

The Four Parishes News Magazine

BECKLEY
FOREST HILL
HORTON-cum-STUDLEY
STANTON St JOHN



Snow in Horton-cum-Studley, December 2017

February 2019

The editor writes:



Our cover photo was taken just over a year ago, in December 2017. So far this winter we have been lucky not to have suffered the disruption caused by a sudden snowfalls, but, rather unexpectedly, the first snow of the year has just arrived!

This month's magazine is another packed issue, full of news and information about community activities and items of local interest. Please take the time to read the detailed updates about the Oxford - Cambridge Expressway and the South Oxfordshire District Council Local Plan. These appear in the General section and also on some of the village pages. Action is called for on both of these initiatives if we want to present a local point of view rather than accepting the policy decisions of groups who do not live in our area.

There is also a feast of musical and other events on offer, so put them in your diary now!

Julia Stutfield

Our cover photo ...

was taken by David Slingo from Horton-cum-Studley. David emailed me this picture with the comment:

"Just found this ... with last year's snow, taken as 'a view across the village green' from my house, featuring St Barnabas!"

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

Linda Goffey Tel: 01865 873078 linda@goffey.co.uk

Horton-cum-Studley

Carol Welch Tel: 01865 358122 carol_welch20@hotmail.com

Stanton St John

Sue Baker Tel: 01865 351449 susanjbaker24@gmail.com

The closing date for the next issue is 15 February 2019

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 entirely dependent on unpaid 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 with any of these activities, please email Julia Stutfield 4parishesnewsletter@gmail.com

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

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

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 the 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
Betty Dye LLM	betty.dye10@gmail.com Mob: 07910 356343
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

Forest Hill

Jane Walker Tel: 01865 872399 lyttleton@btinternet.com

Pat Fraser Tel: 01865 875679 triciaann49@gmail.com

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

Church Services in the Four Parishes, February 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
3 Feb <i>Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)</i>	11am Parish Communion	9.30am Parish Communion	9.30am Family Service	11am Morning Prayer
		6pm Taizé	4pm Family Church (Beckley Village Hall)	
10 Feb	9.30am Family Service at Stanton St John		9.30am Parish Communion	11am Parish Communion
	4pm Choral Evensong (Book of Common Prayer)			
17 Feb	11am Morning Prayer (Book of Common Prayer)	9.30am Parish Communion	9.30am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)	11am Family Service
		4pm Family Church (Stanton Village Hall)	6pm Iona Service	
24 Feb	10am Joint Benefice Service at Horton-cum Studley			
		6pm Church Without 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).

The process of recruiting a new vicar for our Four Parishes is well under way. People often ask why it takes so long and the answer is that it is quite a complex process. Once it had been agreed that the vacancy should be filled, the members of our four PCCs (Parochial Church Councils) were asked to work together to produce a document known as the 'Parish Profile'. In addition to a 'job description' and a 'person description', the document describes our Four Parishes in detail, with information about church congregations, finances, format of services, our village communities and anything that might be relevant to someone who was considering coming to live in our area. Although we produced a similar document in 2011, a surprising amount has changed since then and between the parishes we have spent many hours preparing our 'shop window' for prospective candidates. There have also been formal meetings with the Archdeacon and her representatives to provide guidance and to approve the final version. We then had to draft and post the job advertisement and we are now waiting anxiously for news of applications. After short-listing in February, we hope to interview in March.

At the beginning of the process Rev'd Hugh Lee wrote a special prayer for us and it seems appropriate to reproduce it here:

Heavenly Father,

During our vacancy, give us courage and compassion, creativity and contemplation as we think about the future.

Help us to be prayerful, patient and discerning in all that we do and plan that, through our work, your will for us may be made known.

And we pray that, through the prompting of the Holy Spirit, we will find the person of your choice to be our vicar to work with us and among us for the development of our parishes and the building of your Kingdom.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

GENERAL NOTICES

Dame Elizabeth Holford's Trust – An Update for 2019

Dame Elizabeth Holford's Trust has now been able to extend its area of benefit to include Stanton St John, Forest Hill with Shotover and now also Beckley, Horton-cum Studley and the ecclesiastical Parish of Elsfield. The Trustees hope to reach more young people from school age to under the age of 25 who might benefit from the Trust.

The Trust was set up in 1720 when Dame Elizabeth Holford left £500 to establish a school for the children of Stanton St John and Forest Hill. The Trust came into being in 1988, following the closure of the school at what is now the Holford Centre, in Stanton St John. There were to be two Trustees appointed by Stanton St John Parish Council and two appointed by Forest Hill Village Council and the Trust invited applications for grants from school aged children and young people up to the age of 25 who are or who have parents resident in either village, for help in their educational needs.

In the past bursaries have been granted for computer software, sporting equipment, art materials, residential courses, university books, laptops and other electronic equipment, college courses not funded by Student Finance and travel expenses for attending auditions, interviews etc.

The Trustees welcome applications for bursaries addressed to the Chair of the Holford Trust, Alison Finch, at HolfordtrustChair@gmail.com. You can also apply by post to Alison Finch, 14 Mickle Way, Forest Hill, Oxford, OX33 1DX. The next meeting of the Trustees is **Monday 11 February 2019**.

Islip Big Bike Ride – 12 May 2019

Do you enjoy cycling? Would you like to ride a unique route starting at Westminster Abbey in the heart of London and finishing in leafy Islip at the birthplace of Edward the Confessor? Cyclists young and old are invited to join the Big Bike Ride, organised by a team from the school and parish church in Islip. For the less energetic, there's a second start from Great Missenden (30 miles) and another from Thame market square (15 miles). Once back in Islip, there are prizes, food, drink, sports massages and more!

For more information contact Hattie Bayly on hattiebayly@islipbigbikeride.com or visit <http://www.islipbigbikeride.com>

Oxford- Cambridge Expressway

Update from the Horton-cum-Studley Expressway Group

Jesse Norman MP confirmed on 11 January that Otmoor is not “safe” from the proposed Expressway.

There are significant threats from the proposed Expressway and development of 1 million new homes across the Arc, 300,000 of which are slated for Oxfordshire. Highways England are shortlisting routes for public consultation in Autumn 2019, with preferred route announcement in Autumn 2020. Following meetings with Highways England, other groups and review of previously unpublished Corridor Assessment Report Appendices, we believe the selected route is likely to go **south and east of Oxford** (“corridor B3”).

Detailed information in Appendix G of the Corridor Assessment Report shows, if we are correct, the route would likely come from the south to join the M40 at Junction 8/8a, then travel north on the M40 to a **new M40 junction** between Boarstall and Arncott, where it would run north/north-east again. **This new junction would be a huge risk to - Otmoor and Bernwood, as it could lead to significant “rat run” traffic between Otmoor and Bernwood forest, effectively splitting the ecosystem; our local communities, from increased traffic, noise/light/air pollution and new development.**

We are putting up new strategically placed signs in the areas most likely at risk. It’s vitally important to raise awareness and maintain a visual reminder that we will still fight to protect our countryside. We are in contact with Parish Councils about this campaign.

Public Inquiries are no longer held to approve major infrastructure projects. This has been replaced by the “Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects” (NSIPs) process managed by The Planning Inspectorate. A hearing is not guaranteed, with most/all evidence given in writing. To have any influence on the proposed Expressway, we must contribute before Highways England makes its formal NSIPs application. After this it will be very difficult to effect any changes at all or stop it completely!

A call to arms. It is critical that our District and County Councillors and MP know how strongly we feel about the proposed Expressway; over inflated housing targets; the risk to our environment; lack of public consultation; and that we expect them to be involved in the process and represent our community. A list of contact details can be found below. Please write and have your voice heard!

If you would like one of our new signs to put in your garden or to get involved or have useful contacts/exciting ideas to contribute, please contact Olivia Field, olivia_field@hotmail.com.

Councillors for Beckley, Forest Hill and Stanton St John:

District Councillor - John Walsh, john.walsh@southoxon.gov.uk

County Councillor - Tim Bearder, tim.bearder@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Councillors for Horton-cum-Studley:

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

District Councillor - Simon Holland, simon.holland@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

District Councillor - Timothy Hallchurch, timothy.hallchurch@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

County Councillor - Dan Sames, dan.sames@oxfordshire.gov.uk

MP for all:

John Howell, howelljm@parliament.uk

Local Plan: Message from John Walsh

South Oxfordshire District Council have published the final draft of their Local Plan to 2034. The formal public consultation began on 7 January and will run for six weeks until Monday 18 February at 5pm. This is the final chance for residents to have their say on the plan - their comments will be submitted with the plan to the government by the end of March 2019. The examination of the plan by an independent government inspector is expected to follow in the summer.

This version includes a major development on "Land North of Bayswater Brook" for 1100 houses from the junction of the Elsfield Road with the A40 across to the Bayswater Road just to the south of the Crematorium. It also proposes a road to run from the Crematorium to the north of Sandhills, joining the A40 near the layby. This development has significant drawbacks since in addition to building on the greenbelt it would have a detrimental effect on the sites of special scientific interest (SSSI) at Sydlings Copse and College Pond. There are already severe traffic problems along Marsh Lane and Bayswater Road which this development would add to. Any benefit to traffic from the new road would cause a problem with cars and lorries diverting through the new estate to avoid the Green Road Roundabout.

Do join me in opposing this proposed development. Send in your response either online at <http://survey.southandvale.gov.uk/s/LocalPlan2034> or by downloading a form here: <http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/planning-and-building/planning-policy/local-plan-2034>

STANTON ST JOHN

Church News

We would like to thank everyone who helped with the Christmas sale held in the Village Hall at the start of December and of course everyone who supported us. We made £600 much needed money for our church.

What lovely services we had over Christmas! It started with the Carol Service where Anne told us where all the carols that we sang originated from. The Crib Service, taken by Jo, was much enjoyed by both children and adults. We mustn't forget the Christmas Day service taken by Stephanie, which was very well attended. Our thanks to all of you who took these services and made this year very special, despite our being without a vicar. We would also like to thank everyone who made our church look so beautiful.

Sheila and Deirdre wish you all a very Happy New Year.

Stanton St John WI

Stanton St John WI will be having a Craft Demonstration by Jane Madden on **Tuesday 19 February** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Ninebarrow - Concert in the Church Saturday 15 June at 7pm

Ninebarrow are a multi-award winning folk duo from Dorset who perform original songs inspired and rooted in the landscape and history of the British Isles. They also take a wide range of traditional folk songs and rework them in their own distinctive way. In 2017 the duo were nominated at the BBC Radio 2 Folk awards in the "Horizon" category for "Best Emerging Artist"

It is hoped to have refreshments in the grounds of College House before the concert, but this will be confirmed closer to the time.

Tickets priced at £12.50 will be available from Stanton Village shop and also on the Ninebarrow website. www.ninebarrow.co.uk. All profits will go towards the church repair fund. Due to the popularity of Ninebarrow, if anyone wishes to register an interest and reserve tickets you can contact Julian Money, directly on 01865 351829.

SAVE THE DATE

Stanton St John Safari Supper - Sat 8 Jun - more details nearer the time.

Stanton St John Parish Council

We on the Parish Council are very worried about the implications of the new draft local plan produced by SODC. The plan was passed by the full council and supported by most councillors from the south of our district while those around Oxford including our own councillor, John Walsh, opposed it. There is a good reason for this. It shifts much of the obligation for extra housing to the areas surrounding Oxford including a large development of 1100 homes in the Wick Farm area just north of Barton (called Bayswater Brook in the local Plan). This would stretch up around the back of the crematorium to Sydlings Copse which is one of the most naturally diverse SSSIs in our area.

One of the big drawbacks of extra housing in this area is the extra traffic generated, causing congestion centred on the Bayswater Rd up to the Green Rd Roundabout. Some of you may be thinking this is the price we have to pay for growth and economic progress; in addition, Oxford does have a housing shortage. However, in our view the development here will bring more people to the area who, for example, want to commute to London.

The threat to Sydlings Copse and College Pond SSSIs are especially worrying. When Barton West was being planned there was much concern about disturbing the SSSIs. Now they want to build right up to them.

SODC are legally obliged to consult with you on their plan. This began with very little fanfare about a week ago. Please, if you have any time do respond to their consultation either online at www.southoxon.gov.uk/newlocalplan or by filling in a hard copy consultation paper which we shall be distributing around the parish.

The plan is long and fairly complex and the consultation is a bit technical (cynics might say deliberately so) but doesn't take long to complete. The policy reference for Bayswater Brook (the area north of Barton) is Policy Strat 13. This video helps explain the process: <https://spark.adobe.com/video/GdoBDJ1wQMIMc>. Any submission is helpful and you do not need to comment on the whole plan. If you prefer, you can just write to SODC Planning Policy at 135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park, Abingdon, OX14 4SB or planning.policy@southoxon.gov.uk, marked as "Response to the SODC Local Plan 2011-2034 for forwarding to the Planning Inspector at the Examination in Public". It might be wise to ask that they acknowledge receipt of your email or letter

We have till 5pm on 18 February to register our opinions.

Film Evening - Stanton St John

We have been working to create a friendly and inclusive way for locals to enjoy films together in Stanton St John. Village Hall. We invite you for a kick-off screening of

Shadows in the Sun (12)

on Saturday 16 February at 7.30pm

The film (96 min) is about an aspiring young writer (Joshua Jackson) who tracks a literary titan (Harvey Keitel) who is suffering from writer's block, to his refuge in remote rural Italy and learns about life and love from the irascible Keitel and his daughters. The main actors are:

Joshua Jackson - (*The Affair, Dawson's Creek*)

Harvey Keitel - (*Pulp Fiction*)

Clare Forlani - (*Meet Joe Black*)

Giancarlo Giannini - (*Quantum of Solace, Casino Royale*)

The film has some local resonance as it was produced by Jamie Brown who lives in Stanton St John. Jamie is a Canadian producer and writer of five novels. He has been the Managing Director of Studio Eight Productions since 1993 in which has co-produced 40+ feature films. Jamie recently Executive-Produced *War of the Worlds*, a major series for BBC1 which will be shown early this year.

After the film, there will be time for discussion and Jamie will recount some of the amusing stories about the making of *Shadows In The Sun*, and answer any questions. Also, we would appreciate your opinion about this initiative since we are hoping to screen films on a regular basis after this trial.

Ticket price is £5. Any profits raised from this screening will be donated to the Building Fund of the church at Stanton St. John. Since we only have seating for 60 in our village hall, please email Victoria Hunt victoria.hunt@medsci.ox.ac.uk or ask Rowan in the shop to secure tickets. Doors will be open at 7pm and tickets need to be paid for at the entrance, cash please! Snacks and drinks will be available before and after the screening.

We hope to see you there!

The Film Group Committee

Community Café

The Stanton St John Community Café resumes in February and we look forward to welcoming you all for coffee, cake and a chat. £2.50 per adult, children free. Following discussions with those who have popped in to date, we have decided to hold the cafe **10.30am - 12pm once a month on the first Friday of the month.**

Dates for your diary are: 1 Feb, 1 Mar, 5 Apr , 3 May, 7 Jun, 5 July. Everyone is welcome. Please come along. For further information or to volunteer to help please contact Caroline Hall 07826 514843 / Louise Waite 07815 539461.

Yoga classes

are held on Wednesday morning in Stanton Village Hall from 10.30 - 11.30am. The classes are £10 drop in and every fifth class is free. I also have a website www.youglowyoga.com where more details can be found. Lisa Wehbe

Stanton St John Email Distribution List

If you are not receiving notifications or information and events within the village, and wish to be included on the distribution list, please send your email address to elaine.warner@icloud.com.

You are invited to Come, Hear, and Sing

A choral concert at Stanton St John church

Songs of Love

Secular and Sacred

Tudor and Modern

Stanton Church

Saturday 30 March

7.15pm – 8.30pm

The Shotover Singers

Admission free. Donations towards repair of the church roof and stonework gratefully received.

Music and Madrigals from Gibbons, Byrd, Monteverdi, Goodall, Jerome Kern, Cole Porter, Lauridson, Whitacre, Reinberger and 'Jerusalem', 'Morning has broken' and favourite Hymns to sing. Contact : susanjbaker24@gmail.com for more info

This concert is also being given at **Beckley Church at an earlier time** on the same day . Please see the Beckley section for details.

BECKLEY

CANDLEMAS. SUNDAY 3 FEBRUARY 9.30am

Beckley Parish Church

Come and bring a candle with you to discover what it is all about

You are invited to Come, Hear, and Sing

A choral concert at Beckley church

Songs of Love

Secular and Sacred

Tudor and Modern

Beckley Church Saturday 30 March 5pm – 6pm
The Shotover Singers

**Admission free. Donations towards repair of the church roof
and stonework gratefully received.**

Music and Madrigals from Gibbons, Byrd, Monteverdi, Goodall, Jerome Kern, Cole Porter,
Lauridson, Whitacre, Reinberger and 'Jerusalem', 'Morning has broken' and favourite
Hymns to sing. Contact : susy.jepson@gmail.com for more info

This concert is also being given at **Stanton Church at a later time** on the same day . Please see the Stanton pages for details.

Beckley and Stowood Parish Council

The February PC meeting will be held on **Thurs 7 February 2019** at 8pm in Beckley Village Hall. Minutes and agendas and dates of future meetings are available at 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 village mini-bus service can be found on the website www.beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk/parishcouncil and on the back cover of this newsletter.

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

Beckley Village Hall

Stuart Marshall Booking Secretary 07862 230462

booking@becklevillagehall.org.

Many thanks to all who helped host the Open Day Table Tennis on 12 January. Five more enthusiasts appeared!

Weekly Activities

Table Tennis	Monday 10 - 11am	£8 per month (just appear)
Yoga	Monday 7.30 - 9pm	hayley_lennard@hotmail.com
Pilates	Tuesday 9.30 - 11am	Kim Barresi 07918180392 kim.barresi@gmail.com
Beckley Bells	Tuesday 2 - 4.15pm	lizbixby@me.com
Senior Circuits	Wednesday 8.30 - 9.30am	£36 per month, £10 per session Carl Davis 01865 920460 Carl@over60exercise.com
Art Group	Friday 9.30am - 12.30pm	lizbixby@me.com

Monthly Activities

Oxford Guild of Weavers, Spinners, & Dyers 10am - 4pm 3rd Saturday of the month

Family Church (CofE) 4 - 5.30pm 1st Sunday of the month.

More information from Jo Allen jo.ordinand@gmail.com

Talk on our Community's Unique History, 10 Feb at Abingdon Arms

A group has begun to emerge, willing, able, and eager to compile and share the unique history of Beckley, Stowood, and the surrounding communities. For our first public presentation, Beckley resident Elizabeth Gemill, Fellow of Kellog College and Department for Continuing Education, Oxford, will speak on "Discovering our Medieval Past: Beckley and its Hinterland in the later Middle Ages". All are invited - including those who want to learn how to trace the history of their house or family - to those who want to be able to offer as much as they can to the data to be presented to both the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway proposal - and the proposal of SODC to take the lower part of our parish out of the Green Belt and build houses and another road.

Questions? Call Ann Henman 01865 351 492 annhenman@gmail.com

Beckley & Area Community Benefit Society, The Abingdon Arms 'More than a Pub' programme, February 2019

Tues 5 Jun	WOMEN OF BECKLEY LUNCH	12.30pm Contact Sarah Smith for more information: beckleysarah@gmail.com
Wed 6 Feb	MEN OF BECKLEY LUNCH	12.30pm Contact Steve Smith for more information: barkbeetles@gmail.com
Thur 7 Feb	CHILDREN'S AFTER- SCHOOL ACTIVITY CAFÉ	3.30 - 4.30pm Primarily for pupils of Beckley Primary School. Activity / small cost for materials etc. Sign up with Aimee Butterfield aimeebutts1@yahoo.co.uk or text 07834 533177
Fri 8 Feb	COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNING	10.00 – 11.30am Coffee and biscuits £2. Espresso coffees and cake available too. Come along and meet old and new friends
Sun 10 Feb	LOCAL INTEREST TALK	7.00 – 8.30pm <i>'Discovering our Medieval Past: Beckley and its hinterland in the later Middle Ages'</i> – Dr Elizabeth Gemmill (Oxford University Dept of Continuing Education)
Sun 16 Feb	COMMUNITY WALK	10.30am Meet in front of The Abingdon Arms. 3-4 miles / 2 hour walk, followed by drinks, lunch at the pub. Leader Helen Stradling / route tbc
Sun 17 Feb	JAZZ, THE SUNDAY SESSION	6.30 – 8.30pm* Adam Waldmann (soprano sax) tbc, Frank Harrison (keyboards). Mark Hodgson (bass)
Sun 24 Feb	LOCAL INTEREST TALK	7.00 – 8.30pm <i>'The archaeology of Oxford in 20 digs'</i> - David Radford, Oxford City Council Archaeologist
Wed 27 Feb	COMMUNITY AFTERNOON TEA	4.00pm NEW FOR 2019 - last Wednesday of each month Afternoon tea with family, friends, neighbours.... Tea, home-made cake, biscuits £3.50
Thur 28 Feb	CHILDREN'S AFTER- SCHOOL ACTIVITY CAFÉ	3.30 - 4.30pm Primarily for pupils of Beckley Primary School. Activity / small cost for materials etc. Sign up with Aimee Butterfield aimeebutts1@yahoo.co.uk or text 07834 533177
OTHER EVENTS AT THE ABINGDON ARMS		
Wed 6 Feb	7.30pm - Pub Quiz at The Abingdon Arms	
Tues 19 Feb	Wine tasting at The Abingdon Arms - time, cost tbc. Check pub's website.	

Further information about programme on website www.bacbs.org
The Abingdon Arms info, table reservations etc, at: <http://theabingdonarms.co.uk>

SCHOOL REPORT:

News from Beckley School

Ofsted Outcome

We are delighted with the overall judgement of GOOD from our inspection last term and especially pleased with so many incredibly positive comments, some of which include:

"Pupils are nurtured and cared for well."

"Across your school there is an industrious yet joyful atmosphere."

"The teaching of early reading is particularly strong. This is because it is carefully organised, thoughtfully monitored, and teachers have high expectations of pupils' and children's levels of concentration."

"Governors' views of the school are incisive because they understand published performance information very well and use it to hold school leaders to account."

"Safeguarding is a real strength."

The full report can be found on our website: www.beckleyschool.com

Hey Ewe!

Told from the perspective of a curious sheep, our Nativity play this year was packed with vigour, humour and a medley of infectious songs. The children were absolutely baa-riliant!



Poetry Day



Renowned children's poet, Ian Bland, led engaging and creative workshops for all the pupils. The day began with some inspirational whole-school input and concluded with a brilliant sharing assembly of collaborative poems composed by the children themselves.

Circus Skills

Each class relished in the opportunity to participate in circus skills sessions, which included plate spinning, diablos, feather balancing, juggling and ribbon twirling. Thank you to FOBS for funding this wonderful treat for the children.



FOREST HILL

News from St Nicolas Church

Many thanks to all who helped over the Christmas period – decorating the Church, making mince pies, organising and providing music, officiating at services etc. We hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas and that 2019 will be a healthy, peaceful and happy year.

Once again FHSSC (new Committee) joined St Nicolas Church to make the **Christmas Bazaar** in November a productive and happy event. A total of £746.80 was raised, to be split between the two organisations.

Our **St Nicolas Day** celebrations in early December included a family craft and games event in the Village Hall, making Christingles and then walking to the church for Advent Carols, lighting of Christingles and stories about St Nicolas. £136.50 raised from the church collection has been sent to the Children's Society.

Village Carols this year took place on a Saturday afternoon in the relative comfort of the Village Hall while our candlelit church provided a beautiful backdrop to the traditional service of Nine Lessons and Carols. Decorating the church for Christmas was, as always, a convivial occasion and it was lovely to see the young children at the **Crib Service**, eyes sparkling with joy and excitement. Later in the evening we were joined by our friends from Stanton for the **Midnight Communion** service.

Candlemas Day is 2 Feb but we will be celebrating it on **27 Jan at 6pm** with a candlelit service and music from St Nicolas Choir to celebrate the presentation of Christ in the Temple. At the time of writing, the service will not have taken place, but we hope that many of you will have enjoyed the singing and the light from the candles in such an ancient setting.

Easter is late this year and **Lent** does not start until 6 March. There will be concerts in the church, so look out for them in the March Newsletter and on our website. Another date to put in your diary is **Daffodil Day, Sunday 31 March (Mothering Sunday)**. Again we shall be organising an Antiques Roadshow at the event, so get looking in your attic.

Sam Moores

Many people in Forest Hill will have known Sam Moores, who sadly passed away on the 14 November 2018 after a short illness.

Sam and his wife, Joyce, moved to Forest Hill in April 1993; they lived in Brill View, the end house in a terrace of three by the side of The White Horse. Pole Cat End Lane runs alongside Sam's house and garden and people often stopped to chat with him as he worked in his garden, tended his bees, or loaded machinery in and out of his car.

Sam was a true countryman. He'd previously lived in Waterstock for 48 years, working on the land, and was a gardener at Garsington Manor. He loved the land and every creature that crawled, buzzed, snuffled or flew. I've been Sam's neighbour for 12 years and in that time he's raised hedgehogs in his greenhouse, and given a home to a confused fox, to young deer, ducklings, baby birds, spiders, moles, mice and stray cats. He's protected several colonies of wasps and captured countless swarms of wild bees. Sam was a professional bee keeper and kept hives in his garden, and several more at Waterstock, Waterperry Gardens and Great Milton.

Sam Moores was an independent spirit and rarely, if ever, asked for help; he used to say, with a broad grin, that he'd never had a day's illness in his life. He loved his family, he loved his garden, and he especially loved his three cats. He will be much missed.

Pauline Bowerbank

Forest Hill Sports and Social Club

Forest Hill Sports and Social Club hosted a drop in at the Village Hall on 19 January with free tea, coffee and cake, and came away with plenty of ideas for a range of social events in Forest Hill.

Plans include Saturday morning 'Coffee and Cake' in the Village Hall monthly from March, a 'Curry and Quiz Night' on 11 May and a monthly Community Kids Club with lots of different activities.

If you have other ideas that you want to share with us, please drop us an email at fhscandsc@gmail.com.

Music at St Nicolas

St Nicolas Choir has been busy during the Christmas period, preparing for the Advent Carol Service , Nine Lessons & Carols and, finally, Candlemas.. Numbers are growing but there is still room for more singers so please have a look on our website www.stnicolasforesthill.org and get in touch if you are interested. Between now and Easter the choir will sing on Ash Wednesday as well as doing a Choral Evensong and taking part in one of our Sunday afternoon concerts (see below).

Choral Evensong takes place regularly on the 2nd Sunday of the month with our own or visiting choirs - again details can be found on our website.

On **Sunday 3 March** we welcome the **Choir of Lincoln College, Oxford** to St Nicolas again for the first in our series of Sunday afternoon concerts. Further concerts are on on **17 March, 24 March, 7 April and 14 April**. The usual start time is 3pm and admission is by donation, with free tea and cake afterwards. Programmes last no more than an hour and there will be a variety of performers.

We are also planning a series of lighter summer concerts with drinks in the garden afterwards - watch out for details later in the year!

FOREST HILL GARDEN CLUB QUIZ



THE QUIZ IS BACK!

Fun and informative, with prizes and delicious refreshments!

FRIDAY 15 FEB 7.30pm in Forest Hill Village Hall

£5 ENTRY FOR EACH TEAM OF 4, OR £2 PER PERSON

**Further information from Sue (01865 874017)
Gael (01865 873319) or Prue (01865 8720340)**

Forest Hill with Shotover Parish Council

A Public Meeting is planned for Thursday 21 March 2019 at 7pm in the Village Hall, for residents and parish groups to discuss, with the Council, ideas for consideration on ways Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) allocation money could be spent within the parish. Further details, flyers and posters will be advertised shortly.

The date of the next Parish Council meeting is Thursday 21 February, at 7pm in the Village Hall. 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. Archive Agendas and Minutes can be found at www.parish-council.com/foresthillwithshotover/. You can contact Helen Cross, the Parish Council Clerk, tel: 0844 884 3328 or email address: theclerk@foresthillwithshotover-pc.org.uk

HORTON-cum-STUDLEY

News from Horton cum Studley -St Barnabas

Christmas Services

The **Carol Service** was the start of the Christmas celebrations. Almost 70 people attended for a traditional service of carols and readings, led by Nicholas Orme. It was a joyful and thankful occasion, followed by mulled wine, mince pies and delicious sweets. and we offer our grateful thanks to all who decorated the church and and to Derek Jewell for his choice of carols and his organ accompaniment.

On 17 December, **Afternoon Tea**, mince pies and carols were sung in the Millenium Hall attended by 45 people. Our thanks especially go to Julia Slingo who played the piano, and to everyone who helped and provided delicious cakes.

The wonderful **Crib Service** took place on Christmas Eve. It is always such a beautiful start to Christmas. Thank you so much to Lyn and Nick for taking the time in this busy period to bring so many of us in the village all together. The Church was full to the brim of happy children and adults. Children built up the crib as we sang carols and listened to Bible readings. Beautiful!

Play for Christmas: 'FOUND'

Gail Sawyer Heather's 2018 Play for Christmas, 'Found', once again left the audience enraptured. Gail has the ability to subtly interweave the audience and the actors in ways that lead to the unexpected, keeping a sense of nervous anticipation throughout what was once again another extraordinarily powerful Christmas play. The church provided a perfect setting for the multi-layered play that moved backwards through time to the first Christmas, each layer linked by the finding of a small precious box. The young team of actors (mostly local) have grown up together and have performed annually in the village for the last 20 years to raise funds for the Special Care Baby Unit at the John Radcliffe Hospital.



Studley Priory - Fund-raising evening

Robert Venables, QC, and Gary Morris, once again invited members of the congregation and Friends of St Barnabas, to join them at the Priory on 29 December for a wonderfully festive fund-raising evening. The PCC would like to take this opportunity to thank Robert and Gary for their generous support in helping to maintain our very special Victorian gem.

Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting.

There is a change of date. This will now take place on **Sunday 7 April**, 11.45am, following Morning Prayer.

Found in church

In choir stalls: reading glasses in orange case. If they are yours please contact Lynn Whitaker 01865 358838

Tear Fund Lunch, Sunday 10 March

This year we are planning to hold the Tear Fund lunch, by kind invitation, at the home of David and Julia Slingo.

If you would like to join us, please contact Julia jhslingo@gmail.com or Lisa lisamynheer@gmail.com (Tel: 01865 351340) in advance so that we have an idea of numbers.

Horton cum Studley Gardening Club

I hope you are enjoying winter treats such as snowdrops, winter aconites, hellebores and sweetly scented blossom on shrubs such as Viburnum × bodnantense 'Dawn' and Chimonanthus praecox (Winter Sweet).

Carl Sadler will be talking to us about trug making on **Tuesday 19 Feb at 8pm** in the Millennium Hall. Our full programme is on the website www.horton-cum-studley.org.uk/community/clubs/ including details of 3 local gardens open for the NGS, all of which have lovely snowdrops (visit either by arrangement or on 17 Feb). Visitors are welcome to our meetings. If you would like to know more about the Gardening Club, please contact the chairman, Susan Burge (Tel: 01865 351310).

Coffee Morning

The next Coffee Morning will be held on **Saturday 9 Feb** at the usual time of 10.30am in the Millennium Hall. All welcome, more details from Rachel Hawes (Tel: 01865 351540).

Women's Institute

Our next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 12 Feb at 7.45pm** in the Millennium Hall. The speaker will be Allen Ledger talking on '*A Moment in Time* - John and Thomas Keble and their Cotswold Life'. All ladies in the village are warmly invited. Information concerning the WI may be obtained from the President, Barbara Jewell (Tel.: 01865 351315).

Otmoor Challenge, Saturday 8 June

The 40th annual Otmoor Challenge is now less than 6 months away. Let's make it truly memorable! We are making some exciting changes this year. New trophies for runners of 60 years and over, both men and women, and a special 40th Anniversary prize for the 40th runner over the finish line, in addition to our traditional Ogden Trophy for the 100th runner. Now is the time to get into training, and show those youngsters how good the senior runners are!

Volunteers to help at the fete are always welcome - please contact Frances Cox frances.cox16@gmail.com. How about joining the organisation and helping to keep it going for another 40 years? Talk to Andrew Pennington (Tel: 01865 358800).

Parish Council News

The Parish Council wishes all Parishioners a Happy New Year.

This year we are working with Oxfordshire County Council on traffic calming measures within the Village.

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) are looking into painting repeat 30 MPH markings in the road at the foot of Horton Hill. After a crash in the autumn, the Parish Council has again requested that the speed limit on the Straight Mile is reduced to 50 MPH. OCC have stated that this is unlikely to happen as it is unlikely that the limit is enforceable and it is also very costly. We have asked OCC what it would cost to review whether the village could fund this. The Parish Council is also starting discussions on whether it would be possible to introduce other traffic calming measures, such as chicanes, in the village.

The Parish Council receives a number of requests each year with regards to change of use of buildings. This is usually a change from Agricultural Building to a Residential Building. Whilst the Parish Council is not adverse to changes of use, there are stringent requirements to enable this to happen. This often leads to the applicant having plans which they have spent a lot of time and money on, being rejected. Please ensure that you have taken proper advice if you wish to go down this route.

The Parish Council has also had to deal with some retrospective planning applications, In most cases where villagers have built something different from that which they had consent for. The District Council takes a very dim view of this and it can lead to buildings needing to be changed to meet the original consent, or even demolished. We have also heard from our District Councillor that it can be the reason that plans are rejected, if the District Council have become concerned that this may happen. The Parish Council therefore requests that villagers do not do this.

Our Parish Council meetings are at 7.30pm on the second Thursday of every month; we welcome your input to these meetings.

POSTSCRIPT: Curiouser and Curiouser.....

Do you know?

Do you know there is a connection between weather forecasting and Stanton St John? No! - neither did I 'til a little while ago [1]. It is Robert Boyle [2]. Boyle lived in Cross Hall, High Street in Oxford between 1654 and 1668 [3] and 'owned' a property in Stanton St John [4]. According to his diary he first realised that atmospheric pressure decreases with height when he noted there was a difference between the measurements his 'baroscopes' [5].



'...having in these parts two lodgings, the one on Oxford, which, you know, stands in a bottom by the Thames-side, and the other at a place four miles thence, seated upon a moderate hill; I found by comparing two baroscopes that I made, the one at Oxford, the other at Stanton St John's ... there is almost always between two or three eighths of an inch difference between them ... '

Anyone who follows the 'Weather Forecast' on the 'tele.' will be aware of the key role changes in atmospheric pressure take in determining the weather. You may think that the link to Boyle and Stanton is a bit tenuous - may-be - but I still think it is an interesting thought.

Anthony Wood, the younger

[1] I am indebted to David Wilson, writing in the Dec 2018 issue of the 'Oxfordshire Family Historian', for this information.

[2] Remember 'Boyles' Law!' 'The pressure of a given mass of an ideal gas is inversely proportional to its volume at a constant temperature'

[3] At much the same time my namesake was living in Postmaster's Hall, Merton Street. They must have met.

[4] At this time the lease of the manor was held by John White of Oxford from New College. I have not discovered which property Boyle 'owned'.

[5] Barometers. Boyle is following up the work of Torricelli and others.

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STANTON ST. JOHN 10.40 a.m.:

Village Shop

HORTON CUM STUDLEY 10.30 a.m.:

The Forge, Brill Road

BECKLEY 10.40 a.m.:

The Abingdon Arms, High Street

DEPART OXFORD 1.15 p.m.

Broad Street near Balliol College

DEPART HEADINGTON 1.30 p.m.

Main Stop near the entrance to Bury Knowle Park