayswater Roads, so these are likely to be gridlocked with an additional 1,100 + cars.

The Woodeaton, Elsfield and Bayswater Roads are already vastly over-capacity at peak times (30 minutes from Stowford Farm along the Bayswater Road to the Headington roundabout). An additional 1,100 cars from LnBB along with the other Green Belt sites around the ring road – Northfields, Grenoble Road and Oxford Brookes Wheatley, with no alleviation, will cause gridlock to those in our parish who commute into Oxford, particularly key and emergency workers.

Ginette Camps-Walsh, 15 November 2021

Wheatley Library

Lateral Flow tests

As we all know, the covid pandemic is not over. We offer lateral flow test packs at the library for customers to take away. Each household is entitled to 2 packs per week from the library supplies. Please feel free to come in to collect yours. Regular testing is an excellent means to prevent the spread of coronavirus and the lateral flow tests have been proven to be highly effective in detecting coronavirus. Even if you are vaccinated, it is recommended to test at home.

Wendy Stanton (Wheatley library manager) 01865 875267

The library is located on the upper level of the Merry Bells Village Hall.

Focus on Families

The Maple Tree children's centre charity

Merry Christmas from The Maple Tree!



Christmas Gifts

On Saturday 11 December, we will have refreshments and mince pies at The Maple Tree and a sale of Christmas gifts from 9.30am-2pm. All welcome!

Magic Show

We are pleased to announce the return of our New Year Magic Show with Magic Pete on Saturday 15 January. A family afternoon with 2 performances, one for 2-5's and a second for 6-10-year-olds. Please contact The Maple Tree for further information and tickets: 01865 236700 and info@mapletree.org.uk.

We are here to help you, if you need advice or support: 01865 236700 or 07849 466249. Our sessions are bookable through Eventbrite; bit.ly/mapletreeeb. There is a suggested donation of £2.50 per family per session.

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

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

Wednesday: Maple Babies at 10:30-11:30am and 1:00-2:00pm

Thursday: Little Explorers at 10:00-11:30am and Twinnies at 2:00-3:30pm

Friday: Social Butterflies at 10:00-11:30am (drop in)

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

Village Outreach: The Maple Tree at Forest Hill Village Hall on Thursdays from 11:00am-12:00pm (drop in)

Volunteers needed!

Do you have spare time? Our staff team are in **need of some helping hands on Tuesday mornings from 9.45-11.45am and Thursday afternoons from 1.45-3.45** to help deliver our Rhyme Time and Trinnies sessions! DBS and training are included. Duties include: set up, clean up, be on hand during the session to assist children in their playing and learning, and to be a listening ear to parents. For more information, please email info@mapletree.org.uk.

Laura Spencer, The Maple Tree Centre Manager

The Maple Tree community charity (registration no. 1174117), supports families with young children from Wheatley and surrounding villages, including Stanton St John, Forest Hill, Horton-cum-Studley and Beckley.

Entry to Primary or Infant School in September 2022

Parents of 3-4 year olds (children born on or between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018) need to apply for a primary school place by 15 January 2022. An application form will need to be completed, even if your child already attends a nursery attached to the school.

Key dates

Sat 15 Jan 2022

Event

Closing date for on time applications. Parents/Carers must apply by this date, online at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions or on paper (forms available from the County Council website or a local school).

Tue 19 Apr 2022

Those who applied on-line will receive an email and will be able to view the result of their application online. For those who made a paper application, letters offering places will be posted second-class.

Applications can be made quickly and easily online at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions or by using a paper form (available at local schools or from the same website). For more information visit the website or call 0345 241 2487.

Full details of the Admissions process are published on the Oxfordshire County Council website:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/apply-school-place/reception-applications>.

Hand-made Christmas Dog Treat Wreaths



These unique locally hand-made Christmas wreaths for your dog are once again available throughout December from Stanton St John Village Shop.

Cost: £4 each.

All proceeds to Guide Dogs for the Blind.

BECKLEY

Beckley Church

Details of all church services can be found on pages 4 & 5. Any changes to the published schedule will be on our website www.fourparishes.org.uk.

Churchyard tidy-up day

We had another very successful day in the churchyard in October, when 16 energetic people cleared huge amounts of ivy from the walls, and cut back trailing branches and elder. Grateful thanks to them all for so much hard work, and special thanks to Chris Cox who again brought a trailer for the debris, and took it away afterwards. We will try to have another day in a few months' time to keep the ivy at bay!

Carols and Claret: Sunday 19 December, 6pm

After a gap of 2 years, it is wonderful this year to be able to hold our traditional inspiring celebration of Christmas, with carols and readings by candlelight, followed by mulled wine and mince pies. As we need to keep the church well ventilated because of Covid, please do wrap up warm, as the church will be chilly. Please do also bring a torch as although the candlelight is beautiful, it can be difficult to see to read the carol sheets! We look forward to welcoming you on 19 December!

Christmas dates for your diary

Here is a quick summary:

- **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**

Update on the chancel roof

You may have seen that not much has been happening on the church roof! This is because of a problem with obtaining the necessary battens - a delivery did arrive about 2 weeks ago, but they were all the wrong size. We have just heard from Bicester Roofing that the correct ones will arrive

on 17 November and the work can then resume. If all goes to plan it will be finished in 3 weeks and the scaffolding will be down well before Christmas. We look forward to seeing the church in all its beauty again soon.

Beckley Art Club

Beckley Art Club has survived COVID and meets regularly on a Friday morning in the village hall. At the moment, there are about 20 of us, and there is room for two or three more. There are all levels of ability, and the highlight of the morning is coffee and cake at 11am! We had to cancel our annual art exhibition in 2020 but managed to stage a highly successful exhibition the weekend of 9/10 October 2021. There were nearly 100 paintings on show from 18 artists in the group. Sales were exceptionally good, aided and abetted by the excellent fare on offer in the café! A significant sum of money was raised for the hall, and some of the artists donated their proceeds to Médecins Sans Frontières.

Artwork by the group is currently on show both in the pub (by Ushar Kar and Sarah Hanner Hopgood) and in Tate Beckley (AKA the old phone box) with ceramics by Liz Bixby. You do not have to be a member of the Art Group to hang a painting, just let me know if interested (see below). If you would like to join the Art Group, we have spaces. All abilities and experience are represented in the group, and beginners are more than welcome; coming at 11am for the coffee on a Friday is a good way to meet us all initially.

John Stradling john.r.stradling@gmail.com 01865 351623

or see <https://beckleyart.com>

Some of the pictures on show at the 2021 exhibition



Beckley & Stowood Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 2 December 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.

Christmas Tree Recycling at Folly Farm, Common Road, Beckley, OX3 9UR
Return your old tree to the farmyard by Sunday 9 January 2022 (trees left after this date will not be accepted). Collection by SODC will be during week commencing Monday 10 January 2021. Trees will go for composting.

Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service – keeping Oxfordshire safe and well
Safe and well visits offer **practical advice to older and vulnerable residents about the risks in their home that could lead to falls, fire, or any source of harm.** Fire fighters or dedicated advisers will talk to residents about smoke and carbon monoxide alarms (or fit them) and about how they can keep themselves safe in the event of a fire. They can also provide **advice and signposting on alcohol use, staying well and warm, and scams and doorstep crime prevention.**

If you work or support vulnerable people in their own homes, you can refer someone for a safe and well visit on the county council's website here: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/fire-and-public-safety/fire-and-rescue-service/safe-and-well-visit>

If you have spotted any of the following, then consider a referral:

- **No working smoke or carbon monoxide** alarms in the property.
- The resident may find it difficult to react quickly in the event of a fire or emergency.
- They are using **electrical equipment with trailing leads**, lots of extensions or possible unsafe wiring.
- There are **large amounts of post** or other indications that the resident is being targeted directly by possible scams.
- The resident has made comments that they have concerns about staying safe.

There's **no cost** for a safe and well visit. It's just practical advice and peace of mind.

Beckley and Area Community Benefit Society

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

Stop press! Two extra events in December

We're delighted to report that the **Monthly pub quiz** will be back on **Wednesday 1 December**, thanks to some generous volunteers who've undertaken to host it while Peter Burt is indisposed. These popular events take place in the pub at 7.30pm on the first Wednesday of each month. No need to book - just turn up.

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.

Monthly Community Walks

The last walk of the year will be on 12 December - details tba. Note the exceptional December walk date.

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.**

Sunday 22 January, 6.30pm. Jim Gemmill on 'surviving as a painter'. jamesgemmill.com.

Sunday 27 February, 6.30pm. Paul Newton on public health research, life, and culture in the little-known country of Laos.

Sunday 27 March, 6.30pm. Dominic Holdsworth on his two, fast-paced, scifi comedy satire novels.

FOREST HILL

News from St Nicolas Church

Details of all church services can be found on pages 4 & 5. Any changes to the published schedule will be on our website www.fourparishes.org.uk.

Plant and Produce Stall: this did not start until June this year and closed on the last Saturday of October. Grateful thanks to all who supported this by buying the produce. We raised £461.01 towards Church funds which is a great achievement.

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal: thank you to all those who gave money for the poppies which were outside Lyttleton.

Decorating the Church for Christmas: we are meeting at 10.30am on Thursday 23 December in the Church. We would love to have some help with this. If you enjoy decorating for Christmas and the Christmas tree, please just turn up at 10.30. We have decorations available.

Christmas dates for your diary

Here is a quick summary:

- **Sunday 5 December: Children's Service with Christingle, 4pm**
(preceded by workshop in the village hall 2.30-3.30pm)
- **Sunday 12 December: Advent Carol Service with the St Nicolas Choir, 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 Service with plenty of well-loved carols for all to sing, 7pm**
- **Thursday 23 December: Village Carol Singing with the Hinks Family Brass Band (meet outside village hall), 6pm**
- **Friday 24 December: Crib Service, 4pm**
- **Friday 24 December: Holy Communion, 11pm**
- **Saturday 25 December: Holy Communion, 10am at Stanton St John**

2022 dates for your diary

Sunday 2 January: Children's Service at St Nicolas, 4pm. This is an exciting new venture for St Nicolas. People of all ages are welcome to the service, but it will be particularly suitable for pre-school and primary school children and their families. The service will include story telling and singing, with scripts specially written for us by Betty Dye. Please contact Anthea or Julia Stutfield for more information.

Sunday 9 January: Epiphany Carol Service with the St Nicolas Choir, 4pm.

Sunday 30 January: Candlemas Service with the St Nicolas Choir, 6pm. A candlelight service celebrating the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. Watch out for posters around the village near the end of January or check the website www.fourparishes.org.uk for more information.

Dates in March and beyond: all being well, we will resume our regular series of **Sunday afternoon/evening concerts at St Nicolas during Lent**, beginning in March and ending with a performance of Pergolesi's beautiful 'Stabat Mater' on **Sunday 10 April**.

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.



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.

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).

Advent Windows

This year Naomi Hinks has once again organised an **Advent Windows Trail in Forest Hill**. 24 households select a date from 1 December onwards to “reveal” a decorated window to be illumined on their chosen day between 6pm and 8pm and for every evening from that date until Christmas.

At the time of writing there are still some dates available: visit <https://www.stnicolasforesthill.org/community-events> or email julia.stutfield@gmail.com.

‘Far from Home’ concert in St Nicolas Church

The Remembrance Sunday Evening Concert in St Nicolas Church featured an emotional programme of music and readings by members of our village community, reflecting on the impact of war throughout the ages.

The programme was in three sections, with ‘resting places’ in between, where we took time out to sing a wartime community song. The music included the Slaidburn March, songs by George Butterworth and Benjamin Britten, a cello piece by Ernst Bloch, and a song written and performed by Julie Osborne, accompanied by a video from her time spent volunteering in a refugee camp on the island of Lesbos in 2015. With poetry ranging from the lament of the Jews carried off in slavery to Babylon in the 6th century BC, to a recent composition by Neil Gaiman, and a poem written and read by 11 year old Lydia Hinks, together with items by Wilfred Owen and Sidney Keyes, there was much to reflect on. At the end of the concert, Anthea said a prayer for peace, and we sang ‘We’ll meet again’.

The event raised £155 for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Forest Hill Community Lunch

After a wonderful 10 years of community lunches, our fantastic chef Dawn Dunbar has decided to step down from this role.

She and the brilliant volunteer team cooked a delicious 2-course lunch once a month, using fresh ingredients, including some amazing Christmas lunches which really tested the non-commercial kitchen!

The Village Hall committee thanks Dawn very much for all her time and effort, enthusiasm and creativeness in providing these meals for a loyal group of monthly customers. At the moment there is no plan to re-start the lunches but we may consider doing so if anyone comes forward with an interest in cooking for large numbers.

For a trial period the hall will be open on Wednesdays as a Café Venue - look out locally for details of opening hours.

Forest Hill Village Get Together

Members of the Forest Hill village Hall committee organised a Village Tea in the hall on Sunday 21 November, with a wonderful selection of cakes baked by people in the village.

There was a good turn out on the day and people seemed pleased to be mingling again.



Village Hall Hire

The village hall (including tables and chairs) is available to hire at £6 per hour. The hall comprises a large hall space, a small stage area, toilets (including an accessible toilet, suitable for wheelchair users) and a spacious well-equipped kitchen. The tables and chairs can also be hired separately for private use.

The hall is suitable for parties, family gatherings, meetings, rehearsals, performances, exhibitions, groups and activities.

If you would like to make a booking please contact our lettings secretary: Dawn Dunbar on 07527 732050 or email dunbardawn@ymail.com.

Forest Hill with Shotover Parish Council

The date of the next two meetings are Thursday 9 December and Thursday 13 January 2022 (tbc), at 7pm in Forest Hill Village Hall. Until further notice social distancing rules remain in place for all meetings.

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

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

New Village Mailing List

James Skinner and Julia Stutfield have got together to create a new Email Distribution List for Forest Hill. The emails will inform and remind people about village events and may occasionally include important messages, e.g. from the Parish Council.

The Distribution List will only contain addresses of people who have signed up via the online form which is on the new Community Page of the St Nicolas website <https://www.stnicolasforesthill.org/community-events>. All details will be kept in a secure database. The option to unsubscribe will appear at the foot of all email communications.

Please sign up via the website or email julia.stutfield@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Forest Hill Village Carol Singing

with the Hinks Family Brass Band



Join us to sing or listen to your favourite carols and get in the mood for Christmas. Words and music will be provided.

We will be singing carols around the village so wrap up warmly and bring a torch!

HORTON-cum-STUDLEY

News from St Barnabas

Details of all church services can be found on pages 4 & 5. Any changes to the published schedule will be on our website www.fourparishes.org.uk.

Crib Service 24 December 4pm in St Barnabas Church

I am looking for children who would like to help out during this year's Crib Service, either by bringing up a figure, or by reading a short verse or prayer.

Please contact me, Lynn Whitaker at lyndawhitaker@btinternet.com or leave a message on 01865 358838 if you have children who would like to take part.

Christmas Dates for your Diary

Here is a quick summary:

- **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**

Wildlife Friendly Churchyard

We are hopefully going to build a 'bug hotel' in the churchyard and would love families and children to be involved. We would also welcome other wildlife/biodiversity ideas and suggestions.

If you would like to be involved please email carol_welch20@hotmail.com.

Horton-cum-Studley Parish Council news

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be face to face in the Millennium Village Hall on Thursday 9 December at 7.30pm.

The Parish Council welcomes all villagers to attend and will be providing mulled wine and mince pies.

Julie Ogden: 24 November 1930 - 19 October 2021

Julie was born in Cambridge in 1930 and after school completed her secretarial training and achieved a silver medal as the second highest in the country for her shorthand / typing speed and accuracy. She worked at the British Council and also the Engineering Labs at Cambridge University.

Julie met Ted in 1951 through their shared love of singing with the Cambridge University Music Society.

They married in 1954 and moved to Harlow until Ted's work took them to Qatar. Julie worked as secretary to the Adviser to the Ruler and also to the British Agent (the equivalent of Ambassador). It was at the time of the Suez crisis, and Julie was privy to some hair-raising information which she could share with no one.



After four years they returned to England and in 1963 built Home Close in Church Lane, Horton-cum-Studley. They were involved with every level of community life: The WI, the Parish Council, the choir, the village hall, the church, the Horse Show, the Otmoor Challenge, craft, garden and social activities. Ted and Julie made many wonderful friends in Horton, and thoroughly enjoyed their life here.

In 1975 they returned to the middle East for three years followed by a stint in Dubai. Julie returned to Horton in 1981 and continued her working life, looking after the administration of Soros Scholarships for Eastern European academics and postgraduate students on the Oxford Colleges Hospitality Scheme. Ted died in 2004 and Julie continued to enjoy village life until 2019 when she moved into Rosebank in Bampton where she settled contentedly until her death on 19 October 2021.

She leaves behind three children, eight grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Oxford Homeless Project Christmas Hampers 2021

The Oxford Homeless Project is again planning to put together hampers for vulnerable individuals in Oxford at Christmas. It would be great to support this charity for a third year. If you would like to make a donation (from the list below) please leave in church porch or back pew of church and I can pass those on before 14 December. **Once again it is about NEW donations this year.**

- Sweets and treats
- Fancy foods for Christmas
- Non-alcoholic drinks
- Winter woollies
- Perfumes and toiletries
- Books and games
- Small toys and teddies
- Christmassy gadgets
- Puzzles and stationery

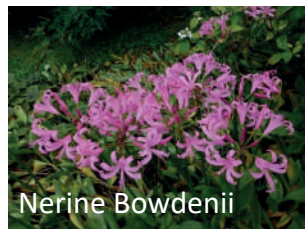
Or anything else you think would make someone smile! Gifts should not be wrapped, as items will be added to hampers based on who they are for: either vulnerable individuals/couples or families in need (with toddlers/teens). Many thanks in advance.

Carol Welch carol_welch20@hotmail.com

Horton-cum-Studley Gardening Club

Recent stormy, wet weather has had an impact on the herbaceous borders. Some plants look distinctly bedraggled so I have cut many down to reveal the emerging snowdrops. However, I have left plenty standing to shelter insects from winter frosts. I have fed the snowdrops with a little bone meal and tucked them in with a handful of my lovely mature leaf mould - a reward for all that sweeping up I undertook last winter. I am waiting for beech trees to shed their leaves this year so that I can start a new collection in my leaf mould bin.

Nerines are still providing colour but the spectacular red leaves on my little maple tree have finally dropped. I have just finished planting up pots of tulips with the addition of some wallflowers for a hit of early colour.



Nerine Bowdenii

Please do join us for the AGM on 18 January, which may be held remotely. The club is looking for committee members - no gardening skills needed, just enthusiasm - so please do consider joining us. For more information see www.horton-cum-studley.org.uk/community/clubs/.

STANTON ST JOHN

Stanton Church

Details of all church services can be found on pages 4 & 5. Any changes to the published schedule will be on our website www.fourparishes.org.uk.

Village 'kick-off towards Christmas' activities in church, weekend of 3-5 December

It is great to be part of our weekend 'Village Celebration' activities aimed at getting us in the Christmas spirit. There are two events going on in Church:

Saturday 4 December 7-8pm: Shotover Singers Concert

All are welcome to come and listen and to join in with favourite carols. The Shotover Singers are kindly hoping that they can raise funds for the Church. Please do come along to support them in this generous venture.

**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
susanibaker24@gmail.com



COME, SING, AND LISTEN

Sunday 5 December 3.30pm: All-age Advent Carol Service

All are welcome to round off the weekend's festivities with this informal service, which will be suitable for all.

Christmas dates for your diary

Here is a quick summary:

- **Sunday 5 December: All-age Advent Carol Service, 3.30pm**
- **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**

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

Come to our Village Celebration!

Switching on of our Village Christmas tree lights at 6pm followed by:

- Carol singing
- Hot dogs
- Mulled wine
- Christmas hamper raffle (tickets for sale in the Village Shop)
- Craft stalls in the Village Hall

Stanton St John WI

Our December meeting is being held on the second Tuesday of the month in the village hall, to allow for a breather before Christmas. On Tuesday 14 December at 7.30pm we plan to host an evening to suit all tastes. It will have a 'Quiz and Fizz' theme with Nostalgic Nibbles. We will also be repeating a Christmas Collection of toiletries, gloves, socks and essentials (with perhaps a smattering of chocolate), to donate to the Community Centre at Barton. They were delighted with the collection we trialed in the Autumn. Thank you to everyone for your generous donations.

On Tuesday 18 January 2022 we are having an Open Meeting in the Village Hall. The speaker is Marcus Ferrar who will talk about being a Cold War Reporter behind the Iron Curtain. We welcome any interested visitor to join us for a small fee of £4 to cover expenses. The talk is scheduled to begin at 7.30pm.

Apologies for the cancellation of our advertised Saturday Coffee Morning in November.

Contact: stantonstjohnwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

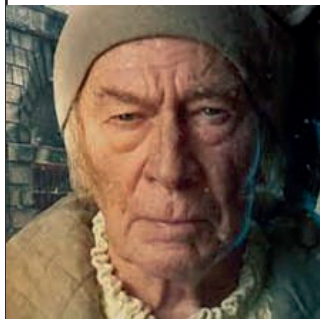
Monthly Village Coffee Mornings

Come along to the village hall in Stanton St John on the **2nd Wednesday of the month from 10.30am - 12pm**. Dates for your diary are:
8 December, 12 January, 9 February.

Everyone is welcome. Please come along. For further details, please contact Sue Baker (01865 351449) or Sarah Coyne (01865 358876).

Stanton Film Club: Two winter viewings

Saturday 11 December - The man who invented Christmas



A fresh new look at the old classic “A Christmas Carol” in which Charles Dickens is broke, has writer’s block and decides to self-publish a tale he imagines will solve his money problems. Christopher Plummer, as an excellent Scrooge, throws in a good bit of comedy which lifts this morality play into a shiny theatrical entertainment.

This film is something that the whole family can enjoy with a new and modern approach to a story that never gets old.

The film is 145 min long and rated PG.



Saturday 29 January - 1917



Described as a cinematic masterpiece, 1917 won seven BAFTA awards, including Best Film and 10 Oscar nominations, winning three. The story follows 2 soldiers on a mission through enemy territory in Northern France in a race against time.

Danny Clark, who was an assistant Art Director on the film, will give a short talk after the screening and there will be the opportunity to ask questions about the film production.

The film is 119 mins long and rated 15.

Both films start at 7.45pm and doors are open at 7pm. Before and after the films, delicious cakes and drinks are available. Since only 40 seats are available in the Village Hall, please reserve your seats asap for screening via Sue Baker (susanjbaker24@gmail.com) or in the Village Shop. Tickets are only £5 (cash only please). Pay at the door.

Stanton St John Parish Council

Christmas Trees large and small

Many thanks to all those involved in organising and setting up the village Christmas tree, a lovely festive focal point which should be in place on the Millennium Green by the time of publication.



At the end of the festive season there will be a collection point in the Village Hall car park as usual where (real wood) trees can be left for recycling. Please look out for notices/emails with dates in due course.

Parish Council notice board and email distribution list

General information, notices, meeting agendas and minutes are published regularly on the notice board outside the Village Shop, and sent to all those on our email distribution list. Please email the Parish Clerk at stantonstjohnnpc@gmail.com if you would like to be added to this list.

Stanton St John Village Support Network

The network of volunteer Contacts and Helpers set up at the beginning of the pandemic is still in place through this winter to help anyone with essential shopping, prescription collections etc. – or just to chat if you are worried or lonely. If you don't have a copy of the list and would like one, just email stantonstjohnnpc@gmail.com or call 07821 412668. Many thanks to all those involved.

Mill Street closed Tuesday 14 December

Oxfordshire County Council has advised that a section of Mill Street will be closed for work by Openreach on Tuesday 14 December, between 9.30am and 3.30pm. The closed section will be from just below Silver Birches downwards to the last driveway in the village.

Garden waste

Garden waste and grass clippings have been spotted recently on the edge of the bridleway behind Courtfield Road. Please remember that the district council provides a brown bin collection service for garden waste (fully operational again now after a brief problem a few weeks ago) and that dumping garden waste on public rights of way or farmers' land counts as fly-tipping.

(continued over)

Well-paid part-time job

SSJ Parish Council is looking for a new Parish Clerk. For more information, see the separate vacancy ad on page nn, or call Andrew Clark on 01865 351615. Do pass this on to anyone you think may be interested!

Queen's Jubilee Year 2022

Celebration ideas by 15 December please! Thank you to those who have already suggested ideas for village celebrations in 2022, to mark the Queen's platinum jubilee. Any more ideas? Please send to stantonstjohnpc@gmail.com or phone the Parish Clerk on 07708 307747.

Overgrown and overhanging hedges

Please remember that owners of roadside properties are responsible for managing hedges and other vegetation beside the road, keeping them well back from the edge of the road surface. Where growth hangs over the road, it can obstruct farmers' access to their fields, and force vehicles into the middle of the road, endangering pedestrians, cyclists and other drivers. Please check yours during the winter hedge-trimming season (i.e. while there is no risk to nesting birds). There is more information about this on the Oxfordshire County Council website. (See next item for how to report any problem areas.)

"Fix My Street"

Problem areas on roads (including fly-tipping, potholes, overhanging branches) can be reported directly to Oxfordshire County Council (who are responsible for our roads) at <https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/>, giving details of the location, and if possible, a photo of the problem.

Similarly, problems on public bridleways and footpaths (such as obstacles, excess vegetation, unfit bridges/crossings) can be reported directly at <https://publicrightsofway.oxfordshire.gov.uk/standardmap.aspx>.

Dog waste (again!)

Please dispose of dog waste carefully and appropriately, by bagging it and placing either in a designated dog waste bin, or your normal grey waste bin. This applies even if you are walking your dog on paths in open countryside or agricultural fields, since dog poo can contain parasites which can kill other animals, including cattle and sheep.

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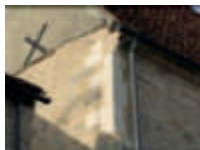
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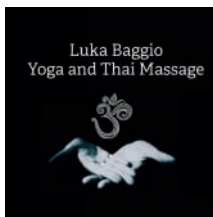
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