

The Four Parishes News Magazine

BECKLEY
FOREST HILL
HORTON-cum-STUDLEY
STANTON St JOHN



‘uninvited guests’ on a local stretch of water

May 2018

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

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

Cover photo - 'uninvited guests'

These attractive-looking Canada Geese were spotted on a local stretch of water. Migratory birds, native to the arctic and temperate regions of North America, they have also established themselves as wild breeding birds in Britain. Unfortunately their success has led to them often being considered a pest species because of their depredation of crops and issues with their noise, droppings and aggressive territorial behaviour.

**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**

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**

Letter from the Vicarage

Part of the Good News of the Easter message is that Jesus is alive and that He is now seated at the right hand of God the Father in heaven.

Because of the victory of Christ over Satan, sin and death, Christians on earth can all know Jesus' presence and blessing at all times; wherever we are, whether called to stay in a place or called to move to somewhere new.

There is a saying that the only permanent thing in life is change, and change can come when we are least expecting it.

I had no idea at the start of the year that in 2018 there was going to be a call for me to move to a new job and serve God in a new parish. As a family we have been and are very settled here and we love both the people and the villages; it has all been very unexpected.

So, with mixed emotions, we are now aiming to end our time well in this benefice. In the future we will begin afresh in the place of God's calling, the town that will become our new home and my workplace.

There are lots of details to work out, but I do know that the service to licence me as Rector in the church and town of Olney will be at 6pm on the 9th September. We as a family are here until the end of July and it is our aim to be fully involved in the life of the Benefice until then. Fenella and I are so grateful to you all for the love, support and kindness that we have experienced over our six years here with you all. Please pray with us for the move and our new placement. We are, and will be, praying for you all in these next months.

All best and blessings,

Andrew

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

Clergy

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Church Services in the Four Parishes, May 2018

	St Nicolas, Forest Hill with Shotover	St. John the Baptist, Stanton St. John	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Beckley	St. Barnabas, Horton-cum- Studley
6 May	11am Parish Communion	9.30am Parish Communion 4pm Family Service (Village Hall) 6pm Taize	9.30am Family Service	11am Parish Communion
10 May Ascension	6.30am (see invitation on page 6) Ascension Day Service in the garden at Studley Farm House, Brill Road, Horton-cum-Studley			
13 May	9.30am Family Service at Stanton St John		9.30am Parish Communion	11am Morning Prayer
	6pm Evening Prayer (Book of Common Prayer)			
20 May Pentecost	11am Morning Prayer (BCP)	9.30am Parish Communion	11am Holy Communion (BCP)	11am Family Service
			4pm Family Service (Village Hall) (see page 9) 6pm Iona Service	
27 May	10am Joint Benefice Service at Beckley 6pm (note new time) Church without Walls (Stanton St John Village Hall)			

CHURCH NOTICE BOARD

Inter-Village Bible Study Group

The Group will be meeting on Thursday evenings: 3 May, 17 May and 31 May at 7.45pm for 8pm at John and Pam Edmonds Seal's home in Beckley.

If you are interested in discussing and learning from the Bible, why not come and see what goes on? For details contact Pam Edmonds-Seal (01865 351582) or David or Rita Turner (01865 351460).

Church without Walls

Please note the new time of 6pm. Come and be inspired! For more information contact Rev'd David Bendor-Samuel (01865 872102).

"A SERVICE?"

**Ascension Day
Invitation**

Thursday 10 May, 6.30am

"In a garden?"

"Do you really mean 6.30AM?"

in the garden at Studley Farm House

Brill Road, Horton-cum-Studley OX33 1BP

"You must be joking!"

"No one in their right mind gets up to go to a service, in a garden, mid-week, at 6.30 in the morning."

Perhaps one has to be a little mad to be willing to shiver outside at that time in the morning, no pews to sit on, no organ to support our singing, BUT this is Ascension day and it makes the story of Christ walking with his friends to the Mount of Olives before being taken up into the clouds all the more believable.

Maybe it is the knowledge that after we have braved the 30 minutes outside there is the promise of coffee and hot bacon rolls that makes the whole event especially enticing.

Everyone is welcome!

RSVP by Saturday 5 May to Annie and Andrew Payne (01865 351018), Betty Dye (01865 358294) or Rev'd Andrew Pritchard-Keens (01865 358340).

Event at Heyford Park Chapel, Upper Heyford

Marilyn Baker and Tracy Williamson are giving a concert at Heyford Park Chapel on 25 May, followed by a 'Rest and Renewal Day' featuring music, teaching, prayer and fellowship on 26 May. Details are available on their website www.mbm-ministries.org. Both events are free but places should be reserved by contacting Geoff and Hope Price on 07795 554102 or geoffandhope@yahoo.com.

GENERAL NOTICES

Oxford to Cambridge Expressway

In our March issue we featured an article on the proposed Oxford to Cambridge Expressway. Further details of possible routes together with supporting information for anyone wishing to raise objections is now available on the websites of Horton-cum-Studley and Beckley & Stowood Parish Councils (see below). The Parish Councils are urging residents to write to as many relevant people and organisations as possible, giving reasons why the Expressway should not be built through or close to our villages and across Otmoor. The following website and email addresses may be useful:.

Horton cum Studley Parish Council: www.horton-cum-studley.org.uk

Beckley and Stowood Parish Council: www.beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk

John Howell the MP for our constituency: howelljm@parliament.uk

Barry Wood Leader of Cherwell District Council: Barry.wood@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Ian Hudspeth leader of Oxfordshire County Council:
ian.hudspeth@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Dan Sames County Councillor: Dan.sames@oxfordshire.gov.uk

David Hughes District Councillor:
David.hughes@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Iain Stewart Government Champion for the Ox/Camb Expressway:
Iain.stewart.mp@parliament.uk

Unlike other parts of the county,
South Oxfordshire & Vale of White Horse District Councils are
not having an election on 3 May 2018

so we won't be sending out any voting cards or postal votes to
residents in our district.

South Oxfordshire & Vale of White Horse District Councils next
scheduled elections are in May 2019

Please make sure you are registered to vote for those elections, and if
not please visit www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

If you'd like further information on elections or to find out who your
local councillor is, please visit our website –

www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/local-democracy
www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/local-democracy

BECKLEY

Church Recording

A group from the Oxford branch of NADFAS (National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies, now called The Arts Society) is starting to 'record' Beckley church. This involves making a detailed inventory of the whole building and its contents, with photographs and relevant historical information. The group, which includes Ted Cloke and Gina Robson, will meet once a month in the church to do the work, and the process usually takes 2 - 3 years. The final valuable record is presented to the church as a bound volume, and copies go to the Diocese for their Archive, and to the Arts Society head office in London.

Waterperry was the first church to be recorded by the Oxford branch, followed by Garsington. We are delighted that Beckley has been chosen now.

*Are you are interested in exploring the Christian faith?
Are you looking for a lively and informal church service?
Or do you have children and would love them to grow in their faith?*

The **New Family Church service** in Beckley is for you!

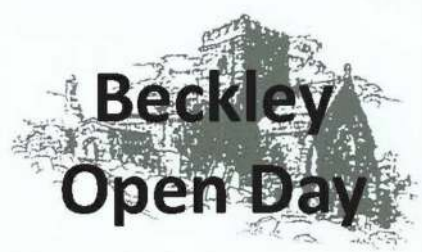


Where: Beckley Village Hall

When: Sundays at 4pm - 5.30pm, 20 May, 17 June, 15 July.

What: Teaching for adults, separate teaching for children, and a meal for everyone at the end.

Please come along and discover more about Jesus, everyone is welcome.



Beckley Open Day

**Sunday 17 June
2 - 6pm**

Come and enjoy

14 open gardens

Teas, Books and CDs etc, Plants,

Cakes, Ice creams,

Bouncy Castle, Fair Organ

Art Exhibition in the Church

Ample free parking

Adults £6, children 16 and under free if accompanied by an adult

All profits to go towards the maintenance of our
14th Century Church

Beckley and Stowood Parish Council

The May Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 10 May at 8pm at Beckley Village Hall.

The Annual Open Parish Meeting, for all Beckley and Stowood residents, will be held on Wednesday 23 May 2018 at 7.30pm at Beckley Village Hall.

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

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

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

Go Active Gold activities for Senior Citizens

Senior Circuits on Thursdays 8:30-9:30am at Beckley Village Hall for £5 beginning price.

Table Tennis at Beckley Village Hall - times to be arranged.

Contact Ann Henman annhenman@gmail.com if interested.

Beckley Barn Dance

Saturday 5 May in Beckley Village Hall with Riverhead Ceilidh Band.

Doors open 7:30pm Cost £10 adults, £5 under 18s. Please bring a plate of food to share and your own drink.

Contact: Judy Bushrod Judybushrod@gmail.com or Maeve Bayton drmaeve@hotmail.com

Other Community Events

Wednesday 2 May, 7.30pm: **Pub Quiz** at The Abingdon Arms.

The Abingdon Arms, High Street, Beckley OX3 9UU

More than a Pub programme May 2018

Tues 1 May	WOMEN OF BECKLEY LUNCH	Lunch 12.30pm Contact Sarah Smith for more information: beckleysarah@gmail.com We encourage women from other villages to arrange their own lunches at The Abingdon Arms.
Wed 2 May	MEN OF BECKLEY LUNCH	Lunch 12.30pm Contact Steve Smith for more information: barkbeetles@gmail.com We encourage men from other villages to arrange their own lunches at The Abingdon Arms.
Fri 4 May	COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING	10.00 – 11.30am Coffee and biscuits £2, but espresso coffees and cake available too. Do come along and meet old and new friends from all our villages.
Tues 8 May	TABLE GAMES	2.30-4.30pm Games may include Scrabble, backgammon, chess, Mah Jong. JBring along your games set and friends. Session will move to 3 rd Tuesday in June.
Thurs 10 May	CHILDREN'S AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITY CAFÉ	3.30-4.30pm Primarily for pupils of Beckley Primary School. Cross-stitch key-rings, £1.50 each. Sign up with Aimee Butterfield - aimeebutts1@yahoo.co.uk or text 07834 533177.
Sun 13 May	SONGS AND TUNES: A SINGAROUND	6.30 – 8.30pm* An evening where musicians sing songs and play tunes individually and together. Come along with your instruments or voice and join in: folk, blues, Irish and Scottish Tunes, singer-songwriters, etc. Or just come along and listen - no pressure to take part.
Sat 19 May	COMMUNITY WALK	10.30am-12.30pm 5 miles or 3 miles. Meet at pub for prompt start. Return to The Abingdon Arms for coffee and / or lunch
Sun 20 May	JAZZ, THE SUNDAY SESSION	6.30 – 8.30pm* Martin Pickett (keyboards), Raf Mizraki (bass), Mark Doffman (drums). Cool sounds, warm welcome!
Sun 3 Jun	POETRY EVENING	6.30 – 8.30pm Oxford's Stanza 2 poetry group read their own poems and invite local poets to contribute. Further information will be on website (see below)

*Delicious hand-made bar snacks available for sale at Sunday evening sessions.
Further information about programme on website www.bacbs.org

STANTON ST JOHN

St. John the Baptist Church

Please see page 5 for details of all church services during May.

Stanton St John Parish Council

Stanton St John Parish Council AGM will take place on Monday 14 May at 7.30pm in the village hall - everyone is welcome.

Can you help? Would you like to be a super user on behalf of Stanton St John, to work with the county council to trial a new scheme for reporting potholes and road defects. You will be fully trained and can then escalate local road repairs without someone from Highways having to come out to inspect it first. If you do, please email stantonstjohnpc@gmail.com, providing your name and contact details.

We have been notified that Bayswater Road will be closed for repair from "31st May 2018 until 4th June 2018, for a maximum of 5 days". The diversion route will be along Shepherd's Pits Road. We have written to Oxfordshire County Council to point out the unsuitability of this diversion especially in light of the quarry lorries that currently use the Bayswater Road.

Stanton St John Parents and Toddlers

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

3 May, 17 May, 31 May, 14 June, 28 June and 12 July.

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

Party Invitation

Saturday 5 May 2018, 3 pm - 5 pm, Stanton St John Village Hall

Deirdre Young invites everyone to tea and cake
to celebrate her 80th birthday.
(just yourselves, no presents or cards)



Stanton Village Hall

6 May, 3 June, 1 July

4:00 - 5:30pm

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

Includes dinner for the children

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

Stanton St John WI

Our Resolutions Meeting is on Tuesday 15 May when members can discuss and vote for this Year's Resolution. We plan to have other areas of discussion and some "in house" activities too, as they have proved popular in the past. We meet as usual in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Keep the date for our Group Meeting which is scheduled for Thursday 24 May at 7.30pm in Murcott Village Hall. The subject is the History of the Windsor Chair as told by Stuart Linford, an entertaining and charismatic speaker who makes his talks fascinating and he comes highly recommended.

For the modest admission fee of £3 you will have a great talk, delicious refreshments and the chance to network with other members from other local WIs.

Ron Watts (1926 – 1917)

It was sad to hear about the death of Ron Watts. He was born at Woodperry Farm and lived in the village all his life apart from his time in the services. He was a postman for many years delivering to all the local villages. There are a lot of people who still remember him and ask about him. He had his terrible accident but he was always cheerful, never grumbled. He is at rest now and his ashes are interred in his parents' grave.

FOREST HILL

News from St. Nicolas Church



If you regularly go up or down Church Hill you may have noticed that there is a 'new' signboard on the church wall beside the entrance gate. Originally painted by Mr. Gawne, who lived in the village, it has been languishing in storage for several years but, thanks to Pep Glen, it has now been refurbished.

Daffodil Day at the end of March was a great success. The gardens at Shotover House were looking at their best, with daffodils just beginning to open up, and the presence of Holloway's Auctioneers provided much interest in antique valuations. We are most grateful to Alexander and Camilla Stanier for their hospitality, to Holloway's for attending, and to everyone else involved. The event raised £1,477 for the upkeep of St. Nicolas Church.

Thank you to Rev'd Hugh Lee, who presided over our Easter services, and to all those who helped to decorate the church.

Please see **page 5 for details of all church services during May.**

Services and other events at St Nicolas are also featured on our website at www.stnicolasforesthill.org

Christian Aid

You should find an envelope inside your magazine for Christian Aid Week. Kindly return your contribution to the Village Shop, Stanton St. John, or to Heather Simmonds, (7 Mickle Way) or Jane Walker (Lyttleton, Main Street). Thank you.

Forest Hill with Shotover Parish Council

Thank you to the representatives from the village groups who attended the Annual Parish meeting. Reports were received from St Nicolas Church, Forest Hill Community Lunch Club, Forest Hill Sports & Social Club, Forest Hill Village Hall Committee, Forest Hill Gardening Club, Forest Hill Allotments, the Otmoor Flyer Organising Group and the Holford Centre. The reports will be available for viewing on the website with the minutes of the Parish Council meeting that followed.

The next Parish Council meeting, the AGM, will be held on Thursday 17 May, at 7pm in the Village Hall. All residents are welcome to attend. You can contact Helen Cross, the Parish Council Clerk on email: foresthillwithshotoverpc@gmail.com or tel: 0844 884 3328.

The website address is: www.parishcouncil.com/foresthillwithshotover/

Current Agendas and Minutes are posted on the notice boards; outside the Village Hall, the entrance to Mickle Way, Bayswater Mill and Old Road Shotover. Archive Agendas and Minutes can be found on the website.

Date for your Diary

Saturday 16, June, Pop-up-Café (Pancakes) 10am - 12 noon in the Village Hall.

FOREST HILL GARDEN CLUB

PLANT SALE

SATURDAY 12 MAY, 10.00 - 12.00

FOREST HILL VILLAGE HALL

PLANTS, SEEDS, HERBS, PRODUCE

REFRESHMENTS



Forest Hill Village Feast 2018

Saturday 14 July 12pm – 4pm

The organising committee are moving on with arrangements for the Feast. We are sure the event will be as successful as last year - but with much better weather! Many attractions take place under cover, free parking will be available on the recreation ground and there will be games and activities to suit all age groups.

In the spirit of this being a community effort, there are a few things we need help with to make the day run smoothly. They are:

Tables - if you have any picnic tables, garden tables or fold up tables that we could borrow please get in touch. We'll collect in the morning and return to you at the end of the day so no need to transport but do ensure your table is labelled. Please contact Anna at aweston303@gmail.com or 07806 6366221 if you can help.

The **Tea, Coffee and Cake stall** would really appreciate any contributions



of small cakes, biscuits or cake slices. If savoury baking is more your thing then any contributions of quiches, pizza slices or salads would be great. If you would like us to collect your contribution the day before the event or to arrange delivery, please

contact Alison Finch on tigfinch@gmail.com or tel: 01865 874555 / 07792 366092.

As before, the Feast will feature its usual magnificent **Tombola stall**. We are collecting items for the stall now so if you have any unwanted new or nearly new gifts, bottles or other items, this is a good way to recycle them. Please deliver any items to Jane Walker, Lyttleton, Main Street, Forest Hill or to arrange for collection e-mail lyttleton@btinternet.com or tel: 01865 872399.

Donating to the **Second Hand Books stall** will free up some shelf space so that you can stock up with new reading material from the stall on the day, at a fraction of the price of new books. If you have books to donate please contact Peter Stutfield on 01865 876848 to arrange delivery or collection.

The **Produce stall** welcomes donations of home-made jams, pickles, chutneys and plants. Contact Val on vkbox2000@gmail.com or tel: 01865 873079 / 07967 123624 to arrange delivery or collection before the Feast.

The **Craft Tent** was a great success last year and we are happy to say that artisans from the Otmoor Collective will be selling their products at the Feast again. This is a great opportunity to buy birthday and Christmas (!) gifts or just a treat for yourself. A card reader will be available to take payments. If you would like to hire a table to display your own crafts please contact Julia Stutfield on julia.stutfield@gmail.com or 07766 103427.

If you would like to help on the day you will be made very welcome as we do need as many **volunteers** as possible. Jobs will be assigned closer to the day and even if you can only spare a few hours to help set up or clear away, you'd be making a big difference. Helping to organise the Feast is great fun and a marvellous way of getting to know new people from the village. Contact any one of the people above to let them know if you can spare some time.

Don't forget to break the good news to your family dog that it's time to get ready for the **Dog Show** and we look forward to seeing it, you and your family and friends on the 14th July.



HORTON-cum-STUDLEY

News from Horton-cum-Studley: St Barnabas

Studley Farmhouse (The Payne family) kindly hosted Cream Teas on Sunday 8 April by kind invitation of Sue Burge to enable the church to raise funds



on the back of open gardens under the National Open Garden scheme. Despite the appalling weather brave enthusiasts ventured out, as did some supportive villagers. We all had fun and are grateful to all that helped.

Horton-cum-Studley Gardening Club

It has been a wet, cold spring, but gardens are waking up at last, daffodils and tulips are open, the grass is growing and the sound of lawn mowers will soon reverberate around the village. We do not have speakers again until October, but members (and guests) are visiting Meadow Farm Wildflower Meadow on 30 May and a garden in Wantage on 13 July. The club will be running a plant stall at the Otmoor Challenge on 3 June - contributions welcome. For more information about our programme see the website: www.horton-cum-studley.org.uk/community/clubs/ or contact the chairman, Susan Burge 01865 351310.

2018 Giant Pumpkin Growing Competition

Yes! It is back for 2018!

Do you want to try to grow a really big pumpkin this year?

Would you like to be the one to grow a bigger pumpkin than Richard Hawes this year?

If so please get your pumpkin plants from Cathy Jenkins (01865 351543) from the end of May. They are £4 each, are fun and easy to grow and all money goes to charity.

The Big Weigh In is at the Michaelmas Fair in September.

Good Luck!

Gardens open for the National Garden Scheme charities and the British Skin Foundation

Sunday 17 June: Hilltop Cottage and Upper Green (2-5pm)

Sunday 2 Sept: Upper Green (2– 5.30pm)

Home-made teas will be served at Upper Green in aid of St Barnabas Church.



Snakes-head fritillaries in the garden at Upper Green

Coffee Morning

The next Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday 12 May at 10am in the Millennium Hall. Everyone is welcome including neighbouring villages. Contact Rachel Hawes for more information (01865 351540).

Women's Institute

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday 8 May at 7.45pm in the Millennium Hall. The Speaker is Mary Gregory who will give us a talk on the charity ACWW (Associated Country Women of the World). We will also have the opportunity to vote on the 2018 Resolution which is 'Mental Health Matters'. We invite all women to join us. More information can be obtained from the President, Barbara Jewell (01865 351315).

Parish Council

The next meeting will be held on 10 May at 7.30pm in the Millennium Hall. For the past month the Parish Council has been busy obtaining information concerning the proposed Oxford/Cambridge Expressway. This information has been posted on the Parish Council website and also the Village Facebook page. We do urge residents to write to as many relevant people and organisations as possible, giving reasons why this Expressway should not be built across Otmoor. You will find a list of useful email addresses on page 7.

GTs ('Get Togetherers') Date for your Diary

GTs are having a Safari Lunch around the Village on 1 July. There will be more details to follow in the June issue. Tickets available from beginning of June.

Contact Ruth David 351444 or Rachel Hawes 351540.

The Otmoor Challenge 2018 Saturday 2nd June

What are you doing on Saturday 2 June? There is only one place to be - the **39th Otmoor Challenge!** The biggest social event of the year in Horton-cum-Studley. Come along and join in the fun – you can run, walk or just come along to the Playing Field and enjoy the day. The fete starts at 1pm, but if you want to walk either the long or short course you can set off from 8.30am. The runners mass start is at 2pm, and the evening bash will follow on from about 6pm with a pig roast and live music when you can sit and chat or dance and drink. Tickets available from **Sarah Mander** on 07850 231293 - £9.00 for adults and £4.00 for children. Alternatives to the pig roast for children and vegetarians will be available.

Could you make a cake for the cake stall, or for the WI who are making the teas? Offer a bottle (or two) to the bottle stall? Help with the Gardening Club stall or with the books? How about acting as a marshal on the course, or manning one of the course drinks station for a few hours or giving a hand with the evening bash? We need assistance with putting up and taking down the tents, and many other tasks. See the village Facebook page for more details.

If you can contribute in any way, please contact any of the committee, or chairman, Andrew Pennington: (01865 358800).

Don't forget that you can always run the half-marathon, or walk the same course or a shorter 5-mile one – great for a family outing. Join up and do your bit for the village and its local charities and good causes! Last year we distributed over £6000. Help us to do more this year, and if you have any suggestions for new local causes and charities, then let the committee know as soon as you can!

The fete organisers for this year's Otmoor Challenge, **Lisa Mynheer (07786 705 785; lisamynheer@gmail.com)** and **Sara Mander**, would like to thank all those that have already stepped up to the mark and offered to support the stalls, pig roast etc. If you have not already been roped in and would like to offer your services please do get in touch.

SEE YOU ON THE 2nd JUNE – IT'S YOUR CHALLENGE!

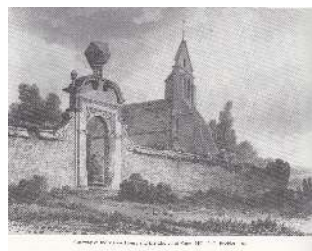
POSTSCRIPT: Curiouser and Curiouser!

Do you know?

Do you know where in Forest Hill there is a fourteen sided stone prism over a gateway and its connection with John Milton? The picture probably gives it away. It is in the garden of Manor House. Sometimes known as '*Milton's Gate*', it dates from the early 17th century. It is not visible from the road so you may be forgiven for not knowing about it, but it was probably once the main entrance to the garden. And what is the connection with Stanton St John?



The clue is '*Milton*' and those of you who have read Robert Graves '*A Wife to Mr Milton*' will know the answers. John Milton [1608 - 1674], the Puritan poet, married Mary Powell [1625 - 1652], the sixteen year old daughter of Richard Powell who lived here, on 21 May 1643 it is said [2]/[3]. The marriage took place under pressure. Richard had borrowed a lot of money [1], £312, in 1627 from John.



John Milton, senior, scrivener and composer, the poet's father, was born in Stanton St John. His parents, Richard and Joan Milton leased the farm from New College. In their wills they requested to be buried near the bell tower. There is no reason to suspect that these requests were not carried out. [4] And do you know about the gateway's connection with a Scottish poet? But that is another story.

Anthony Wood, the younger

[1] See the Victoria County History Vol 15 '*Bullington Hundred*'

[2] This is disputed and there is no record of a marriage in the Forest Hill Parish Records. These, for this period, are in a sorry state with large gaps. I have not been back to the originals but the transcripts make no note of missing pages or lack continuity.

[3] Shortly after this Mary returned home but rejoined John in 1645. They had four children. Mary died from complications after the birth of the last.

[4] I am indebted to Andrew Parrott for putting me on to this information, way back in 1996.



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Horton-cum-Studley Millennium Hall Playing Field

Saturday 2nd June 2018



**Half-Marathon run around Otmoor on roads and trails.
Start at 2pm**

Walk the half-marathon or a shorter 5-mile route from 8.30am

Details at www.otmoorchallenge.co.uk

The annual village fete is part of the Otmoor Challenge. Lots of stalls, games and opportunities to meet your friends and neighbours. Teas, BBQ and, of course, the bar!

Can you help? Have you got ideas for new stalls? Can you help to run any of the traditional ones?

Fete Organiser – Lisa Mynheer lisamynheer@gmail.com or 01865 351340

Music from the Wantage Silver Band

Evening Bash from 6.00pm

Pig roast with vegetarian and child alternatives

Bar and music – Adults £9 Children £4

Tickets from Sarah Mander 07850 231293

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in the Horton-cum-Studley year!**