

The Four Parishes News Magazine

BECKLEY
FOREST HILL with SHOTOVER
HORTON-cum-STUDLEY
STANTON ST JOHN



"Wildflower Mini Meadow" in Horton-cum-Studley

July/August 2026

The editor writes



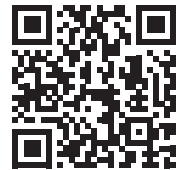
This edition of the magazine always has a slight 'end-of-term' feel to it and I am definitely looking forward to a break from editorial duties which seem to be increasingly difficult to fit around all my regular commitments, in spite of the brilliant support I get from other members of the team!

This is definitely a good time to say 'thank you': to Anthea and Jonathan, as Assistant Editors, to Catherine as Layout Designer, to Judith, Sue, Carol and Stephanie who look after the content for their individual villages, to Deirdre, Susan, and Cathy who head up the distribution chains, and to all the individual distributors who deliver magazines directly to your door 10 months of the year, come rain or shine.

We can always do with more volunteers, so if you are interested in getting involved in the production or distribution of this magazine, please get in touch with me at 4parishesnewsletter@gmail.com or on 07766 103427. Ideas for articles are also welcomed, particularly from younger members of our community.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer, wherever you are and whatever you are doing. And don't forget that you can use the QR code to read this magazine on your phone or tablet when you can no longer find the paper copy. Or simply type fourparishes.org.uk/magazine into your web browser.

Julia



Our cover photo

was taken by Cathy Jenkins from Horton-cum-Studley

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

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We welcome contributions for future issues, but please get in touch with the editorial team beforehand at 4parishesnewsletter@gmail.com to discuss any piece you'd like to write. Contributors typically live in the Four Parishes, or have a strong personal connection to the area. The editors reserve the right to reject any submitted content at any stage of the editorial process. All contributions to and advertisements in this magazine are the sole responsibility of the author and do not imply or represent any official editorial view or endorsement.

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

The closing date for the September 2026 issue is 15 August 2026

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

News or notices for the individual 'Village pages' should be sent to:

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Horton-cum-Studley	Carol Welch Tel: 01865 358122 Email: carol_welch20@hotmail.com
Stanton St John	Sue Baker Tel: 01865 351449 Email: susanjbaker24@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.

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

Editor: Julia Stutfield

Layout Designer: Catherine Matthews

Assistant Editors: Jonathan Barker, Anthea Beresford

Church Services in the Four Parishes, July 2026

	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 July <i>5th Sunday after Trinity</i>	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	11am Morning Prayer
	4pm Four Parishes Children's Church at Forest Hill			
	6pm Four Parishes Church Without Walls at Stanton St John Village Hall			
12 July <i>6th Sunday after Trinity</i>		9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Prayer	11am Holy Communion
	6pm Four Parishes BCP Choral Evensong at Forest Hill			
19 July <i>7th Sunday after Trinity</i>	11am BCP Morning Prayer	9.30am Holy Communion		11am Morning Prayer with Baptism
	6pm Four Parishes Iona Service at Beckley			
26 July <i>8th Sunday after Trinity</i>	10am Four Parishes Service of Holy Communion at Stanton			
	4pm Four Parishes Family Church does Forest Church at Bernwood Forest, Horton-cum-Studley			
	6pm Four Parishes Taizé Service on Zoom			

Please check the website www.fourparishes.org.uk for any updates. If you are not on the church mailing list and would like an invitation to a Zoom service or a regular reminder of weekly services, please email Anthea: anthea@fourparishes.org.uk.

Church Services in the Four Parishes, August 2026

	St Nicolas, Forest Hill with Shotover	St John the Baptist, Stanton St John	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Beckley	St Barnabas, Horton-cum- Studley
2 August <i>9th Sunday after Trinity</i>	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	
	4pm Four Parishes Children's Church at Forest Hill			
9 August <i>10th Sunday after Trinity</i>		9.30am Morning Prayer	9.30am Morning Prayer	11am Holy Communion
	6pm Four Parishes BCP Choral Evensong at Forest Hill			
16 August <i>11th Sunday after Trinity</i>	11am BCP Morning Prayer	9.30am Holy Communion		
23 August <i>12th Sunday after Trinity</i>	10am Four Parishes Service of Holy Communion at Horton-cum-Studley			
	6pm Four Parishes Taizé Service on Zoom			
30 August <i>13th Sunday after Trinity</i>	11am Morning Prayer	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Prayer	

Episcopal Visitation

On 22 June, I went with Pat Fraser, Andrew Payne, Julia Slingo, Carla Stanley and Jane Walker, to Dorchester Abbey, for the Episcopal Visitation Service. What is that I hear some ask! Well, as the Associate Archdeacon of Dorchester, The Reverend Prebendary Jane Haslam said in her 'Welcome' in the service sheet:

"This is first and foremost an act of worship, in which we give thanks to God for his faithfulness to us and to our churches. It is also an important opportunity for us to give thanks to and for our Churchwardens*, and to thank them for their commitment, dedication and sheer hard work in

serving our parishes in a thousand and one practical ways. As we formally admit them into office for this coming year, we rejoice at all that they represent and for the life of our churches across the Dorchester Episcopal Area, for the communities we serve, and for the life, worship and witness of our churches.”

The evening was a wonderful occasion and a moving act of worship, as Pat, Andrew, Julia, Carla and Jane were admitted to the office of Churchwarden, for this coming year. Andrew was asked to read one of the lessons which made it even more special. For all our Churchwardens, this represents the start of a further year of service. I would like to thank them all for their willingness to serve us in the Four Parishes, and I look forward to our working together over the coming year. Please do hold them in your prayers as they serve us in this demanding role.

Anthea



**The office of Churchwarden was established in the 13th Century. Their original function was care of the church building and its contents, but they also have responsibilities in connection with the Sunday services and for keeping order in the church: in the unlikely event of a major disturbance the Churchwardens have the power to arrest anyone or escort them off the premises if necessary! Churchwardens are the legal guardians of the church's moveable goods, and are required to keep an accurate, up-to-date inventory of these items, as well as maintaining records of all professional inspections, alterations and repairs. Churchwardens are elected annually and, despite the huge responsibility, the position is wholly voluntary.*

A letter from Anthea

Hi everyone,



I want to begin by saying a huge ‘thank you’ to those of you who take the trouble to chat to me or say a word or two to me about my monthly letter, proving that there are many of you out there who do read it! And even more surprisingly, from your comments, enjoy it! This may not of course be every month, but it is a real encouragement. The letters are a few thoughts that have sprung to mind during my ‘wonderings’ and ‘wanderings’ over the previous month – the time when I simply let my mind wonder and wander, as I think through things I have read, heard, or come across in my day-to-day ministry, and life. Out of all of that, after much churning over, from time to time there are thoughts to share with you. And sitting at my desk writing these snippets can be a strange place where I wonder if these are of any interest at all!

Funnily enough, just this evening, a conversation, not about my letter, but completely out of the blue, linked into some thoughts I had only been having the other evening. I had been online on an exceedingly dull training course – and no it was not from the Diocese of Oxford! And to be fair to the trainer, perhaps I was not as engaged as I ought to have been! It was



a beautiful evening, and it was time to take Bertie for a walk, so off we went. The sun was shining, the sky was blue, and it was very quiet, except for the sound of the bellringers practicing. It was delightful to hear how the learners are coming on – they should be ready for the weddings we have booked

in Stanton St John next year!

Having walked around the fields in Stanton I decided to head back through the village for a change. There was no-one else about, just Bertie and I. As I walked, I smiled to myself about this idyllic village scene, and I thought of all those episodes of Midsummer Murders (MM) I have watched. As my mind wandered, I waited for the clicking of a gate, the sound of running, and then the blood curdling, piercing scream, as the next dead body was found by some unsuspecting passerby! Midsummer is definitely not a

place any of us would wish to live, considering the murder rate!

I am aware that the former village shop has featured in episodes of MM over the years, although I confess I am not observant enough to have spotted it yet! But this is what links my fanciful thoughts with the conversation this evening – the person had been watching MM and had spotted the shop, just when I had been thinking about it. How odd!

Regular readers also know how much I talk about how I marvel at creation as I go on my wanderings – a beautiful flower, a scent from a flower, the cloud formation, sunsets and sunrises, beautiful views, wildlife encounters, farm animals etc, and how seeing such things help draw me closer to God. Others of you I chat to marvel at the beauty around us, whether you link it to an ultimate creator, or simply enjoy its beauty.



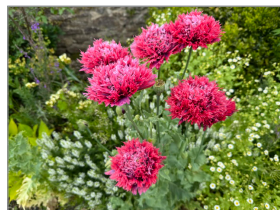
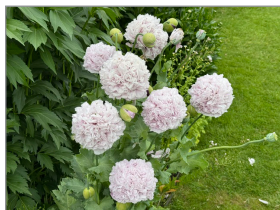
Interestingly, this last Sunday at our Iona service, someone spoke about how they start their worship in utter awe and wonder (I hope I have not misquoted) – which I think is exactly where I am at. It is interesting how this resonated so much with me.

I also marvel at how significant conversations happen as two of us ‘happen’ to ‘bump into’ each other at just the right time. It is often someone I have been thinking about, or someone who I have not seen for ages. Thank you for your part in those joyous and apposite encounters and conversations.

I wish you all a wonderful summer and look forward to further ramblings for September.

As ever, 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 Four Parishes are open daily. Beckley and Forest Hill 10am-6pm; Horton-cum-Studley and Stanton St John 10am-4pm.

Advent challenge and beyond

I hope you are still journeying with me as we start on the downward run having just passed the half-way stage of the year. I confess I am still a little behind, but still well in touch with achieving the goal, and hope you are too. It is possible to get properly back on track with the habit of regular daily reading, so I know I will get there! If you are on track, then a huge well done. If, like me you are a little behind, please do not give up. We can do this! Let us hope that over the summer we have a chance to keep up.

For July, for the Old Testament, we need to aim to finish 2 Kings, read the whole of Jonah, Amos and Hosea, and 1 Chronicles up to chapter 10:14, and continue Psalms up to chapter 89:45 and Proverbs up to chapter 19:2. For the New Testament, we need to aim to finish Acts and read Romans to chapter 14:18.

For August, for the Old Testament, we need to aim to finish 1 Chronicles, read the whole of Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs, and Micah up to chapter 4, and continue Psalms up to chapter 104:35 and Proverbs up to chapter 21:16. For the New Testament, we need to aim to finish Romans, read the whole of 1 Corinthians, and 2 Corinthians to chapter 4.

Ongoing midweek activities on Zoom

We are continuing Morning and Evening Prayer and the Four Parishes 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		Y		Y
Evening Prayer at 6pm	Y		Y	
Four Parishes Book Group at 7.30pm			Y	

Book Group

We are reading *The Shaping of a Soul: A life taken by surprise* by Richard Harries. We meet virtually by Zoom on a Thursday evening at 7.30pm for an hour. Please do get in touch with Anthea if you would like to come and join us. New members are always welcome. We are likely to be starting a new book over the summer, which may be an opportune time. Look out for email updates from Anthea.

Home Group Study

The study group is continuing its look at the book called *Practising the Way* by John Mark Comer. The group meets on Monday afternoons at 2.30pm at Studley Farm House, Horton-cum-Studley. They are taking a summer break after the meeting on 20 July, restarting on 7 September. New members are always welcome, and anyone from around the Four Parishes is welcome to join in. If you are interested in being involved, please contact Annie Payne by email at anniefpayne@gmail.com.

Prayers for Peace

As the hope for peace in Ukraine continues to look far off, the war in Iran and the wider Middle East continues, the ceasefire in the Holy Land continues to look fragile, and news of atrocities in Sudan, Myanmar and Mozambique continue to come through, it is clear that God's peace is not present throughout the world, so we continue to pray for peace. We will meet for 15 minutes at 12pm on Wednesdays and Saturdays in July and August across the Four Parishes as follows:

	July	August
Beckley	8, 18	5, 15
Forest Hill	1, 11, 29	8, 26
Horton-cum-Studley	15, 25	12, 22
Stanton St John	4, 22	1, 19, 29

Dates for your diary

Oxybaroxy: 12 July, 7.30pm, Stanton (see page 33)

Ninebarrow: 20 November, 7pm, Stanton

For more information about any of the items on pages 10-11 of the magazine, please contact me, Anthea Beresford. Email: anthea@fourparishes.org.uk Tel: 01865 351839 Mob: 07876 527514.

A letter from Connor Hansford



Hello everyone. If I didn't have the pleasure of meeting you during my time in the Four Parishes, my name is Connor, and until recently I was an ordinand at Ripon College Cuddesdon; (an ordinand is someone training to be a priest in the Church of England, though I will be ordained deacon first and then, God willing, priest in 2027; speaking to mum and grandma lately has reminded me that all these words and phrases I take for granted are in fact relatively unknown

outside the churchy bubble that is a theological college!).

Last year I was lucky enough to be on placement in the Four Parishes, learning from your wonderful parish priest, Reverend Anthea Beresford, who was kind enough to invite me back several times even after my placement finished, and even more wonderfully is coming to my ordination in Salisbury Cathedral on 28 June. I am to 'serve my title', the old-fashioned way of saying 'my new job is...' at the Benefice of Dorchester and the Winterbournes in Dorset; or, as I kept saying when I was in Oxfordshire, the 'other Dorchester', to distinguish it from the other Dorchester! I will be based primarily at St George's Church in Fordington and St Andrew's Church in West Stafford, where the Vicar is the Reverend Cora Yarrien, who will be my Training Incumbent, or 'TI'. My official title will be Assistant Curate (pronounced 'cureRAT' rather than 'cuRATE'); it's related to the notion of a Cure of Souls, which Anglican clergy have over all those who live in their parish, which is why everyone is entitled to a Church of England wedding/funeral/baptism whether they're a regular attendee or not!

As I say, I will be ordained deacon first, which my mum didn't realise, even though she illustrated my ember card! (An ember card, which comes from Ember Days when ordinations traditionally happen, are invitations to pray for those about to be ordained; not, confusingly, an invitation to the event itself!)

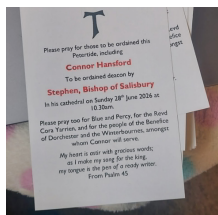
What is a deacon? I suspect I will be asked that a lot this year! The Church of England recognises three types or 'orders' of ordained ministry: deacon,

priest, bishop. A 'vicar', by the way, is just a job title, same as 'chaplain', 'rector', or 'padre'; all vicars are priests, but not all priests are vicars!)

A deacon comes from the Greek word *diakonos*, which means 'to serve'. It has a long and varied history and it is tempting to define it according to what a deacon can't do; for example, a priest can marry people, bless people, and preside at Holy Communion, whereas a deacon can't, though they do still wear a clerical or 'dog' collar, and a stole (the coloured scarf that hangs around a minister's shoulders and represents the yoke of Christ), but diagonally as opposed to straight down – an easy way to tell the difference!

As a deacon, I will be reading the gospel during Communion, and preaching; helping to prepare couples for marriage and babies and adults for baptism and confirmation; visiting people at home or in hospital, perhaps bringing Communion consecrated by my TI, and leading funerals. I may also baptise, though different dioceses have different rules (*in extremis*, anyone can baptise; you just need water and the Trinitarian formula, as the young St Athanasius found out when he accidentally baptised his friends!)

I am a member of the Third Order of the Society of St Francis, a dispersed community of followers of Saint Francis who seek to live in accordance with his life and teachings but 'in the world' as opposed to in a monastery, and Francis was famously a permanent or 'distinctive' deacon, having refused ordination to the priesthood for reasons of humility. Not that a priest is 'better' than a deacon, just different. But, whether a person goes on to be a priest or even a bishop, they remain a deacon, because ordination – what is called the 'sacrament of Orders' – once done cannot be undone, and because the heart of all Christian ministry, whether lay or ordained, is service.



Please do pray for me as I prepare to take up my new post, for my civil partner, Blue, and our cat Percy, and for the people of the Benefice, amongst whom I will serve.

Thank you and God bless.

GENERAL

Dame Elizabeth Holford's Charity

Over 300 years ago, in 1720, Dame Elizabeth Holford left £500 to establish a school for the children of Stanton St John and Forest Hill. The Charity was established in its present form after the closure of Stanton St John Primary School in 1988.

Dame Elizabeth Holford's Charity (Registered Charity Number 309576) invites applications for grants for the advancement of education (including social and physical training) from school-aged children and young people up to the age of 25 who are resident in - or whose parents are resident in - Stanton St John, Forest Hill with Shotover, Beckley, Horton-cum-Studley and Elsfield.

Applications are not means tested and funding is awarded on a case by case basis. To request an application form please email holfordtrustchair@gmail.com.

FEMALE CARER

— Summer 2026 —

Highly experienced and trusted female home carer working around Otmoor and North Oxford.



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Community Health

Nina Robinson lives in Forest Hill and is a Governor of Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Governors play a valuable role by holding the Non-executive Directors to account, representing the interests of the Trust's members, and helping to shape plans for the future (see <https://www.ouh.nhs.uk/about/governors/meet-the-governors/>). Nina has sent us a notification of an event to be held in Wheatley in September.

You may be aware of NHS England's 10 year plan for 2025-2035 which outlines new ways of delivering NHS services to improve service to patients within available budgets. A key component of this change is reliance on communities to take responsibility for care at home where possible for patients. There is evidence that patient wellbeing and comfort is better served in their home environment which helps recovery and reduces trauma in palliative care.

As your elected governor representing South Oxfordshire at Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (OUH NHS FT) I am keen that we support their Hospital at Home (H@H) service by demonstrating the readiness of our community to receive it. To this end, I have arranged for OUH NHS FT to hold a community event for our constituency in September 2026 in Wheatley (details to be announced soon).

Meanwhile, I am liaising with OUH NHS FT to show our commitment to support them to make H@H a success - we have set up 'Forest Hill support' WhatsApp group, with increasing membership, demonstrating our commitment to look after the vulnerable in our community when they need help. This model also provides a foundation for H@H to succeed with and for us.

If you would like to join Forest Hill support WhatsApp group, or to be kept informed about the community event referred to above, please contact Nina Robinson - ninarobinson1000@gmail.com or 07980 267654.

Information about Hospital at Home can be found on the NHS website at https://oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/service_description/hospital-at-home/.

Peaks and Troughs

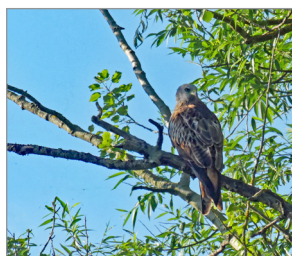
by Lyn Ebbs

We hear about falling populations of various wildlife species and it's easy to gain the impression that these declines are inevitable. But taking a closer look at two similarly sized birds of prey: Common Buzzards and Red Kites we can see that where we humans have caused a decline our efforts can also bring about a reverse.

Buzzards were victims of the widespread persecution of many raptors in the 19th century, as game-shooting became widespread and they were seen as a threat to gamebirds. In the 20th century, an additional blow to buzzards was the introduction in 1955 of the rabbit disease, Myxomatosis. The aim was to control rabbit populations but, as the buzzards' preferred prey, the crash in rabbit numbers was followed by a decline in their numbers, too. On top of these pressures, organochlorine pesticides, such as DDT, widely used in farming during the 1950s and 60s built up in the food chain, accumulating in top predators like raptors. Birds themselves were poisoned or impacted by eggshell thinning and increased chick mortality. The result of these further declines was that by the 1980s, buzzards in Britain were confined to Scotland, Wales and western England.



Red kite persecution dates back much further to Tudor times. Well-known scavengers, living on carrion and other rubbish, they were not particularly popular; in Shakespeare's "King Lear", Lear describes his daughter Goneril as a "detested kite". Under Henry VIII in 1532 and again under Elizabeth I in 1566, Parliamentary acts were introduced to kill animals considered vermin, including red kites. Henry put a bounty of a penny per head on kites, a significant sum at a time when agricultural wages were around four pence a day. They were subsequently subject to the same sort of persecution as buzzards. By the 1870s, they were extinct in Scotland, England and Ireland. In the early 1900s, only about five breeding pairs were still present, in the remote Welsh hills.



However, in the 1980s legislation which brought in a total ban on the use of organochlorine pesticides, and introduced stronger wildlife protection, improved the situation for both buzzards and red kites. The Welsh red kite population had partially recovered to 100 pairs by the 1990s. However, this was a very inbred population with low breeding success. It's a well-known story locally that we were close to the first red kite re-introduction programme. Between 1989 and 1994, young birds were taken from nests in Sweden, Spain and Wales, reared and then released in the Chilterns and other sites. Breeding was recorded in 1992, and just two years later red kites that hatched in the wild raised their own chicks for the first time. The population size is now 4,400 pairs; that's a staggering increase in population of 2613% between 1995 to 2024.

The buzzards have managed a more modest recovery but without the need for reintroductions from abroad. As well as the organochlorine pesticide ban and legal protection, increased public awareness has led to a significant increase in the size of the species' population. And regarding its range, buzzards have now recolonized many of the areas of the UK from which they had been lost. Here in the south-east, over the 29-year period from 1995 to 2024, their population increased by 1062%.

It's good news, but populations in our region are now flat-lining. In similar habitats in central Europe the buzzard population is significantly higher. Despite legal protection, persecution continues. Another rabbit pathogen, Viral Haemorrhagic disease has again reduced rabbit prey. But another toxic material will soon be removed from the environment, lead. Over the past 50 years it has been removed from products from paint to petrol that we were exposed to. Now, following recommendations by the Health and Safety Executive, over the next three years restrictions on game-shooting ammunition containing toxic metals will be phased in. Kite and buzzard numbers could soar again following this ban.



Lyn Ebbs has lived in Stanton St John for 38 years and has been volunteering at the RSPB Otmoor Reserve at Otmoor Lane, Beckley, since 2009.

The Maple Tree Children's Centre, Littleworth Road, Wheatley OX33 1PH



Happy Summer from The Maple Tree! Whatever the weather, Laura, Becky, Helen, and our lovely volunteers will always have a warm welcome waiting for you. If you are a new parent/carer, do come and visit us – it will only be a new and different place once!

Here is a reminder of our regular drop-in sessions. While our sessions are free of charge, we ask for a recommended donation of £3/family. Visiting the Health Visitors is always free.

Mondays: Messy Monday at 10-11.30am and **Twins' Club** at 2-4pm

Tuesdays: Smart Start at 9.30-11.30am

Wednesdays: Maple Babies at 9.30am-12pm

Health visitors 1st Wednesday of the month.

Thursdays: Time to Rhyme at 9.30-11.30am

and **The Maple Tree at Forest Hill Village Hall** from 10.30am-12pm

Fridays: Little Learners at 10-11.30am

Saturdays: Family Fun at 10-11.30am on 20 June.

We will be holding our popular **Village Outreach Sessions** again this summer. These sessions are designed for 0-5s, but older siblings are welcome too. We will also be holding several **Ready for School** sessions, which will be very helpful if you have children starting school in September.

Wish List

- Volunteers for our Wednesday morning Maple Babies and for our Friday Morning Little Learners.
- Another Trustee (or two or three) – and/or someone who is willing to take on The Maple Tree finances or fundraising.

We are here to help if you need advice or support:

Telephone: 01865 236700 Email: info@mapletree.org.uk

Website: www.mapletree.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheMapleTreeWheatley

Laura Spencer, The Maple Tree Centre Manager

BECKLEY

Beckley Church

Details of all church services and general church news can be found on pages 4 - 13. Any changes to the published schedule of services will be on our website www.fourparishes.org.uk. The church is open every day. All are welcome, including well-behaved dogs!

Coffee (or tea!), cake and chat

All welcome, do come and enjoy catching up with friends and neighbours and perhaps meeting new people! The next are on **25 July and 29 August, 10.30am to 12 noon**.

Also, do take a look at our wide selection of books for all ages and tastes, on the pew at the west end, to borrow or swap!

Pimms and Praise

On **Saturday 15 August at 6pm** in Beckley Church we are planning a Pimms and Praise event to celebrate our Patronal Festival. In the Anglican Church, the Patronal Festival is the feast of the community's patron or the feast to which the parish is dedicated. For Beckley this falls on 15 August. We had great fun doing this last year, and hope that it will be just as much fun this year.

Please do let us know beforehand if you have a favourite hymn to ensure we have the words printed for everyone. We can enjoy a feast of singing favourite hymns, as we enjoy sips of Pimms to moisten our vocal cords between them. If we have too many suggested hymns, we will select at random.

Please let Gina Robson on ginarobson5@gmail.com, Susy Jepson on susy.jepson@gmail.com or Anthea on anthea@fourparishes.org.uk know your chosen hymn.

A Date for your Diary

Ride and Stride on Saturday 12 September. This is one of the main sources of income for the Oxford Historic Churches Trust, which gives grants for repairs or improvements to churches and chapels of all denominations in the County. Please look out for more information later, or go to www.ohct.org.uk/ride-stride.

In memory of Pam



I was asked to write a few words in memory of our Mum, Pam Edmonds-Seal, who died in May this year after a long battle with cancer. She was 81, and we are thankful that she had a long and wonderful life, full of friendship, family, faith and fun.

Pam embraced all the things that made village life special. She loved the sense of community, the familiar faces, the friendships built over many years and the simple pleasures that filled her days. Whether attending a village group, walking with friends, admiring flowers in bloom or enjoying tea and cake in good company, she found joy in being part of the life of the village she loved so much.

Her faith was an important part of who Pam was. She had a deep trust in God and found comfort, strength and guidance through her faith. It shaped the way she lived her life and the kindness she showed to others. Pam believed in generosity, compassion and the importance of being there for people. Her faith was reflected not only in words but in the warmth, encouragement and friendship she offered to everyone she met.

Pam's warmth, kindness and enthusiasm touched many people, and the large number of friends and neighbours who gathered to celebrate her life reflected just how much she meant to this community.

Friday afternoons at the Art Group were among her favourite times of the week. Art was a lifelong passion, and she delighted in creating, learning and sharing ideas with others. Whether painting, drawing or simply admiring someone else's work, she approached creativity with curiosity and enthusiasm. She believed everyone could enjoy art and encouraged others to give it a go, regardless of experience.

She was also a regular member of the Bells Group and could often be found enjoying a cup of tea and a chat with the Sewing Group. These gatherings brought together many of the things she loved most: friendship, laughter, conversation and cake. Pam appreciated life's simple pleasures and never underestimated the importance of taking time to sit with friends and enjoy one another's company.

Flowers were another of her great loves. She enjoyed tending her garden

and bringing colour into her home. She noticed the changing seasons and took pleasure in the beauty that surrounded her, whether it was a vase of freshly picked flowers on a table or a hedgerow in bloom during a village walk. She saw God's handiwork in the natural world and found great joy in the beauty of creation.

Outside the village, some of her happiest moments were spent walking with friends. She loved exploring bluebell woods in spring, when the woodland floor transformed into a sea of violet-blue. She loved the beach in every season, enjoying the fresh air, the sound of the waves and the peace that came from being by the sea. These walks were about more than the scenery; they were about sharing time, stories and laughter with good friends and family.

Above all, Pam was a devoted Nanny Pam to her eight grandchildren. They are now teenagers and young adults, but each carries something of her with them. She loved them dearly and took great pride in watching them grow. She encouraged their creativity, celebrated their achievements and always made time for them.

Perhaps her greatest legacy is the love of art she passed on to her grandchildren. Through her example, she showed them that creativity is not about perfection but about seeing the world with curiosity, imagination and appreciation. Many of them continue to enjoy art today, a lasting gift from their Nanny Pam.

She also leaves behind a simple but powerful motto that guided her life: "Stay in the present moment." Pam had a wonderful ability to appreciate what was in front of her — a conversation, a walk, a flower, a piece of cake, a painting or a friend.

As we remember Pam, we think of her surrounded by the things she loved: friends gathered around a table, paintbrushes and sketches, flowers in bloom, bluebells in the woods, the sea stretching to the horizon and, above all, her beloved family and her faith in God.

We are grateful for the kindness, friendship and joy she brought to so many lives. Pam was a faithful, loving and generous presence in our community. She will be greatly missed, fondly remembered and always loved.

Louise Bradshaw

Beckley & Area Community Benefit Society Ltd (BACBS)

More than a Pub programme

The Beckley & Area Community Benefit Society (BACBS) continues its popular activities at our community-owned pub The Abingdon Arms, Beckley, to which all are welcome. Do come, enjoy, and support your local pub. For more information email info@bacbs.org or visit <https://bacbs.org/events>. BACBS will be taking a summer break in August, but we will be back in September with a full programme of activities.

Pub quiz, first Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm with pizza

As previously advertised, the next one is, exceptionally, on **Wednesday, 8 July**. Table bookings essential, through the pub. Tables sell out every month, days before the quiz happens. Teams should comprise no more than six people. There will be no pub quiz in August.

Community walks, third Sunday of the month at 2pm

Meet at the Abingdon Arms at 2pm. Come along and meet your neighbours for a gentle 2-hour walk and a friendly chat. There will be no community walk in August.

Sunday evening talks, last Sunday of the month at 6.30 pm

On **26 July**, Dr Julia Dallaway an early-career academic based in the University of Oxford's English Faculty will give a talk, *Images That Shimmer Around the Edges: Migraine Auras and Blurry Perception* in the Essays of Joan Didion, Hilary Mantel, and Brian Dillon, focusing on three writers who turned to the form of the literary essay in order to express their experiences of migraine.

Come in time to order a drink from the bar before these talks start. There will be no talk in August.

BACBS Good Neighbour Scheme

The Good Neighbour Scheme gives lifts to those with no other transport, for example, to the doctors as well as lifts to the Barton/Green Road roundabout, where there are regular buses into Headington and central Oxford. The scheme serves Beckley, Elsfield, Stanton, Forest Hill, Woodeaton, and Noke. To request a lift, either ring 07514 791910 (if no answer, leave a message) or email BACBSgoodneighbour@gmail.com.

Beckley and Stowood Parish Council

Judy Bushrod is stepping back from circulating emails about news and social events to Beckley residents. We would like to thank her very much for providing this important service and for her tireless efforts over 10 years in circulating urgent and important news.

The Parish Council is setting up a new email system for all parishioners for council news, including road closures, refuse collections, notices and news from the district and county councils, consultations etc and important issues that may affect them. To be included, please subscribe by sending an email to the clerk: clerk@beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk

All Beckley and Stowood's 492 electors and residents also receive an excellent quarterly newsletter, delivered to each of our 260 households. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Christina Weir and the team of helpers and deliverers. Past newsletters can be found on the Beckley and Stowood website: <https://www.beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk/?q=news>

There is also a Beckley Village WhatsApp group administered by Viv Pearson and a Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/699800677516506>

Anyone for Tennis?

When the tennis court was built originally, with the kind generosity of Arthur Cook, fundraising and donations from villagers, we had a thriving tennis club with club nights, which were greatly enjoyed. With Wimbledon and hopefully good weather and summer holidays ahead, we want to encourage tennis playing and the formation of a tennis club again. A volunteer has come forward who has agreed to lead and help set this up, but he needs support from other tennis enthusiasts. If you can offer help in setting up the tennis club, offering coaching, setting up a league or simply playing social tennis please contact us via the clerk's email and we will put you all in touch.

Encouraging Sport: Facilities at the Village Hall and playing fields

The playing fields at Beckley Village Hall have excellent facilities for football, cricket, outdoor table tennis, tennis and practising basketball, with changing rooms with showers etc. that have yet to be used. We would like to encourage local teams and sports enthusiasts to use these

facilities. There will be a booking form for each on the new Beckley website. Changing rooms can be booked through the Village Hall booking manager: booking@beckleyvillagehall.org. We ask that all facilities are treated with respect (e.g. by using appropriate footwear), to avoid damage, so others can enjoy them too.

New Bins

We now have four new refuse bins – one at the top of Church Street; a larger one opposite the pub; one at the bottom of Sand Path/top of Roman Way and one at Wick Farm. This took considerable effort and tenacity by Cllr Paige Newmark over some time. We would like to thank him and Cllr Paul Loveridge for installing them too.

Next Parish Council Meeting

Monday 13 July, 7pm, in Beckley Village Hall

New Website - help still required

We still desperately need some admin help for our new website. With the school/college holidays starting soon it would suit anyone who has good IT skills and would like to earn some extra money on a project basis, working from home. Please contact us via clerk's email (below) for more information.

Beckley website - <https://www.beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk/>

PC contact - clerk@beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk



FOREST HILL

St Nicolas Church

Details of all church services and general church news can be found on pages 4 - 13. Any changes to the published schedule of services will be on our website www.fourparishes.org.uk.

Jane Walker and Pat Fraser have been admitted to the Office of Churchwarden once again. A huge 'thank you' to them for taking on this role again. For more information see page 7.

Open Organ Mornings at St Nicolas

Saturday 18 July and Saturday 15 August, 10am-12.30pm

Have you ever wondered what it feels like to play a church organ? The monthly 'Open Organ Mornings' at St Nicolas continue on 1 July and 15 August, so if you are interested in hearing, playing or learning about our Victorian Pipe Organ, please drop in to St Nicolas Church any time between 10am and 12.30pm, when Peter will be happy to show you how a traditional pipe organ works and even give you a chance to try it for yourself!

Bring some keyboard music if you like, but you don't have to be able to read music to enjoy trying out the organ. All ages are welcome, but children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. If you want more details, or if you would like to arrange a more convenient time to visit, ring Peter on 01865 876848 or use the contact form at <https://www.stnicolasforesthill.org/contact>.

Peter Stutfield, Organist, St Nicolas Church

New 'Village Rep' needed for Forest Hill

Stephanie Kitchen has decided to step down as 'Village Representative' for Forest Hill so we are in need of another volunteer to take on this role. The 'Village Reps' are responsible for gathering content for the magazine relating to their own village and sending it to the Editor in time for the monthly deadline. It is a vital and important role and there is an opportunity to suggest content as well as to assemble it.

If you think this might be something that you would be willing to take on, please email the Editor, Julia Stutfield, 4parishesnewsletter@gmail.com for more information.

Cream Teas at St Nicolas Church, Forest Hill

Saturday 25 July and Sunday 23 August

3 – 5pm



For more information contact Julia Stutfield
julia.stutfield@gmail.com or 07766 103427

Forest Hill Quiz Night

Friday 14 August, 7.30pm at Forest Hill Village Hall

A fun quiz night organised by Caroline Fraser and friends. Come as a part of a ready-made team or come on your own and join a team on the night - you will be equally welcome either way!

Bring and share a few nibbles and some drinks (inc alcohol if desired).

For more information contact Caroline: cazzle-jumbo@hotmail.com or 07587 592273.

Forest Hill Summer Fete

Saturday 29 August, 12 - 6pm on the Recreation Ground

See back cover of this magazine and watch out for more information on Facebook and around the village.

Forest Hill with Shotover Parish Council

Notes from the Parish Council Meeting on 11 June 2026

Keep Our Footpaths Accessible

The Parish Council kindly asks all residents to look at their boundaries on footpaths and, where possible, please trim back overhanging hedgerows and brambles. This simple task ensures that local paths remain completely safe and open to all members of our community, particularly those with limited mobility.

Date Confirmed for the Summer Fête

Mark your diaries for the Forest Hill Summer Fete, which will take place **on the Recreation Ground on Saturday 29 August**. The event will be promoted on Facebook, and final arrangements are being wrapped up ahead of the July council meeting.

Village Hall Survey Ordered

To ensure our local facilities remain well-maintained, the Council has agreed to progress a structural survey of the Village Hall's rear wall. This will provide clear, professional recommendations regarding required brickwork repointing.

Objections to Local Highways Schemes

The Council voted unanimously to object to the Oxfordshire "Quiet Lanes" pilot scheme for Shepherds Pit Lane, citing serious concerns over fly-tipping, potential anti-social behaviour, and a lack of local road maintenance capacity. A formal objection will also be submitted regarding the proposed stopping up of the highway at Land off Burdell Avenue & Delbush Avenue.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is on Thursday 9 July and Thursday 13 August at 7pm in Forest Hill Village Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Dates of meetings, agendas and minutes can be found on the Forest Hill website: www.foresthillwithshotover-pc.gov.uk and on the Village Hall noticeboard. You can contact the Clerk by email at: theclerk@foresthillwithshotover-pc.org.uk or telephone 0844 884 3328 (premium rate), between 9am and 5pm and leave a message.

The Maple Tree at Forest Hill

Thursdays 10.30am-12pm

The Thursday morning 'stay and play' sessions for babies and toddlers continue to run in Forest Hill Village Hall every week throughout the year. Parents and carers from the Four Parishes and beyond are welcome to drop in any time between 10.30am and 12pm. Sessions are free of charge, but we ask for a recommended donation to the Maple Tree of £3/family, which can be made by card or cash.



Please email julia.stutfield@gmail.com or message Julia on 07766 103427 if you have any questions. For a full list of activities run by The Maple Tree Children's Centre in Wheatley, see page 18.

Pop-Up Coffee Shop and Jazz on the Hill

The Pop-Up Coffee Shop and Jazz on the Hill will be taking a break during July and August.

Forest Hill Village Hall

Our village hall, situated on Main Street in the heart of the village, provides a welcoming communal space for all to use.

For more information, email Stephen Robinson spr500@gmail.com or go to <https://communityfirstoxon.org/community-action/hubs-halls-shops/community-halls-directory/forest-hill-village-hall/>.



HORTON-cum-STUDLEY

St Barnabas Church

Details of all church services and general church news can be found on pages 4 - 13. Any changes to the published schedule of services will be on our website www.fourparishes.org.uk.

Julia Slingo and Andrew Payne have been admitted to the Office of Churchwarden once again. A huge 'thank you' to them for taking on this role again. For more information see page 7.

St Barnabas News

The Dog and Collar will be open **Friday 3 July, 6-8.30pm** in St. Barnabas. We look forward to welcoming everyone and anyone, hopefully with warm sunny evenings! (There is no Dog and Collar in August).

Coffee and Chat

Saturday 11 July, 10am-12noon at St Barnabas

Why not start your weekend with a lovely mug of coffee (or tea) and a piece of cake? You could catch up with neighbours or meet new ones, especially if you have recently moved to the village. Everyone is welcome to drop in. No charge. Donations and dogs welcome.

Summer Cream Teas

The cream teas this summer will in St Barnabas churchyard on **Sunday 5 July and Sunday 2 August, 2.30-4.30pm**, to raise funds for the church. All welcome.

Date for your diary

Michaelmas Fayre – Saturday 12 September, 12noon-2pm, Manor Farm

We want to make it a really good Fayre this year to help raise much needed funds for the ongoing running and upkeep of St Barnabas. All villagers are invited to be involved. This is our big annual fundraiser. **All offers of help please to lisamynheer@gmail.com.**

We will be very grateful nearer the time for donations of books (novels, paperbacks, rather than coffee table type books); good quality bric-a-brac; nearly new; raffle prizes; bottles; cakes; plants; produce; offers to make soup; offers to help run stalls. So never too early to think about what you can donate/offer.

Horton-cum-Studley Gardening Club

Water in the Garden

Water is one of the most important elements in any garden. Without an adequate supply of water, plants cannot absorb nutrients from the soil, carry out photosynthesis effectively, or maintain their structure. However, proper drainage is equally important, particularly on the heavy clay soils that predominate locally, since excess water can lead to waterlogged soil, root rot, and poor plant growth.

Adding organic matter such as compost can improve the soil's ability to hold moisture while still allowing excess water to drain away. A layer of mulch around plants helps reduce evaporation, suppress weeds, and maintain a more consistent soil temperature. As summer approaches our thoughts turn to watering. Tap water is neither environmentally appropriate, cheap nor secure, given the risk of hose pipe bans, so here are three alternatives:

- **Collecting rainwater** from rooftops into water butts, barrels, or tanks is environmentally friendly and rainwater is naturally soft and free from many of the chemicals found in treated tap water.
- **Groundwater** can be obtained from wells or boreholes. Groundwater abstraction is regulated by the Environment Agency and an abstraction licence is required if more than 20,000 litres of water is to be abstracted each day. However, this is unlikely to be an issue for domestic garden use! In Horton-cum-Studley (at least at the bottom a ~4m deep borehole with a view to supplementing my water butt system with groundwater if we have a very dry period.
- **Greywater** refers to gently used water from household activities, such as bathing, handwashing, or laundry, but not water containing harsh chemicals such as bleach. Greywater can be reused to irrigate ornamental plants and some landscape areas, but not vegetables. It is best used directly rather than being stored for significant periods.

To get the water to the right places, I have resorted to a homemade irrigation system supplied from our water butts. Rather than buying purpose-made drip piping or soaker hoses I have simply adapted some old hose pipe by blocking the distal end and drilling small holes where water is needed.

Automation makes my life even easier. I have a light sensitive timer that delivers water for a specified period at dawn and/or dusk (please note that if you want to follow this example it is important to get a timer that works with the pressure provided by a gravity fed water butt system, which is much lower than that of a tap).

It may be too late for you to set any of this up for 2026, but now is the ideal time to prepare for 2027. In the meantime, perhaps you could start using grey water for ornamental plants.

Chair: Chris Pugh pughchrisw@gmail.com

Otmoor Challenge 2026

There was a great turn out for all 4 distances- walkers and runners braving the heat to enjoy the beautiful countryside around Otmoor.

A massive thank you from the Otmoor Challenge Committee to all who supported this event- marshals, sponsors, the WI and all who made a contribution to the preparation and on the day.



Horton cum Studley Parish Council news

Road closures

Islip Bridge Repairs

The planned eight-week closure of Islip Bridge has been postponed until September to accommodate the harvest requirements of three local farms.

Brill Road, Horton-cum-Studley

The Brill Road will be closed to through traffic on **Monday 6 July, 7am-7pm**, to enable resurfacing of a section near Whanau Farm and the Old Nursery. Diversions will be in place between the top of Panshill, via Honeyburge to the junction of Oakley Road/Horton Hill in Horton-cum-Studley.

Parish Council Meetings

Meetings are open to all in the village. They are normally held on the **second Wednesday each month at 7.30pm in the Millennium Village Hall**. The next meeting is on **Wednesday 8 July**, followed by the meeting on **9 September**, with no meeting held in August.

David Slingo -Chair



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STANTON ST JOHN

St John the Baptist Church

Details of all church services and general church news can be found on pages 4 - 13. Any changes to the published schedule of services will be on our website www.fourparishes.org.uk.

Carla Stanley has been admitted to the Office of Churchwarden once again. A huge 'thank you' to her for taking on this role. For more information see page 7.

Monthly Coffee Mornings

These take place in **Stanton Village Hall, 10.30am-12noon** on Mondays and Wednesdays. The next dates are as follows:

Monday 27 July (note change of date)

Wednesday 19 August

Wednesday 16 September (provisional date)

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

For further details, contact Sue Baker on 01865 351449.

OxyBaroxy

Concert in Stanton Church, 12 July, 7.30pm

OxyBaroxy (Oxfordshire Youth Baroque Strings) is an Oxfordshire Music Service Chamber Group, which offers young string players the opportunity to explore seventeenth and eighteenth-century string repertoire using Baroque bows and period performance practice.

The OxyBaroxy concert will feature exciting music by Bach and Handel. It will also include the first airing for many years of a consort of viols! This is really exciting! Viols were played in a family setting in the sixteenth century mainly, and are really challenging for modern string players (everything about them is wrong – strings, tuning, bow hold etc. etc.) Our players will be tackling some fun and lively sixteenth and seventeenth-century dances.

This is a free concert with a retiring collection which will be split between Stanton Church and the Oxfordshire Fund for Music (OFM). OFM pays 50% of the cost of tuition from the County Music Service for students, who wouldn't otherwise be able to learn an instrument for financial reasons.

Stanton St John Parish Council

The Parish Council held its Annual Meeting on 18 May in the Village Hall. Here are some of the key highlights and updates from the evening.

New Chair and Vice-Chair Elected

Congratulations to Cllr Justin Worrall, who was elected as Chair of the Parish Council for the coming year. Cllr Dina Cooper was elected Vice-Chair. We thank outgoing Chair Cllr Andrew Clark for his service and support over the past years.

Community Concerns Raised

Residents spoke during the public participation session about recent fly-tipping and the removal of trees near Rectory Farm on the B4027. The Council noted these concerns and discussions continue about how best to address environmental issues affecting the village.

Greenways and Shepherd's Pit Cycleway

County Councillor Tim Bearder updated the meeting on local transport matters, including the proposed Greenways scheme. A public consultation on Shepherds Pit took place in the Village Hall on 27 May, giving residents an opportunity to learn more and share their views.

Village Projects and Community Facilities

Several ongoing projects were reviewed:

- New dog signs for the play park are due to be installed
- The Council discussed future opportunities for the Village Hall and the potential development of a wider community hub.

Council Roles Confirmed

Councillors agreed responsibilities for the coming year, including leads for footpaths and bridleways, planning matters, village communications, and village hall liaison. Representatives were also confirmed for public transport, conservation, cycle paths, and neighbourhood planning.

Parish Finances

The Council approved its annual banking arrangements, auditors, and regular payments. At the end of April, Parish Council funds stood at approximately £47,845, including the first instalment of the annual precept.

Rectory Farm

Pinkwell Ponds along Shepherds Pits Road

An interesting map recording Stanton St John Parish field names has been recently found in the Oxfordshire County Archive which was new to us. We have discovered that the Rectory Farm ponds along Shepherds Pits Road, dug by us in 1993, are in an area known as Pinkwell Hill. It seems appropriate that they should have a Proper Name and from now on we will be referring to them as the Pinkwell Ponds and will shortly be putting up a sign to say so.

Pinkwell Ponds and the surrounding area hold a wide variety of bird species. The Ponds are regularly visited by keen bird watchers and over 90 species have been recorded over the last few years. Notable sightings include the Barn Owl hunting along the grass edge of the ponds at dusk, Shelduck and Shoveler ducks both larger than the always resident Mallard, Tufted Ducks, Moor Hens,



Coots and Dabchicks. There are regular sightings of birds on the threatened farmland birds list including groups of Lapwing, Skylark, Yellow Hammer, Linnet, Reed Bunting and Partridge.

Richard Stanley

Stanton St John Women's Institute

At the time of writing, it's mid-June and the outside temperature recently has been chilly even for mid-March! Nevertheless, Stanton St John WI is now on its summer break.



This just means no indoor meetings; we do take part in other activities. Since we last wrote for example, we've served drinks and cakes at the Otmoor Challenge and planted decorative garden containers. Many thanks to the Village Shop for letting us display many more of them in the shop window.

We're back in Stanton Village Hall in September; in the meantime, if you want to find out more about our programme just email: stantonstjohnwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk.



Dr Pinks Charity
Registered Number 309160

The Trustees welcome applications for small grants from young people (up to age 25) who live in the village of Stanton St John

Grants are available for those in further education and apprenticeships and have been awarded in the past for the purchase of textbooks, practical tools, uniforms and expedition equipment

Applications (or further information) in writing to:
Elaine Warner, 1 Stanton Cottages, Stanton St John
or elaine.warner@icloud.com

Closing date for applications: 30 September 2026



But who was Dr Pink?

Robert PINCK or PINK or PINCKE, (1573–1647), was the eldest son of Henry Pink of Kempshot, a small village in rural Hampshire.

He was admitted to Winchester College in 1588 where he was a contemporary of John White (founder of the Colony of Massachusetts) who was born in Stanton St John and whose father was a farming tenant of New College. At the time only Winchester College pupils were admitted to New College.



©Warden & Scholars of New College, Oxford

Dr Pink matriculated at New College, Oxford in 1594, was elected fellow in 1596, graduated B.A. in 1598, and M.A. in 1602. In 1610 he became Proctor, and in 1612 bachelor of medicine. In 1617 he was elected Warden of New College, in 1619 he was admitted to the degree of B.D. and D.D. From 1620 he was Rector of Stanton St John. He was appointed Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University of Oxford by convocation in 1642. In those unstable times Dr Pink was a Royalist and imprisoned for some time by the Parliamentarians.

Dr Pink died on 2 November 1647, and is buried in New College chapel where there is a carved monument of him. He was much lamented by the members of his college, because he had been a vigilant, faithful, and public-spirited governor; by the poor of the city of Oxford because he had been a constant benefactor to them . . . and “generally by all who knew the great virtues, piety, and learning of the person”. He left books to New College Library, a legacy to the Bodleian, and many other benefactions including Stanton St John.

Dr Pink’s makes small awards (up to about £150) to support people under 25 years of age resident in Stanton St John, and is not ‘means tested’. Grants are awarded annually.

* * * * *



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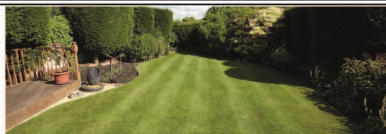
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A vibrant, hand-drawn style poster for the Forest Hill Village Fête. The background features a lush green landscape with trees, a stone church tower on the left, and a red and white striped tent on the right. A string of colorful bunting flags hangs across the top. The main title 'FOREST HILL VILLAGE FÊTE' is prominently displayed in the center. Below the title, a dark blue banner indicates the date 'SATURDAY 29TH AUGUST 2026', and a green banner shows the time '12:00 PM - 6:00 PM'. A central text block invites attendees to join for a wonderful afternoon of community fun. To the right, a wooden signpost lists 'GAMES', 'CRAFTS', and 'ENTERTAINMENT'. Below this, a list of activities includes 'LOCAL VENDORS', 'FOOD & DRINK', 'STALLS & CRAFT DISPLAYS', and 'LIVE DEMONSTRATIONS & ENTERTAINMENT', each accompanied by a small icon. At the bottom, two circular icons state 'PARKING ON SITE' and 'DOGS WELCOME (PLEASE KEEP ON LEADS)'. A large yellow banner with red text proclaims 'FREE ENTRY'. A final blue banner encourages supporting local businesses. The poster is decorated with various floral elements, including daisies and lavender, and a small chalkboard on the left reads 'Fun for all the family!' with a heart symbol. Another chalkboard on the right says 'Local Community Great Day Out!' with a heart symbol.

FOREST HILL VILLAGE FÊTE

SATURDAY 29TH AUGUST 2026

12:00 PM - 6:00 PM

*Join us for a wonderful afternoon of
community fun in Forest Hill, Oxford!*



LOCAL VENDORS



FOOD & DRINK



STALLS & CRAFT DISPLAYS



LIVE DEMONSTRATIONS
& ENTERTAINMENT



PARKING
ON SITE



DOGS WELCOME
(PLEASE KEEP
ON LEADS)

FREE ENTRY

*Come along and support local businesses, makers, and
community groups while enjoying a fantastic day out for all ages!*

FOREST HILL, OXFORD

SATURDAY 29TH AUGUST 2026 | 12 PM - 6 PM