The Four Parishes News Magazine

BECKLEY
FOREST HILL
HORTON-cum-STUDLEY
STANTON St JOHN

'Young enterprise' in Forest Hill, September 2018

October 2018

The editor writes:

The main news this months is that there has finally been a government announcement about the proposed Oxford to Cambridge Expressway, which is covered on pages 8 and 9. The announcement is good news for the 'Save Otmoor' campaign but there are still plenty of reasons to continue keeping up to date with whatever is coming next.

Harvest Festival celebrations, in church and in the community, are much in evidence in all our villages this month and, as usual, there is also a wide variety of other activities to choose from, so do enjoy browsing through the magazine and please try to support as many events as you can!

Julia Stutfield

Our cover photo …

was sent in by James Skinner of Forest Hill who wrote:

"My daughter, Jemima Hurst-Skinner, and Annabel Radford sold ice creams on Main Street, Forest Hill, Sat 1st September, and raised £37.50 for St Nicolas church."

As you may imagine, everyone at St Nicolas was surprised and delighted to receive this unexpected donation and they would like to say a special thank you to Jemima and Annabel.

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 October 2018

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

Church Wardens

Beckley

Georgina Robson	Tel: 01865 351637	gina.robson@virgin.net

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, October 2018

	St Nicolas, Forest Hill with Shotover	St. John the Baptist, Stanton St. John	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Beckley	St. Barnabas, Horton-cum-Studley
7 Oct	11am Parish Communion **(HARVEST)**	9.30am Parish Communion **(HARVEST)**	9.45am Family Service **(HARVEST)**	11am Morning Prayer
		6pm Taizé		
14 Oct	9.30am Family Service at Stanton St John		9.30am Parish Communion	11am Parish Communion
	6pm Choral Evensong with Musica Viva		4pm Family Church (Village Hall)	
21 Oct	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 (Village Hall)	6pm Iona Service	
28 Oct	10am Joint Benefice Service at Horton-cum-Studley			
		6pm Church Without Walls (Village Hall)		

Note the new arrangements for afternoon Family Church in Stanton St John and Beckley, which have been swapped around to avoid clashing with the Iona Service.

Choral Evensong at St Nicolas on 14 October features music by Tudor composers. See www.stnicolasforesthill.org for more details.

CHURCH NOTICE BOARD

There is no Letter from the Vicarage this month because we are currently in the process of appointing a new vicar. Until further notice, please contact the Church Wardens with any enquiries (details on p.4).

However, we have received the following message from Olney:

'Letter from the Rectory'

Thank you to everyone for the wonderful send off you gave to us all in July. It was with very mixed emotions that we said our goodbyes both formally and informally. We are so thankful to God for the privilege of being a part of the life of the four villages for six years.

After my last day as Vicar we had a break in Milford and then a few days at the New Wine Christian Conference. Then it was boxes and packing, meter reading, cleaning and the day of the big van that blocked off Cox Lane. Here in Olney we have made inroads into unpacking and organizing but there is still so much to do. Emily has had shingles, Sebastian chickenpox and I fell on a patio that meant dressings, stitches and hours in hospital! Fenella however has remained healthy and held everything together.

The service of my Collation and Induction was wonderful and Emily has settled well at her new school. It is a huge learning curve and a demanding time for us all but we are grateful for those who have welcomed us and helped us begin to settle here.

Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas will hold special memories for us of you all. Please keep in touch and let us know if you have things that we can pray for.

All best and blessings,

The Reverend A J D Pritchard-Keens
Rector of Olney,
Local Police Chaplain Milton Keynes

‘Gospel Street’, Horton-cum-Studley, Sat 28 October 7.30pm

“People are out on the street.

Another generation is looking for answers – a rich young executive, an angry gang leader, religious fanatics streaming live, baristas, professors, YouTubers, activists, a surprising refugee and the pizza delivery bloke who bought some seriously expensive jewellery.

Despite their differences and social divisions, everyone wants to meet one extraordinary person: Jesus has arrived on their street. There’s always trouble on the street and he’s looking to do something about it…”

Riding Lights Theatre Company will be performing ‘Gospel Street’ in St Barnabas Church, Horton-cum-Studley, as part of a two month long UK tour. See the back cover of this magazine or their website https://ridinglights.org/gospel-street/ for further details.

- **Do you want to deepen your faith?**
- **Are you curious to ask questions about Jesus?**
- **Do you want to worship in an informal environment?**

Family Church

If you answered yes to any of these questions Family Church is for you!

Come along to **Beckley Village Hall** for an informal service for all four villages. We worship, hear some teaching, pray together, have space for discussion, and enjoy a meal together.

Beckley Village Hall

Sunday 14 October
4 November
2 December
4 - 5.30pm

Stanton St John Village Hall

Sunday 21 October
18 November
16 December
4 - 5.30pm

Children are most welcome: we have groups for 2-5yrs and 6-16yrs.

We also run a service for pre-school and primary aged children in **Stanton St John Village Hall.**

Activities, a bible story and food for the children. Please Come along with the whole family.

Led by our local Ordinand - please contact her for further information
jo.ordinand@gmail.com

GENERAL NOTICES

Expressway Group

The Horton-cum-Studley Expressway Group has continued its awareness-raising campaign with an Otmoor Riots inspired protest in Bonn Square on 3 September, with media coverage on ITV local news, Oxford Mail and Oxford Times. There was huge interest in the event, concern over housing proposals and significant support for both the Save Otmoor and No Expressway campaigns which gained 500 new signatures. Thank you to everyone involved from HcS, Beckley and Charlton-on-Otmoor, and not forgetting Colin Turney of Islip who lent us his splendid Oxfordshire Waggon and Gordon Dempster of the Waterperry Farm Museum who lent us some horse leathers and farming equipment. The Riot of Gollins and The Three Pressed Men sang, and two local Morris dancing groups added extra colour and action!

The HcSE Group has also worked with the Environmental Law Foundation to challenge the legality of the lack of Strategic Environmental Assessment, endorsed by the RSPB, BBOWT and the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire. Further information is available on the HcS website http://www.horton-cum-studley.org.uk/.

On 12 September, the government announced a modified Corridor B as its preferred option. This was originally split into B1 (west of Oxford along A34 route), B2 (across some of Otmoor and Bernwood forest) and B3 (to the east of the corridor). B2 has been rejected and the overall shape of B1/3 corridor has changed to exclude Shotover also. A map of the revised corridor appears on the next page.

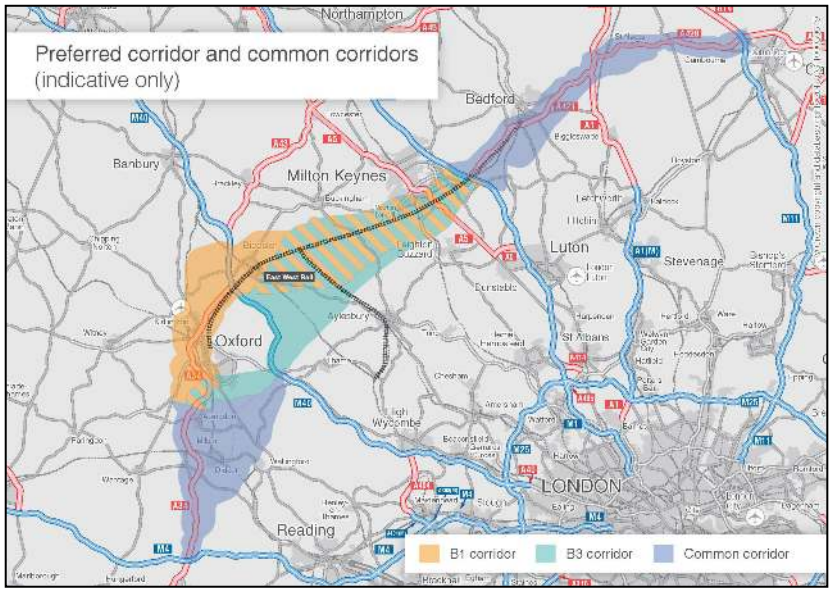
This is a win from the Otmoor/Bernwood Forest perspective. Thank you to everyone who's been involved in getting the Save Otmoor petition to over 10,500 signatories and raising awareness about the Expressway.

However, we have not won the war!

Not all of Otmoor is out of danger. Charlton-on-Otmoor and Oddington are still in or very close to the B1 section of the corridor. The

government still wants to build a further 300,000 homes in Oxfordshire, equivalent to 22 Bicesters, and many question the need for an Expressway at all. It is just not possible to fit 300,000 homes into that part of corridor B in Oxfordshire; there is simply not enough room. Many of those houses will have to go elsewhere in the county if they are to be built at all. Thus, there is still a huge threat to Oxfordshire's environment, Green Belt, pollution and congestion levels. The campaign therefore continues to object to all aspects of the Expressway and any associated development, particularly on Green Belt land. The HcSE Group is part of the No Expressway Alliance to continue the campaign.

Signage around the village is currently under review given the government's announcement.



A further Save Otmoor event, an evening with Peggy Seeger, will be held in Beckley Church on **Saturday 13 October** at 7.30pm.

We will hold an Expressway Update meeting on **Monday 8 October** in Horton-cum-Studley Millennium Hall at 7.30pm.

If you want to get involved or have useful contacts / exciting ideas to contribute, please contact Olivia Field on olivia_field@hotmail.com.

STANTON ST JOHN

Stanton St John W I

Don't miss our Coffee, Cake and Chat Morning on **Saturday 6 October** (see advert below). All are welcome to join us . Sample some delicious cakes, snap up a few preserves and buy some cake to take home, but most of all, meet friends and neighbours from all the Four Parishes.

Our regular meeting will be held on **Tuesday 16 October** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall when **Mary Marriott** will explain her fascination with the **History of Dolls' Houses** and show us some of her favourites.

Invitation from Charlie Warner

I have now returned from my World Challenge trip to Malawi. I had an amazing time and would like to share my adventure with those of you who donated to my trip. Without you I couldn't have gone. Please join me for drinks and nibbles at Stanton St John Village Hall on **Monday 8 October** at 7pm for a presentation of my trip to thank you for your support. I look forward to seeing you.

Computer Clinic Saturday 17 November, 10am to 4pm

Got a computer that's running slow? Maybe you have problems sending or saving emails? Are you afraid of being hacked? How do you save that extra terrabyte of information to the iCloud?

Two major computer gurus have volunteered their time to come to Stanton St John and help with your trickiest computer problems - for PC's or Apple Macs, or iPhones. The gurus will be backed up by two local experts who will handle the more basic problems you might encounter.

The Star pub in Stanton is hosting this event for us. Drinks, sandwiches and snacks will be available all day.

Charge is £20 per half hour and all proceeds go towards the Ceiling Repair for St John the Baptist Church.

Book a half hour slot for your Mac or PC by contacting mossdurrant@totalise.co.uk

Thank you..

..to everyone who came to join us for tea on Bank Holiday Saturday. With thanks to all those who gave very generous donations, £455 was made for the Church Repair Funds. *Caroline and Andrew Clark*

Bells

The project team is delighted to announce that the restoration project for the bells at St John the Baptist Church has now reached a stage where the works can be undertaken. It's been a four year journey, and we've learnt a lot along the way about how to restore a 17th century bell structure and its mechanisms! The support from the community has been amazing, and we are very grateful to everyone for personal donations and pledges. We are using the money wisely to ensure the bells have a future for generations to come.

The bells will fall silent between mid-October and early December whilst the work is being done, most of which will be off-site. The work will be undertaken by Whites of Appleton, who are a long established family firm of church bell hangers and restorers.

We would like you to join us and welcome the newly refurbished bells as we ring for the Christmas services. In the New Year we will hold an open morning for you to come along to see what we do, and to try your hand at this unique skill. You may get hooked!

Paul Lansdowne, Nick Crowley, Edgar Litt, and the Stanton Ringers

COFFEE, CAKE & CHAT!

SATURDAY 6 OCTOBER

10.30 - 12 noon, Stanton St John Village Hall

Raffle; Cakes, Plants and Produce Sales

All welcome

theWI INSPIRING WOMEN

STANTON ST JOHN WI

Dr Pinks Charity

The Trustees welcome applications from young people under the age of 25 years who live in the village of Stanton St John. Small grants are available for those in further education and apprenticeships. The awards will be for the academic year 2019. Applications in writing to Deirdre Young, 4 Simms Close, Stanton St John, OX33 1 HB.
Closing date **31 January, 2019**

Stanton St John Charities (Charity no. 202853)

Parishioners within Stanton St John are eligible to apply for help with winter fuel and heating costs for 2018/2019.

Persons of any age may apply but funds are limited and assistance will normally only be given to households which have no regular wage earner, are state pensioners or receive disability living allowance.

If relatives or neighbours are aware of anyone who may benefit from the grant, but is unlikely to see this notice, the Trustees would be pleased to receive the information. Previous applicants will be contacted directly.

To assist them in the allocation, the charity trustees have requested that new applications be made on a form available from the Village Shop, Middle Road, Stanton St John.

The form should be returned to Richard Ebbs (Stone Cottage, Mill St.) or the village shop, in the envelope provided, by Friday **26 October 2018.**

Information on the form will be treated in strictest confidence by the charity trustees.

Further information from Richard Ebbs, 01865 351491 or richard.ebbs38@btinternet.com

Come to a party

Sunday 4 November, 3.45pm - 6pm at Stanton St John Village Hall

George Lees and family invite everyone to celebrate his 90th birthday with tea and cakes. No presents or cards please.

HORTON-cum-STUDLEY

Harvest Supper, Saturday 13 October, 7.30pm

Millennium Village Hall. Adults: £12, Children £6.

There will be a raffle for a Harvest Hamper **(donations of homemade jams, chutneys, cakes, garden produce etc. gratefully accepted – contact Lisa: 01865 351340)** and some fun games for all ages. To minimise the work involved on the evening so that we can all enjoy it, we are asking people to provide their own:

PLATE - BOWL - GLASS - CUTLERY - DRINKS

Tickets available from:

Lisa Mynheer 351340	Pauline Cox 351367
Rachel Hawes 351540	Annie Payne 351018
David Slingo 655960	Laura Badger 351696
Lynn Whitaker 358838	Cathy Jenkins 351543

(**Deadline for ticket sales - 10 October** to allow catering to be organised). Please inform ticket seller of any dietary needs at point of purchase.

National Open Gardens and Cream Teas

The PCC would like to thank Peter and Sue Burge for the opportunities to raise funds for the village church providing cream teas to visitors of the open gardens in the village this year. Over £200 was raised and a fun time was had by all. Thank you to Layla Whitaker and Sara Mander for their support at the September opening.

Women's Institute

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 9 October at 8pm** in the Millennium Hall. It will take the form of an Open Meeting to which we invite all residents of the village both men and women. The Speaker will be John Chipperfield MBE, a retired journalist on the Oxford Mail. John currently writes the column Memory Lane for both the Oxford Mail and Oxford Times. Wine and nibbles will be served.

Admission fee: Members of WI £3 and non-members £5.

For members of HcS WI there will be a short business meeting at 7.45pm.

Coffee Morning

The October Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday 13 October at 10.30am in the Millennium Hall.

All are welcome, more details from Rachel Hawes 01865 351540.

Gardening Club

Apples are ripening and the fallen fruit is providing a welcome meal to foraging badgers as well as garden birds. The arrival of flocks of “winter thrushes”, fieldfares and redwings, heralds the approach of winter. Look out for them eating windfalls on the lawn and listen for the harsh chack-chack calls of the fieldfares.

Our autumn programme starts on Tuesday 16 October at 8pm with a talk on "The Shaded Garden". We all have shaded spots to fill and many are very dry too so I am sure there will be lots of welcome advice. Do come and join us in the Millennium Hall. Visitors are always very welcome.

For more information about our programme see the website: www.horton-cum-studley.org.uk/community/clubs/

If you would like to know more about the Gardening Club, please contact the chairman, Susan Burge 01865 351310.

THE OTMOOR CHALLENGE 2019

The date for the 40th Otmoor Challenge has been changed!

Please make a note in your diaries that the 2019 event will take place on

SATURDAY 8 JUNE 2019

And not on the usual first Saturday in June

Start planning what you can do to help celebrate our first 40 years

Parish Council

As everyone is no doubt aware, the preferred Corridor for the Expressway has been announced.

Whilst it would appear that the village is no longer in scope, we could be impacted by a new junction on the M40, and additional housing, it is therefore important to maintain our campaign against the Expressway.

The defibrillator is now installed in the old phone box. Training has been organised for Saturday 20 October, 3 - 5pm in the Milennium Hall. Please confirm to Alexia on hortoncumstudleyparishcouncil@gmail.com or via the Village Facebook page.

The Celebration for Basil Lyster (and hopefully planting of a tree on the village playing fields) will take place on 11 November. Everyone is welcome and there will be a soup lunch from 12.30pm in the Milennium Hall.

Parish Council meetings are on the second Thursday each month in the village hall, please come and join us, we like to have your input.

St Barnabas Church
Horton-cum-Studley

Sunday 28 October, 7.30pm

Riding Lights Theatre Company is one of the UK's most productive and long-established independent theatre companies. Founded in York 40 years ago, partly through the initiative of a city-centre church, the company continues to take innovative, accessible theatre into all kinds of communities far and wide.

GOSPEL STREET is a powerful mix of theatre, comedy and spoken word – a breath-taking ride through all the important issues of life, death… and miraculous street food. Good news with wisdom, laughter, energy and insight.

Tickets: £10 / £8 (concessions)

01904 613000 or ridinglights.org/gospel

RIDING THEATRE COMPANY LIGHTS

FOREST HILL

News from St Nicolas Church

For details of all services and events, see www.stnicolasforesthill.org.

Ride + Stride

Thank you to Pat Fraser, who took part on 6 September to raise money for Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust and St Nicolas Church, and to the welcomers who manned the church throughout the day. One of our visitors was planning to cycle to over 20 country churches in a single day! If you enjoy cycling, why not consider signing up for this fun and worthwhile event next year!

Harvest Festival, Sunday 7 October

Church service at 11am, followed by Harvest Lunch in the Village Hall, 12.30pm for 1pm start. If you do not want to go to the service you are still very welcome to join the lunch. If you haven't already let us know you are coming to the lunch, you can just turn up on the day, but a contribution of food would be appreciated. More information from Jane Walker 01865 872399.

Choral Evensong, Sunday 14 October, 6pm

Our final choral evensong of the year is with visiting choir 'Musica Viva' under the direction of Roger Simmonds, featuring music by mainly Tudor composers including William Byrd and Thomas Tomkins. See www.stnicolasforesthill.org for more details.

Forest Hill Sports & Social Club

The present committee have decided that unless volunteers can be found to continue running the club according to its constitution, the time has come to wind up the FHSSC. There were no new volunteers at the last AGM and the present stalwarts are now standing down. It was decided that unless a sufficient numbers of volunteers step forward by 31 October the Club will be officially wound up and the funds distributed to existing organisations who benefit the village.

If you feel you can take an active role in the committee and spare some time to organise fund-raising events, please contact fhsandsc@gmail.com.

100 years on... we need your help to remember and celebrate

This November 11th marks 100 years since the end of World War I. To

honour this centenary we will be holding a number of events during the day to remember the sacrifice made by so many from this community, and to also celebrate the peace and freedom that they won for us all. **This is where we need your help.**

One of the events will be an exhibition and evening event with reminiscences, photographs, letters and other

memorabilia. We are therefore looking for information on the 16 men that gave their lives and the other 60 that served. We would also like to hear about the community as a whole during war time.

Can you help assemble relevant material, especially if you are a relative, or you know someone who is? Are you are willing to spend some time researching for us? If you have any documents, artefacts or photographs, or suggestions as to where we might find things, please contact Julia Stutfield by email – julia.stutfield@gmail.com – or call 07766 103427.

Remembrance Sunday, 11 November 2018

Programme of events in Forest Hill

10.45am	Act of Remembrance	War Memorial
11.15am	Service of Remembrance	St Nicolas Church
6pm	WW1 music and readings, to include popular songs and local reminiscences	St Nicolas Church
7.05pm	"Battle's Over - Ringing out for Peace"	St Nicolas Church
7.30pm	WW1 Quiz and social event	Village Hall

Forest Hill with Shotover Parish Council

The date of the next meeting is **Thurs 1 November 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.

BECKLEY

Beckley Church

Harvest Festival on 7 October will be at 9.45am instead of 9.30! Please take note, and spread the word! We will be decorating the church on Saturday morning so please bring fruit and flowers etc. so we can have a church full of fragrance and colour.

We are also inviting children to make fun animals from fruit and vegetables and bring them to church on Sunday morning.

Remembrance Sunday, 11 November

On this 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War, our Act of Remembrance will start at 10.45am so that the 2 minutes' silence can be observed at the appropriate time, after the sounding of the Last Post.

We are also planning an exhibition in the church of memorabilia from both World Wars, and any other conflicts in the last 100 years, so if anyone has items that they would be willing to have on display, under strict supervision, please contact me, Gina Robson tel: 01865 351637 email: gina.robson@virgin.net

Autumn 'Spring Clean' 20 October 9.30am in the church

If you could spare a morning to attack dust and cobwebs, and polish pews, please bring vacuum cleaners with extensions (to dust the walls), dustpans, brushes, and polish (we have some in the church, but difficult to share out!) All welcome - perhaps it could be fun!

Talk by Donna Dickenson

There will be a talk in the church on **Sunday 7 October at 4pm** on the church's medieval stained glass by Donna Dickenson. Tickets are £8 and can be ordered from Susy Jepson susy.jepson@gmail.com

Ceilidh/Barn Dance

Saturday 6 October at Beckley Village Hall. Doors will open at 7:30. Price of admission is £10 plus food to share and beverage. Children are £5. Music will be by Kismet, who performed for us in May. drmaeve@hotmail.com or annhenman@gmail.com.

Peggy Seeger Concert

There will be an Evening With Peggy Seeger to benefit Saving Otmoor on **Saturday 13 October** at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 available from Maeve Bayton drmaeve@hotmail.com or Ann Henman annhenman@gmail.com.

Oxford to Cambridge Expressway News

A full update about the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway appears on pages 8 & 9.

Abingdon Arms

Information about all community events at the Abingdon Arms is available on the BACBS website: bacbs.org/events or info@bacbs.org

Weekly Activities at the Village Hall

Table Tennis - Mondays 10:30-11:30 am; Yoga 7:30-9:00pm; Tuesdays - Pilates 9:30-11am, Bells 2-3:30pm Wednesdays - Senior Circuits 8:30-9:30am; Fridays - Art Group 9:30-11am

SCHOOL REPORT:

News from Beckley School

Summer Improvements

The main entrance to the school has undergone significant redevelopment work during the summer, with enhanced safeguarding features, better accessibility including the installation of a new double door and a fresh new look overall.

Tufted Duck classroom has been redecorated and now includes a stunning giraffe mural painted by Ellen Brown. Finally, the serving hatch in the hall has been fully refurbished, with a matching menu and information board on the neighbouring wall.

POSTSCRIPT: Curiouser and Curiouser!

Do you know?

Do you know why Stanton St John Church has no porch? Most churches have. They are where the coffin awaits its entry cue or the bride waits to be late, - and where useful information about the parish is posted.

So this is a bit of a mystery. It is said that there was one at one time but it was removed because the bearers at funerals could not conveniently turn the bier between it and the garden wall of the old Rectory next door *[1]*. If the picture shown here is accurate, it did have one in the early eighteen hundreds [1802?] - and there would seem to be plenty of room in front of the door. It certainly was not there in 1846 when Parker's 'Antiquities' was published *[2]*.

The other picture shows the former Rectory in 1820. Although it is difficult to judge, the boundary does seem very close to the church. The house was demolished around 1840 when the new Rectory, now *College House,* was built and its site became part of the new garden. In 1900 part of this land was given to the church to extend the graveyard. Problem solved - but a new porch has never been built.

But was there ever a porch? The 1802 picture of the church has some seemingly fanciful elements. It shows two dormers and cat-slide roof to the south aisle, so it lacks the two clerestorey windows above the south arcade. This all casts considerable doubt upon its accuracy - and there is no evidence of a porch in the stonework around the south door *[3]*.

And yet ... ... who knows? Any suggestions?

Anthony Wood, the younger

[1] See the Church booklet - I cannot find the original source of this story.

[2] Simpson, T, 'Stanton St John' in Parker, J H [ed] 'A Guide to the Architectural Antiquities in the Neighbourhood of Oxford' 1846

[3] However there is evidence of a notice board to the west.

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BINGO

Saturday Nights **At 7.45pm**

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Transport available from local area

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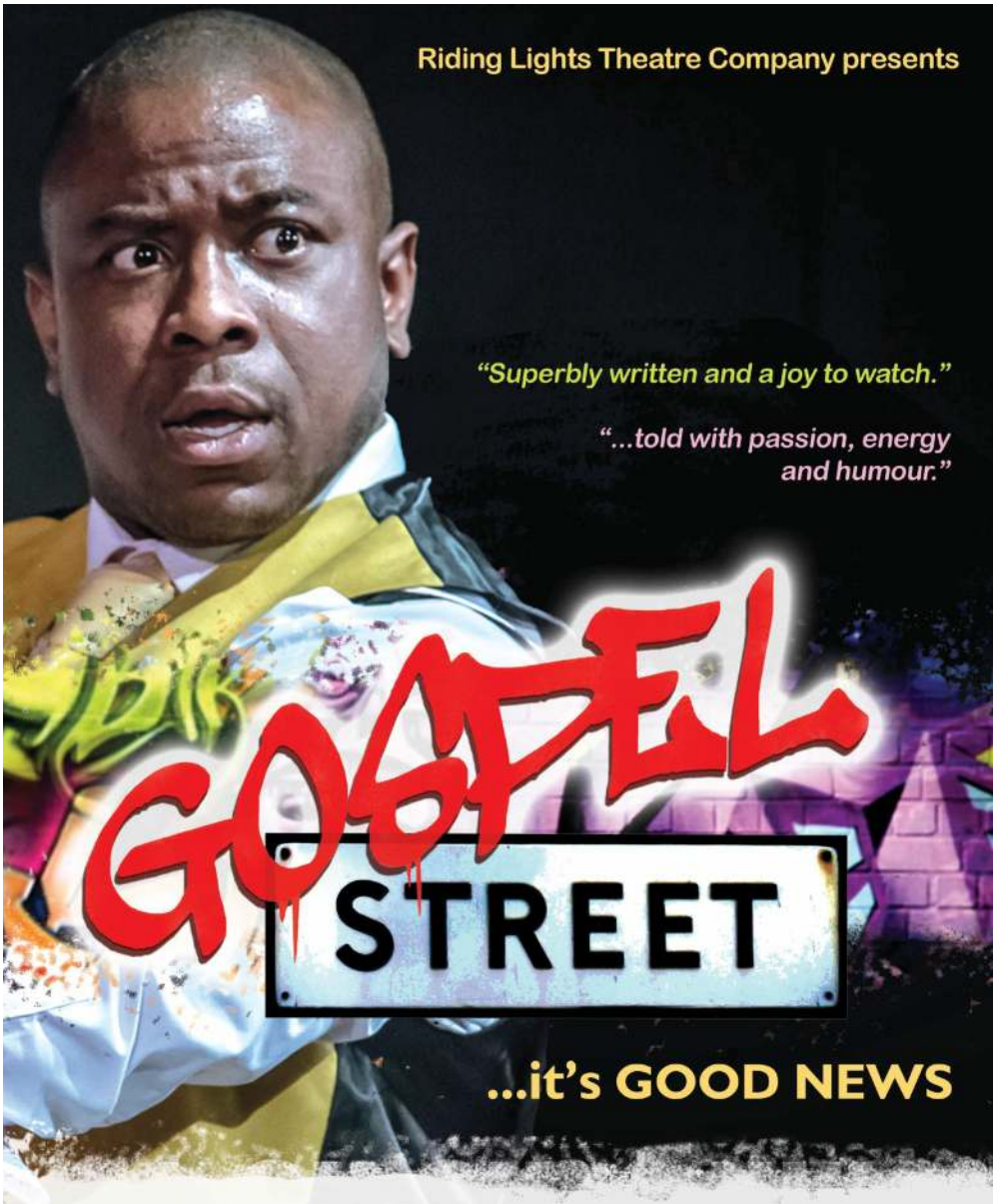

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