

The Four Parishes News Magazine

BECKLEY
FOREST HILL
HORTON-cum-STUDLEY
STANTON St JOHN



'No Expressway Group' on Brill Hill, November 2019

December 2019 / January 2020

The editor writes:



This month's magazine is a bumper edition at a massive 40 pages, which is definitely a record for me! I am greatly looking forward to my Christmas break with no publication deadline, but no doubt the 15th of January will come round all too quickly.

The Four Parishes are humming with activity over the Christmas period so please make sure that you take advantage of as many events as possible.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a fulfilling and peaceful New Year.

Julia Stutfield

Our cover photo ...

was taken by Tim Andrew of Brill

*at the launch of the **No Expressway Group** challenge to parliamentary candidates from Oxford to Cambridge, 17 Nov 2019*

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

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

Beckley

John Baker Tel: 07401 550537 johnbaker245@btinternet.com

Forest Hill

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Horton-cum-Studley

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Stanton St John

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The closing date for the Feb 2020 issue is 15 Jan 2020

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.stnicolasforesthill.org/four-parishes

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

Ministry Team

We are extremely grateful to all of our volunteer clergy and Licensed Lay Ministers for their generous support during our vacancy. Please contact the Church Wardens in the first instance with any enquiries.

Rev'd Hugh Lee	hugh.lee@btinternet.com Tel: 01865 316245
Rev'd Canon Beau Stevenson	beaumont.stevenson@gmail.com
Rev'd Stephanie Bullock	stephaniebullock9@gmail.com
Rev'd Dr. Elizabeth Hoare	liz.hoare@wycliffe.ox.ac.uk
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Canon Prof. Nicholas Orme LLM	N.I.Orme@exeter.ac.uk Tel: 01865 512676
Joanna Allen (Ordinand)	jo.ordinand@gmail.com

Church Wardens

Beckley

Georgina Robson	Tel: 01865 351637	gina.robson@virgin.net
Betty Dye	Tel: 07910 356343	betty.dye10@gmail.com

Forest Hill

Jane Walker	Tel: 01865 872399	lyttleton@btinternet.com
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Horton-cum-Studley

Andrew Payne	Tel: 01865 351018	andrewrobertsonpayne@gmail.com
Lynn Whitaker	Tel: 01865 358838	lyndawhitaker@btinternet.com

Stanton St John

Sheila Pullen	Tel: 01865 351210	dave.sheila53@gmail.com
Deirdre Young	Tel: 01865 351745	youngdee@live.co.uk

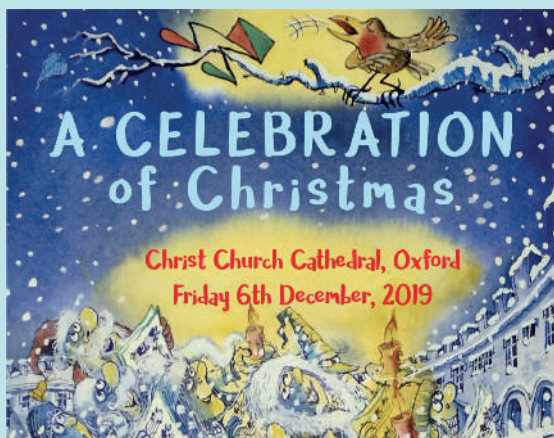
Star of Wonder: A Play for Christmas

St Barnabas Church, Horton cum Studley
Saturday 22 December at 8pm

Tickets £10, £5 concessions, available on the door

Presented by Chiaroscuro Theatre in aid of the Neonatal Unit at the
John Radcliffe Hospital.

Running time 55 mins



Phone booking:
01865 305 305

Internet booking:
Ticketsoxford.com

Fundraising for

MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

Christingle in the Four Parishes

Sunday 8 December, 4pm - Forest Hill Church

Sunday 22 December, 11am - Beckley Church

Christingle is a candle-lit, festive celebration which also raises funds for The Children's Society over the Christmas period. This vibrant event is hugely popular all over the country, raising millions to help change the lives of disadvantaged children.

Read more about it on page 8 of this magazine or visit <https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/>



Church Services in the Four Parishes, December 2019

	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
1 Dec <i>Advent 1</i>	11am Parish Communion	9.30am Parish Communion	9.30am Parish Communion	11am Morning Prayer
		6pm Taizé		4pm Family Church (HcS Village Hall)
8 Dec <i>Advent 2</i>	9.30am Family Service at Stanton St John			11am Parish Communion
	4pm St Nicolas Day Service			
15 Dec <i>Advent 3</i>	11am Morning Prayer (BCP)	9.30am Parish Communion	[no morning service]	[no morning service]
		4pm Family Church (Stanton Village Hall)	6pm Carols & Claret	3pm Carol Service
22 Dec <i>Advent 4</i>	10am Holy Communion (said) at Beckley			
	11am Joint Benefice Christingle at Beckley			
		6pm Carol Service		
24 Dec (Tues) <i>Christmas Eve</i>	4pm Crib Service	4pm Crib Service	4pm Crib Service	4pm Crib Service
	11pm Parish Communion at Stanton St John		11pm Parish Communion at Beckley	

Services continue on next page

Church Services in the Four Parishes, Dec 2019 - January 2020

	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
25 Dec (Wed) <i>Christmas Day</i>	10am Parish Communion at Forest Hill		9.30am Parish Communion at Horton-cum-Studley	
29 Dec	10am Parish Communion at Stanton St John			
5 Jan	11am Parish Communion	9.30am Parish Communion	9.30am Parish Communion	11am Morning Prayer
	6pm Taizé		4pm Family Church (HcS Village Hall)	
12 Jan	9.30am Family Service at Beckley			11am Parish Communion
	4pm Choral Evensong			
19 Jan	11am Morning Prayer (BCP)	9.30am Parish Communion	[no morning service]	11am Morning Prayer
		4pm Family Church (Stanton Village Hall)	6pm Inoa Service	
26 Jan	10am Joint Benefice Service at Horton-cum-Studley			
		6pm Church W'out Walls (Stanton Village Hall)		

CHURCH NOTICE BOARD

We have no vicar at present so please contact the Church Wardens with any enquiries (details on page 4).

A full list of Christmas Services appears on the preceding pages. There is something for everyone, ranging from Christingles (see below) and Crib Services for the children to late night Communion services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Morning celebrations.

Every church also has a carol service, as does Stanton House; there is carol singing round the villages, and the Shotover Carol Choir returns to Stanton Church for another Christmas concert. All these events are a wonderful antidote to the relentless commercialisation of Christmas, and we are lucky to have so many willing volunteers to organise them.

Once again, we have been incredibly fortunate in the support we receive from our voluntary ministry team and other visiting clergy. In addition to the regular team members listed on page 4, we have recently welcomed Rev'd Toddy Hoare, Rev'd Julian Dunn and Rev'd Nick Ktorides to take services in our Benefice, as well as other visiting preachers and lay people.

What is Christingle?



The Christingle celebration was introduced by The Children's Society over 50 years ago and is named after the Christingles that are lit during the celebration. Christingles are made from an orange decorated with red tape, sweets and a candle. Each element has a special meaning :

- The orange represents the world
- The red ribbon (or tape) symbolises the love and blood of Christ
- The sweets and dried fruit represent all of God's creations
- The lit candle represents Jesus's light in the world

The celebration includes a collection for the Society's work helping children and young people in the darkest situations imaginable.

For more information, visit <https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/>

GENERAL NOTICES

Oxfordshire County Council Primary School Admissions for September 2020

The **closing date** for applications for entry to primary or infant school - Sep 2020 for children born between 1 Sept 2015 and 31 Aug 2016 is **15 Jan 2020**.

See page 19 for further details.

Beckley Church of England Primary School

With only a couple of months to go before applications for September 2020 admissions are due, **prospective parents are very welcome to visit us** for a tour of the school. Please get in touch on 01865 351416. See page 17 for information about some of the school's recent activities.

Stop Press: Notice to All Bus Users

Our area has been chosen to take part in a **Cities-4-People** project (<https://cities4people.eu/>) which seeks to identify Transport Challenges and test solutions to see what can work.

To this end a Pilot Scheme will be launched in **2020**, starting on **Wednesday 15 January** and continuing on subsequent **Wednesdays** throughout **January** and **February**.

It will cover all four villages at no cost to passengers or the Parish Councils and will take passengers to **Thornhill Park & Ride** and on to **Asda**, with a return journey.

Specific times are not available yet but will be advertised in December. For more details nearer the time, please contact :-

Malcolm Leeding: 01865 872034, Dee Hazell: 01865 358809 or Jill Meyjes: 01865 351496

This will in no way affect The Otmoor Flyer.



The Maple Tree

December is a busy month for The Maple Tree! – not only do we have stalls at Wheatley Fair on Friday 29 November, we also have a Family Christmas Crafting session at Holton Village Hall on Saturday 7 December. Everybody welcome from age 0-100 - £5 per ticket. Email craft@mapletree.org.uk for further information.

We are delighted to be working with Wheatley Scouts this year selling Christmas Trees. Information and booking forms are available from us.

Sling & Buggy walks are Wednesday lunchtimes (12-1.30). Come and meet local parents (and our lovely Melanie) for a stroll in the fresh air.

Oxford Museums visit us on Tues 10 December (10-11.30) with live stick insects and cockroaches as well as crafting activities.

Cooking sessions are Tuesday afternoons (1-2.30) for the under 5s. You can book for blocks of 4 or individual sessions.

Tues 17 December Christmas Rhymetime. Rev Nigel will come at 11am to tell us the Christmas story.

Thurs 19 December 11-1pm is our Christmas party. Advance tickets are £3.50 per child, including a gift from Santa.

Sat 18 January 2.30-4.30pm Family Magic Show at The New Club, Wheatley. Tickets start from £3 each and are available at The Maple Tree.

January brings a new partnership with Wheatley Library. We are thrilled to be running bi-monthly and holiday Story/Rhymetime sessions commencing on Tuesday 7 January 10-11am.

Don't forget our new partnership Baby & Toddler group at Forest Hill Village Hall on Wednesday afternoons – 1-2.30pm.

Baby Massage - Regular 5 week courses are starting soon.

Our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/TheMapleTreeWheatley> provides more information about our timetable. Alternatively, email hayley@mapletree.org.uk

Hayley Hayle, Coordinator

The Maple Tree is a community charity (registration no. 1174117) based in Wheatley. We serve families from Wheatley and surrounding villages, including Stanton St John, Forest Hill, Horton -cum-Studley and Beckley & Stowood.



Wheatley Library



Dates to note:

Gadgets and Gizmos, Thu 5 Dec 15.45-16.15

Come and play with ozobots, turn a banana into a keyboard and create your own interactive adventure story. For children 8 years and up. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Space is limited so book your place early.

Mince pies, Sat 21 Dec 9.30-12.30

Christmas and New Year closing times

Closed from 13.00 Sat 21 Dec 2019 – Wed 1 Jan 2020

Re-open 2pm Thu 2 Jan 2020

Rhymetime, Tue 7 Jan 10.00-11.00

Mapletree Children's centre hosts Rhymetime in the library. All children welcome and must be accompanied by an adult.

Opera in an hour, Fri 24 Jan 10.30-11.30

Come along to create a story in song. It's all in good fun.

Book sale of withdrawn library stock, Sat 25 Jan 9.30-12.30

Regular Friends of Wheatley Library events:

- On-going sale of donated books
- Monday craft sessions weekly from 10-12, 2-4pm, and 7-9pm – there will be a break over Christmas.
- First Friday of the month, Clarinet Players at 7.30pm

Book donations

We gratefully receive good quality "as-new" donations of adult fiction. If you buy books to read but don't want the clutter, please consider donating them to the library.

Thank you and happy holidays from staff and volunteers of Wheatley Library

Wheatley Library, The Merry Bells, High Street, Wheatley, OX33 1XP
Telephone: 01865 875267

For opening hours and other events see the relevant page at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

Letter to the Editor

To the editor, The Four Parishes News Magazine

I congratulate you on putting together a well laid out and informative Parish Magazine.

There is however one feature with which I wish to take issue and this is the regular contribution from our MP, who in my view simply uses his column as a free platform from which to propagate his own views of political events and issues, which unsurprisingly are always partial and supportive of the current viewpoint of his party leadership (which of course changes rapidly over time!).

His current piece relating to climate change is broadly in support of government policy and aims to reassure us that everything appropriate is being done to address this issue. This is, of course, a very partial view of the situation and many people would feel that what he has expressed reflects a typically complacent analysis in support of a government policy that is a totally inadequate response to the scale of the crisis that currently threatens to engulf the whole world.

While I wouldn't wish the Parish Magazine to avoid all controversy and become reduced to a bland list of local events, it is naïve to imagine that a party politician could be expected to provide a balanced account of policy matters. I support the concept of a lively debate relating to both local and to national issues, particularly as they relate to the local, within the Parish Magazine, but what the Magazine gives us is simply a free platform for Mr. Howell to propagate his own views and those of the government and this is simply not good enough.

Where for instance is an alternative viewpoint, say from a local spokesperson for "Friends of the Earth"? What we need is a vigorous expression of alternative points of view and not the monologue of support for the government we're currently getting and it is surely your duty as Editor to make sure that is what we do get.

I certainly hope that Mr. Howell's column is now suspended for the duration of the election campaign and that in future we get a variety of views on topical issues instead of the monologue that has been provided until now.

Yours sincerely,

David Stern, Bayswater Road, Oxford

Editor's Reply

Thank you for the letter and for your kind remarks about the magazine. Letters to the editor are very rare and I really love receiving them, not least because I hope it means that the magazine is being read!

John Howell's monthly communication is specifically aimed at publications like ours in his constituency and I thought hard before deciding to include it on a fairly regular basis. My conclusion was that, since he is our elected representative, we should take this opportunity to find out about his views. If we disagree we can choose not to vote for him and I, for one, would rather do that with knowledge than in ignorance. As to the fact that his views are those of the government, I'm not sure what else we can expect from a member of the governing party.

We did include a critique of his views on climate change earlier in the year in the form of a letter to the editor and, space permitting, I would be happy to publish something similar again. I should also have put in the usual editorial disclaimer and I will be sure to do so in future, along with an invitation to anyone wanting to express a different viewpoint.

I have already had a notification from John Howell's office that there will be no letter in December, due to the fact that Parliament has been dissolved. This means that there is a space for another contribution, so your letter arrived at just the right time.

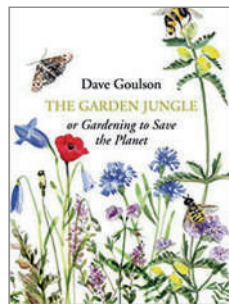
Best wishes, Julia

Advance Notice: save the date, 13 February 2020

If you have a garden and care about the planet, come to Horton-cum-Studley Village Hall on Thursday 13 February 2020 at 7pm for a practical and inspiring talk by **Dave Goulson**, Professor of Biological Sciences and best selling author of ***The Garden Jungle*** or *Gardening to Save the Planet*. Tickets £5 available on the door (cash only please).



www.wildatheartcampaign.org



Help us create a protective ring of biodiversity around Otmoor

Oxford-Cambridge Expressway Update

NO EXPRESSWAY
noexpressway.org

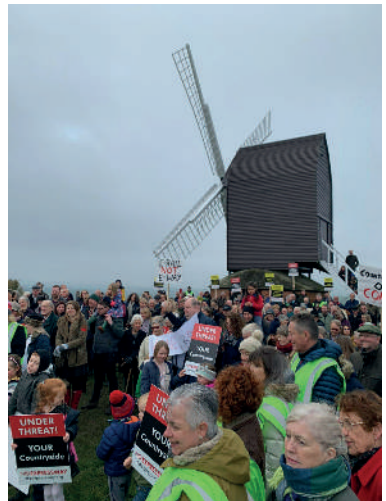
The No Expressway Group (NEG) has launched the brand new 'STOP the Ox-Cam Expressway' NEG Petition on the NEG website noexpressway.org/petition-signup.

What? Another petition? Some previous petitions have been locally focused or have been closed early on Parliament's petition website due to the election and will not be reopened or debated.

This new petition aims to bring together in **one place** all opponents of the expressway and of the associated over inflated housing targets and destruction of our environment across the whole Arc. As it is NEG's petition it's not subject to the vagaries and restrictions of those on the Parliamentary site and we'll be able to keep you up to date with its progress. Whatever other petitions you may have signed, please sign this new one now and ask all your friends and family to as well! We need to get so many signatures the Government daren't ignore it. Thank you!

The NEG Election Challenge! NEG is challenging every parliamentary candidate along the Arc to support our campaign, demanding that the new government scraps the Ox-Cam Expressway and inappropriate housing targets (3-6 times ONS national average growth rates by 2050), and instead invests in public transport systems such as a fully electrified East-West Rail. Build the railway. Stop the expressway!

To see the challenge letter and which candidates are campaign Supporters and which are not, visit noexpressway.org/our-supporters. Thank you to all who came to our launch event at Brill Windmill!



In the news (full details on noexpressway.org):

Highways England – have delayed consultation on route options further due to the general election.

Cherwell District Council – Has missed an opportunity for substantive debate on the Ox-Cam Expressway, by voting to approve Cllr Wood’s motion to review the impact on local plans of route options once known, and until then “maintain an open mind” about the expressway. Wherever it goes, the expressway will cause tremendous environmental damage. Is CDC happy to see such damage if it’s not in CDC?

Oxon County Council votes to oppose the Ox-Cam Expressway – Having passed a motion to make Oxon carbon neutral by 2030, OCC voted to oppose the expressway, with 35 in favour, 11 against with 8 abstentions. Cllr Hudspeth, Leader of OCC, also wants to “wait until we see exactly what the details are.” Cllr Constance said claims that the road would encourage creation of dormitory towns for London commuters were unfounded. BUT, the Expressway and housing aspirations of one million new homes along the arc (confirmed in July by MP Robert Jenrick), will cause destruction wherever they are. And the NIC commissioned 5th Studio report shows housing targets include 240,000 homes for London overspill.

Bidwells (property consultants) launch alarming ‘Radical Regeneration Manifesto’ with Perkins & Will (global architects) and Blackstock (property PR consultancy). They want to “think big about UK regeneration” across the country, starting with the Ox-Cam Arc. They are lobbying for special planning and compulsory purchase powers to speed up planning. They want to ***“get the politicians out of the planning process.”*** Yes, our democratically elected officials, who don’t always get things right, but are answerable to us! How does this sit with the democratic process and community involvement?

Actions

- Sign our STOP the Ox-Cam Expressway petition noexpressway.org/petition-signup
- Sign up to receive our email Updates noexpressway.org/#newsletter
- Follow us on: Facebook facebook.com/noexpresswaygroup/ and Twitter @no_expressway
- Please donate to our campaign at donorbox.org/donate-to-no-expressway-group

For all the latest news, updates and details of upcoming events visit noexpressway.org. No Expressway signs for your garden? Campaign ideas? Questions? Contact Olivia Field noexpresswaygroup@gmail.com

BECKLEY

Beckley Church

Beckley and Stanton St John Harvest Festival

How we enjoyed the Harvest Festival in Beckley this October! On Friday afternoon, straight after school, a wave of children surged into the church to take part in a 'mini beast workshop', where they made models of the insects which are so necessary for a healthy fruit and vegetable harvest. On Sunday morning a few more children and lots of parents came to the Harvest Thanksgiving Service, led by Nicholas and Betty, our two LLMs. The combined congregations of Stanton St John and Beckley shared the family worship in a church decorated with the late berries, leaves and blossoms of autumn. This year we asked for donations of packaged food because we wanted the offerings to go to the North Oxfordshire Community Food Bank in Kidlington. A big thank-you to all who contributed.

Some Christmas dates for your diary

Sunday 15 December - Beckley Carols & Claret, 6pm

Come and join our wonderful celebration of Christmas, with carols and readings by candlelight, followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

NB The candlelight is beautiful, but in some parts of the church it may be difficult to see to read the carols, so do bring a torch if you think you may need it. It's sure to be rather cold too, so do wrap up well!

Sunday 22 December

Benefice Holy Communion (said, with no music) **10am**

Joint Benefice Christingle, 11am

This joyful and atmospheric service is suitable for all ages and perfect for bringing families and communities together to celebrate the lead-up to Christmas. A collection will be taken for the Children's Society.

Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24 December

Crib Service, 4pm

Midnight Communion, 11pm

Christmas Day, Wednesday 25 December

Parish Communion at Horton-cum-Studley 10am

The Churchyard

We had another very successful and productive churchyard 'tidy-up' day at the end of October. Very many thanks to everyone (about 16 people!) who worked so hard in the pouring rain, cutting back ivy, clearing the channel round the church, unblocking a downpipe, and much else. The south boundary wall is now almost free of ivy and elder, and the view across the churchyard on that side is completely transformed.

Special thanks to Chris Cox for again so kindly bringing his trailer to Church Street for the debris - and for disposing of it all afterwards. Without his help the day would have been impossible. I think we enjoyed it in spite of the rain!

* * * * *



Beckley Church of England Primary School

Church Street, Beckley, Oxford, OX3 9UT • Tel: 01865 351416 • Email: office@beckleyschool.org
Website: www.beckleyschool.org • Headteacher: Mr Mark Szortowski

Prospective Parents

With only a couple of months to go before applications for September 2020 admissions are due, you are very welcome to visit us for a tour of the school. Please get in touch on 01865 351416.

Mini-Beast Workshop

The Church hosted an inspiring Mini-Beast Workshop in preparation for their Harvest Festival on 13 Octobe. Butterflies, bumblebees, caterpillars, ladybirds and spiders were all lovingly created for the service. Thank you to everyone who came to this great event and to the superb volunteers from the Church who organised it. There are now plans in the pipeline for a Christmas workshop in Church!



Art Box Project

Children from across the school have once again contributed to Beckley's Art Box project, situated in a disused phone box. Thank you to Mrs Jones and Mrs White for organising this.

Hindu Mandir Visit



A Mandir is a place of spiritual worship for the Hindu faith. Children in Years 4, 5 and 6 visited the Mandir in Neasden, developing their understanding of how Hindus worship.

There was a strong appreciation for the Mandir's spiritual significance and its magnificent architecture.

Christ Church Cathedral Visit

Christ Church Cathedral is the cathedral of the diocese of Oxford. Years 1, 2 and 3 visited as part of their current curriculum work on Christianity.

Children were given a fascinating tour, with a focus on cathedral life. They also learnt about the life of St. Frideswide.



Armistice Day



The whole school fell silent for two minutes of remembrance on Armistice Day. As the church bells marked 11am, our brass teacher played The Last Post, signifying the beginning of the silence.

A large poppy cross, which every child had contributed to during collective worship, was held high by pupils.

Beckley and Stowood Parish Council

The December PC meeting will be held on Tuesday 3 December 2019 at 8pm at Beckley Village Hall. The January PC meeting will be held on Thursday 9 January 2020 at 8pm at Beckley Village Hall. Minutes and agendas and dates of future meetings are available on the website www.beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk and the Clerk's email address is clerk@beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk

The Otmoor Flyer - information on the four villages' mini-bus service can be found at www.beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk/parishcouncil.

Fix My Street – find and report road or street problems at www.fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk

Oxfordshire County Council

Primary School Admissions for September 2020

Entry to primary or infant school – September 2020 for children born between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016.

15 Jan 2020 – 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).

16 Apr 2020 – letters offering places will be posted second-class. Those who applied on-line will receive an email and will be able to view the result of their application on-line. Full details of the Admissions process are published on the County Council website.

Christmas Tree Recycling at Folly Farm, Common Road, Beckley, OX3 9UR. Return your old tree to the farmyard by Sunday 12 January 2020 (Trees left after this date will not be accepted) for collection by SODC on Monday 13 January 2020 for composting.

Reminder from the Parish Council – Please clean up after your dog and dispose of bagged waste in the dual-waste litter bin on the playing field. There have been complaints of an increase in dog waste on Sand Path and along the permitted pathway at the far side of the playing field. #keepbritain tidy

For information on **Beckley Village Hall** please see www.beckleyvillagehall.org and to make a booking please email Stuart Marshall at booking@beckleyvillagehall.org

The Abingdon Arms, Beckley

Beckley & Area Community Benefit Society

The Abingdon Arms, Beckley

'More than a Pub' programme – December 2019

A short but special pre-Christmas programme!

'More than a Pub' events			
Tuesday 3 rd December	WOMEN OF BECKLEY LUNCH	12.30pm - <i>nb first Tuesday of each month again</i> Contact Sarah Smith for more information: beckleysarah@gmail.com	
Wednesday 4 th December	MEN OF BECKLEY LUNCH	12.30pm - first Wednesday of each month Contact Steve Smith for more information: barkbeetles@gmail.com	
Friday 13 th December	COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING	10.00–11.30am - second Friday of each month Coffee & cake £3.50. Come along, meet old and make new friends.	
Sunday 15 th December	COMMUNITY WALK AND MURMURATION!	2.00–4.00pm Meet at front of pub, returning for drinks afterwards. Helen Stradling & Cathy Davies will lead walk to Otmoor RSPB reserve to see the starling murmuration. Sorry, no dogs allowed on reserve.	
Sunday 15 th December	JAZZ SESSION	7.30–9.30pm – <i>please note later time</i> Frank Harrison (keyboard), Mark Hodgson (bass) plus special guest Tom Green (trombone). Bar snacks available. Free entry, raffle. Cool sounds and a warm welcome.....	
KEY-			
Food & Drink	Music	Literature	Activities

More information and any updates will be displayed on the BACBS website at: <https://bacbs.org/>

The Beckley & Area Community Benefit Society (BACBS) has appointed new tenants to run The Abingdon Arms. Zuzana and Vicky come to their first tenancy from The Bell at Hampton Poyle, where they were General Manager and Operations Manager respectively. Their partner Alex was formerly Head Chef at The White Horse in Woolstone, near Faringdon. The Abingdon Arms is now open seven days each week, and their aim is to provide a warm welcome, a varied menu of high quality food at affordable prices, including vegetarian dishes and lunchtime bar snacks, and to offer local ales and quality wines. They are committed also to supporting the local community, including our renowned 'More than a Pub' programme of socially inclusive activities - see December's programme above

More information at <https://www.theabingdonarms.co.uk/>

Mike Hobbs, Chair BACBS

FOREST HILL

News from St. Nicolas Church

Please see pages 6 & 7 for details of all church services during December and January or visit our website at www.stnicolasforesthill.org

Remembrance Sunday

Special thanks to Reverend Toddy Hoare who came to lead our Service of Remembrance at the War Memorial and to Forest Hill newcomer, Hannah Scott, who played The Last Post on her trumpet.

The exhibition commemorating the men from Forest Hill and Shotover who fell in the Second World War was followed by an early evening concert with a variety of music and readings. This proved to be an emotional reminder of the impact of the war on our village community as well as a heart-warming demonstration of local talent! Afterwards we gathered in the village hall for a challenging World War Two Quiz, hosted by the Waite Browns. The Concert and Quiz raised a total of £186 for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.



The exhibition will remain in the church until the end of November so do please visit. The Church is open every day between 10am and 4pm.

Saturday 21 December 10.30am meet at St Nicolas Church to decorate for Christmas. If you would like to help, just turn up. It is a lovely way to enjoy the coming of Christmas.

Service reminders

Sun	8 Dec	4pm	St Nicholas Day with Advent Carols and Christingle
Thu	19 Dec	7pm	Nine Lessons and Carols
Tue	24 Dec	4pm	Crib Service
Wed	25 Dec	10am	Parish Communion
Sun	12 Jan	4pm	Choral Evensong with St Nicolas Consort
Sun	2 Feb	6pm	Candlemas: a service by candlelight to celebrate the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, led by the Area Dean, Reverend Simon Cronk, with the St Nicolas Choir

Forest Hill Baby and Toddler Group



On Wednesday 13 November Kirsty Blackwell from The Maple Tree came to Forest Hill to run the very first session of the new Mother and Baby Group in the village hall. There was a really encouraging take-up, with children and their parents/carers from both Forest Hill and further afield. It was an opportunity for people to meet in a comfortable and informal setting and Kirsty provided craft activities and a structure that created a safe and stimulating environment for the children. Tea and coffee was available for the adults and healthy snacks for the children.

Sessions will run every Wednesday from 1pm to 2.30pm until 11 December and re-start in the New Year. There is no need to book or commit to regular attendance. Sessions are free of charge but we follow the usual Maple Tree policy of asking for a small donation towards costs. If you have any questions or are interested in helping out as a volunteer, please contact Julia Stutfield on 07766 103427.

Forest Hill with Shotover Parish Council

The Parish Council were very pleased to co-opt and welcome Will Blythe to the Council at the last meeting.

As we enter the festive season lights will be going up around the parish; however, unlike these lights, the new solar street lights on Church Hill and at the A40 bus stops, which have been funded by the Parish Council, will be on for many years to come after Twelfth Night.

The next Parish Council Meeting is on Thursday 5 December at 7pm in the Village Hall and the following meeting is on Thursday 16 January. Meetings are open to the public and have an open session where residents can bring attention to any village issues.

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

<http://www.parish-council.com/foresthillwithshotover/index.asp>

You can contact the Parish Council Clerk, tel: 0844 884 3328 or email address: theclerk@foresthillwithshotover-pc.org.uk

Christmas Family Craft and Games

Forest Hill Village Hall

Sunday 8 December 2.30 - 3.30pm



Come and celebrate St Nicholas (the original 'Father Christmas'), make a Christingle and have some fun

Suitable for all ages

Families are welcome to join a procession (with candles) to the church afterwards (4pm) for a service of carols and a St Nicholas tradition - chocolate coins in your shoe.

'Village Carol Singing', Friday 20 December

Meet outside Forest Hill Village Hall at 6pm

Join us as we progress around the village, singing and playing a selection of traditional carols.

Words and music will be provided but if you plan to bring an instrument, please let us know beforehand.

Mulled wine will be served afterwards at Lyttleton, Main Street, by kind invitation of Jane Walker.

Bring torches and wrap up warmly!

STANTON ST JOHN

Stanton St John Community Café

On **Friday 13 December** we will have the usual coffee, tea and cakes but also festive mince pies. We look forward to seeing villagers of all ages for a friendly session between **10.30am -12 noon**.

Stanton House Carol Service

The trustees and team at Stanton House would like to invite you to their annual **Carol Service** on **Friday 13 December at 7pm**. As always everyone is welcome, young and old and those in between.

Stanton St John Christmas Fair



The Stanton St John Christmas Fair is to take place on **Saturday 7 December 11am - 2pm** in Stanton St John village hall.

This year we are hoping to welcome more craft stalls (in addition to the traditional jams/cakes, raffle and tombola), a children's Christmas activity area and a soup lunch along with a gluhwein chalet.

From grandchildren to grandparents, there's something for everyone. Lots of Christmas shopping to be done whilst the children play, the grandparents have a mince pie, and the dads have a gluhwein. This is a 'new look' Christmas Fair and we look forward

to seeing lots of faces, old and new!

Donations of new gifts, cakes, jams/chutneys are welcome in advance, or on the day if perishable. You can view the raffle first prize and buy your raffle tickets in the village shop or on the day.

Please drop any goods to either: Caroline Clark (The Stable House), Sue Baker (4 Silver Birches) or Elaine Warner (1 Stanton Cottages).

Advent Carol Concert 7pm Saturday 14 December

The Shotover Carol Choir will be giving a concert in Stanton St John church on Saturday 14 December at 7pm. The concert will be a lovely opportunity to listen to the choir singing some traditional English carols as well as participating by singing other carols together.

We hope that lots of people will support this event. The concert is free. There will be a collection after the concert for church funds.

Stanton St John Parish Council

The Parish Council would like to ask all residents to take a look at any hedges, bushes, plants or other vegetation from their properties that may have grown over footpaths and be causing a hazard for pedestrians. We would ask you to cut them back to make a clear walk way.

The Parish Clerk, Julie Stoye, attend the Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) highways super user training course in October. This allows her to identify issues in the parish, which meet the criteria of requiring action, and to then log them directly with the OCC contractor. She will be walking the parish at least once a month and reporting such issues. If you notice any defects that you wish her to take a look at, please email stantonstjohnnpc@gmail.com with as much information as possible, clear location details and a photograph where possible. You can still log issues directly on FixMyStreet if you prefer.

The parish council would ask all parishioners and their visitors to park considerately around the parish, in particular allowing enough room for passing traffic when parking on or near Cox Lane, ideally parking in drive ways where possible.

The Parish Council would welcome any suggestions for parish projects to be consideration for the 2020/21 financial year. If you have any proposals please email the Clerk, stantonstjohnnpc@gmail.com by 14 December 2019.

You are invited to Come, Hear, and Sing

A choral Christmas at Stanton St John church

Carol concert

Secular and Sacred
Medieval Christmas

7.pm-8.15pm

At Stanton St John Church

Saturday 14th December

The Shotover Singers and YOU

Admission Free

Donations towards Church funds gratefully received.

Sing your favourite carols : and a Medieval Christmas theme

Contact SueBaker or 4parishesnewsletter@gmail.com for info

Stanton St John Film Club

Saturday 7 December 7.30pm, Stanton St John Village Hall

THE NUTCRACKER AND THE FOUR REALMS (PG) 99mins

A magical, fantasy drama with wonderful sets and costumes.



Starring Helen Mirren, Keira Knightly and introducing Mackenzie Foy

Young Clara needs a magical key to unlock a box that contains a priceless gift. A golden thread leads her to the coveted key, but soon disappears into a strange and parallel world. In that world she meets a soldier named Philip, a group of mice and the regents who preside over three realms. Clara and Philip must now enter a fourth realm to retrieve the key and restore harmony to the unstable land.

Danny Clark, who grew up in the village, worked as Senior Draughtsman (set design) on the film and will talk about his experiences of working on this film and of life in the film industry.

Ticket prices adults - £7 under 14s - £5

Seating in village hall is limited to 60. To secure tickets please email Judy Nisbet (judy@robertnisbet.com) or ask Rowan in the shop. Refreshments will be available.

Provisional Spring Film Club Dates for your diary

Saturday 25 January and Saturday 14 March

Stanton St John WI

We are going to *Denman College for a Christmas Lunch* on **Tuesday 10 December**. Transport has been arranged to enable us to have a convivial day without worrying about driving so we should have a wonderful day in lovely surroundings.

In **January** we are delighted that Joan Creese will be holding an Activity Day. After the excesses of Christmas she will show us ways to get moving whilst having fun. We meet on **Tuesday 21 January 2020 at 7.30pm** in the village hall.

Let the bells ring out for Christmas!

A number of ringing bands have been to the church now to try out our restored bells. They have all given positive feedback on their new condition, which is really encouraging.

After one such visit, I was delighted when Simon Edwards, who rings at Christ Church, asked me if he, and other ringers from Oxford, could ring a full peal just before Christmas. The PCC duly approved this event, which will see the first full peal rung at the tower in 60 years.

It will take place on Monday 23 December, and will start at 10am.

Ringing a full peal requires a lot of skill for maintaining its duration, complexity and the quality of striking. The peal involves 5040 changes and for our five bells will probably take c. 3 hours.

The ringing is non-stop, with no breaks for a mince pie or a sip of mulled wine!

It's a feat of endurance, concentration, and ringing skill.

I hope you agree that this will be a lovely way to welcome in Christmas week.

Paul Lansdowne, Tower Correspondent

HORTON-cum-STUDLEY

St Barnabas

Remembrance Day Service -10 November



A very large congregation gathered for the always moving Remembrance Day service conducted by Nicholas Orme. The sun shone and the sky was blue while we all gathered outside to remember the individual young soldiers from our village that lost their lives in the 1st and 2nd World Wars. Individual crosses were placed in

memory of each named individual.

Michaelmas Fayre

We were thankful for a dry day amongst many rainy days for the Michaelmas Fayre (19 Oct) held at Manor Farm. Thank you to Colin and Caroline Badger for enabling the stalls to once again be set up in their barn. Lovely to see so many of the village attending to enjoy the homemade soup and various stalls. Many thanks to Lisa, Lyn and all the soup makers and other helpers as well as those who came to support the event. Just over £700 was raised.

Christmas Eve Crib Service (other Christmas services on pages 6 & 7)

Come along with your torch at 4pm to celebrate the birth of Christ. Watch the children build the Nativity before your very eyes. Any child wishing to assist in the service, either by bringing up a figure, or reading a brief Prayer or script then please contact me Lynn Whitaker on 01865 358838.

You might think that Christmas ends when you take the Christmas Decorations down - but it doesn't! After both Christmas and the season of Epiphany, the end of the Christmas celebrations is in fact on 2 February, 40 days after Christmas, at Candlemas, a festival of light which marks the presentation of the baby Jesus in the temple. In our Benefice, Candlemas is celebrated at 7pm on Sunday 2 February in St Nicolas Forest Hill, with a very beautiful candlelit service led by our Area Dean, Reverend Simon Cronk, and the St Nicolas Choir. All are welcome.

Pumpkin of the Year 2019 (POTY) competition

Another Fantastic year - 458lbs of pumpkins were weighed at the Michaelmas Fayre. Bronwyn, again, grew the heaviest entry at a splendid 95 lbs!. Lewis Campbell and Hudson and Bethany Chicken (best newcomers) came 2nd and 3rd with 62 and 60lb entries. Alex Wood won the mug for the most beautiful (42lb) pumpkin. Alan and Janice have started to get the hang of our local climate with a 31lb entry (smaller than last year but there is merit in consistency). At 25 and 26lbs respectively Len Ward and Chris Squire had solid mid table entries and Chris's was her best ever. Team Buttery got it right (at last!) with a beautiful 22lb entry. After a couple of years of pumpkin failure Derek grew a 15lb pumpkin from his horse manured patch. Yet again Cathy fell short of the ultimate prize but was delighted with her 52lb entry. Chris Pugh had a 16lb pumpkin but the real star of his garden was his spectacular 33cm giant "shower head" sunflower. Thanks to everyone who bought plants. We raised £257 for Oxford Parkinsons.



Horton-cum-Studley Toddler Group

The Toddler Group is every Friday in the Millennium Hall, 10 -11.30am. Open to all ages and babies with 'Toddler Tennis' from 11am. Please call Elizabeth Bennett on 07966 101027.

Horton-cum-Studley Coffee Morning

Coffee Mornings will be held on 14 December and 11 January at 10.30am in the Millennium Hall. Everyone welcome. Any queries please contact Rachel Hawes Tel: 01865 351540

Oxford Homeless Project

I have put a box at the back of the Church and I am asking for any donations of unwanted clean warm clothes, blankets, sleeping bags, gloves, socks, hats etc. I will leave the box there for the duration of the cold weather and pass any contributions over to the Oxford Homeless Project. Thank you.

Carol Welch

Horton-cum-Studley Parish Council

Thanks to all villagers who entered the annual photography competition, the entries were of a very high standard. The calendar including the winning entries are available from the Parish Council.

Speeding in the Village, continues to be an issue, the PC is working with Oxfordshire Highways, Dan Sames our County Councillor, as well as Thames Valley Police who have recently been present in the village. The PC would encourage villagers to set up a Community Road Watch Group to work with the Police to discourage speeding through the village

The PC will be organising a VE celebration to coincide with the 75th Anniversary Commemoration. We will keep everyone posted and will be looking for assistance to assist with organising and running the events

The PC has received notification of a temporary road closure of Brill Road from the 24 February 2020 up to and including the 27 February 2020. Closure will operate between 8.30 am and 5pm.

Due to the Village Hall being used for the General Election on 12 December the next PC meeting will be on Thursday 9 January at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, public participation is always welcome. The PC can be contacted by emailing hortoncumstudleyparishcouncil@gmail.com

Women's Football Team

The Horton-cum-Studley football team, Horton FC, meets at 9.30 on Sunday mornings at the Millennium Hall. If you would like to know more please ring Sam Mitchell on 07887 995800



FESTIVE FISH AND CHIP SUPPER
AT THE MILLENNIUM VILLAGE HALL



December 7th 4:30-6:30pm

Tickets: £5 Adults £3.50 children
£15 for a family of 4


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Christmas Craft and wreath making


Local Singer
Jacqueline Faye

Advance tickets only: Contact Jess on 07811257105 Email: jess@ibsl.co.uk

Horton-cum-Studley Gardening Club

Autumn colour really has been fantastic. The beech trees in particular have lit up the countryside. Why not collect fallen leaves and store them in a wire cage or bin bags (punctured in a few places so the leaves do not get too wet) for a year or two. The leaves will rot down into a dark crumbly mould. The best quality leaf mould is produced from leaves of oak, beech or hornbeam. Leaf mould is a brilliant soil improver and great for mixing into potting compost. My snowdrops love it.



In response to my suggestion that you might consider planting tulips, one of our members pointed out that muntjac deer have a particular fondness for tulips. She never plants them. I also battle with muntjac but some years do seem to be worse than others (perhaps they are eating someone else's tulips?).

Please note that the date of our AGM was wrong in the last newsletter. Our meetings are always at 8pm on the 3rd Tuesday of the month so the very sociable AGM (with mulled wine and mince pies) is on 21 January. Do come along- visitors are most welcome.

If you would like to know more about the Gardening Club, please contact the chairman, Susan Burge on 01865 351310 or go to the website www.horton-cum-studley.org.uk/community/clubs/

Star of Wonder: A Play for Christmas

St Barnabas Church, Horton cum Studley
Saturday 22 December at 8pm

Tickets £10, £5 concessions, available on the door

Presented by Chiaroscuro Theatre in aid of the Neonatal Unit at the
John Radcliffe Hospital.

Running time 55 mins

Horton-cum-Studley Women's Institute

Our December meeting will be our Christmas Dinner. It will take place at the Clifden Arms, Worminghall on Tuesday 10 December at 7.30pm.

The January meeting will be held on Tuesday 14 January at 7.45pm in the Millennium Hall. The Speaker is Jeff Rozelaar whose title is 'Bagels and Bacon'. If you are intrigued by this title come along to the meeting and find out.

By the time you read this news you will have received an invitation from us to join our 100th Anniversary Celebration on 25 January. We would be so grateful if you could RSVP as it would help us with the catering.

Message of thanks

Mike Fry would like to thank everyone in Horton-cum-Studley who sent 80th birthday cards to both him and Dot. Thank you too for all the good wishes during his recent admission to hospital. Very much appreciated.

Otmoor Challenge 2020

The 41st annual Otmoor Challenge will take place on Saturday 6 June 2020. We are looking for two volunteers to take on important tasks on that day.

1. Walk Organiser. This job is almost entirely confined to the day of the Challenge and involves checking-out and checking-in the walkers on the playing field at the Millenium Hall between 8.30 and 11.30am, with latest return check-in by 4.00pm. A small team of helpers assist, and there is little requirement for involvement before or after the day. The main tasks comprise recording names, collecting entry fees, and awarding badges to walkers who successfully complete the course.

2. Bottle Stall Organiser. 2019, sadly, marked the retirement of Pauline Cox after many years running the Bottle Stall, one of our most successful fundraisers. Could you take over from 2020, and continue this amazing success?

Volunteers for either of these vital tasks should contact the OCA chairman, Andrew Pennington, on 01865 358800.

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Horspath has a small but very enthusiastic group of creative writers who meet at the Hub on Monday evenings about nine times a year. In an informal and supportive atmosphere, we enjoy rising to a variety of writing challenges involving fiction, non-fiction and poetry. We welcome new members who would like to share their stories and add to our satisfying creative soup.

For more information please call or email:

Paul Christopher Walton

paul.walton@orange.fr

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