



The Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter

April 2012



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Dear Friends,

This first week in April is Holy Week. It is the week when Christians recall the last week of Jesus' life, his entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, his final meal with his disciples, his betrayal, his suffering, and his death on the cross on Good Friday. The intense drama of the Passion story is reflected in countless paintings, in some of our greatest music, poetry and theatre. From Bach's St John Passion, to the medieval mystery plays, to van Eyck's Isenheim altarpiece, to Aslan in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, our culture has returned to meditate again and again on a death.

The story of Holy Week is a story of the depths of human suffering - of betrayal, abandonment, torture, and of the cruelty and indignity human beings have inflicted on one another down the centuries. The image of Mary, standing at the foot of the cross watching as her son dies and captured in the poem *Stabat Mater* ('At her cross her station keeping/ Stood the mournful mother weeping/ Close to Jesus at the last'), performed liturgically in the setting by Pergolesi this Palm Sunday in Dorchester Abbey, is iconic of the horror and helplessness of watching, unable to assist or relieve, as a loved one suffers. This is universal human experience which, regardless of cultural context or religious commitment, has the power again and again to speak into our own lives, to frame our responses to pain and tragedy.

But the story does not end with the silence and desolation of Good Friday afternoon: we journey through Holy Week, and stand at the foot of Jesus' cross, knowing what Mary did not - that Easter day will dawn. The heart of the Easter story is the mystery of God raising Christ from the dead, and the promise that suffering and death do not have the last word. The Easter promise is that, no matter how hopeless things might seem, new life, joy and hope are held out to us all.

May I wish you a very joyful Eastertide,

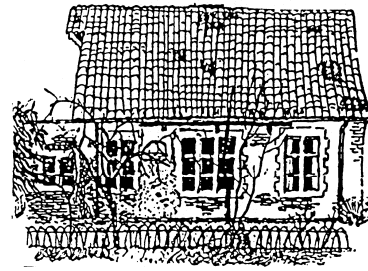
Hannah

The Revd Dr Hannah Cleugh is Curate for The Baldons, Berinsfield and Drayton St Leonard: e-mail hannah.cleugh@yahoo.co.uk and tel: 01865 341382

The Revd Ros Latham is Team vicar for The Baldons, Berinsfield and Drayton St Leonard: e-mail: bbdparishoffice@rocketmail.com and tel: 01865 340460

MARSH BALDON SCHOOL NEWS

The school continues to thrive as we go into 2012 and with it being Olympic year; the children are going to have lots of activities and sporting opportunities based around London 2012 as we head towards the summer.



Recently, we celebrated World Book Day. The school was a hive of activity and started with a 'Books and Breakfast' event, where parents joined the children for breakfast in the hall and had the opportunity to share books at the same time. It was a huge success and it was great to see the hall so full and see that so many parents are interested in supporting the school and their children. Because of its popularity, we will be holding more similar events in the future!

March 6 was one of the highlights of the year. The children in Class 3 went to London to take part in the 'Young Voices' concert at the O2 Arena. A packed coach of children, teachers and parents had a tour round the sights of London first and then arrived at the O2 for a rehearsal and then the evening concert. Over 6000 children took part and we were part of a Guinness World Record for a backing group!! The sight of our children performing to a packed O2 arena was nothing short of fantastic and something that everyone will remember for a very long time. Here are just a few quotes from the children:

'it was so amazing to sing in front of so many people, you feel like a superstar ...'

'My favourite part of the day was when we found out that we had made it into the Guinness Book of World Records...'

'The day out in London was just as good seeing the sights like Wembley, the London Eye, Buckingham Palace and Trafalgar Square...'

'It was so much bigger than I'd expected, the lights were fantastic with different colours spreading everywhere..'

'It was the best day at school EVER... can I go to sleep now?'

'Thank you for taking us there...'

At the end of March, the school will be raising money for Sport Relief. The School Council have organised the day which includes running the mile, a cake sale and some other 'sponge throwing' activities!!

The end of the term will be celebrated as usual with an Easter Service in the church at 9.00am on Friday 30th March.

With the better weather beginning to appear, you can be sure that we will be 'out and about'! Please say hello to us if you see us around the village.

Best Wishes,

Nick Pitson

EASTER LILIES

If you would like to purchase an Easter Lily in memory of someone, please contact Debbie Dance:
d.dance@oxfordpreservation.org.uk or 01865 341323.

Flowers are £2.50 a stem and will decorate St. Peter's Marsh Baldon and St. Lawrence's Toot Baldon.

Names will be recorded in a Remembrance Book to be on display in the church.



Don't forget the SAFARI SUPPER on Saturday 28th April: details in last month's newsletter. Tickets - £25 each - available from the Seven Stars and from Lesley (343205), Beth (343366) and Laurence (343336).

BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

SODC Boundary Review

South Oxfordshire District Council have asked the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to undertake an electoral review of the wards in South Oxfordshire which includes a review of the number of District Councillors which it hopes to reduce, and the subsequent changes to electoral boundaries. Consultation with parishes will take place during 2012, commencing in the spring. This follows a similar review for the County Council. More information should be made available in the next few weeks.

Telephone Box: Can you help?

The red telephone box on the edge of the green is looking particularly neglected with peeling paint and rust on the outside. Sitting as it does in a prominent position, it has become a bit of an eye sore. The phone is still in use but because of low usage it is expected the service will be withdrawn by BT at some time, therefore the box is not being maintained by them. The Parish Council agreed early last year to assume some responsibility for maintenance when the service is withdrawn therefore we are asking for help to clean it up.

It would be a great help if one or two people would volunteer to clean and repaint the box during the spring or summer, the council is willing to cover the cost of materials etc. If you are willing to help please let any of the councillors or the Chairman know.

Parish Plan

The final printed version of the plan was delivered to every household a few weeks ago and the Parish Council has begun to review progress on those aspects of the plan on which we have a lead role. We think it would be helpful to have a discussion on progress with villagers at the Annual Parish meeting, see below.

Annual Meeting of the parishes of Marsh Baldon and Toot Baldon. Tuesday 17th April 7.30 pm Village Hall

Just a reminder. This is the annual village meeting where everyone is invited to come and discuss issues with your Parish Councillors. As usual there will be an annual report of the work we have been doing in the last year and a financial report, and also a discussion of progress on the Parish Plan. If you want to raise an item for discussion to put on the agenda please let the Chairman Dorothy Tonge (343234) or clerk Paul Isaacs (01844 278040) know by 3rd April if possible, otherwise questions can be raised at the meeting.

Parish Council Annual General Meeting: Tuesday May 8th 7.30pm Village hall. To avoid confusion this is the council's AGM which deals with election of officers etc. as well as routine business.

Easter refuse collection: revised to Tuesday 10th April

Caution! Older People!

Overcoming stereotypes and celebrating a gift to the Church

I was privileged to attend this conference in Oxford organised by several Dioceses, at the end of January. After animated worship the Bishop of Dorchester who opened the day amused us by saying he was taking a wedding of two people in their seventies that afternoon and that we should never put 90 candles on a birthday cake as he had once experienced at a party that so many ruined the icing!

We had interesting talks by Nick LeMesurier and the Rev Joanna Collicut and after lunch divided into groups. We were particularly concerned about older people in the countryside. They are a growing minority in the population, 20% in the country, and 10% in cities with increasing numbers in the next decade. Many are capital rich but income poor. They can be a dynamic, flexible resource and many lead very active lives enjoying leisure activities as well as saving the country millions of pounds in looking after grandchildren and older relations. Of those over 85, 50% are becoming dependent on others. Many have a strong sense of responsibility and it is good if younger people have time to listen to their stories and hear the significance and wisdom of their memories and experience. Perhaps we should have spent more time at the conference considering how we all can offer more support to those caring for others in their own homes. We also did not have time to talk about residential care etc.

There is, however, the stigma of mortality and fears about death and a lot of ageism in our society. As we grow older there is the stripping away of inessentials, of letting go of material things, of coping with loss of loved ones, of physical losses and facing dying and death.

God seems to have called people in later life like Anna and Simeon and asked Moses at the age of 80 to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. And Elizabeth conceived in her old age!

Joanna suggested that preachers should talk more about the next world but agreed that finding the right words is not easy and we have to be where people are.

There were other subjects we did not have time to talk about in detail such as dementia and I would have liked some discussion on assisted dying. I gave a talk about this whole subject in Melbourne, Australia 18 months ago to Chaplains of many faiths and it is certainly a subject in which there is much interest and which affects us all.

Mary Braybrooke

BALDONS JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS:

Auction Of Promises: A Big Thank You

What a hugely successful, entertaining and fun evening we had on Saturday 3rd March, everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves as well as being willing to spend some money on the wide range of promises on offer, in spite of the recession. We hope that all those who won the bids get great pleasure from the promises bought.

We raised £9,369.50 after expenses which will more than cover the anticipated expenses we had planned for the Jubilee Celebrations.

A big thank you must go to all of you who came and supported the event, and to all those who offered promises for their kind generosity. If someone, or some organisation whom you know of, gave a promise who isn't on this circulation please make sure that our appreciation is conveyed to them.

Also if anyone, either a donor or buyer of a promise is unsure of who to contact about it please speak to Ali Barne tel 343624.

Thanks must also go to Ali for her organising skill and to the glittering auctioneer Phil Collins and his equally shimmering assistant Sonia. They did a fantastic job.

Finalising the plans

The jubilee team can now finalise the plans and costs for the Diamond Jubilee weekend which we hope will be as enjoyable for everyone as the Auction.

On Saturday evening we'll be starting with a barn dance in the first half of the evening - followed by a band until midnight.

On Sunday the timetable will be:

10.30 Church Service

11.30 Bells (our bellringing team are making good progress)

12.00 Bring and share lunch - we'll supply some wine and soft drinks

2.00 (or so) - fun on the green with a tug of war, a treasure hunt, children's' entertainment and possibly more

4.00 onwards - afternoon tea and a children's tea party

Thanks to the auction of promises much of the fun will be free - but as we need to know numbers we will be issuing free tickets - more detail in next month's Parish Magazine.

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Marsh Baldon

The Green opposite Seven Stars

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Nuneham Courtenay

Layby before speed camera

4.20pm - 4.50pm

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You are invited to a WINE TASTING of
CHATEAU HAUTE FONTAINE
AOC CORBIERES & VDP d'OC WINES
from the sunny South of France
on

SUNDAY 6TH MAY 2012

AT
MARSH BALDON VILLAGE HALL
from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m.

The English wine-maker, Penny Dudson, will be there to introduce the vineyard, explain the wines and take orders for direct delivery from the vineyard near Narbonne to Marsh Baldon

Please come along and bring family and friends too!

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Items for May 2012 newsletter
by 16th April please

Any villager is welcome to send items for publication in the newsletter - this can be anything from articles, poems or pictures, to publicising your event. In addition, if you have an image you would like us to consider for the cover, do send it in!

If you would like to receive a reminder e-mail each month for newsletter contributions please let me know.

Natasha Eliot: tashaandjames@btopenworld.com. Alternatively I can be contacted on 340562 or at The Barn House, Baldon House East, Marsh Baldon.
For advertising queries, please contact Sheila Harris on: s.harris886@btinternet.com or on 340403.

VILLAGE PLAN – NUNEHAM COURTENAY

We are moving to a final draft of our project schedule document, and this will guide us through the next year. Over the last few months we have been looking into how we as a village communicate, and how to reach every parishioner individually. Well, thanks to Corinna and Jon and their offer to kindly ensure that every household receives printed minutes of all our meetings, I think we will achieve this.

We are supporting our Nuneham Courtenay Playing Fields Committee in progressing the future and expansion of this wonderful resource. We will keep you updated.

We are presently focused on our elderly and disabled members of the community, and as a result of this process, we have developed a Carers Group. This is to ensure we have a help network, a telephone tree, and a first respondent list. We will also be looking into:

1. Helping with dropping off children at school if parents or guardians are ill.
2. Babysitting.
3. Helping with trips to the GP.
4. Hospital visits.
5. Shopping assistance if ill or need help.

Ultimately this will be developing into a ‘Good Neighbourhood Scheme’: see separate article.

Pedestrian Crossing

We have again been exploring our need for a pedestrian crossing on the very busy A4074 running through the village. Whether it’s because you use the newly opened flower shop, the pub, garage, car wash, or trying to catch a bus, or whether you are a local villager just trying to cross the road. So do let us know if you’ve had any difficulty crossing the main road, or have fallen on the pavement or verges, day or night. Several people of all ages have feedback they’ve already fallen and sometimes have spent up to 10 full minutes trying to cross the road – missing their bus as a result. We look forward to any feedback.

Luncheon Club

As part of our village plan process we identified a need for a luncheon club, so our Events Committee have organised our first pilot Luncheon Club. Whilst there are ones in surrounding areas, there are days in the week that aren’t covered, and aren’t local to us. We decided that this would be a lunch for anyone over 18 – basically an adult! So our Adult Luncheon Club is open to anyone who is free during the day and would like a nice warm lunch, a chat, and connection. So you are welcome to our free launch of a selection of homemade soups, home baked rolls and bread, a raffle, and an opportunity to discuss the way forward for our Luncheon Club. So come to enjoy or help.

Jasminder Love
Village Plan Lead

NUNEHAM COURTENAY GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME

One of the outcomes of Village Plan Steering Group discussions has been the setting up of a Good Neighbour scheme. The scheme is coming together and a large number of parishioners have offered support.

The aim of the scheme is to provide help to anyone in the Parish that needs support, be it a friendly chat, a lift to the doctor, getting shopping if ill, a refuge if a child is locked out of the house - the scheme offers to help anyone and everyone in the Parish at any time.

Leaflets are being prepared to distribute around the Parish. These will show who to contact (there will be a lead contact for each month), what can be offered and who is available to provide what sort of help.

We are grateful to Sheila Barrett for taking the lead on the scheme and to everyone else who has offered help in setting up and running the scheme.

If you need help before the leaflet is sent round you can contact Sheila Barrett (01865 343404) or Colin George (01865 343767).

NUNEHAM COURTENAY QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

A small group met in February to consider how Nuneham Courtenay should celebrate the Diamond Jubilee. It was agreed that Nuneham should have its own event but not set itself in competition with the Baldons.

The idea is to have a 'proper street party' on the afternoon of Monday 4 June. Pam Benson has kindly offered to let us use the street in front of Home Farm. (If it rains one of the barns can be used). The party will start at 3 pm with a celebratory cake cutting. The party is not just for those from Nuneham and we would, of course, welcome along our friends and neighbours.

In proper street party style we are asking those attending to bring a savoury and sweet to share. You should bring your own celebratory drinks – then you can celebrate as much as you like. Of course there will be a theme – so please dress up in your best red white and blue outfits. The Parish Council has also agreed to buy a celebratory gift for the young people of the Parish to mark the event.

If you would like to help with organising the event then look out for notices of the next meeting – it will be sometime in April.

Launch of the Nuneham Courtenay Luncheon Club

Over the last few months as part of our village plan consultation process, some locals identified a wish for a luncheon club. They wanted one that compliments Marsh Baldon, Berinsfield, and Clifton Hampden luncheon clubs.

Amazingly, three months later, thanks to the research and initiative of Georgia Gillett and a great team of organisers and collaborators, an idea was followed through to delivery.

On Monday 12th March 2010 12 – 2, thirty two people of mixed ages, working and retired, from Clifton Hampden, Marsh Baldon, and of course Nuneham Courtenay attended the new luncheon club. We even had guests who used to live in Nuneham Courtenay, come back for this event.

With excellent settings and home cooked food, a really lovely atmosphere developed, and the room was filled with laughter. We had guest speakers invited to talk about their successes in setting up a luncheon club – thank you for your support.

Lovely raffle prizes were enjoyed by twenty winners, and a special thanks to Emma Walker for the beautiful bouquet donated from her lovely flower shop in Nuneham Courtenay. Also, thanks to Ginny Baker for all the beautiful table flower designs. Thanks also to the village hall committee for their support in this event. Thanks to all in the launch team who donated all the food, enabling the lunch to be free for all.



After lots of socializing, we concluded the event with a questionnaire filled out by everyone present, as to whether they wanted to continue with a luncheon club, and if they wanted to volunteer to help run the club, prepare the food, help serve, or come to the club as a member.



Wonderfully, as a result, we have a team who volunteered in the roles of coordinator, treasurer, secretary, cooks, and helpers.

We had hoped that different folk from the ones who ran the launch would come forward, so as to expand our ever vibrant and growing community – and indeed they did! You are welcome to be part of this, either as volunteers or as members.

We will keep you informed of our next steps and the year's planned dates, for future luncheon clubs.

So well done everyone, especially the launch team and helpers; Georgia, Sheila, Corinna, Jas, Ginny, Sally, Don, Nettie, Jenny, and Lyndsey.

If you are interested in the luncheon club in any way, contact Georgia Gillett on 01865 343 531.

Thank you from the Village Plan Steering Group.

NUNEHAM COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Your Parish Council needs you.....

A Parish Council is the first tier of the democratic process in this country, and is seen, by many, as the most accountable. It is normally composed of members of the local community (the Parish) and directly represents the Parish on legislative matters e.g. planning, highways and so on. Parish Councils are apolitical – there are no party politics and Parish Councils pride themselves on making decisions based on local need.

Four years ago a significant number of people wanted to make sure Nuneham Courtenay continued to have a voice and the Parish Council was re-established with people from the Parish. We have carried on since, learning our roles and trying to represent Nuneham Courtenay as best we can. Some councillors have gone, new ones have replaced them.

Supporting the Village Plan has been a major step in trying to identify the concerns and needs of parishioners and in the next year the completed Village Plan will give the Parish Council some clearer actions and priorities. The Government's 'Localism' agenda also provides challenges and opportunities.

Recently two of our councillors, Lauren Lister and Jonathan Soffe, have resigned. We are sad to lose them both. This leaves us with three councillors – only just enough to be able to vote on local matters. We therefore need two more to help represent Nuneham Courtenay.

What does it take to become a parish councillor? - a desire to help your community and get involved; the bravery to put yourself forward; sometimes dogged determination, at times to overcome frustration. You have to be 18, a British, EU or the Commonwealth citizen, on the electoral register and be resident in the Parish.

We'd like the Parish Council to be truly representative of the whole community, whether young and old, male or female, or living in the Village, on the Park or on the outer edges of the Parish. If you'd like to help Nuneham Courtenay address its needs and meet its challenges then please consider joining the Parish Council. If you are worried that you won't know what to do there is also training and support.

If you want to find out more then one of the existing councillors or the Clerk will be glad to talk to you.

Future Parish Council Meetings

The Annual Parish Meeting is to be held on Tuesday 24 April at 7.30 pm. It is an opportunity to come together in a more social atmosphere and we hope to combine the meeting with one for the Village Plan Steering Group, perhaps even a walk around the Arboretum first. If there are issues you'd like to raise then let us know or come along. Look out for further details.

The next formal Parish Council is to be held on **Tuesday 8 May at in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm.**

We are considering having some day time meetings so that Councillors and Parishioners who might not otherwise be able to attend evening meetings can attend – we'd welcome your thoughts.

Parish Council Meeting 6 March

The Parish Council met on 6 March at 7.30 pm. Four councillors and the Clerk attended. We....

- noted that former Chairman Fay Benson was leaving the Parish and noted the resignation of Lauren Lister – we agreed a way to thank them both
- received the update on the Village Plan (see item elsewhere)
- expressed frustration at the lack of information and progress and on highways issues raised with the County Council six months ago
- talked about the signage that has been appearing on the main road and, though not in our gift to approve, we discussed whether there were forms of signage that are more acceptable than others e.g. those for the flower shop
- noted that we have a reasonable financial reserve to carry over into next year.
- noted that an event has been agreed to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee
- agreed to purchase commemorative coins to be given to the young people of the Parish to mark the Diamond Jubilee
- noted meetings with the Recreation Ground Committee and their desire to have a Parish Councillor on that Committee – it was agreed that Jasminde Love would take on this role.
- discussed the submission of a planning application for 17a Nuneham Courtenay (Harcourt Farmhouse) and recommended refusal on the grounds of inaccurate and incomplete information and over development
- set aside discussion on communications for the next meeting

Other Matters

- County Minerals and Waste Strategy. The County Council's Cabinet approved the draft submission document at its meeting on 13 March. There were strong representations at the meeting on behalf Cholsey and West Oxfordshire communities. This will now go forward for examination by a planning inspector – its final journey before adoption. The proposed Nuneham Courtenay site, and those in the immediate area, do not appear in the final plan.

- Through the luck of the draw (literally) the Chair has been invited to attend a Royal Garden Party in May as a representative of the chairmen of Oxfordshire Parish Councils.

Contact Details and Local Information

The current councillors are Colin George (Chair), Jasminder Love (Vice-Chair) and Frank Casey. Our Clerk is Jane Dymock. We can be contacted as follows:

Parish Clerk 01865 863709 nunehampc@yahoo.co.uk
Chair 01865 343767 colin.george@virgin.net

Further information on the Parish Council, the area, and updates on other matters of local interest, is available on the Parish Council website: www.nunehampc.webs.com and on the notice board outside the village hall.

The Village Plan website (including news and events): www.nuneham.com

FILM NIGHT IN NUNEHAM COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL

Thank you to all who made the film night at Nuneham Courtenay Village hall a great success. By popular vote, the next film will be "The Help," which has won both BAFTAs and Oscars. This is the story of a group of women in the South in 1960s America. Despite the risks to their lives, they work together in secret to tell their stories in book. This film is rated 12 so should be suitable for most. Watch this space for the date in May! Be thinking of the next film that you would like to see.

BALDONS VILLAGE HALL

Booking arrangements

To book the hall, please contact Ali or Darren on: 01865 340264 or dbaber@rm.com

The Baldons Village Hall is for everyone's use. As well as hiring the hall you can also hire out some of the other equipment that is in the hall, including some of the items that have been bought for our toddlers and youth groups. For example:

- Crockery, cutlery, glasses
- Tea urns
- Tables and chairs including child-sized ones
- Projector

These items can be booked via Ali or Darren on: 01865 340264 or dbaber@rm.com

Weekly Timetable

Day	Time	Activity	Contact	Other details
Monday	9.30 – 10.30am	Fitness class – Non-Aerobic exercise for strength, toning and relaxation	Caroline Wilkes 07930 540111 or carolinew@llexan.com	Term time only Pay as you go or book a block of classes
Wednesday	10.00 am – 1.00 pm	Drawing class	Steve Empson steveempson@talktalk.net	Term time, by application
Wednesday	2.00 – 5.00 pm	Drawing class	Steve Empson steveempson@talktalk.net	Term time, by application
Wednesday	7.30 – 8.30 pm	Fitness class – Non-Aerobic exercise for strength, toning and relaxation	Caroline Wilkes 07930 540111 or carolinew@llexan.com	Term time only Pay as you go or book a block of classes
Thursday	9.30 – 11.30 am	Toddlers Group	Sarah Singleton 341397 or Alice Bedford 340261	Term time, drop in and pay as you go
(every other) Friday	7.30 – 9.30 pm	Youth Club	Monica Downton 343475	Drop in, Y6-11

BALDON FEAST 2012

2pm - 6pm Saturday 18th August: Marsh Baldon Green

THE GREAT SUMMER FESTIVAL OF NUNEHAM COURTENAY AND THE BALDONS

This will be the best one yet this century with plenty of attractions for all the family including games. There will be a bountiful number of stalls, a bar and food and drink outlets. A full afternoon of Country and Irish music to which you may dance or just sit and listen whilst enjoying a cream tea, wine or a pint of beer. And, of course, the excitement of a traditional funfair. Enter the date in your diary now.

Exhibitors

Should you or your organization wish to exhibit at the Feast don't leave it any longer. Already the bookings are pouring in and as duplications are avoided you could well be disappointed. You may attain your application form by logging onto the Baldons Website, www.baldons.org.uk, click on Baldons Feast then click on Booking Form or request one by emailing phylis@stonehelm.co.uk

Volunteers

If you would like to be a volunteer please contact me by phoning the number below. There is always plenty to do at an event like this and you would be very welcome, your help would be most appreciated. Singles, couples, families and children can all share in helping.

Ralph Slaney: 01865 343275

Baldon Feast Organizer on behalf of The Baldons Parish Council

LOCAL BUS TIMETABLE

89 The Baldons – Kings Copse – Cowley Centre
Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays Only

Marsh Baldon, Baldon Lane	0935
Toot Baldon, Wilmots	0939
Kings Copse	0945
Watlington Road, Bobby Fryer Close	0947
Cowley Centre, The Nelson	0954
Cowley Centre, The Nelson	1325
Watlington Road, Bobby Fryer Close	1331
Kings Copse	1334
Toot Baldon, Wilmots	1340
Marsh Baldon, Baldon Lane	1344

An invitation to everyone in Nuneham Courtenay,
Marsh Baldon & Toot Baldon



peace in the park

THE FESTIVAL OF SPIRIT

enchanting music, relaxing atmosphere & fascinating insights

at **Global Retreat Centre Oxfordshire**

SAT 23 & SUN 24 JUNE *grounds open 1PM*
EVENTS 2-6 PM

meditation pavilions to experience peace, love & hope acoustic music in historic grounds - sitar, flute, violin, cello outdoor music stage tea under the trees soulful vegetarian cooking demos kids activities include making things, stories, games and magic show well-being taster sessions on - looking forward to a bright future, being positive, self esteem boosters and letting go of anger historical garden tour ancient tree walk earth care area labyrinth 'meditation for the world' finale

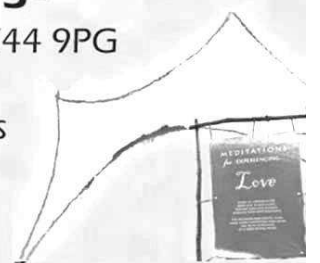
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Global Retreat Centre, Nuneham Courtenay, Oxford, OX44 9PG

Organised by the Brahma Kumaris, working in local communities teaching Raja Yoga as a way of experiencing peace of mind and a positive approach to life. For local events visit bkwsu.org/uk



REPORT FROM THE COUNTY COUNCIL: MAJOR CHANGE AHEAD IN OXFORDSHIRE'S EDUCATION SYSTEM

Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet has agreed that the council should formally support the Government's national drive to develop the Academy programme. The aim is to bring fresh focus on the ways in which underperforming schools are supported to improve as well as encouraging good and outstanding schools to achieve academy status. The Government has said it wishes to see Academies being supplemented by a network of free schools and greater accountability for underperforming schools alongside the Academies programme.

Standards in Oxfordshire

Oxfordshire's recent GCSE exam results slipped below the national average for the first time in 2011 and standards at Key Stage One were below standard – particularly within the city of Oxford.

The council is launching a campaign to improve standards with an Every Child a Reader campaign in primary schools and improvements in school leadership. The council set aside extra money when it recently set its budget for the 2012/13 financial year for these purposes.

The council views structural change as another key method of changing the culture in Oxfordshire and bringing about a wholesale improvement in standards. However it does want to help schools manage this process in a planned way – putting in place solutions that make sure no schools or pupils are disadvantaged by an unplanned, ad-hoc or piecemeal process.

The current picture in Oxfordshire

- Almost 40 per cent of all secondary schools are currently expressing an interest with the Department for Education in becoming an academy.
- Two further schools have already converted as academies – King Alfred's School and Wallingford School
- There are three existing sponsored academies – North Oxfordshire Academy, Oxford Academy and Oxford Spires Academy.
- The Department for Education has started discussions with three primary schools who do not meet basic national minimum targets – Berinsfield Primary School, Windale Primary School and John Henry Newman Primary School.
- Conversions to academy status are in train at a number of both primary and secondary schools across the County.

If all applications are successful it is possible and sponsors are identified for underperforming schools it is possible that more than half of Oxfordshire's secondary schools and 10 per cent of all schools will be academies by the end of the year.

Lorraine Lindsay-Gale

CLERGY

Revd Ros Latham

Ros is from rural North Yorkshire, having been a farmer's wife and an RE teacher before becoming a vicar. She joined the Dorchester team as team vicar for the Baldons, Berinsfield and Drayton St Leonard in October 2007, living in Berinsfield. She is married to Peter and between them they have six children.

Revd Hannah Cleugh

Hannah is our curate. She grew up in the north-east, and came to Oxford as a student to read Theology. After graduating, she stayed on to do research into the English Reformation. She trained for ordination at Ripon College, Cuddesdon and she and her husband David (who is Curate-in-Charge of the parishes of Stadhampton, Newington and Warborough) joined the Dorchester Team in July 2009.

LENT IN THE DORCHESTER TEAM

Praying with music on Palm Sunday

On Palm Sunday evening, 1st April, at 5.30pm in Dorchester Abbey we will have the opportunity for prayer and reflection in listening to Stabat Mater, a liturgical work originally commissioned for Good Friday and composed by Giovanni Pergolesi. It is based on an ancient poem that tells of the sorrows of Mary, the mother of Jesus. It will be performed in a short liturgical setting by Adrian Boorman, Zoe Lethbridge, Jeremy Boughton and strings as part of a short and simple service and offered as an aid to our prayerful preparation for Easter.

Maundy Thursday, 5th April

Parishioners from across the team will gather in the Abbey for a simple meal in which we remember together the last supper that Jesus shared with his disciples. You are welcome to come and join us: you need to do two simple things SIGN THE LIST in your local church to say that you are coming and BRING YOUR OWN PLATE, BOWL AND CUTLERY on the night. On this evening we particularly remember the life of service to which Christ calls us.

Praying with art on Good Friday, 6th April

The Cosmic Christ

On Good Friday the two hour period of devotion beginning at 1pm in Dorchester Abbey will focus on the points in Christ's ministry when his heavenly nature was most apparent. Seated in the Nave for the first hour we will reflect on specially chosen passages from New Testament scripture in silence and music moving to the Shrine area as the disciples moved to the Garden. There we have the opportunity for personal meditation as we watch Rebecca Hind make a painting; she writes...

The events and symbols of Good Friday respond to The Word from before Creation. Here, as paint spills and reaches across the paper it represents a blackening sky, for a time eclipsing the vibrant sun. Now we reflect upon the moments just encountered and wait for darkness to be rinsed away.

The first part of the devotion will be arranged in 15 minute blocks beginning at 1pm and it would be helpful if you could arrive at those points. After 2.15 please arrive as silently as you are able.

SERVICES FOR APRIL

1 st April	9.30am	Palm Sunday Walk Toot to Marsh	Toot Baldon
	5.30pm	Praying with music: Pergolesi: Stabat Mater	Dorchester Abbey
2 nd April	8.00pm	Holy Week Compline	Berinsfield
3 rd April	8.00pm	Holy Week Compline	Toot Baldon
4 th April	8.00pm	Holy Week Compline	Drayton St Leonard
5 st April	6.30pm (tbc)	Maundy Thursday Supper with Communion	Dorchester Abbey
6 th April	10.00am	Good Friday Devotional	Marsh Baldon
	1.00pm	Praying with Art: Two hour devotional.	Dorchester Abbey
8 th April Easter Sunday	9.30am	Holy Communion	Toot Baldon
15 th April	6.00pm	Sung Evensong	Marsh Baldon
22 nd April	8.30am	Said Communion	Marsh Baldon
	9.30am	One4All	Marsh Baldon
29 th April	10.30am	Team Service	Dorchester Abbey

Morning Prayer in St Peters: Every Thursday at 8.30am

Fellowship Group: Monday 23rd April at 7.30pm

SIDESDUTY

	Marsh	Toot
1 st April		9.30 am WALK Tom Saw
3 rd April		8.00 pm Jennifer Morton
6 th April	10.00 am Graham Hobbins	
8 th April		9.30 am Jenny van Dijk
15 th April	6.00 pm Stephen Dance	
22 nd April	9.30 am Ian Gillespie	

FLOWERS

	Marsh	Toot
Lent		No Flowers
8 th April		Everybody please for Easter
22 nd & 29 th April	L Martin & I Wright	N Wells & V Bowler
6 th & 13 th May	E Gillespie & A Lyall	M Trinder



Don't want your long weekend to end...?

Join us for a bap and a beer at

The Seven Stars!

Hog Roast and Real Ale Afternoon
Monday 09th April from 4pm

Carrie & Olly look forward to welcoming you!

All welcome, booking not required.



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