The Four Parishes News Magazine

BECKLEY FOREST HILL HORTON-cum-STUDLEY STANTON St JOHN



Inspecting bees in Stanton St John, Spring 2022

June 2022

The editor writes:



Yesterday I was looking back at previous issues of this magazine - something anyone can easily do by going to <u>https://www.fourparishes.org.uk/magazine</u> - and I was quite surprised to see that in 2018 the average number of pages was only 28! Since then we have blossomed (or cynics might say ballooned) to an average of 44 pages with a maximum, as in this

month, for example, of 48.

Some of the growth is down to having significantly increased the number of advertisers, for whose loyal support we are always extremely grateful. We have also been lucky enough to welcome some new contributors. But, as one of my assistant editors commented after reviewing the first draft of this month's magazine: 'what an extraordinary amount of things going on – aren't we lucky to live in such a vibrant community!'

Of course things are not easy for everyone, even in our own locality, and we must continue to look out for friends, relatives and neighbours who may not feel they have a lot to celebrate at the moment. But the general impression is that there is a lot going on again after a long period of hiatus and perhaps we will appreciate it even more now than we did before!

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 provided by Maria Keenan from Forest Hill and shows her performing a spring bee colony inspection in Stanton to hopefully prevent swarming! There is a high chance of early swarms this year due to a mild winter.

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

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

Reverend Anthea Beresford Vicar anthea@fourparishes.org.uk Tel: 01865 351839

We welcome contributions or notices for future issues. Please send them to:

Beckley		
John Baker	Tel: 01865 351514	johnbaker245@btinternet.com
Forest Hill		
Linda Goffey	Tel: 01865 873078	linda@goffey.co.uk
Horton-cum-St	tudley	
Carol Welch	Tel: 01865 358122	<pre>carol_welch20@hotmail.com</pre>
Stanton St Joh	n	
Sue Baker	Tel: 01865 351449	susanjbaker24@gmail.com

The closing date for the Jul/Aug 2022 issue is 15 Jun 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 <u>4parishesnewsletter@gmail.com</u>.

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

Editor: Julia Stutfield

Assistant Editors: Jonathan Barker Anthea Beresford

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

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

Benefice of Beckley, Forest Hill with Shotover,

Horton-cum-Studley and Stanton St John

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

Anthea is supported by a team of voluntary clergy, lay ministers and churchwardens, whose details are listed below.

Ministry Team		
Rev'd Anthea Beresford <i>Vicar</i>	<u>anthea@fourparishes.org.uk</u> Tel: 01865 351839	
Rev'd Hugh Lee Associate Priest	hugh.lee@btinternet.com Tel: 01865 316245	
Rev'd Stephanie Bullock	stephaniebullock9@gmail.com	
Rev'd Dr. Elizabeth Hoare	liz.hoare@wycliffe.ox.ac.uk	
Betty Dye LLM	betty.dye10@gmail.com	
Canon Prof. Nicholas Orme LLM	n.i.orme@exeter.ac.uk	

Churchwardens			
Beckley Georgina Robson	Tel: 01865 351637	gina.robson@virgin.net	
Forest Hill Jane Walker Pat Fraser		lyttleton@btinternet.com triciaann49@gmail.com	
Horton-cum-Studl Lynn Whitaker	,	lyndawhitaker@btinternet.com	
Stanton St John Deirdre Young	Tel: 01865 351745	<u>youngdee@live.co.uk</u>	

Church Services in the Four Parishes, June 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
5 June Pentecost	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	11am Morning Prayer
		4pm Children's Service at St Nicolas		
		6pm Taizé Service via Zoom		
12 June Trinity Sunday		9.30am 11am Morning Prayer Holy in Stanton St John Communion		
	11am Benefice Zoom Service			
	4.30pm Messy Church at Beckley Village Hall			
	6pm BCP Choral Evensong at Forest Hill			
19 June First Sunday after Trinity	11am BCP Morning Prayer	9.30am Holy Communion		11am Morning Prayer
	6pm Iona Service at Beckley (venue weather dependent)			
26 June Second Sunday	10am Benefice Holy Communion Service at Beckley 4.30pm Family Church does Forest Church Bernwood Forest, Oakley Road, OX33 1BJ (meet at car park)			
after Trinity				
	6pm Church without Walls in Stanton St John Village Hall			

Please check the website <u>www.fourparishes.org.uk</u> for any updates. If you are not on the church mailing list and would like an invitation to a Zoom service, please email <u>anthea@fourparishes.org.uk</u>.

A letter from Anthea

Hi everyone



Well, it seems to have been on the horizon for such a time, but at last the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebration is with us the first weekend of June. You could say it has been 70 years in the making! For some, this will simply mean a 'very long weekend' and nothing more. Some extra time for a break and perhaps time with family and friends. For some, this is a really significant milestone, and something worthy

of huge celebration and thanksgiving.

Whichever your view, I think there is no denying that the Queen's service to the country and the Commonwealth has been simply quite remarkable, from the tender age of 26 and still continuing now at the age of 96, having recently celebrated her birthday. I certainly would not want to live my life under the ever-increasing scrutiny of the public gaze.

It is wonderful to read of events planned in each of our villages - events that will bring communities together, especially after such a time of being unable to gather. I remember her silver jubilee when I was a child, watching the celebrations on television and having a party. Somewhere I am sure I still have the Union Jack bowler hat I had for the occasion! With those memories in my head, it was delightful to share in Beckley School's celebrations (see pages 20 and 21) where memories for children will have been made, which no doubt they will talk of in years to come.

The Queen's devotion to duty has been selfless and has endured over the decades. She has weathered storms: personal, family, country and world. I do not know if it is simply that I have noticed it in more recent years, or that she has spoken more openly about it, but as a fellow Christian, it has been touching to hear her speak about her faith, the place it has in her life, and the inner strength she gets from it. I imagine it is true for those of other faiths too, that an inner strength, that is difficult to explain, helps us weather life's difficulties. Our faith also gives us somewhere to go to, to give thanks for the good things that happen to us and our loved ones.

So often faith is seen as something very personal, not to be spoken about, and not to be shared - sometimes perhaps for reasons of privacy; sometimes perhaps because of concern of being ridiculed; sometimes perhaps because we do not want our experiences spoilt by challenges; sometimes perhaps because we feel we would not be able to defend our faith if challenged - there are all sorts of reasons we may choose not to speak about it. And yet, it is so exciting to hear about other's faith journeys and experiences. I find my own faith being built up by hearing other's stories. And yet we are often reluctant.

Whilst we are unlikely to meet the Queen and chat about her experiences and our own, perhaps we should be slightly bolder to speak about our own faith, emboldened by her example. I have been excited hearing that her faith is important to her. I get excited hearing the stories of others. Let us follow her example and speak, carefully, respectfully, appropriately, when opportunities come our way, about our faith, and its place in our lives.

I hope that you all have a wonderful 'long weekend', whatever that might mean for you. I hope that communities come together and have a wonderful time after all this time of separation and isolation. I give thanks for the Queen, and her service to us, and hope she too has a wonderful time celebrating her world breaking remarkable achievement, something that is unlikely to ever be repeated.

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

Anthea

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

CHURCH MATTERS

Church opening, and services

All the churches in the benefice are open daily:

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

Advent challenge and beyond

I hope you enjoyed reading through the last of the minor prophets and the Song of Solomon I suggested last month.

I think it is now time for us to move on to the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible. It can be a bit of a slog, but I have found that I have grown to love them as I have read them more. So let's start at the beginning with Genesis. There are 50 chapters, so to get through it in June, we need to read a couple of chapters each weekday, and give ourselves a lighter weekend with just one each day - and we should finish with a day to spare! Happy reading! Please do let me know how you get on.

Ongoing midweek activities on Zoom

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

	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Morning Prayer at 9am		٧		V
Evening Prayer at 6pm	٧		٧	
Benefice Book Group at 7.30pm			٧	

Book Group

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

Dates for diary for children and family church activities

Please check the rota on page 5 for times and locations and always look out for email updates. Do get in touch with Anthea (see contact details on page 4) if you are not on the email list for these services and would like to be included, or if you have any questions.

Children's Service at St Nicolas	Messy Church	Family Church	
5 June	12 June	26 June	
3 July	10 July	24 July	
7 August	14 August		
4 September	11 September	25 September	
2 October	9 October	23 October	
6 November	13 November	27 November 2022	
4 December (St Nicolas Day celebration with Christingle)			
11 December Joint Christmas Party (details to be announced nearer the time)			

Home Group Study on Romans

This is a reminder that we are continuing our study of the Book of Romans, meeting in Horton-cum-Studley, on Wednesdays beginning at 2.30pm.

If you are interested in being involved, please contact Annie Payne on 01865 351018, or by email at <u>anniefpayne@gmail.com</u>.



GENERAL

Wheatley Library



We're looking to start up more groups here at Wheatley library to keep our residents busy during opening hours, so please see the list below for the kinds of things we're looking to get started!

We would love for anyone interested in either leading the groups or simply joining in to let us know,

and if we can gather enough interest then it would be great to get them going as soon as possible.

The groups we're currently looking at starting are:

- Creative Writing -- We're happy to have groups for both older and younger users, to provide a space for telling stories of all kinds.
- Games Again, possibly for both older and younger users, to spend some time having fun. This can be board games, card games, even D&D. Whatever people want!
- Rhyme/Story Time If singing or reading to children sounds fun, we have just the thing!

We're also looking for Digital Helpers to assist the community with any technological support on a one-to-one basis, so let us know if this is something that interests you. It's a great way to volunteer and gain new skills, while genuinely helping people at the same time.

And if you have any suggestions for any other interest/activity groups, please do get in touch! You can ring us on 01865 875267, or email us at <u>wheatley.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk</u>.

Charlie Boddington (Wheatley Library Manager)

The library is located on the upper level of the Merry Bells Village Hall in Wheatley High Street.

For opening hours and other information, see the relevant page at <u>www.oxfordshire.gov.uk</u>.

The Mark Drama



This June The Mark Drama will be performed by a group from Forest Hill, Wheatley, and the surrounding area. A modern extension of the medieval mystery plays, this is a powerful presentation of the whole of the gospel of Mark in 90 minutes.

The performance is accessible, using contemporary

language, performed as 'theatre in-the-round' the audience get drawn into the actions and events from light hearted and comic moments with the disciples in the early stages, to a profound climax in the final act.

Performances are Saturday 25 June at 7.30pm at Wheatley Primary School, and Sunday 26 June at 4pm at Bayard's Hill Primary School in Barton. Entry is free, with no ticketing, but it is not suitable for under 8s.

For more information contact Timothy Hinks <u>thinks@doctors.org.uk</u> or visit the website <u>themarkdrama.com/</u>.

Wheatley Park School 50th Anniversary

Wheatley Park is 50 years old this year. Put the date in your diary now. We would love you to join us on this day. Come and help us celebrate !



Support for Ukrainian Refugees

We have now welcomed 11 Ukrainian families to the Four Parishes, mostly in Horton-cum-Studley and Beckley, with more expected to arrive this week. Villagers and guests

had the opportunity to meet at the very successful pop-up pub and fish and chip night at the Millennium Village Hall on Saturday 13 May. The event provided the perfect opportunity for our communities to come together, and the weather was immensely kind too.

We are moving to the next phase of life for the guests that have arrived. Beckley School head, Rhiannon Wilkie, and her team have accommodated the Ukrainian children and provided a wonderfully warm welcome. Some of the adults have started taking up work with local businesses. Thanks to Ken, and Studley Wood Golf Club, and the Stanley family at Rectory Farm for their support.

Children have benefited from the opportunity to play tennis, hockey, make new friends, and obtain scooters, bikes and toys from the generous donations.

If you have a family living near you, do offer your support to the hosts. The guests are beginning to benefit from the offers of help in many areas including English language help, home cooked meals and much more. Neighbours are the perfect backup for lifts or helping out!

It's amazing what a small group of villages can achieve. As well as the generous donation of a pool car at the start of this activity, we have also been offered the use of an 8-seater vehicle. These will be invaluable in enabling our guests' independence in getting around over the summer months.

For offers of help:

- with lifts, contact David Slingo on pdslingo@gmail.com
- for food contributions contact Carol Welch or Liz Pugh on <u>carol_welch20@hotmail.com</u> or <u>emjpugh@btinternet.com</u>
- Generous financial contributions have been made and additional gifts can be made to the community fund. Details are available from Julia Slingo <u>ihslingo@gmail.com</u>.

- Laptops, PCs and tablets can be donated and cleaned up for reuse by Ukrainian visitors. Please contact Stuart at <u>Hortonhelpsout@gmail.com</u>
- For any other creative ideas or offers of help, contact katesalter@icloud.com or lisamynheer@gmail.com

So many people have been on this humbling journey and we thank you all for your support. A favourite motivational quote of mine is that of Margaret Mead:

"Never underestimate the power of a small group of committed people to change the world. In fact, it is the only thing that ever has."

Lisa Mynheer, Horton-cum-Studley

Save the Date: Fund Raiser for the People of Ukraine

JONNY AND THE JIVE TONES

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

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

> Tickets £10 available from Pat MossDurrant: <u>mossdurrant17@gmail.com</u>

Volunteering with Ukrainian refugees in Moldova.

"Will you volunteer in Moldova?" Where's Moldova, I thought. I'd heard of it but had no idea where it was. Two weeks earlier I had offered to volunteer with Refugee Support, a British charity who work with refugees across Europe and they were now asking me to spend four weeks in Moldova distributing free food and sanitary products to Ukrainian refugees.

Moldova is a tiny country of about 2 million people squeezed between Romania on its West and Ukraine on its East. It's Europe's poorest country but since the Russian invasion of Ukraine has taken in 450,000 refugees many of whom have no income, limited means of finding work and few savings.

Refugee Support works with the Moldovan authorities and have a small shop called the Dignity Centre in the heart of the capital city Chisinau. Their philosophy is to give dignity to the Ukrainian refugees by enabling them to chose their own food and sanitary products rather than being handed a bag chosen by others. It's an important distinction as many people feel not only traumatised but also humiliated by having to depend on charity. Being able to shop for themselves brings some normality and self determination in circumstances where they feel helpless.

To get provisions from the Dignity centre Ukrainians apply online with their smart phones and are sent a text. They then come to the shop and are

allocated a certain number of points depending on the size of their family. In the shop each item costs specific points and they can chose from about 25 items such as pasta, rice, UHT milk, cornflakes, tuna, tinned pork and pate, cartons of juice, biscuits, chocolate wafers as well as shampoo, loo roll, sanitary pads and so on. Nappies have no points. Most popular was a brown grain called buckwheat, not well known in the UK, but so popular with the Ukrainians it had to be rationed. Many people are living with friends or relatives or have been provided accommodation by the Moldovan Government.



My job along with six other volunteers from the UK, America, Spain and Portugal was to run the shop. All volunteers pay for their own travel and

food. Accommodation was provided but wasn't to everyone's taste as it often meant sharing a room with a stranger. Those who chose this option paid a donation, other volunteers found their own hotel room or apartment in the city.

In the shop we took a weekly delivery of about a ton of provisions and we



served a total of about 1200 people a week. The day to day work involved welcoming people at the door. One of my fellow Brits, a retired accountant, wrote a list of useful words and phrases so we could speak a little Ukrainian. We'd welcome guests with a cheerful

'Dobraden', the phonetic spelling for 'Welcome' in Ukrainian, which always seemed to raise a smile. Goodbye: 'Do Probatch Enya', mostly got a giggle and a reply using the same word. Most people spoke no English so although basic it felt an important way of connecting with people.

On arrival we checked Ukrainian customer's text messages and gave them their allocated points. Once in the shop some people knew exactly what they wanted whilst others spent longer choosing their goods. My overriding impression was the ordinariness of customers: mothers negotiating with their teenage kids, little girls dressed in pretty frocks with their hair in a ponytail and bored looking boys having to shop with their mums - a commonplace scene across the world - but the difference here was because of a futile and cruel war.

Other volunteer tasks included working on the check-out and stacking shelves. Although sometimes mundane, at other times challenging, the work was above all very rewarding, with high morale and a positive attitude amongst volunteers reciprocated by a friendly and warm response from the Ukrainians. But the message we picked up time and time again from the few who spoke English was: 'I want to go home'.

Refugee Support is funded entirely by donations. It has 3 centres: the others are in Greece for Syrians and Cyprus for Africans. It costs about £11,000 a month to operate and every penny donated helps. You can donate here: <u>https://www.refugeesupporteu.com/make-a-difference-now/</u>. Thank you.

Jonathan Barker, Forest Hill

'A Midsummer's Night's Bird' by Lyn Ebbs

When we hear Bottom, the Weaver, in Shakespeare's A Midsummer's Night's Dream keeping up his courage by singing: "The ousel cock so black



of hue, with orange-tawny bill..." we are in no doubts, from the description, that he is singing about a male blackbird. The name *ousel* wasn't a nonsense word made up by Bottom; it has German roots and, as a folk name for the blackbird, persisted into the 1600s and beyond. The word *bird*, itself, also has German roots.

Formerly spelled *brid*, like brood or breed, it referred to nestlings or young fledglings. All adult birds were fowls - "every fowl of the air" is mentioned in the second chapter of Genesis. Later *bird* came to mean small birds like songbirds, and blackbird (or *blacbrid*) was first recorded in 1350. Shakespeare's audience would have had even less problem than us in recognising the blackbird as the subject of the song.

Bottom might just possibly have meant its cousin, the ring ouzel. But that

male has a very visible white crescent on his upper breast contrasting with darker body plumage, while a delicate silver edge gives the body feathers a scaly appearance. Its other common name, the mountain blackbird, means that it wouldn't have been a familiar resident of a wood "near Athens" or Stratford upon Avon either.



Blackbirds would have been forest dwellers in pre-human times and have adapted to the human environment relatively recently, in the 18th and 19th centuries. During the Big Garden Birdwatch in January 2022, the RSPB showed that nearly nine out of ten Oxfordshire gardens had at least two blackbirds present. Though in colder winters they can be found in greater numbers, joined by migrant birds from Eastern Europe and Scandinavia.

They have been very successful in exploiting their relationship with us: the nesting season begins up to two weeks earlier in gardens than in woodland. Blackbirds rear two to three broods and, in a good year, may attempt a

fourth. Weather plays a big part in the timing of the breeding season; warm

or cold spells in spring can bring the breeding season forward or delay it by several days. The nest, built by the female, is low down in any suitable cover - she prefers trees, shrubs and climbers - but nests can be found inside buildings, occasionally even on the ground. The nest is a substantial cup of grass, straw, small



twigs and other plant material. It is plastered inside with mud and lined with fine grass. It can take two weeks to complete, and sometimes the same nest is used for successive broods.

And when fed in gardens blackbirds often become quite tame. However,



when food availability is low chicks may starve, particularly in dry weather. You can help your garden blackbirds by avoiding the use of garden chemicals, leaving fallen leaves under hedges and by planting shrubs that provide them with grubs and berries. Although, far from just feeding on fruit and earthworms, blackbirds have been observed to take tadpoles and newts from the shallows of garden ponds.

They have large eyes relative to their body size and are among the first species to arrive at garden feeding stations on dark winter mornings. The blackbird is one of a small number of species that sometimes sing during the night, often because of the presence of street-lighting. They are one of the first birds to sing in the dawn chorus at this time of year. But blackbirds also seem positively upset by the prospect of impending darkness. Roosting time has them calling nervously and when one starts it quickly fires up the others nearby into a repetitive and obviously unsettled "chink, chink" chorus. At one time they were hunted at roost for food - is this a reason why they produce alarm calls at dusk?

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

Have your say: Footpaths in the Four Parishes

Editor's note: we are aware that there have been some disputes over footpaths in the Four Parishes over the last few years and, in the spirit of dialogue, we are publishing this article, which highlights some of the issues on both sides. Replies would be welcome.

The recent re-routing and closure of the old footpaths and tracks that pass between the lovely villages and farmland of the Four Parishes has been attracting enthusiastic debate amongst local residents in recent months. The growing trend in 'Right To Roam' has been questioned by some farmers with good reason.

It's hard not to sympathise with the landowners in the current debate, especially given the difficult trading environment in the British farming industry; Rectory Farm, Woodperry Estate, Shotover Estate,



Breach Farm and others do an admirable job in cultivating their land, as well as maintaining the infrastructure and tending to wildlife through all sorts of unpredictable conditions. These Estates employ local people, they work every day of the year and they're within their rights to decide

how the public passes over their land. They don't want picnickers, people with barbeques or campers larking about on carefully tended fields and we cannot blame them for wanting to direct the movement of local walkers in order to make their life a little easier.

The law is clear. The County Council lists which footpaths are a public right of way. The problem appears to arise when a well known local path, listed perhaps as a 'Track' on the County Council map, is fenced off without explanation. The land owner now has the right to designate a permissive path if they so choose but the system seems to break down without the support of the local community. The Country Council has to referee the arguments by balancing the interests of the land owners with the concerns of the locals who feel like they're being 'fenced out'. A good example of this is the woodland path that runs from the gate at Stanton St John allotment towards Stanton House. It was fenced off by its owner, the Woodperry Estate, around three months ago, surprising many local people. Those of us with long memories know this quiet track for its badgers set and uncultivated border with the village alloment as a pleasant wildlife glade first planted with trees fifteen years ago. It completes a lovely circular walk that runs along the boundary of a large field that is carefully farmed by the Woodperry Estates team.

The owners of Woodperry House and its surrounding Estate have been generous neighbours to Stanton St John and Beckley for centuries. This fine Grade 1 Palladian style House was built in 1728 and Stanton St John church graveyard is filled with the bones of the men and women who served loyally on its staff and as farm labourers. The respectful memorial inside Stanton St John Church to the former owner of Woodperry House Sir John Thompson tells its own story.

But these footpaths paths represent more than our shared history; they're a discreet form of dialogue between the land owners and the local community; the natural peace and quiet of these tracks are appreciated for being just that; we all want to protect these unspoilt surroundings.

It's upsetting then to see branches hacked down, to see fencing cut and pointless graffiti; I'd appeal to land owners to be sensitive and to work with the local community before fencing off paths or tracks. Perhaps it might work better to consider re-designating them as permissive paths that local people can then help maintain to demonstrate how much we all value the beautiful English countryside that surrounds us.

Julian Henry, Stanton St John



Platinum Jubilee Celebration at Beckley School



I was fortunate to receive an invitation to Beckley School's Platinum Jubilee celebrations which I was delighted to accept. I was invited to lunch, but had no idea what else to expect, other than knowing we planned to be outside. I was really

excited! I expect the children were too. I felt rather sad therefore as I lay in bed the night before, listening to torrential rain, with a thunderstorm passing over us too! I was concerned the plans for the party would be spoilt.

Fortunately, the weather on the day got better and better. The only concern we had was keeping the children hydrated, because of the hot, sunny weather!

As I arrived, I saw the playground beautifully decorated and set out for the



lunchtime celebration. There was much excitement because the Queen was going to be there! Although the children were still in their classes, there was a buzz in the air, and sense of joy and anticipation. As soon as I saw the grownups, I felt rather underdressed - they were all smartly dressed ready for the party.

The children were all seated at their tables, awaiting the arrival of the

Queen. They looked splendid in the crowns they had made, and many had flags painted on their faces. One even with a flag painted in their hair! There was red, white and blue everywhere!



I felt very honoured to be asked to join the line of people to greet the



Queen on her arrival. It was at this point I wished I had practiced how to curtsy!! It was really sad to hear that Miss Wilkie had been called away to an urgent meeting, so she was going to miss all the fun. Never mind, we would be able to tell her all about it afterwards!

Others in the line-up had been practicing their curtsies - they did far better than me. I waited nervously for my turn as the Queen had a guick word with each of us, just as you see on the television! It was great that she

brought a corgi with her! I should have taken Bertie! They would have had such fun running round together.

I was honoured to sit next to the Queen at lunch. Wow! The main thing I

noticed about her were her amazing gold and black boots. I had only seen the Queen in riding boots before. These were little ankle boots. Very trendy! I did not dare ask if they were real gold! She also had a trademark handbag! Something else that surprised me was how young she looked close up.



After our lovely lunch prepared by the brilliant school cook, we enjoyed



singing along to some well-known songs. The children and staff were in fine voice! To let off a little steam the children then created the longest Conga line I have seen. Then Skylark and Lapwing classes sang excellent Jubilee songs for us. They had obviously practiced these and got

a great round of applause. Hobby Class danced for us. There were some infiltrators from the Staff in this - it didn't look as if they had been to all the rehearsals, but fortunately the children knew what they were up to!

As the entertainment ended, the Queen got a great cheer from the children by announcing they could have the rest of the afternoon to play! While

the joy of this announcement was still being celebrated, the Queen quietly disappeared without us noticing! And with that, Miss Wilkie came back from her meeting. It was left to Mr Houston, to break the news to her. At first, she



was not sure about it - but she soon relented to the delight of the children!

The children went off to get their water bottles, and I slipped off back to work. What a delightful time I had, sharing this special occasion with Beckley School. What an amazing memory they have made for the children. Well done to all involved, and thank you for the invitation.

Anthea

BECKLEY

Beckley Church

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

Beckley & Stowood Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Thursday 9 June at 8pm in Beckley Village Hall.**

The Clerk's email address is <u>clerk@beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk</u> if you wish to contact the Parish Council to raise a question for the next meeting. Parish Council information, including agendas and minutes, is available on the website <u>www.beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk</u>, together with much useful information about local events and services. For information on Beckley Village Hall please see <u>www.beckleyvillagehall.org</u> and to enquire about a booking please contact the Booking Secretary, Sarah Kearney, at <u>booking@beckleyvillagehall.org</u>.

Important Notice about Otmoor Range

The Parish Council have received an email from Jonathan Craig, Training Safety Officer, Defence Infrastructure Organisation with responsibility for Otmoor range:

"Up until this year, we have never really had a problem with range incursions but we have had a few recently and I'm keen to stop the trend. In each case, individuals have walked past and ignored signs, flags or flashing beacons and put themselves at risk. I would be very grateful if you would re iterate in your newsletter that information on firing times is included on the government website at <u>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/south-east-trainingestate-firing-times</u> - simply scroll through to find Otmoor - and that individuals should still check and not ignore red flags or flashing beacons, both of which indicate that firing is taking place. It is worth mentioning that when the moor is flooded (Nov – Apr) red warning flags are replaced by red flashing beacons."

For updated information on firing taking place on Otmoor Range phone the South East Operations room on 01420 483405.



Beckley Open Gardens

Sunday 19 June 2-6 pm

Entrance £5; under 16's free. Please pay in cash! Ukrainian refugee families free.

Beckley Open Gardens is back with a selection of at least 12 beautiful gardens to visit, from family cottage gardens to the professionally designed, and many with amazing views over Otmoor.

To tie in with Open Gardens, there will be an art exhibition in the church on the theme of "Paint a Tree to Plant a Tree", a children's garden workshop (2.30-4.30pm) and an Iona service of thanksgiving (outside, weather permitting) at 6pm, for everyone, at the end of the day.

Visitors will also be able to enjoy teas, cake stall, home-made ice-creams, raffle (great prizes!), RSPB information stall and, of course, a plant stall. Fun for the whole family.

Profits to support the maintenance of the church.

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

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

Community Walks

These gentle, approximately two hour, walks usually start at 2pm on the third Sunday of the month (not 19 June, as this is Beckley Open Day). Dogs on leads are welcome. Details of individual walks will be emailed around the community and are available at <u>https://bacbs.org/events</u> a few days before each one.

Forthcoming Sunday Evening Talks at the Abingdon Arms

Sunday 26 June, 6.30pm Andrew Wilson, journalist and former Sky news presenter who lives in Elsfield, will be interviewed by Chris White.

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

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

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations, 2 - 5 June

Events at the Abingdon Arms

Thursday 2 June - Afternoon tea (clotted cream, jam etc) and a variety of gins in our garden gin bar, a small a la carte menu and pizzas

Friday 3 June - The very best of British food - Fish and chips, pie and mash, Cornish pasties etc

Saturday 4 June - Ticket event: live music, hog roast, local beers, face painting and more.

For more information visit https://www.theabingdonarms.co.uk/jubilee-

FOREST HILL

News from St Nicolas Church

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

Saturday Plant and Produce Stall

This will continue outside Lyttleton, Main Street, every Saturday 9-5pm, until October. Home-grown vegetable and flowers etc are available to buy, and contributions from your own gardens are welcome. Funds raised will go towards the running of St Nicolas Church.

Cream Teas and Music at St Nicolas, Saturday 18 June

Please note the dates previously advertised in the May magazine were not all correct. The new dates are:

Saturday 18 June, Saturday 23 July Sunday 28 August, Saturday 24 September

Jules Blyth (aka Julie Osborne) and husband Will, are providing live music

in the garden for our first Cream Teas at St Nicolas on Saturday 18 June from 3pm - 5pm. This will be the last chance to hear them at St Nicolas until September, when we look forward to welcoming them back from their summer 'European Tour'!



The Cream Teas will be followed by an informal concert in the church at 5.15pm lasting around 45 minutes and rounded off by drinks in the church garden. We are particularly delighted that John Stradling from Beckley has agreed to play the trumpet for us on this occasion.

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

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

Forest Hill with Shotover Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on **Thursday 30 June at 7pm in Forest Hill Village Hall**.

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

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

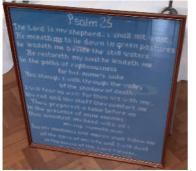
The Maple Tree at Forest Hill

The Maple Tree Baby and Toddler group at Forest Hill continues to take place in the Village Hall, every Thursday from 11am to 12pm including half-term and school holidays.

Grandparents, great-grandparents, carers and parents (including fathers!) have featured among our regular attendees, and there is friendship and expert advice for the adults, as well as fun and socialising for the children. Attendees can also join our WhatsApp Group, which enables members to ask advice and keep in touch with each other.

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

Can you solve a mystery for us?



The photo on the left is of a framed 'tapestry' which is stored in the vestry of St Nicolas Church. It features the words of Psalm 23 ('The Lord's my Shepherd') and is actually knitted as a single piece. It is a highly skilled and intricate piece of work, as well as being very unusual.

Unfortunately we have no record of when it was donated to the church, and no-one

can remember where it came from or who created it. We would really love to know more about it so, if by any chance you recognise it, please contact Jane Walker on 01865 872399.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations in Forest Hill

Thursday 2 June 11am - 12pm

Forest Hill Baby and Toddler Group will be making 'Jubilee Crowns' in Forest Hill Village Hall.

This being half term, we would love to see some of the children who are now too old to come to our weekly Thursday morning sessions with The Maple Tree. In addition to the usual toys, there will be craft materials for the older children, with singing and a story at the end of the session. All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult throughout.

Friday 3 June 10.30am - 1.30pm 'Café on the Hill'

The regular café in Forest Hill Village Hall will be serving a special Jubileeinspired menu.

Friday 3 June 6pm - midnight Buffet and Live Band at the White Horse

Tickets at £15 (a few still available) Tel 01865 873927

Saturday 4 June 11am - 1.30pm

Forest Hill Garden Club will be building a 'Jubilee Bee and Bug Hotel' on the Recreation Ground

Everyone is welcome to come and join the fun, while doing something useful for the environment and lots of people will be needed to help! If possible, please bring contributions of natural materials such as twigs, fir cones, sticks, old garden canes, old bark and hay etc.

Saturday 4 June 4.30pm - 7.30pm

'Bring and share' Jubilee Afternoon Tea followed by a Quiz in the Village Hall.

Bring some food (especially cake!) and drink to share with friends and neighbours. Tea and coffee will be provided but the rest is up to you!

Julie Osborne and Will Blyth will be providing live music 4.30 - 5.30pm and Becky Gibbs will be running a Quiz from 6pm (with a Prosecco prize!).

For more information or to offer help on the day, please contact Becky Gibbs: 07874 775182 (1 Milton Crescent) or Kate Hooper: 07595 694798.

HORTON-cum-STUDLEY

News from St Barnabas

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

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) took place on 4 May and Andrew Payne stood down as Churchwarden after 15 years of loyal and dedicated service. The PCC thanked him for his many years of service in this role.

Lynn Whitaker continues to serve as Churchwarden.

Support for Ukranian Refugees



Many people in the Four Parishes, especially in Beckley and Horton-cum-Studley, are working hard in a number of different ways to welcome and support Ukranian

refugees. Please see pages 12 - 15 for more details.

Horton-cum-Studley Parish Council

The Parish Council election was uncontested and 4 Councillors, Sarah Foxcroft, David Slingo, Colin Badger and Andrew Payne are the Village's elected Councillors and are in office for the next four years.

After many years of service to the village Barbara Jewell is standing down from the Parish Council, therefore there is a vacancy for a Councillor. If you are interested in this role, please contact any of the Councillors or the Parish Clerk Alexia Lewis <u>clerk@horton-cum-</u> <u>studley.org.uk</u>. The Parish Council wishes to thank Barbara for all the hard work she has undertaken on the behalf of the village over the years: her contribution to the village will be sorely missed.

Parish Council meetings take place on the 2nd Thursday of every month, remotely. **The next face to face meeting will be on 8 September**. All other meetings remain online. If you wish to attend an online meeting, please contact Alexia <u>clerk@horton-cum-studley.org.uk</u>.

Platinum Jubilee - Beacon, Prosecco & Pudding Thursday 2 June 6-8pm

Celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee at the Millennium Hall with a village get-together post-lockdown! Bring your own picnic if you want to for the first hour.

At 7pm we'll light a beacon, then return inside the hall to drink a toast to the Queen and serve Platinum Pudding.

Entertainment will include a chance to enjoy community singing led by our very own Jacki Maynard.

To help ensure we cater for all those who would like to be there, please email <u>clerk@horton-cum-studley.org.uk</u> to confirm attendance.



Final call! On-line registration closes Tuesday 7 June so please don't miss out on these reduced rates (£21.05 vs £25). To sign-up please visit: <u>https://race-nation.co.uk/register/otmoor-challenge/2022</u>.

If you plan to register on the day, please be aware that due to the new chip timing process we will be unable to accept new entrants after 9:30am so please arrive early. As in previous years, no preregistration is required for walkers, you can sign-up on the day. To make things easier, we will be accepting both cash and card payments on the day.

Post-race cake & refreshments will be available at the Millennium Hall and an ice cream van will also be positioned near the finish line.

News from our Gardens

Horton-cum-Studley Gardening Club is now in full swing. We had a very special presentation in April from Rosemary Wise, the eminent and extraordinarily well travelled member of the Oxford University Plant Sciences department and renowned illustrator and artist. In May we have a visit to Bridewell Gardens in North Leigh, and if anyone would like to come along as a guest we still have a few tickets available and offers of car share.

After a spectacular display the spring bulbs are fading. Having seen the last of the frosts, transplanting seedlings and creating pots and hanging baskets is now safely underway. The May bank holiday weekend saw bumper sales at our local nurseries, with Bunkers Hill having a fine selection.

A quick hoe round the borders should sort out most of the nasties bursting through the warm soil, and don't forget to chop off those hellebore flower heads unless you want hundreds of mixed seedlings next year.

It is with sadness that one of our favourite nurseries, Pitcairn Alpines, is closing its doors for the last time at the end of this season (<u>pitcairnalpines.co.uk</u>). There seem to be fewer and fewer family run nurseries although Hoo House, Slack Top, Craigiehall, Pottertons and Monksilver are still going strong. They all deserve our support. Happy digging!

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

The Giant Pumpkin and Sunflower Growing Competition

These plants will be available from late May. Pop round to Mill Lane in Horton-cum-Studley to pick one up or ring Cathy on 07941 245726. I hope we will have a great growing summer and have lots of entries for the weigh-in in October.

The sunflower is Ukraine's national flower - so even more reason to grow a sunflower this year.

Millennium Village Hall

11 June - Wine Tasting, 5.30pm (Otmoor Challenge Day)

£15 for a couple, £10 for single. Attendees must register with Derek Jewell together with pre-payment <u>derek.jewell@ndm.ox.ac.uk</u> or Madison, Brill Rd.

16 June - Annual General Meeting, 8pm

At the AGM we need nominations for Chairman, Secretary, Bookings Secretary and 2 committee members. Nominations together with names of proposer and seconder need to be sent to Derek Jewell (contact details, as above). It is important that everyone who is free attends. The hall, with the field and play area is a great facility to the village and we are all responsible for its maintenance. The committee meets on the third Thursday of each month and meetings rarely last much more than an hour.

It is good to report that the police have returned - they have not booked the hall for over 3 years so it is excellent to welcome them back. The increase in bookings for large parties is encouraging but that has led to significant damage with cost implications. Larger deposits for these big events to cover additional cleaning may be the way forward. The committee is discussing ways of dealing with this situation. Locking the gates into the field has dealt with the joyriding problem and the chain has now been removed for everyone's convenience, but will be reapplied if there is a recurrence of joyriding.

As I am standing down as Chairman on 16 June, this will be my last piece. It has been a pleasure to chair the committee over the last 3 years (I promised to do it for only 1 year!) and I have been greatly supported by a wonderful committee. It will be very sad to see David Russell and Barry White leave the committee as they have been stalwarts in their support.

Derek Jewell

Friday 24 June - Village Social Night at Studley Wood Golf Club If you would like the menu and more details, please contact Ruth on <u>ruth.david@live.com</u>. Choices need to be made by Monday 20 June.

Sunday 7 August - Safari Lunch around the Village

This is a lunch party with successive courses prepared and eaten at the homes of different hosts. More details about the cost of tickets and where to get them will be advertised in the next Horton-cum-Studley Village Newsletter.

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

Horton-cum-Studley Tennis Club Open Courts & Hot Dogs



The committee invite everyone to come and play and grab a hotdog with us for a social gathering Saturday 25 June 12 - 2pm

We encourage players of all abilities, and everyone is invited to join in, ask questions about the club and enjoy the lovely courts!

The courts have been cleaned ready for the 2022 season and the annual memberships remain the same as previous years - adults (£47), juniors (£20) & families (£80).

Come and join other members for a relaxed and fun Sunday morning session at 11am every Sunday!

Group coaching for adults and children (membership not required) and private lessons for club members are available.

To book coaching or membership applications please use Web: <u>https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/HortonCumStudleyTennisClubOxford</u> Facebook: <u>https://www.facebook.com/hsctennisclub</u> or Google 'Horton cum Studley Tennis'

We look forward to seeing you on court soon! Best wishes, HCS Tennis Club Committee



STANTON ST JOHN

Stanton Church

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

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) took place on 22 May and Sheila Pullen and Deirdre Young stood down as Churchwardens after 35 and 14 years of loyal and dedicated service respectively.

Sheila and Deirdre have served the Church and the community loyally for such a long time. They will be sorely missed. The PCC thanked them both for their many years of service in this role and wish them a happy retirement from it!

Memorial Service for Frank Robson, 6 June

Frank's family are arranging a memorial service for him on 6 June at 1.30pm in the church at Stanton, with refreshments afterwards in the Village Hall. We hope that those who knew Frank will be able to join us to celebrate his life and share memories. In order to gauge numbers for the catering please could people email Lorna at <u>lornarobson59@gmail.com</u>, or phone her on 07791 854821 if you are planning to attend.

Midsummer Music, 1 July

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

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

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

Film Night, Saturday 4 June 7.45pm Stanton St John Village Hall

As part of the Platinum Jubilee, the Stanton St John Film Club presents: **THE QUEEN**



After the death of Princess Diana, in a particular difficult period in her life, Queen Elizabeth II struggles with her reaction to a sequence of events nobody could have predicted.

Stellar performances of Oscar-winning Helen Mirren and Michael Sheen in the 2006 movie "*The Queen*" (1h 43m, rating 12A), directed by Stephen Frears.

Doors will be open at 7pm, with a film start at 7.45pm. Before and after the film, delicious cakes and drinks will be available whilst the bar will serve wines and Gin & Tonics.

Since only 60 seats are available in the Village Hall, please reserve your seats for the screening as soon as possible by emailing Sue Baker (<u>susanjbaker24@gmail.com</u>) or in Stanton Village Shop.

Tickets are only £5 (cash only) and will be sold at the door. Any profits raised will be used to enhance the Village Hall for future screenings.

College House Open Garden



Every Tuesday in June, 3pm - 7.30pm Ad hoc tea, and wine after 6pm or bring your own picnic. Dogs on leads please.

All children at own risk - especially on the swing and near the Ha Ha.

Donations to Stanton Church Restoration Fund, and local Ukrainian Families Appeal.

Coffee Mornings in Stanton Village Hall 2nd Wednesday of the month

Wednesday 8 June, 10.30am - 12pm

Wednesday 20 July, 10.30am - 12pm (3rd Wednesday this month)

Come for tea, coffee and cake! Everyone is welcome.

For further details, please contact Sue Baker 01865 351449 or Sarah Coyne 01865 358876.

H5 Bus Service

Please note: any parishioner who has concerns or points to make about the H5 bus service should contact the Transport Representative, John Battye, phone: 01865 358984, e-mail: <u>john.battye1@gmail.com</u>.

Stanton St John WI

Stanton St John WI are having a Garden Party on the afternoon of Tuesday 21 June. Our kind hostess is Annie Payne from Horton-cum-Studley.

More details about the arrangements for the day will be discussed at our May meeting and forwarded to members by email. We hope for fine weather, and look forward to a warm and friendly get together with the usual WI selection of delicious "bring and share" refreshments.

Stanton St John Parish Council

The next meeting will be on **Monday 20 June at 7.30pm in Stanton Village Hall**. Meeting dates for the rest of the year are available on the Parish Council website at <u>http://www.parish-council.com/stantonstjohn/</u>

Thanks to all litter-picking volunteers

Many thanks to all the keen volunteers who took part in the village litter-picking afternoon a few weeks ago, and to Michiel Stofferis for organising the event and arranging our chic hi-vis waistcoats and garbage grabbers. Next year we hope for slightly less windy weather!

Thanks are also due to those who regularly pick up litter as they walk around our area, all year round, keeping the area tidy for the benefit of us all.

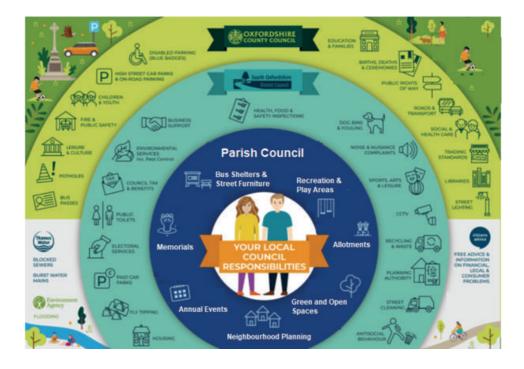
Summer time and outdoor activities

Now that summer is (pretty well) here, many of us are spending more time in our green spaces and gardens. Please be considerate towards your neighbours and remember the established convention in the village to avoid noisy outdoor DIY, mowing, strimming etc. on Sundays unless absolutely unavoidable.

Garden bonfires can also disturb others in the area, so please try to reduce the risk of nuisance smoke by avoiding days when the wind is strong or blowing towards other people's homes, and only burning dry garden waste or clean, dry wood. Do not burn household waste or packaging materials - SODC advises that if you cannot fit all of your recycling waste in your green wheelie bin, you can leave any extra recycling by the side of the bin. Please ensure it is left out in a cardboard box or in clear bin bags so that crews can see that it is recycling waste.

Local councils - who does what?

The informative chart below shows "who does what" in the various tiers of local government and administration. Thanks to our district and county councillor Tim Bearder for this, which he presented at our recent Annual Parish Meeting.



* * * * * * * * * *

Last Word

A Prayer for Ukraine

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

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today. We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons. We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions. Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen

> Archbishop Justin Welby Archbishop Stephen Cottrell



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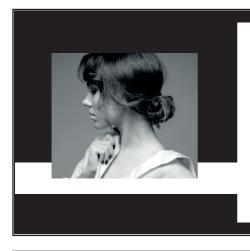
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Middle Road, Stanton St John

Full Body Thai Massage, Thai Foot Massage or Pregnancy Massage

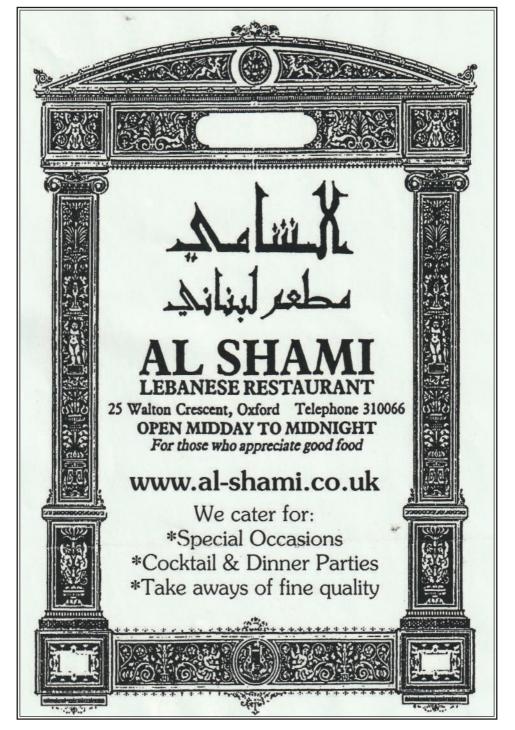
60mins, 75mins, 90 mins or 2 hours

Email: <u>luka@thaimassageoxford.co.uk</u>

Mobile: 07969 981924

Website: www.thaimassageoxford.co.uk





Celebrating the Platinum Jubilee in the Four Parishes



People in our four villages have found plenty of imaginative ways to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Here are just a few! You will find more in the individual village pages, but do look out for posters, email and social media posts as well!

Date	Village	Time	Event
Thursday 2 June	Beckley	pm	Afternoon Tea at the Abingdon Arms
Thursday 2 June	Horton-cum- Studley	eve	Beacon, Prosecco & Platinum Pudding
Friday 3 June	Stanton St John	eve	Film Night: 'The Queen'
Saturday 4 June	Forest Hill	am	Build a Jubilee Bug Hotel with Forest Hill Garden Club
Saturday 4 June	Forest Hill	pm	'Bring and Share' Jubilee Afternoon Tea
Sunday 5 June	Stanton St John	pm	'Bring and Share' Lunch on the Millenium Green'