### The Four Parishes News Magazine

# BECKLEY FOREST HILL HORTON-cum-STUDLEY STANTON St JOHN



Stanton St John Church from College House Garden

June 2021

#### The editor writes:



Now that we have successfully passed the 17 May milestone in the Covid roadmap, it is finally possible to plan for community events in our villages again. A few are listed in this magazine and I'm sure there will be more in the pipeline. If you are organising an event over the summer, please remember that the next magazine covers July and August!

The prospect of busier times ahead has reminded me that the magazine has two projects on the 'back burner' which could perhaps be re-started. One is a collaborative online Four Parishes Events Calendar, and the other is a social media presence for the magazine. If either of these ideas appeals to you as worth while, and you have a few hours to spare each month (and the expertise to help make them happen), please get in touch.

Finally, I am very proud of the way in which we have extended the range of articles in the magazine over the past year, so please keep sending us your photos and articles. We don't promise to publish everything we receive but we will certainly give it serious consideration.

#### Julia Stutfield

All contributions to this magazine are the sole responsibility of the author and do not imply or represent any official editorial view or endorsement.

#### Our cover photo ...

was sent to us by Nikki Gresswell to accompany an announcement that College House Garden will be open on Tuesday afternoons in June. See page 33 for more details.

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:

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#### The closing date for the Jul/Aug 2021 issue is 15 Jun 2021

The Four Parishes News Magazine is produced under the auspices of our four village churches for the benefit of the whole community. It is funded by advertising revenue, which is used to cover the printing costs.

We are dependent on volunteers to assemble the content, book and invoice the advertisers, compile and edit the magazine, collect it from the printers and distribute it throughout the four parishes. If you are interested in getting involved, please email Julia at 4parishesnewsletter@gmail.com

Recent issues of the magazine are available to view online at <a href="https://www.fourparishes.org.uk/magazine">www.fourparishes.org.uk/magazine</a>

Editor: Julia Stutfield Assistant Editors: Jonathan Barker

Anthea Beresford

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

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

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

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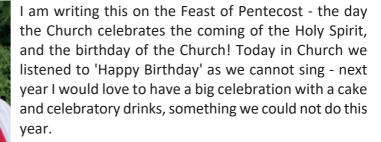
Church Services in the Four Parishes, June 2021							
	St Nicolas, Forest Hill with Shotover	St John the Baptist, Stanton St John	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Beckley	St Barnabas, Horton-cum- Studley			
<b>6 Jun</b> First Sunday after Trinity	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	11am Morning Prayer			
	6pm Taizé via Zoom						
13 Jun Second Sunday after Trinity		9.30am Morning Prayer	9.30am Morning Prayer	11am Holy Communion			
	11am Benefice Zoom Service						
	5pm Choral Evensong (Book of Common Prayer)						
<b>20 Jun</b> Third Sunday after Trinity	11am Morning Prayer (Book of Common Prayer)	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion (Book of Commpn Prayer)	11am Morning Prayer			
			6pm Iona Service				
<b>27 Jun</b> Fourth Sunday	10am Holy Communion Benefice Service at Stanton St John						
after Trinity	4.30pm Family Church Horton-cum-Studley Millenium Village Hall						

We hope to follow this pattern of services in June. As this is dependent upon the Government's routemap out of Lockdown progressing as planned, please do continue to look out for announcements, through emails from Anthea, by the Four Parishes website, and on Church noticeboards for any changes.

As we return to the Church buildings, maintaining our weekly Zoom services is not possible. Please be assured we are looking at how we can continue to worship with those who cannot get to the Church buildings, for whatever reason. There is one Sunday morning service at 11am on Zoom on 13 June.

#### A letter from Anthea

Hi everyone,



Today was special in another way - today saw the last of the four churches in the Four Parishes Benefice return to in-person services, as Lockdown 3 continues to ease. It has been wonderful gradually, carefully, returning to the Church buildings - but as I said in my sermon today, we must remember, we, the body, are the Church, not the Church buildings, wonderful as they all are.

Throughout this, and the previous Lockdown, we have gathered faithfully

together, albeit on the Zoom platform, ever mindful of those unable or not choosing to join us, but pleased to welcome those unable to normally join us in the Church buildings. We have sung hymns, listened to God's Word, we have laughed, and we have cried. We have checked in on each other, and on those missing from our midst.



Services in the buildings are still restricted by Covid-rules, but it is good to be gathering again. We long for things to be as we remember them, and as they were. We continue to wait patiently - or sometimes a little impatiently! Having arrived in the Benefice in the pandemic, I long to meet people I have still not met, especially those isolated at home, rightly keeping safe. Walking Bertie has enabled me to meet many more people in the villages than I might otherwise have done.

I am now having the joy of re-opening conversations with couples who have had their wedding plans put on hold, and parents who are longing for their children to be christened/baptised. We are once again, planning for these wonderful life events, putting dates in diaries, hopeful of not restricting numbers again.

There are signs of new shoots, signs of hope, developing in our midst.

As we think of Pentecost, and the coming of the Holy Spirit, it is a good

time to think about the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit. As Church communities we should be recognised by these fruits, being people of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. But we are human, so sometimes fall short, and need to allow the Holy Spirit to work within



us, gently, knocking off some of those slightly too sharp edges.

I look forward to us growing together as life gets back to some form of normality. In doing so, I hope and pray that we take time to reflect on these last months of the pandemic. I wonder what we have learned about ourselves. I wonder what we have cherished about this time, if anything. I wonder what we have missed, and hence what we might cherish more deeply as we return to 'normal'. I sense most of all we have missed loved ones; a hug; the touch of a hand. Some have had the pain of losing loved ones, unable to say goodbye as they would have wished. As we return to 'normal' my prayer is that we remember what we have missed. May we cherish memories of loved ones no longer with us, and time we can now spend with loved ones we have been separated from. May we make space for those important things we have been missing for such a time.

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

#### Anthea

#### **CHURCH MATTERS**

#### Opening our churches for services

As detailed on page 5, in person services have now been resumed in all our churches. Here is a quick resumé of the rules as a reminder:

#### Covid rules from 17 May at the earliest:

**Inside:** Mask wearing and no congregational singing remain in place. 'Rule of 6' or two households comes into place, otherwise 2m distancing with anyone not in a household bubble.

Outside: up to 30 can mix.

All restrictions should be lifted by 21 June, assuming the Government's routemap out of Lockdown progresses as planned. We will review any updated guidance and ensure this is followed in the churches in the Benefice.

#### Advent challenge and beyond

We continue our reading through the New Testament and the chats on people's experiences from the month's readings. Our chat on 1 and 2 Corinthians for May is scheduled for 2 June at 7.30pm for an hour via Zoom. Please do come along and share your thoughts, comments, and questions.

The challenge for June is following on from May, and reading some more of Paul's letters: The Prison Letters (Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Philemon), and Galatians and 1 and 2 Thessalonians. Do not panic, that's 29 chapters, so one a day, and a bonus day off! We will call it: **More of Paul for June**.

For those doing the **Psalm a Day for 150 Days** challenge, you should have finished by the end of May. Huge congratulations if you have done this. I hope it has been a great experience for you.

#### Summary of Lockdown 3 activities

In addition to the Sunday Services listed on page 5, we continue for the time being, with the now regular weekly activities on Zoom. As the Government's planned easing of the Lockdown rules continue, we will see

if people would still like them as time progresses. Look out for emails with any updates on activities. Please do get in touch with Anthea for invitations if you do not already get emails from her:

	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Morning Prayer at 9am	٧			٧
Evening Prayer at 6pm		٧	٧	
Midweek Elevenses at 11		٧		
End of the Week Drinks at 7pm				٧

#### Choral Evensong at 5pm on 13 June

Choral Evensong from the Book of Common Prayer returns to St Nicolas at a **new time of 5pm.**. The service will be sung by the St Nicolas Consort and features music by several Tudor composers.

Sadly, congregations are still not allowed to join in with the singing, but the service offers a peaceful interlude in our increasingly busy lives. Covid rules and weather permitting, there will be drinks in the church garden afterwards.

#### Family Church at 4.30pm on 27 June

We plan for this to be a celebratory bring your own picnic party as we gather together again after Lockdown. Please do look out for updates, as this is dependent upon the Government routemap out of Lockdown progressing as planned.

We hope to be outside, but have booked the Millennium Village Hall in case the weather is poor on the day. All are welcome.

#### **Recordings of Zoom Services**

Do not forget that you can watch recordings of the Benefice services by following this link: https://www.fourparishes.org.uk/online-services.

# Annual Meetings of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meetings

It is that time of year again! The Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCM) have to be completed by 31 July this year, and so dates have been set for these. The related Annual Meeting of Parishioners is on the same day, immediately before the APCM.

Here is advanced notice of the meetings:

Beckley: 21 July at 7.30pm in Church

Forest Hill: 22 July at 7.30pm venue to be advised

Horton-cum-Studley: 20 July at 7pm in the Millennium Village Hall

Stanton St John: 7 July at 7.30pm venue to be advised

#### Revisions of Electoral Rolls

Electoral rolls need updating in readiness for the Annual Parochial Church Meetings in the Benefice.

If you are on the current roll of your Church, you do NOT need to complete a new form this year. If your name is not currently on the roll, but you would like to be included on the roll, then you must complete a form. Forms are available in each of the Churches in the Benefice. If you cannot locate them, please do contact the Electoral Roll Officer of the related Church (see details on next page).

To qualify for inclusion on the electoral roll of a Parish Church, you must be living in the Parish, or be a regular worshipper in that Parish. If you have any questions about this, please do contact the Electoral Roll Officer of the related Church (see details next page)).

After the revision of each of the electoral rolls, an updated copy will be exhibited for inspection at each Church.

#### Here is the timetable for these reviews:

Beckley: 23 June - 6 July
Forest Hill: 24 June - 7 July
Horton-cum-Studley: 22 June - 5 July
Stanton St John: 9 - 22 June

For further information, please do contact the Electoral Roll Officer of your Parish Church:

Beckley: Gina Robson (01865 351637)
Forest Hill: Pat Fraser (01865 875679)
Horton-cum-Studley: David Slingo (07850 004700)
Stanton St John: Sue Baker (01865 351449)

#### **Book Group**

Following on from the success of the Lent Book Group we are beginning a new Book Group, looking at the latest book, Comfortable Words: a call to restoration: reflections on Isaiah 40-55, by the Bishop of Oxford, Steven Croft.

Over five weeks, starting on 3 June at 7.30pm via Zoom, for an hour a week, we will review the nine reflections in the book. We will watch the related videos from Bishop Steven, produced by The Big Church Read, and use their discussion starters, to aid our discussions. Please do get in touch if you would like to join me, and I will order books for everyone. The cost is £7.99.

The back cover of the books says: Through nine reflections, Steven Croft examines the 'comfortable words' of Isaiah 40-55 - the song of an unnamed prophet, who sings at the end of the exile to call God's people home.

The prophet sings of love and forgiveness, of new hope and strength in God, to rekindle courage in the hearts of God's people. The prophet sings of a new kind of leadership, based on humility and gentleness. The prophet sings to tell us not to be afraid even in the face of death. These are comfortable words the whole world needs to hear afresh in this season.

#### Christenings/baptisms

As the restrictions of Lockdown ease, if you have been planning to have your child christened, but have been prevented from doing so because of the restrictions, please do get in touch. I would be delighted to talk to you about this.

#### **Beckley School**

It is great to hear the news that Miss Rhiannon Wilkie has been appointed as the new Head Teacher, to commence in September. She will be leading the School into the next phase of its life, in this, the 125th anniversary year of the School. Please do pray for her as she prepares for her move, and for those leading the school during this term, and this time of change.

#### Holiday club for primary school children

We are hoping to run a holiday club during the school summer holiday, for primary school children. Plans are in their infancy and need to develop at speed as the holiday season will soon be upon us. We need helpers to enable this seedling idea to come to fruition, so do please get in touch if you would be interested in helping make this happen.

#### Getting in touch

My email is <a href="mailto:anthea@fourparishes.org.uk">anthea@fourparishes.org.uk</a> or you can phone me on 01865 351839. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have questions about any of the items in this section. Do keep an eye on our website <a href="https://www.fourparishes.org.uk">www.fourparishes.org.uk</a> for the latest information and also let me know if you would like to receive my regular emails with reminders of upcoming services and other activities.

Anthea



#### Stanton House

#### After a long Covid Lockdown, Stanton House is reopening on 21 June.



Since 1879 Stanton House has stood on the edge of Stanton St John, a quiet beautiful estate surrounded by farmland and woods. The story of Stanton House is one of God's grace and provision: built by John Thompson, an Oxford city banker (at that time the owner

of Woodperry House), for his three sisters, it was within easy distance of the Woodperry estate. A cluster of cottages on the opposite side of the stream formed part of the estate, providing stabling and a coachhouse, a laundry and a gardener's cottage with a walled kitchen garden.

Over the more recent years the House fell into disrepair, suffering from vandalism, squatting and no regular maintenance. In the end it lay semi-derelict, with the lead work stripped from the bay roofs, extensive dry rot in the timbers, plaster falling from the walls and ceilings, and many of the internal fittings damaged or removed. In 1978 the House was signed over to the Stanton House Trust and from then on work started to transform what was a derelict house to what it is today: a Christian charity fulfilling the original vision of providing a place of Christian retreat, hospitality and spiritual ministry.

Sadly the Covid pandemic over the past 15 months has forced the House to close its doors to guests. However, on 21 June the doors will yet again be opened for what we call "a hospitality of welcome".

Stanton House has survived over a century of prosperity, dereliction and, now, a reemergence into a spiritual home for rest, restoration and renewal. As a Christian retreat house, it welcomes all who have heard the call of Jesus: "Come with Me privately to a solitary place,

and let us rest for a while" (Mark 6 v 31).

As we move into this new chapter of the Stanton House story should anyone feel they would like to volunteer in the grounds or in the House please email us at office@stantonhouse.org.uk or phone us after 21 June on 01865 358807. We'd love to chat.

#### **GENERAL**

#### Spotlight on Local Government

Following the local elections in May, we are asking each of our newlyelected representatives to write something about what they hope to achieve on our behalf during their term of office. Next month we hope to feature a contribution from Calum Miller, who represents the Otmoor Division of Oxfordshire County Council.

#### From Cllr Tim Bearder

It was profoundly humbling to be re-elected on 6 May 2021 to represent the Wheatley Division of Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) for the next four years, particularly because I secured the biggest victory of any Lib Dem in the county.

Following the election, after 12 long days of negotiations, we finalised the Oxfordshire Fair Deal Alliance, made up of Liberal Democrat, Green and Labour councillors, which took leadership of OCC. Liz



Leffman (Lib Dem) is the Council Leader and I am honoured to be serving in the County Cabinet, with responsibility for Transport Management.

The composition of this historic council reflects the first time ever that the Conservatives have been in opposition in the county, and I welcome their stated commitment to work constructively with our new administration. The voters of Oxfordshire did not give one single party the mandate to govern for the next four years; as an administration we will put party aside to work for the interests of all residents.

As well as being elected to serve on the county council I was also voted in to represent the Forest Hill and Holton Ward of South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC), which includes the villages of Forest Hill, Beckley and Stanton St John. OCC and SODC have different responsibilities. The District Council is mainly concerned with planning and waste collection; the County Council spends most of its money on Adult Social Care but is visible to residents in Highways and Infrastructure - including potholes, which are a major source of concern for all road users!

I hope to use my influence on both to steer us away from the excessive growth agenda and environmental destruction we face in the future. Development on the Land North of Bayswater Brook, for example, is earmarked for at least 1,100 houses and, unless we can minimise the car usage on that new estate, the Bayswater Road and B4027 will just become massive rat runs seriously damaging the quality of life in our area. I also want to look at what we can do to reinstate or improve bus services in the villages so that residents that can't drive aren't cut off and isolated.

I stood on a clear platform, backed by the Greens, to protect the natural world and enhance green and active transport in our area. I believe that is why I was returned with such a convincing majority, and with my new Cabinet position I'm perfectly positioned to ensure we deliver on that promise, but I also really want to hear from you about what you think my priorities should be. Please email me your thoughts and concerns to <a href="mailto:tim.bearder@oxfordshire.gov.uk">tim.bearder@oxfordshire.gov.uk</a> and if you'd like to be added to my mailing list, do let me know.

However, you voted I will stand up for you in this area and help you resolve your problems. It has been a pleasure to work with you over the last term and I look forward to doing even more now that we have control of both councils.

\* \* \* \* \* \* \*



13 Middle Road, Stanton St John 01865 351532 / 07795 415819 stantonvillageshop@gmail.com



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"With two young children, we love our twice-weekly milk delivery."

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#### Swallows, Swifts and Martins

Lyn Ebbs has lived in Stanton St John for just over 33 years and has been volunteering at the RSPB Otmoor Reserve since 2009. Lyn has sent us this delightful and informative article and has promised more to come.

One swallow doesn't make a summer - we know that - but once they arrive in numbers, along with house martins then swifts, as Ted Hughes says:

"They've made it again,
Which means the globe's still working, the Creation's
Still waking refreshed, our summer's
Still all to come..."

Three different species, similarly shaped: long back-swept wings and



forked tails; all highly adapted to aerial feeding. While the swallows and house martins belong in a family known as hirundines, swifts are not at all closely related; in fact their nearest relatives are hummingbirds.

Swallows and martins both have glossy blueblack backs and are pale underneath but martins also have a tell-tale white flash at the base of the tail. Swallows have longer tail streamers with brick red throats. Swifts are

plain sooty brown, but in flight against the sky appear black. Of the three they have the longest wings and a short, forked tail.

They have had a close association with humans, probably since we lived together in caves, and that loyalty continued as we built our own homes. In Britain, swifts are mainly found in towns, nesting high up under eaves or roof tiles and are also happy to use nest boxes. Swallows prefer outbuildings which provide dark ledges and nooks and crannies for nesting. Martins also nest under eaves,



attaching their mud nest cup to the wall; each takes up to 10 days to build, and over 1000 beak sized pellets of mud. We are fortunate enough in Stanton St John that all three species continue to favour us with their presence.



Until the 19th Century many people thought hirundines and swifts hibernated in the winter but all are actually long distance migrants, overwintering south of the Sahara. Swifts stay with us the shortest time, usually leaving the village by the end of July. Swallows depart in September or October. House martins may still have young in the nest in September but have left by October. A short stay but what would summer be without them?

Lyn Ebbs, RSPB volunteer

The RSPB reserve is situated at Otmoor Lane, Beckley, Oxford, OX3 9TD. For more information, including useful links to two local blogs which give recent sightings, see the Otmoor Reserve page on the RSPB website: <a href="https://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves-and-events/reserves-a-z/otmoor-reserve/">https://www.rspb.org.uk/reserves-and-events/reserves-a-z/otmoor-reserve/</a>

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#### 'Knowing our Neighbours'

This month we are taking a short break from the 'Knowing our Neighbours' feature, having 'introduced' two people from each of our four villages over the past year. It has been fascinating uncovering the range and variety of talent and experience in our community and I'm sure there is plenty more!

The idea is to celebrate the remarkable people living in our Four Parishes. Some have extraordinary personal histories, others are doing interesting and important work in the workplace or as volunteers. If you have suggestions about anyone we can feature - in businesses, the arts, academia, healthcare or any other area - please contact Jonathan Barker: <a href="mailto:4parishesnewsletter@gmail.com">4parishesnewsletter@gmail.com</a>.

#### **FOCUS ON FAMILIES**

### Friends of Beckley School (FOBS) Save the Date



To celebrate 125 years of Beckley School this year we are **planning an event on 4 September** at Horton-cum-Studley village hall (subject to COVID restrictions). Please save the date: timings TBC. There will be stalls and games and plenty for the children to do, and the whole community is invited. We'd also like to host stalls from local businesses so if you're interested, get in touch at <a href="mailto:beckleyfobs@gmail.com">beckleyfobs@gmail.com</a> to find out how it works.

#### Don't Forget to Send a Recipe

We are producing a commemorative recipe book for Beckley at 125. If you would like to get involved, please send a recipe including ingredients list, instructions and as many bright, well-lit photos as you can, along with your name and when you attended or worked at Beckley School to <a href="mailto:beckleyfobs@gmail.com">beckleyfobs@gmail.com</a> by 7 June at the latest. If you are a local business we would be very grateful if you could sell some copies for us. Please email <a href="mailto:beckleyfobs@gmail.com">beckleyfobs@gmail.com</a>. You could even send in your own recipe and be mentioned in the book!

#### New Headteacher Appointed

The governors of Beckley School are pleased to announce that they have offered the post of headteacher to Miss Rhiannon Wilke and she has accepted. She will join the school in September 2021. In the meantime, interim leadership arrangements remain in place and Katherine Spencer will continue until the end of this academic year.

Miss Wilkie was appointed after an extensive selection process, which involved advisers from the Diocese, River Learning Trust, staff and pupils at the school. She has experience of teaching and senior leadership at several primary schools in Oxford and the county. She sees what is special about Beckley School and recognises the exciting potential for further improvement and development. Every effort will be made to ensure a smooth handover and we hope that, as Covid restrictions ease, there may be opportunities for current and prospective parents to meet and welcome Miss Wilkie when she visits the school.

### The Maple Tree children's centre charity

Hello from The Maple Tree!

As government restrictions are lifted, we are cautiously optimistic and gradually opening. Spaces are still limited and must be pre-booked by emailing info@mapletree.org.uk.



Check out our website: <a href="www.mapletree.org.uk">www.facebook.com/TheMapleTreeWheatley</a> for special events, holiday programmes and helpful information.

#### Weekdays 1:1 Sessions

The Maple Tree is offering 1:1 sessions to parents needing a listening ear during these transitional times; this can be by phone, online, in the Centre or on a walk.

#### The Maple Tree at Forest Hill

We are very excited to be offering the **first Maple Tree sessions in Forest Hill, starting on 10 June** (see details below). We very much hope that families from the surrounding villages will take advantage of this opportunity to meet in a safe, local and friendly environment.

We are here to help you, if you need advice or support: 01865 236700 or 07849 466249 or email: <a href="mailto:info@mapletree.org.uk">info@mapletree.org.uk</a>.

Laura Spencer The Maple Tree Centre Manager



The Maple Tree is a community charity (registration no. 1174117) based in Wheatley, aiming to replace some services that were lost when local Children's Centres closed in 2017. We serve families from Wheatley and surrounding villages, including Stanton St John, Forest Hill, Horton-cum-Studley and Beckley.

#### Wheatley Library

We are delighted to have our doors open again - in a covid safe way of course! Face coverings, hand sanitizer, distancing and stock that has been quarantined are all in place in order to take care of us all. Do come and see us.



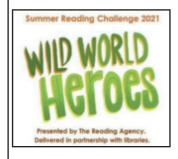


#### **Opening hours**

Tuesday 14.00-17.00, Wednesday 9.30-13.00, Thursday 14.00-17.00, Friday 14.00-17.00

#### Summer Reading Challenge

Get ready to go wild about your world by joining the FREE reading challenge at your local library!





Collect stickers and rewards as you read library books over the summer holidays. Complete your challenge at an Oxfordshire Library to win a Wild World Heroes medal, certificate and a keyring.



Under 3s can take part in a mini challenge with their own special card and stickers.

Visit <u>summerreadingchallenge.org.uk</u> for the fun to carry on at home. If you finish the challenge at your local Oxfordshire Library, you will be entered into an exciting prize draw! Don't miss out!

Wendy Stanton Wheatley Library Manager

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

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

#### Dame Elizabeth Holford's Charity Applications for Bursaries welcomed

The Charity 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 Charity 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 Charity 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.

Dame Elizabeth Holford's Charity 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 Charity.

In the past bursaries have been granted for computer software, sporting equipment, residential courses, text books, laptops and other electronic equipment, college courses not funded by Student Finance and music lessons. Applications are not means tested and funding is granted on a case-by-case basis.

The Trustees welcome applications for bursaries addressed to the Chair of Dame Elizabeth Holford's Charity, Alison Finch. The email address is <a href="mailto:HolfordtrustChair@gmail.com">HolfordtrustChair@gmail.com</a>. You can also apply in writing to Alison Finch, 14 Mickle Way, Forest Hill, Oxford, OX33 1DX.

The next meeting of the Trustees is in July 2021.



#### **BECKLEY**

#### **Beckley Church**

Details of all church services can be found on page 5. Any changes to the published schedule will be on our website <a href="www.fourparishes.org.uk">www.fourparishes.org.uk</a>.

#### Notice of revision of Church Electoral Roll

The Church Electoral Roll is due to be updated before the next Annual Parochial Church Meeting. Please see pages 10-11 for more information.

#### **Beckley & Stowood Parish Council**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 1 July at 8pm in Beckley Village Hall (tbc). Virtual meeting regulations came to an end on 7 May and village hall regulations for the Parish Council ease from 21 June.

Parish Council information, including agendas and minutes, is available on the website <a href="www.beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk">www.beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk</a>. The Clerk's email address is <a href="clerk@beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk">clerk@beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk</a> if you wish to contact the Parish Council to raise a question for the next meeting.

**The Otmoor Flyer** – The regular service resumed on 12 April. To book a journey from Beckley, please telephone Jill Meyjes on 01865 351496. Please book before 10 am the day before travel.

For information on **Beckley Village Hall** see <a href="www.beckleyvillagehall.org">www.beckleyvillagehall.org</a> and to enquire about a booking please contact the Booking Secretary, Tim Pullen at <a href="mailto:booking@beckleyvillagehall.org">booking@beckleyvillagehall.org</a>.

**The Countryside Code:** advice for countryside visitors – updated 1 April 2021

- Respect everyone
- · Protect the environment
- · Enjoy the outdoors
- · Know the signs and symbols of the countryside

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code/the-countryside-code-advice-for-countryside-visitors.

**Fix My Street**: anyone can report a road or street problem on the County Council website at <a href="https://www.fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk">www.fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk</a>.

Reminder from the Parish Council: Please clean up after your dog and dispose of bagged waste and litter in your Grey bin at home or in the dual-waste litter bin on the playing field.

#### Consultation: Islip Bridge (River Ray, Islip) Bridge Protection Works (Traffic Signals)



Following the earlier consultation that was carried out in November/December 2020 regarding the proposals to introduce a one-way restriction on Mill Street in Islip in the vicinity of the river bridge, Oxfordshire County Council is now consulting on the wider measures due to the concerns that were raised relating to the provision of traffic signals, which were not the focus of the original consultation. This further consultation will be used to better inform on the need for the proposed measures to the bridge and your comments/concerns are welcomed to help in the detailed design of the proposals, which will help minimise their adverse impact and to maximise any benefits that can be obtained. These measures are necessary to protect the bridge, and to avoid the need to close it for an extended period of time, potentially several years.

The proposed design of the traffic signals and associated measures are currently at a preliminary design stage and your comments are welcomed to help maximise the benefits and minimise the dis-benefits of these necessary works.

Comments on the proposals and other representations, specifying the grounds on which they are made, may be sent in by completing the online questionnaire (see link below) or via email to <a href="mailto:christian.mauz@oxfordshire.gov.uk">christian.mauz@oxfordshire.gov.uk</a> by 11 June 2020. The Council will then consider representations received in response and they may be disseminated widely for these purposes and made available to the public.

 $\frac{https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/lslipBridgeTrafficSignals/consultationHome}{ationHome}$ 

#### Beckley and Area Community Benefit Society More than a Pub program. https://bacbs.org/events

This coming month, we hope, sees the return of live, indoor events in the pub. We are very excited about that, though appreciate some may still be a little nervous of crowds indoors.

#### The Abingdon Arms Pub Quiz

On Wednesday 2 June at 7.30pm the quiz will be back home in the pub, generously hosted by Peter Burt, and will continue regularly on the first Wednesday of every month. Suzy has kindly reserved the whole bar area for the quiz, but as we are only allowed a maximum of six people, seated, per table, you will need to arrive in good time to secure your place.

#### **Upcoming talks**

We are hoping that these will be the first live talks in the pub this year, and we urge you to support us by attending in person. We are planning to Zoom them as well, as a transitional arrangement. For Zoom access details to talks please go to <a href="https://bacbs.org/events">https://bacbs.org/events</a>.

#### Sunday 27 June, 6.30pm

#### About Jenga

A talk by Leslie Scott, designer of Jenga and many other games. Leslie Scott was born and raised in Africa, and educated in Kenya, Sierra Leone, and England. One of the world's few professional board game designers, she is the creator of the blockbuster game Jenga and a founder-director of Oxford Games Ltd.

#### Sunday 11 July, 6.30pm

Marlborough's Blenheim Campaign of 1704

A talk by Tim King, retired soldier of 30 years' service and serious mountaineer, and resident of Beckley.

If you would like to watch previous talks, please email Adrian Hampshire at info@bacbs.org.

There will be no pub talk in August, but we will resume with talks by two Horton-cum-Studley residents: the painter and sculptor Nicholas Mynheer in September, and Susan Burge on 'Plants, magic, and medicine' in October.

#### **FOREST HILL**

#### St Nicolas Church

Details of all church services can be found on page 5. Any changes to the published schedule will be on our website <a href="www.fourparishes.org.uk">www.fourparishes.org.uk</a>.

#### Plant Stall

We hope to begin this again on **Saturday 19 June**, outside Lyttleton, Main Street, Forest Hill. It will run most Saturdays until October. Funds raised will be used towards the upkeep of St Nicolas Church. We raised a huge £689 last year, which was especially helpful as most other fundraising for the Church was curtailed due to Covid. A huge thank you to all who supported the plant stall last year, and please do think about doing so again this year.

#### Cream Teas

The much-loved cream teas will begin again on **Sunday 27 June, 3-5pm**, at St Nicolas Church, Covid rules and weather permitting. Please do come along for the lovely teas and good conversation. Please look out for updates on the Four Parishes website, or call Jane Walker on 01865 872399, if in any doubt.

#### Notice of revision of Church Electoral Roll

The Church Electoral Roll is due to be updated before the next Annual Parochial Church Meeting. Please see pages 10-11 for more information.

#### The Maple Tree at Forest Hill

#### Play and Learn, Thursdays from 10 June, 11.30am-12.30pm

Calling parents and carers of babies and young children from all over our Four Parishes! Please join us at Forest Hill Village Hall for an hour of activities, arts and crafts, stories, singing and rhymes, led by Maple Tree Centre Manager, Laura Spencer on Thursdays during school term time.

This is The Maple Tree's first outreach project in our area but if all goes well, Laura hopes to run sessions in other villages as well.

**Book your place by emailing** <u>laura@mapletree.org.uk</u> or contact Julia Stutfield (telephone 07766 103427 or email julia.stutfield@gmail.com).

#### Forest Hill Village Hall

The Hall is now open for hire subject to compliance with the safety and health regulations for Covid-19. All being well we should be back to unrestricted use after 21 June. In the meantime if you would like to hire the Hall please get in touch and we can advise on whether or not the Hall would be appropriate for your use.

Lettings are via Dawn Dunbar at <a href="mailto:dunbardawn1@gmail.com">dunbardawn1@gmail.com</a>.

#### Forest Hill with Shotover Parish Council

The **Keep Britain Tidy Great British Spring Clean** is set to run from 28 May to 13 June, when groups of 30 will be able to meet outside. South Oxfordshire District Council have an option for individuals to register as permanent, ongoing litter pickers. SODC will provide litter picker equipment and bags and will collect the bags when necessary. The Parish Council will not be organising a community litter pick at this time but encourages individuals to register as permanent litter pickers on the website: <a href="https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/litterpick">www.southoxon.gov.uk/litterpick</a>.

In line with Government Regulations virtual Parish Council meetings have ended, and future meetings will be held in the Village Hall. A notice will be displayed until the time it is thought not to be necessary, or advised, requesting members of the public respect, for the safety of those present, the recommended social distancing rule, the wearing of masks and use of hand sanitiser. The date of the next meeting is Thursday 24 June 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.

Agendas and Minutes will be posted on the notice board outside the Village Hall and on the website. Archive Agendas and Minutes can also be found on the website. The website address is: <a href="www.parish-council.com/foresthillwithshotover/index.asp">www.parish-council.com/foresthillwithshotover/index.asp</a>.

You can contact Helen Cross, the Parish Council Clerk, tel: 0844 884 3328, during the hours 09:00 - 17:00, or email: <a href="mailto:theclerk@foresthillwithshotover-pc.org.uk">theclerk@foresthillwithshotover-pc.org.uk</a>.

#### **HORTON-cum-STUDLEY**

#### News from St Barnabas

Details of all church services can be found on page 5. Any changes to the published schedule will be on our website <a href="www.fourparishes.org.uk">www.fourparishes.org.uk</a>.

We are delighted that church services have resumed at St Barnabas during May. Details of June services can be found within this newsletter and www.achurchnearyou.com.

Looking ahead, the Annual Meeting of Parishioners and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting are due to be held at the Millennium Village Hall from 7pm on Tuesday 20 July 2021. More details to follow.

#### Notice of revision of Church Electoral Roll

The Church Electoral Roll is due to be updated before the next Annual Parochial Church Meeting. Please see pages 10-11 for more information.

#### Horton-cum-Studley Parish Council

A final message from the AddER Group:

Over recent months there have been few requests to the AddER (Adding Extra Resilience) Group for support and with the easing of lockdown, the group will wind down by the end of June (assuming that the current government plans for lockdown go to plan). Records will be destroyed to meet data protection requirements.

Sincere thanks are due to the steering group and the many volunteers who have readily given their time in supporting other villagers through the challenging times of lockdown in many practical ways and often, simply by being there as a friendly voice.

The Parish Council remains available to offer emergency support through its Community Plan (copy on the village website <a href="www.horton-cum-studley.org.uk">www.horton-cum-studley.org.uk</a>.

#### Remembering Len Ward, 16 September 1935 - 12 April 2021

The sight of a hearse driving slowly through Horton-cum-Studley with villagers walking behind, on the morning of 4 May, was an extraordinarily moving one. It was a mark of the high regard in which the village held Len Ward.

Len and his beloved wife June (who died some 5 years ago) were very much part of the fabric of Horton-cum-Studley village life and were greatly cherished.

Len had come to H-c-S as an evacuee (as indeed had June) when he was about 8 years old. Len and June had lived next-door to each other and thus started a life-long love and 60-year marriage that bore 4 sons - Geoff, David, Mick, and Russell.

As a young man Len had worked on local farms and, when their first son arrived, they were living in an orchard in the middle of the village. Thereafter they moved into 4, The Old Green and eventually, in 1992, into the Alms Houses.

He absolutely loved sport, especially cricket, and maintained the village cricket pitch in the 1970s and 80s. As a youngster Len played football for Stanton St John. He also followed speedway, often going along with his son Geoff, riding pillion.

Much of Len's working life was spent at Cowley Morris Motors factory and subsequently Pressed Steel Fisher.



Super fit, even in his long retirement, he would regularly walk or cycle for miles and miles to Oxford to place a bet on his beloved horses. Recently he used an electric bike to be able to continue. He loved gardening, keeping an immaculate garden, where he would often be seen sitting outside of an evening watching the world go by. The village will miss dear Len as much as it misses June, but our sadness is tempered by the hope that they are once again reunited.

#### Millennium Hall Committee

Finally, we have some good news - with easing of lockdown we are able to take bookings again. The first use of the hall was for the election last week which went very smoothly and in accordance with regulations. Several large weddings have already been booked and so our finances should start to recover. It has been exciting to see the tennis club back in action. We are most grateful to Morten Schmidt from Beckley who has become the new Chairman of the club. He has organised a superb coach from the David Lloyd Centre and there are now weekly coaching sessions for children and for adults. He has plans for extending facilities at the courts and we await with interest to see how those develop.

The biggest concern at the moment relates to the play area which is getting considerable use at the moment. Barry White very kindly has made a number of repairs which were identified by the recent annual inspection. During that process of repair, he noticed that many of the wooden supports had rotted at ground level. The firm that originally installed the equipment has inspected the problem and has quoted for renovation (about £18,000) and renewal (about £40,000). We are told that the County will not support grants for renovation and so we need to raise the larger sum for renewal. The latter will include some more challenging activity as our village children are all getting older. I am in touch with our newly elected Councillor and Community First to explore funding opportunities but some village fundraising may be necessary.

#### Wine tasting, 26 June

Jeremy Parke (previously of Studley Priory Hotel) has agreed to run a wine tasting of Italian wines at 5pm on Saturday 26 June. This will be held in the hall and everyone in the Four Parishes is invited. The cost will be £10 per head (details of payment will follow). Children can play on the field or in the play area to allow all parents to participate. We need to know numbers wishing to attend in advance so please let me know if you wish to participate. I have already tasted most of the wines that Jeremy will bring and they are excellent (and affordable!). My email address is: derek.jewell@ndm.ox.ac.uk

#### Horton cum Studley Gardening Club

Flanders and Swan in their wonderful Song of the Weather (which is worth searching out and playing) got it pretty much right: "Farmers fear unkindly

May, Frost by night and hail by day". June may not be much better "June just rains and never stops, thirty days and spoils the crops". Gardeners like farmers must be prepared (we were fretting about drought a month ago) but unlike farmers, we can choose what to grow. Apple trees are covered in blossom and humming bees, my stunning pale-yellow peony with the unpronounceable name (Paeonia mlokosewitschii) otherwise known as "Molly the



Witch" is in flower and I have just picked a bunch of sweetly scented lily of the valley.

For more information about our programme including garden visits and the social event see the website:

www.horton-cum-studley.org.uk/community/clubs/

If you would like to know more about the Gardening Club, please just contact me on 01865 351310. Do join us.

Sue Burge, Chairman

# Giant Pumpkin & Tallest Sunflower Growing Competition 2021 It may well be another perfect year for growing something really BIG in your garden. We will be having sunflowers and pumpkins again this year.

For a second year, plants are FREE so please just take one (or more if you wish) from outside 3 Mill Lane, Horton-cum-Studley. If you would like to give a couple of ££ to charity please just pop it through my letterbox. Any money will go to Parkinsons UK. Any questions or if you would like me to drop off a plant just let me know. See you in the autumn for the big weigh in and measure up!

Thank you and Good Luck!

Cathy Jenkins 07941245726

#### STANTON ST JOHN

#### Stanton Church

Details of all church services can be found on page 5. Any changes to the published schedule will be on our website <a href="www.fourparishes.org.uk">www.fourparishes.org.uk</a>.

#### Church flowers

Now that we are holding services in the church again, it is nice to have flower arrangements. If anyone would like to decorate for a Sunday please put your name on the flower rota which hangs on the pillar just inside the Church. Perhaps do them on a particular date to remember a loved one or for a special occasion for yourself. I am always happy to help anyone who has not done them before. Thank you.

Deirdre Young

#### Notice of revision of Church Electoral Roll

The Church Electoral Roll is due to be updated before the next Annual Parochial Church Meeting. **Please see pages 10-11** for more information.

#### Meeting with the Villagers

As St John the Baptist opens again following the pandemic, and as we look to the future, it would be great to hear from villagers your hopes, thoughts and ideas for the Church here in Stanton. We'd love to welcome you to the Village Hall on the morning of **26 June**, **9.30-12.30** to chat with you, and to hear your thoughts and ideas. Please do hold the date and keep an eye out for further details.

#### Date for your diary: OXYBAROXY Concert, Friday 16 July

OXYBAROXY (Oxfordshire Youth Baroque Strings), one of the chamber groups run by the Oxfordshire County Music Service, were set up by Mark Levi to explore the wealth of 17th and 18th century string repertoire. They use Baroque bows, and play in a period style.

We are lucky enough to have welcomed these talented young players to Stanton Church more than once in pre-Covid times and we are hoping they will come again on **Friday 16 July**.

Further details will be in the July newsletter.

#### Stanton St John Parish Council

The new Parish Council met on the 5 April and considered a long agenda, which covered among its statutory matters the election of its chairman and vice chairman for the Parish Council. This was done and Andrew Clark was elected chair and Alex Smith vice chair for the year ahead.

Among the matters to be dealt with by the Parish Council in the coming year are projects, which will be progressed through working parties lead by Councillors, and these are: Matters of traffic safety derived from the recent survey and developing a neighbourhood plan, should the new councillors support proceeding with it.

In addition, the Council will aim to respond to parishioners' concerns and safely maintain our assets and facilities within the Parish, among them being the Village Hall, its car park, the playground and our bus shelters. It will also regularly inspect the village footpaths, bridleways and historic rights of way for safe access.

We will look to hold the District and County Councils to their requisite responsibilities in providing good services and maintenance in areas which are their responsibility, and we will continue to support those organisations and charities who help our villagers, such as The Maple Tree Centre, the Citizens Advice Bureau and many others.

During lockdown many villagers have become new dog owners and we would like to remind owners to use the dog bins provided in the village for cleaning up after their pets when walking them.

Further to this we would like to remind villagers, as we move into summer, to be considerate toward their neighbours, when mowing lawns and undertaking DIY in their gardens, to avoid creating a noise nuisance on Sundays, as this may be the only day off in the week for some people.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on 21 June at 7.30pm in the Village Hall (Covid permitting).

Andrew Clark, Chair SSJPC

#### Stanton St John W.I.

Our June meeting is planned as a Garden Party with a flower arranging demonstration to be held in Fariba Battye's lovely garden. It is scheduled to take place at 2pm on Tuesday 22 June, which is a week later than the date on our provisional programme.

We hope for good weather but will have wet weather backup arrangements organised. Members will be contacted with details of arrangements nearer the time.

We look forward to resuming our normal social meetings as soon as possible.

Contact us on: <a href="mailto:stantonstjohnwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk">stantonstjohnwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk</a>

# College House Garden will be open every Tuesday afternoon during June 2021 from 2.30pm to 7.30pm



Please feel free to wander around, sit on the lawn, bring a picnic, and bring your friends. Bring your own refreshments, or drink mine at your peril after 6pm. Be conscious of social distancing guidelines, and please keep children under supervision, and dogs on leads: we have free range hens with chicks at large, and sheep with lambs in the field, + a ha ha to jump off!

Donations (voluntary) go towards Stanton St John Church Restoration Fund.

Nikki Gresswell

#### Stanton Opera returns - with a new name

Five years ago Stanton St John Opera staged the comic opera, *Lizzie Strata*, at College House thanks to the generosity of Nikki Mallows and the Greswell Environment Trust. The event was



such a success that the team decided to expand their remit to other villages and relaunched the company as a registered charity, Oxfordshire Contemporary Opera.

Now, despite Covid 19, they're back with a new comic opera, *@emele*, by Simmonds and Willcock. As before, there's a sharp satirical edge to the light-hearted comedy. The show is a contemporary twist on Handel's opera *Semele*. The Olympian Gods have set up camp, disguised as mortals in the



21st century. Here the heroine is an Instagram influencer and her cheating lover, Jupiter, is in disguise as a government minister who aims to be 'King of the world'. His vengeful wife is Juno, and Mercury, the messenger God, becomes a Cummingsesque figure who twists the press and public opinion. Comedy, plotting and intrigue abound until Jupiter gets his come-uppance in a #metoo ending. Any similarity to real figures is completely intentional.

The show is due to receive its world premiere in July with a stellar professional cast, including Jessica Wise, Naomi Rogers and bass Aidan Smith who plays the boosterish, philandering politico. *@emele* also features a semi-chorus of some of the best amateur singers in Oxfordshire. For a sample of Roger's accessible style, try our trailer: https://www.oxcontemporaryopera.org/#/oco2021

**@emele** is staged at Wheatley House, Ladder Hill, Wheatley on 7, 9 and 10 July at 7.30pm. Even with the end of social distancing, the show is being staged outdoors and seating is arranged for safety. Bring a picnic while enjoying the garden or just sip a glass of champagne before the show. Tickets are £35 & £25 and can be purchased by emailing Ruth Burdett at <a href="mailto:emeletickets@oxcontemporaryopera.org">emeletickets@oxcontemporaryopera.org</a> or they can be ordered through Tickets Oxford.

#### 'Morning has broken': the story behind the hymn

Morning has broken like the first morning; blackbird has spoken like the first bird. Praise for the singing! praise for the morning! Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

'Morning Has Broken', is a perfect Spring hymn. Cat Stevens recorded a popular version in the 1970s, but it was written by the children's author, Eleanor 'Nellie' Farjeon, 1881-1965

Nellie's father was a novelist and her mother an actress. She did not attend school but spent her formative years in the top floor 'nursery' of a large London home with her three brothers. Books. games and writing stories became more real to Nellie than the outside world until well into her twenties. Through one of her brothers, Nellie met and became close to the poet Edward Thomas (author of Adlestrop) who was killed in WW1.

By fifty, Eleanor had written twenty-two books, mostly for children. She was also asked to write some hymns, including Morning has Broken, for which she received nine guineas.

Eleanor was not christened, but her mother taught her children to pray at night 'just in case'! She had no clear faith until age seventy, when she was baptised into the Catholic church. She maintained that many of the loveliest things in life had been part of her experiences - a love of people, the natural beauty of the world and the creative beauty of words and music, - but the positive experience of religion had never been among them. She wrote "This last year has ended a progression to a form of faith towards which my own spiritual life has been moving for the last thirty or forty years. I have never had another (faith) to be converted from but an increasing sense of an immortal spirit from a source I could only think of as God"

Carol Welch, Horton-cum-Studley

(References. Morning has Broken: Annabel Farjeon; A Nursery in the Nineties: Eleanor Farjeon.)

**Editor's note:** A recording of this hymn was made by the Four Parishes 'Virtual Choir' for the funeral of the late Charles Merry. You will find it, along with numerous other 'lockdown' hymn recordings, at <a href="https://www.stnicolasforesthill.org/zoom-services">https://www.stnicolasforesthill.org/zoom-services</a>.

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- PGCE Spanish University of Sussex
- BA (Hons) in Italian University of London
- Beginners/Intermediate general conversation all ages welcome
- Tuition for students studying for GCSE or A Level Examinations
- DBS check with certificate available for viewing on request
- Tutor based in Horton-cum-Studley
- Rates: £40 per hour or £50 for 90 minutes

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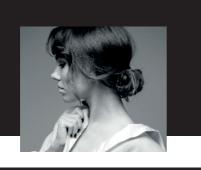
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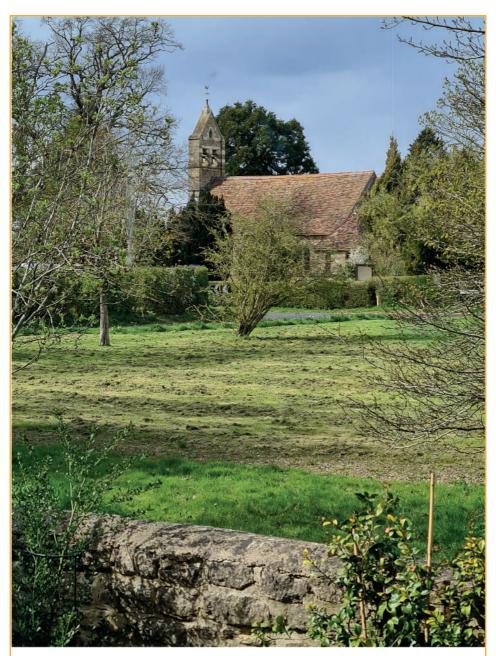
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PPE will be worn for your safety and mine



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St Barnabas Church, Horton-cum-Studley Photo by Julia Slingo, Spring 2021