

The Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter



April 2024

FROM REV TERESA

As April approaches it feels like the year is turning, winter is giving way to spring. It seems to me that the year is flying by! There have been scientific studies that prove time flies by faster as we get older as the perception of time is influenced by memory and how much you've experienced. For an 8-year-old, a week is a big portion of their life. For an 80-year-old, a week is a much smaller portion of their life, which contributes to the feeling that it went by quickly.

The Rev Jane Willis (Rector of Dorchester Abbey) has been thinking about how we 'spend time', she writes:

Time is a finite resource, twenty-four hours each, each day, for the years God gives us. How carefully do we consider how we spend this precious resource? Some of us may have many demands on our lives (I'm in that category!) some of us less – but at the end of the day, the choices about how we spend our time will say something about what is most important to us.

The book of Ecclesiastes can be hard to understand – but many of us will know and love the verses at the beginning of chapter 3: 'There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens...'

If we don't know this passage from the Bible we may know it from the memorable 1965 song by The Byrds 'Turn, turn, turn.' It's a passage which speaks of all the seasons of life.

I remember when we had three teenage daughters, the constant requests: 'Mum, Dad, can you give me a lift to [wherever]' and we would sigh and say 'Oh, alright.' Then, through hearing an inspiring talk on parenting teenagers we came to realise giving our girls a lift somewhere was the wonderful gift of time spent together – at a stage in life where communication can be hard but is so important. It completely changed our outlook.

So – what is most important to you in life? And does the way you spend your time reflect that? Or are there some changes you would like to make?

Rev Teresa x

The Revd Teresa Stewart-Sykes is Team vicar for The Baldons with Nuneham Courtenay, Berinsfield and Drayton St Leonard.

e-mail: RevTeresa@outlook.com and tel: 07823 809112

Our current curate is **The Revd Sorrel Shamel-Wood**.

Our safeguarding officer is Sara McDouall: saramcdouall@gmail.com

A clergy person can always be reached in a pastoral emergency by ringing the Dorchester Team Office 01865 340007

IRIS WRIGHT AWARDED LONG SERVICE MEDAL BY ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

On Saturday 18th March, Iris Wright was awarded a medal to commemorate her thirty years service of organising and collecting donations for the annual British Legion Poppy Appeal.

She was invited by the Royal British Legion to a ceremony at Middle Aston House near Bicester, where about sixty people were gathered to hear about the work of the British Legion. An ex-serviceman told his story of the help he had received from the British Legion after he was discharged through ill health due to traumatic experiences during his service in the armed forces.

At the end Iris was invited to receive her medal. She was the only recipient of an award.

Iris would like to thank the many people in the Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay who have contributed to the Poppy Appeal over the years; also those who have given their time to walk our villages collecting donations. Iris says that her award could never have been achieved without your help and Iris wants to sincerely thank every one of you. The money collected has really had a significant impact on improving the lives of many service veterans.

If anyone would be willing to take poppies round and collect donations once a year before Remembrance Sunday please contact Iris on 01865 343318.



World Book Day

On the 7th of March, we had World Book Day. Everyone came as their favourite character from their favourite book. I went as Frodo Baggins from the Lord of the Rings. In Red Kites, we have been preparing to write an improved version of The Very Hungry Caterpillar with pop-ups and sliding mechanisms. Furthermore, some children from Red Kites had the privilege, including me, to read to the Woodpeckers, who are the youngest children in our school. We went into the Robin Room (our library)



with them to find a selection of story books laid out. Whilst groups of us read to the Woodpeckers, the rest of the class stayed in the classroom and drew the covers for our Very Hungry Caterpillar books. That day, we also had an assembly about International Women's Day.

Assessments

On 4th, 5th and 6th March, we completed some assessments, and for the Year Sixes, they practised papers for their SATs. We have been doing SPAG, reading and maths. According to Mrs Wakefield, some people got 100%! They might not be too exciting, but I actually like them!

Red Nose Day

We all wore red to school on Friday for Red Nose Day. We had some fun lessons! Red Nose Day is also known as Comic Relief Day, and it is to raise money for charity. One day previously, we did the marathon on Red Nose Day!

A Day in the Life of a Marsh Baldon Pupil

At the start of the day, we do morning task, and that can be anything from English to science. Then we would usually do either SPAG or literacy. Next, we would have an assembly; either celebration assembly, when we hand out Golden Moments, singing assembly, when we sing songs, or a values assembly, when we look at our school values. Following assembly, we have break time when we have the opportunity to play games in the playground. Afterwards, we would have maths, which I think is quite fun. Then, my favourite time of the day- lunchtime! On Friday, the school cook makes the yummiest fish and chips! Then we have playtime, followed by either science, geography or PE. Finally, we would go home- or stay at school, if you're in a club. I go to Cooking Club, which I like because I can make really yummy food with Miss Slater, who is a TA in our class- she also happens to be an excellent chef!

ANNUAL PLANT AND SEEDLING SWAP

The ever popular Spring event

SUNDAY 5TH MAY

10.30 TO 12.00 Marsh Baldon village hall

Bring seedlings and plants to swap OR just come and buy with a donation.

PLEASE TRY to bring something with you so we have a good variety and quantity of plants.

The more you bringthe more we have to swap/sell
So now is a great time to pot up your surplus
seedlings/cuttings/and divided plants

**COME AND ENJOY TEA, COFFEE AND DELICIOUS CAKES
WHETHER YOU BUY PLANTS OR NOT.
ALL ARE WELCOME.**

**Profit this year goes to maintenance of the village
orchards.**

**We look forward to seeing you .
For more info please contact Lizie or Diana
liziegiraudeau@gmail.com
Dianabelli@btinternet.com**

BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Village plan updates:

Tinny Lane

There is further work planned in the Spring to improve Tinny lane for all users. This will involve further works on drainage and surfacing. It's likely we will call for volunteers again so look out for this and please do help if you can.

Play area in the Village

The project is still in the consultation phase and as such the council has been gathering information for the next stage of that consultation. In January, members of the council met with a representative of a company that installs play areas to gain advice on potentially suitable locations for a small play area and indicative costings, and to assess how viable this project is for the community. Two options were identified, one being by the large oak tree on the south side of the Green and the second being the grassed area by the Village Hall. It is not yet known if we can get permission to build on either site at this stage. Several other areas were assessed but ruled out due to viability.

Design and equipment proposals were received a few weeks ago with indicative costings for a small play area. These will form the basis for the second stage of the consultation with residents of Marsh and Toot Baldon. Following the consultation, we will collate the responses and circulate to all residents.

Maintaining the Green – ongoing project

The wet weather and flooding combined with increasing traffic using the village roads has taken its toll on the edges of the Green in several places. The council is preparing a range of solutions with costings and will then discuss those with the Queens College land agent in order to agree a way forward to protect against this erosion and allow the Green to recover.

Providing water to the allotments

Unfortunately, we were not successful in being awarded a grant for this work, but we continue to look for a solution.

Other Footpaths

At the Parish Council meeting on the 11th of March, we agreed to investigate the options for improving the bridge over the brook at the bottom of Church fields. This footpath is not adopted by Oxford County Council and as such will not be maintained by them. We are obtaining quotes to replace the bridge.

Potholes

Due to the increasing amount of reports of damage to cars being caused by the potholes in Baldon Lane, and issues of safety for pedestrians and other road users, we have temporarily repaired the two worst potholes. We have advised highways this is a temporary fix and that they still require repairing. The cones are still in

place as an indicator of where the holes appeared. The repair won't last too long, but it should prevent further damage to cars that cannot avoid driving over them until Highways can repair properly.

Save the date, Spring Litter Pick

Our Village Spring Litter Pick will take place at 10.00am on Saturday 13th April 2024. Please meet at the Mole inn Car Park for Toot Baldon and at the Green by the Seven Stars Pub for Marsh Baldon. We will have bags and litter pickers for all.

Fibre Broadband in the Baldons

As you are aware there are plans to install Fibre broadband to the Baldons. We have had an initial meeting with the Gigaclear liaison team. The scheme will not be live until Spring 2026 and plans are in the development stage. We will continue to work with them to clarify the plans.

Planning Matters

The following application has been received and is under consideration.

Reference P24/S0824/HH, for development work at the following location: 8A The Green Marsh Baldon Oxford

The application is for: Single storey rear extension and conversion of existing single garage to habitable accommodation.

You can see details of the application on the SODC planning portal: <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk>

Dates of future Parish Council meetings:

Date of Next Meeting	22 April 2024 – Annual Villages Meeting
Future dates	13 May 2024 – BPC AGM 8 July 2024 9 September 2024 11 November 2024.

SEVEN STARS QUIZ NIGHTS AND BANK HOLIDAY OPENING TIMES

Quiz Nights: Wednesday 3rd and 17th April

Bank Holidays: 1st April, 6th May and 27th May - Open 12-6 for food and till 9pm for drinks.

NUNEHAM COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Film Night

Join us Friday the 26th April for film night! Tickets are a suggested donation of £3. Refreshments (wine, beer, soft drinks, popcorn) are available for sale.



Inspired by true events, THE LAST RIFLEMAN is a moving and heartfelt drama starring Pierce Brosnan as Artie Crawford, a World War II veteran living in a care home in Northern Ireland who has just lost his wife.

On the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy, Artie decides to secretly escape his care home and embarks on an arduous but inspirational journey to France, to pay his final respects to his best friend and find the courage to face the ghosts of his past.

Help wanted

The village hall is looking for cleaner, which is a paid role.

We need volunteers! We are looking for volunteers to help in a variety of ways- looking after bookings, acting as a caretaker, or generally just

mucking in at events. Get in touch if you would like to join in!

Bookings

The village hall is available to book! Contact
nunehamcourtenay.villagehall@gmail.com.

Yoga

Come along most Mondays at 7:30 (ish) to this small and friendly group. Sessions are £3 pay as you go and all funds go to benefit the village hall

Thank you

Thank you to Brian Ball for fixing the radiator in the Village Hall! We all appreciate your kindness! Brian did not charge us for this. Many thanks!



DORCHESTER ON THAMES
FESTIVAL
3 MAY-12 MAY 2024



Box office 0333 666 3366 www.dorchesterfestival.com

SEVEN STARS AT MARSH BALDON
PRESENTS

Wine Tasting

Wednesday, April 24th
at 7.30 pm

£29.95 per person

7 World wines, Appetisers
Cheese, Tasting tips

For more information
call 01865 343337

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Happy Spring from The Maple Tree!

Have you visited our lovely Children's Centre recently? All sessions are drop-in, except our popular Maple Chefs, which is bookable via Eventbrite.



A great place to grow

Mondays: Messy Monday at 10:00-11:30am and Twinnies at 2:00-4:00pm

Tuesdays: Once Upon a Rhyme-Time at 10:00-11:30am

Wednesdays: Little Explorers at 10:00-11:30am and Maple Chefs at 1:00-3:00pm (Spaces are limited, so book in advance – bit.ly/mapletreeeb)

Thursdays: Baby and Bump Cafe at 9:30-11:30am and The Maple Tree at Forest Hill Village Hall at 11:00am-12:00pm.

Fridays: Little Chatterboxes at 10:00-11:30am

Family Fun at 10:00-11:30am, 3rd Saturday every month

Check out our Website and Facebook page for more details and look out for our next Paediatric First Aid training.

As we start our new financial year on April the first, we have the challenge of raising nearly £100,000.00 to keep The Maple Tree running for the next year. One of the ways to support our charity is to become A Friend of the Maple Tree, offering monthly financial support. Another way is to volunteer at one of the sessions above. We need support on Mondays and Wednesday, both mornings and afternoons. Are you able to help? (Charity number:1174117)

We are here to help if you need advice or support: 01865 236700 or 07849 466249.

Email: info@mapletree.org.uk

Website: www.mapletree.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheMapleTreeWheatley

Instagram: @themapletreecentre

Laura Spencer - The Maple Tree Centre Manager

NUNEHAM COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

London Plane trees

The County Council should deliver a leaflet to homes in the final week of March giving everyone information about a severe pruning of the London Plane trees on the main road that its contractors will carry out some time between 22nd April and 10th May.

The work is supposed to include a 6pm to midnight full closure of the A4074 through the village on a Sunday evening when two crews will tackle all the branches over the road, two trees at a time. There will still be access for the emergency services and local residents.

The other two options were for four or eight days of closing a stretch of the main road on one side and having traffic lights controlling the traffic using the side that remained open. The length of the closure would have depended on how many crews were working at any one time.

The parish council felt the Sunday evening closure was much less disruptive for residents and through traffic: the other options seemed to guarantee days of traffic jams on the A4074.

The County Council warns: "The scale of this job is large with the visual impact going to be significant." So, don't be too surprised: you have been warned! But the trees will recover.

Improved bus service

The County Council has informed the parish council that it will be undertaking a tender process for an improvement to service X40, which will result in up to three buses per hour between Oxford, Wallingford and Reading, and which will all operate via Abingdon Road instead of Iffley Road.

The County Council anticipates the new service will commence in October 2024 at the same time as the Oxford traffic filters trial, which will result in faster journey times via Abingdon Road as the traffic filters will discourage everyone from using the Abingdon Road to get to the Westgate shopping centre car park or the railway station.

It has only been possible to get the County Council to reinstate the Abingdon Road bus service because of the parish meeting many of you attended two years ago to complain about the service, particularly the delays at busy times caused by routing the buses up the Iffley Road - and parish councillor Mandy Rigault pestering the County Council officers ever since. Persistence, it seems, may be rewarded.

Recent flooding

As if once was not enough, some homes experienced another flooding incident in February. Parish councillor Charlie Vicary is drawing up a report to submit to the relevant authorities about steps that should be taken to reduce or eliminate the risks of further flooding.

Burglaries

And it's not only flooding, the parish suffered from a spate of burglaries in February. What a month! So, the parish council invited Thames Valley Police to come to the

village and talk to residents about prevention. On 12th March we welcomed a police officer and two Police Community Support Officers to the Village Hall where they talked about preventative measures and gave everyone a booklet with helpful ideas to help keep your property safe and deter thieves.

They also gave each member of the audience a pack of Smartwater, said to cost £30.00 if you have to buy it, with which to mark valuable property.

Each bottle of Smartwater has its own DNA so if it has been registered and the police recover property marked with it, they can return the property to the owner.

We are going to investigate if we can become a Smartwater village so potential thieves will hopefully be put off and will try their luck elsewhere.

Deep cleanse (again)

No sooner has Nuneham Courtenay had one visit from the Deep Cleanse team that works under contract with South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) than its turn comes round again.

So, the parish is to be visited again from 28th May. The pavements along the main road are about the only bit of the parish that's eligible.

The team will pick up litter, sweep pavements, remove weeds and moss but they don't cut grass or vegetation and they don't spray weeds.

Christmas trees

How do they keep missing them? Yet again the trees you left after Christmas were still there in March and the parish council has had to chase SODC to take them away.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the parish council will be the Annual Meeting in May where it elects a councillor to chair the council for the year ahead.

Geoffrey Ferres,

Parish Clerk - Nuneham Courtenay Parish Council

Tel: 07419 991623 - Email: clerk@nunehamcourtenay-pc.gov.uk

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Items for the May 2024 newsletter

by 16th April please

Any villager is welcome to send items for publication in the newsletter. Please send copy to Natasha Eliot: tashaandjames@btopenworld.com. Alternatively, I can be contacted on 343478 or at Baldon House East, Marsh Baldon.

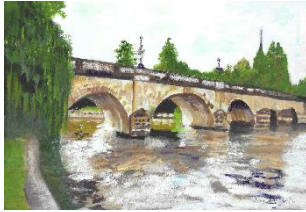
For advertising queries, please contact Leanna Maggs on:
leanna.maggs@gmail.com or on 01865 340 521

The Gallery and Picture Framing

Long Barn 2c, Little Baldon Farm, OX44 9PU
On the B4015 for Stadhampton



To visit the gallery or for picture framing please make an appointment by emailing Jane: art@janeelsworthart.com



The Dovecote Hair Studio

Hello! My name is Karen, and I have opened a small hair studio in the dovecote in Little Baldon Farm.

My hours, prices and online booking is available via my website
www.thedovecotehair.studio

or you can contact me direct on 07538993460.

Tuesday Thursday and Friday are long days with late appointments, while Wednesday and Saturday are by prior arrangement and as required.

Hope to see you soon, Kx





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Unit 19 Wheatley Business Centre, Old London Road, Wheatley, Oxford, OX33 1XW

Oxfordshire Libraries

April events at Berinsfield Library

Easter Bunny fun in the library!
Bunny treasure hunt, craft table and
colouring competition, school holiday,
library opening hours



Children's Book Club
Thursday 18 April 3.30pm
For children ages 8 to 11. Discover new
books and enjoy fun activities.
Booking essential.



Berinsfield Local History Group
Tuesday 30 April 2.30pm
Social group, explore and share
local history. Everyone welcome.
Light refreshments available



Digital Helper: Thursdays 2 to 5pm
Help in using smart phones, tablets and
laptops. Support for those less confident
with technology. Booking essential



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Email berinsfield.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk



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EVENTS IN DORCHESTER ABBEY

Sat 13th April- 7pm- 9pm OSJ- Gershwin and Tchaikovsky We guarantee a lot of fun at this evening's concert! Japanese pianist Maki Sekiya brings Gershwin's fabulous Rhapsody in Blue to life. She is joined by soprano Danielle Maihalet and bass Chuma Sijeqa who will perform much-loved excerpts from Porgy and Bess. The evening is rounded off with Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony, this most dramatic of works representing fate and the search for happiness. Free tickets available for NHS workers and for the disabled. Please email admin@osj.org.uk. Tickets £6 to £35 from www.osj.org.uk

Sat 20th April- 7.30pm- 9.30pm Thames Valley Concert Orchestra- Passing Open Windows: A Symphonic Tribute to Queen Get ready to rock out to the iconic hits of Queen at the Queen Symphonic Tribute! This amazing concert will take place at the magnificent Dorchester Abbey near Wallingford, Oxon, UK. Prepare to be blown away as a 65 piece symphony orchestra brings to life the legendary music of Freddie Mercury and his band. The superb orchestral arrangements by Dee Palmer include perennial favourites such as Bicycle Race, Somebody to Love, Killer Queen, Death on Two Legs, Innuendo, We Are The Champions and many more. Tickets £25.00
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/queen-symphonic-tribute-tickets-798773943367?aff=oddtcreator>

WILL ON THE GREEN

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Will Maggs | Marsh Baldon

LOOKING AFTER AND MAINTAINING YOUR HOME

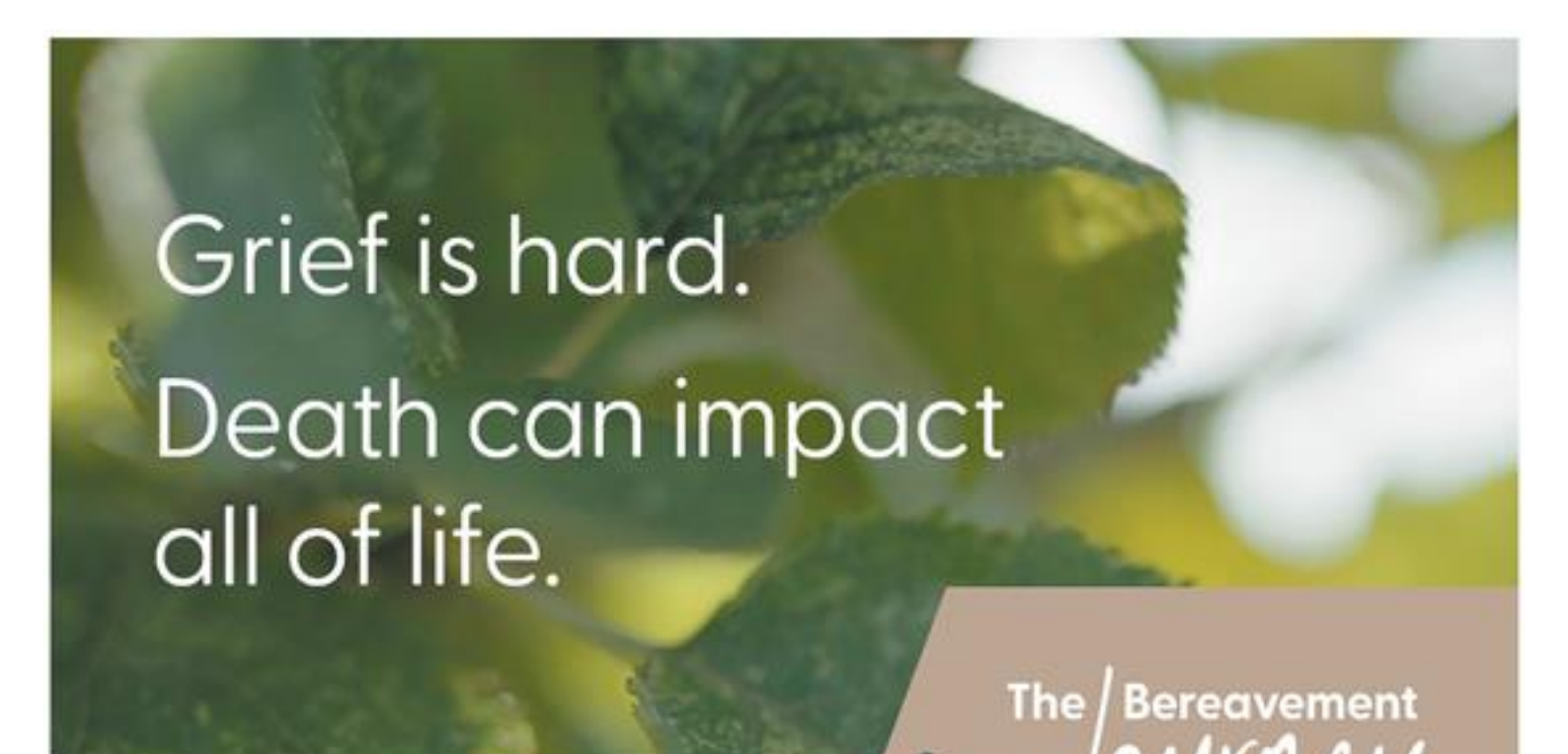
E: willonthegreen@outlook.com

W: willonthegreen.com

M: 07449 925444

P: 01865 340521





Grief is hard.
Death can impact
all of life.

The Bereavement
Journey
a place to talk

7 Sessions of films
and discussion
for *anyone* bereaved *anytime*

Topics include:

- Attachment, separation and loss
- The pain and responses of grief
- Anger and guilt
- Coping with others' reactions
- Delayed and suppressed grief
- Adjusting to change
- Moving forward healthily
- Faith questions (optional)

To find out more visit:
thebereavementjourney.org

Hosted by Dorchester
Team of Churches

Online Course: Tuesdays
2nd April to 14th May 7pm

To book or for more info:
Contact Rev Teresa
07823 809 112

revteresa@outlook.com

CHURCH SERVICES FOR APRIL 2024

7 th April	10.30am	Marsh Baldon	Holy Communion
14 th April	4.00pm	Toot Baldon	Evensong
21 st April	9.30am	Toot Baldon	Holy Communion
28 th April	11.00am	Marsh Baldon	Holy Communion

CHURCH FLOWERS

Date	Marsh	Toot
7 th April	Veronica Sandilands	Vanessa, Linda & Tracey
21 st April	Laura Martin	Ann & Heather



Wednesday 10th April
7.30pm

Marsh Baldon Village Hall
OX44 9LL

Our speaker: We welcome back our popular speaker Anne de Leyser, Director of Local Houses of Prayer (LHOP), a worldwide ministry which was developed originally at Ffald-y-Brenin retreat centre in Wales.

Anne's passion as the director of Local Houses of Prayer (LHOP) is to cultivate the presence of God in communities and to see the kingdom of God breaking in power across the nations. Anne has trained people in the UK and around the world in how to establish a Local House of Prayer; the training resources she has developed have been translated into over 20 languages.

Anybody and everybody is welcome to our Filling Station meeting, where we come together in an informal setting to worship God, and explore and build our Christian faith. Refreshments from 7.30pm. Introduction and worship 7.45pm. Speaker 8.10pm. Close 9.15pm.