

# **The Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter**



**December 2018 – January 2019**

## FROM REVD JENNIFER MORTON

As I get older the days, months, years seem to fly by and as we reach this time of year again my thoughts are turning to the New Years we will be celebrating during these next two months. I deliberately say years plural for not only will we begin a new calendar year on 1 January but the church begins its new year on Advent Sunday which this year falls on 2 December.

It seems to me however, that wherever we are during any year we are always close to a new year of some description. When I worked for the University we had three different new years. 1 August was the beginning of the financial year, 1 September the employment year and 1 October the Academic year. Our schools have an academic year that begins in September, our local authorities have a financial year that begins on 1 April and of course I haven't even included the Chinese or Jewish New Years, which don't coincide with our Gregorian Calendar and what about those Orthodox Christians who follow the old Julian calendar and celebrate their New Year on our 14 January.

However does this really matter? I think that any new year, new month, new day offers us an opportunity for a fresh start. My father was always quoting:- '*Today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday.*' However I think I prefer '*Today is the first day of the rest of your life*'. Each new day offers us endless possibilities in the choices that we will be making.

Of course the seasons of the year help us focus our thoughts when we are highlighting specific new beginnings. The season of Advent, which marks the beginning of the Church's year, is a time for the whole Church to reflect and prepare together, not only for the celebrations of the birth of the Christ child at Christmas, but also how we as members of His church should be living as followers of Jesus here and now, for each new day we are given.

Nobody, least of all we Christians, can get everything right all the time or even most of the time, but each day, each moment, gives us the chance to change the things we should change and look to the beginning of something new. The new life we are offered because a baby was born two thousand years ago and grew up to show us a way to live that can change the world. Change doesn't just have to wait for a New Year's resolution!

Sue Booy is Team Rector for the Dorchester Team. Any queries about services, or if you would like to speak to someone about a baptism, wedding, or funeral the person to contact in the first instance is the Administrator in the **Dorchester Team Office** on **01865 340007**. Or, if you prefer, email [admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk](mailto:admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk).

**01865 340007** is also the number you can ring **at any time** if you need to contact a clergy person urgently.

**Baldons Churchwardens:** Debbie Dance (341323) and Ian Gillespie (341398).

## THE BALDONS CAROL SERVICE

*Sunday, 16 December at 5 pm  
St. Peter's Church, Marsh Baldon*

*Carols, Hand Bells,  
Mulled Wine and Mince Pies  
Come and enjoy our Candlelit Service*

**We would be very grateful for holly to decorate our Churches. If you have a tree with berries or just good leaves and could spare a few branches, we would very much appreciate it.**

**Contributions may be left in the Churches.**

**St Peter's will be decorated for the Carol Service on 15 December so we would be grateful to receive the holly by 10 am on Sat, 15 December.**

We would also love to have some new faces joining the flower rota in 2019 and would be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to give it a try. We specially welcome new ideas and styles. Do please contact Veronica Sandilands if you are interested

- [vsandilands@btinternet.com](mailto:vsandilands@btinternet.com) or 01865 340562

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Delivery in the Baldons can be arranged for 24<sup>th</sup> December



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# CHRISTMAS WREATHS

For many years The Baldons Garden Group have held a Christmas wreath making workshop.

As it has become very popular, we have decided to hold it in Marsh Baldon village hall this year, which means more people can take part.

It has always been a fun and rewarding get together...with refreshments of mulled wine and mince pies and everyone goes home with their festive Christmas wreath. Lizie and Diana are here to assist anyone who needs help. It would be lovely to see some new faces, so if you would like to take part please let us know by Monday 3rd December.

If you would like any more information please email either Lizie (liziegiraudeau@gmail.com) or Diana (dianabelli@btinternet.com)



## CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING

**SUNDAY 9TH DEC. 10.30 -12.30**

**MARSH BALDON VILLAGE HALL**

**£10**

**(FOR BASIC MATERIALS AND REFRESHMENTS)**

**Please bring EXTRA foliage ...green /silver/variegated, berries and cones and anything you would like to experiment with. We have some...but there is never too much!**

**Remember to bring your own secateurs, wire clippers and scissors.**

**Continuing our tradition, mulled wine, mince pies and coffee will be provided!**

**We look forward to seeing you!**

**All profits will be divided between the charities ...'RESTORE' and 'KEYHOLE GARDENS'**





**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December**  
7.00 for 7.30pm

at  
The Seven Stars Pub  
Marsh Baldon  
OX44 9LP

Christmas is here and we're celebrating at the Seven Stars. Come and join us for a meal and some carols. You'll need to reserve a place, choose your dishes from the menu and pay in advance (£21.95/£26.95 per person, for two/three courses). You can see the menu at

<https://www.sevenstarsonthegreen.co.uk/christmas-menu/>

RSVP by 30<sup>th</sup> November to:  
Sara Hunnings: [sarah.hunnings@btinternet.com](mailto:sarah.hunnings@btinternet.com)

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019**  
7.30pm  
Marsh Baldon village hall

Our first meeting of the new year will be back in the village hall.

SAVE THE DATE  
**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

A special Filling Station meeting in a marquee at the village hall with guest speakers Mary Berry and Rico Tice (All Souls, Langham Place).

If you are interested you can find out more at <http://thefillingstation.org.uk>,  
Or from Tom Hunnings: [tomhunnings@hotmail.com](mailto:tomhunnings@hotmail.com)  
Or Catherine Mason: [catherinevmason@gmail.com](mailto:catherinevmason@gmail.com)



## **BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

### Parish Council Elections Advance notice

On May 2<sup>nd</sup> next year the election for your new Parish Council will take place and details of the election will be posted nearer the time. However at the start of the New Year it is important to think about the future.

The Parish Council and councillors are your representatives, are all volunteers and are charged with the responsibility of responding to the interest of individuals and the community at large and the interface with local authorities e.g. District and County Councils and other bodies and are at the lowest level of democratic government. We are charged with helping to maintain the village environment and facilities, looking to the interests and future of the village and community and responding to local and government consultations and developments, hence our recent Neighbourhood Plan. Locally the council has been active in protecting the Green belt from development and more recently in considering the issues of the potential Expressway.

Being a parish councillor really does involve you in the life of the village in its many aspects. The council always welcomes people interested in being involved and standing for election and if you think you might be interested or want to know more about the role and what we do please talk to any parish councillor. SODC will announce the election and nomination process in March 2019.

### Armistice Commemoration

We didn't cover the village green with poppies but the Baldons marked this hundredth anniversary of the Armistice on November 11th in our own way.

Worshippers at the St Lawrence's church service in the morning heard the names of the 38 soldiers from the Baldons who fell in the Great War and WW2 read out and were able to reflect on and remember their sacrifice.

At the evening event at St Peters listening to the music and poetry of the time was moving and very special. The school children sang beautifully as did the choir and soloists and readers brought the poetry of the time alive. The church was full.

A big thank you from the Parish Council to the organisers and all who took part. It was a very special way to mark the day.

### Parish Clerk

The council has appointed a new clerk to take over in December

Tom James

44 The Green

Marsh Baldon

01865 343256

Contact details will also be on the Baldons web site

### Oxford to Cambridge Expressway

There is no new information at this stage about the expressway although the Expressway Action Group (EAG) continue to collect information to submit to Highways England to help in the protection the green belt and southern villages when route choices are being considered.

EAG have asked all parishes involved to consider a contribution to funds via local fundraising to help pay for such advice and costs as may be necessary later next year and during the consultation in 2019.

The parish council has pledged £1000 from the council budget.

The Parish Council is also aware that there is a group in Garsington who have started a campaign of objections to the Oxfordshire Growth Board's plans for housing which also impacts upon the Expressway housing numbers.

### SODC Deep Clean

SODC should have had contactors in the village at the end of November doing a clean-up on road sides and it is hoped this will have helped remove some if not all of the litter, although the parish council spring clean will probably still be needed .

### Blocked Drains

Flooding on our roads is a regular occurrence during winter and we report serious blockages to highways, however the problem is sometimes just a collection of rubbish blocking the drain cover. If there is a drain cover near your property it would help enormously if you could occasionally clear the top of rubbish, leaves or mud, to allow it to drain. We shouldn't have to call highways if there is a simple solution.

Date of next meeting Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019 7.30 pm Village Hall

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## **BONFIRE NIGHT**

We hope that you enjoyed Bonfire Night!

Thank you to everyone who came to help with putting up the marquees, roping off the Green etc. on Saturday morning and again to help dismantle it all on Sunday morning. Also to our volunteers on Car Parking, Marshalling and the Bar at the event.

We are often limited in numbers of volunteers, so all of the help received was much appreciated and vital to ensure that events such as these for the village to enjoy, survive!





## A LETTER FROM THREE RESIDENTS OF GARSINGTON

Do you want 100,000 new houses and a motorway in our Oxfordshire landscape?

Our local authorities want to build 100,000 new homes in Oxfordshire by 2031 - there are currently 268,000. This represents a massive 40% increase. The Sept 18 report by the Office of National Statistics shows we only need 23,000 new homes in the county by 2031 to support anticipated organic population growth.

A plan to substantially increase the population of Oxfordshire is being developed by a committee called The Oxfordshire Growth Board, which comprises all District Councils and the City Council, with the aim of delivering enhanced economic growth. This is a choice and is NOT necessary for the residents of Oxfordshire to continue to prosper within the boundaries of the existing landscape and organic population growth. We already have a successful local economy.

Our concern is that this plan could result in:

- Replacement of our countryside with an urban sprawl of houses, business parks and new roads.
- Increased traffic congestion, associated air pollution and noise.
- Further pressure on already stretched public services including schools, hospitals, GP's & social care.
- Loss of wildlife habitats.
- Increased flood risks.
- Potential for Infrastructure to fail – e.g. water supplies, sewage systems, roads.
- Constant building disruption for years.

The impacts will be even greater if the government plan to transform the Oxford to Cambridge corridor goes ahead as it has the aspiration for a million new homes along the route of the expressway. If, like us, you don't want this, please sign this petition: <https://www.change.org/p/oxfordshire-growth-board-rethink-oxfordshire-s-economic-growth-plan> ...and write to your District and County Councillors asking them to withdraw their support from The Oxfordshire Growth Board.

To learn more:

- Visit the Oxfordshire Growth Board website  
<https://www.oxfordshiregrowthboard.org/>
- Read this article  
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/aug/22/project-britain-debate-oxford-cambridge-expressway>

If you want to get involved please contact us at ROEGP@outlook.com

Ian Ashley, Martin Kelly, Adrian Townsend,  
Residents of Garsington, Oxfordshire, October 2018

## **PATIENTS PARTICIPATION GROUP (PPG) – CLIFTON HAMPDEN SURGERY**

### **An update for all patients who attend this surgery**

Dr.Lynch-Blosse will be reducing his hours after Christmas and will be working on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. We are happy that Dr.Rubin is going to join as a regular doctor working Wednesdays and Fridays. Dr.Steinbrecher will continue to work on Mondays and Tuesdays and Dr.James will be changing her days to Mondays Tuesdays and Thursdays. Dr.Delfosse is currently on sick leave and it is hoped will return to work on Thursdays early in 2019 after recovering from an operation.

There is a great emphasis these days on improving prevention of ill health but also improving care for people with long term conditions as well as trying to meet the needs of an ageing population. More information is available at the Oxford Clinical Commissioning Group website. Our chairperson regularly attends the South West Oxon Locality Forum and we are part of the Abingdon cluster of surgeries.

We welcome comments and would be delighted for more participation from patients. Our next meeting is fixed for Wednesday 5th December 7.30 pm at the surgery and the speaker will be from Healthwatch which operates in Health and Social Care. Any patients interested will be very welcome but please let us know to enable us to ensure sufficient space is available.

Mary Braybrooke (Chairperson) 01865 407 566  
For further information please contact Gerry Moscrop (Secretary)  
geraldmoscrop@btinternet.com

### **POPPY APPEAL 2018 – FROM IRIS WRIGHT**

On the 100th anniversary of the end of WW1 our villages have raised the wonderful amount of **£1,007.92**. Thank you so much for supporting the Poppy Appeal this year. Also my grateful thanks to all those who gave their time collecting the donations.

### **OWN A PUB – BECOME A BNCS SHAREHOLDER!**

The Seven Stars is a community-owned asset in the heart of our villages. It is run by Matt and his team and supported by the Baldons and Nuneham Community Society (BNCS), which was set up to save the pub. Villagers chipped in to buy shares and it's now owned by over 150 shareholders, represented by the BNCS committee.

There is an opportunity to buy shares in BNCS, which will give you not only a stake in the pub but also a small rate of interest annually. We'd love to have new members, so if you are interested please click on the website or contact any of the committee.

## WARM HOME DISCOUNT



People who have difficulty paying their energy bills might be able to take advantage of the Warm Home Discount, a new kind of grant offered by the government and energy suppliers.

The Warm Home Discount is a scheme that provides people on low incomes with a single discount of £140 on their winter electricity bill. (You might be able to get the discount applied to your gas bill instead - contact your supplier to find out.)

The discount will not affect your Cold Weather Payment or Winter Fuel Payment.

Not all energy suppliers are part of the scheme. You can contact your supplier to see if they offer the discount. (If the supplier doesn't, you might want to switch to a supplier that does.)

Most people who are eligible will receive the discount automatically, without having to apply. This will be the case if, on 8 July 2018:

- They were with an energy supplier that is part of the scheme; and
- They were receiving the Guarantee Credit element of Pension Credit; and
- Their name (or their partner's name) was on the bill.

If you don't receive the discount automatically, you might be eligible if you have a low income and receive certain means-tested benefits. Bear in mind that energy suppliers could have different eligibility rules. Applications for the discount open at different times for each supplier and people who are not auto-enrolled need to apply as soon as possible to improve their chances.

Further details are available from <https://www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme>. Citizens Advice can help. Contact us in person during opening hours or on the telephone (Adviceline 03 444 111444). For locations of offices and opening hours see [www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale)

### ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Items for the **February 2019** newsletter  
by **16<sup>th</sup> January 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](mailto:tashaandjames@btopenworld.com). Alternatively I can be contacted on 343478 or at Baldon House East, Marsh Baldon.

For advertising queries, please contact Sheila Harris on:  
[sheilaharris778@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sheilaharris778@yahoo.co.uk) or on 340403.

## **NUNEHAM COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

The Council met on 6<sup>th</sup> November and this time there were no members of the public at the meeting. And there were no new planning applications to discuss either.

South Oxfordshire District Council's contractors Biffa are due to carry out a deep cleanse in our area between 16<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> November. The Council has asked them to sweep the pavement on both sides of the main road through the village, which includes the one request we received from a parishioner.

The deep cleanse should have taken place by the time you read this. I hope we can all notice the difference!

The Council agreed to give a grant to Citizens Advice after receiving figures for the first time about the number of parishioners who have used the services of Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizens Advice in 2017-18. The answer was 14, almost 10% of the parishioners. Citizens Advice said each advice session costs around £36. The Council decided to make a grant of £250.

The public meeting on the Nuneham Courtenay Legal Agreement is not likely to happen until spring. Officers at SODC would prefer a meeting with the Parish Council first, which will happen in December.

Returning to the subject of rubbish, some residents have complained that Biffa fails to return their bins to outside their property, which leaves them to struggle to collect them. In fact, Biffa is not normally expected to return bins to your property. The policy is to leave them in twos, after emptying. However, anyone who has mobility or strength issues can register with Biffa as a Special Case. If they do this then the operatives should return their bin to their house.

## **NUNEHAM COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL NEWS**

### **Christmas Bingo**

Friday the 7th December

Doors open 7:30

Come and win a prize. Family fun with raffle, teddy tombola, great bingo prizes, and of course the cash prizes

Happy New Year!

Yoga, games night, jumble, bingo, gardening are all to come in the New Year...



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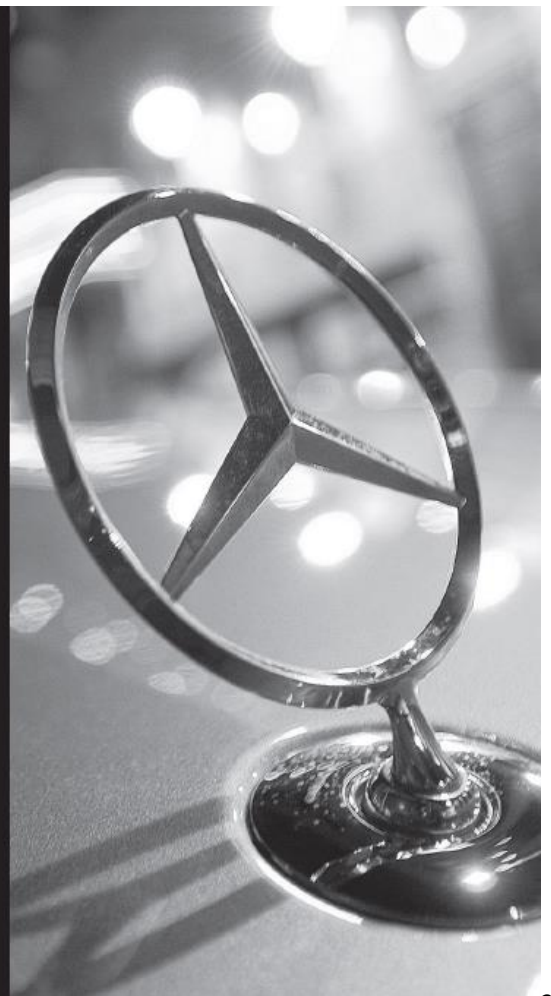
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**CHRISTMAS CRAFT AFTERNOON**

**WEDNESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 3.45PM**

Rhymes for the Under 5's Wednesdays  
10.30am

Storytime Wednesdays 3.45pm

IT Drop in Thursdays 2.00pm

Knit and Natter 2.30pm

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December & 8<sup>th</sup> January

Reading Group 2.00pm

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December

& 10<sup>th</sup> January

Coffee Morning 10.30am

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December & 15<sup>th</sup> January

All Welcome

[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries)



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## All it takes is one distraction

Did you know that 1 in 3 people rescued from house fires in Oxfordshire are rescued from cooking fires? Or that distraction is the main cause of cooking fires?

It's easy to get distracted - the phone rings, someone's at the door or a TV show catches your attention. If you need to leave your cooking, even for a couple of minutes:

- turn down the heat
- set the timer
- or ask someone to watch it for you

Or could find that Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service firefighters join you for dinner!

Find out more at: [www.365alive.co.uk/cooking](http://www.365alive.co.uk/cooking)

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**saundersluke@yahoo.com**

**07867 494062**

## EVENTS IN DORCHESTER ABBEY

**Thursday 6th December 8.00pm HFT's The coming of Christmas.** Sit back and enjoy some superb festive music from The Choir of Magdalen College Oxford and readings performed by actress Juliet Stevenson, CBE\* and actor Michael Pennington\*. Mulled wine and mince pies are included in the ticket price, and will be served in the Abbey after the concert. Ticket information available from [www.hft.org.uk](http://www.hft.org.uk)

**Sat 15th December 7.30pm OSJ Handel's Messiah in the exciting new** orchestration for wind by John Lubbock: OSJ Voices, Orchestra of St John's with John Lubbock conductor and Soloists Hannah Davey, Charlotte Tetley mezzo, John Findon tenor, William Thomas bass. Tickets available from [www.osj.org.uk](http://www.osj.org.uk) .

**Sat 31st December 7.00pm OSJ Wonderful waltzes and polkas mostly by** Johann Strauss Junior, plus well-known songs and arias from Strauss and Lehar. Including final scene, act I of La Boheme Featuring: Orchestra of St John's with John Lubbock (conductor), Christopher Turner (tenor), and Hannah Davey (mezzo soprano). Tickets available from [www.osj.org.uk](http://www.osj.org.uk).

## SIDESDUTY

	<b>Marsh Baldon</b>	<b>Toot Baldon</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> December		9.30am John Mason
9 <sup>th</sup> December		4.00pm Ian Gillespie
16 <sup>th</sup> December	5.00pm G & S Hobbins	
23 <sup>rd</sup> December	9.30am Sara McDouall	
24 <sup>th</sup> December	11.30pm Stephen Dance	
25 <sup>th</sup> December		10.30am Ann Druce
6 <sup>th</sup> January		9.30am Jenny van Dijk
13 <sup>th</sup> January		4.00pm Sonia Hobbins
20 <sup>th</sup> January	9.30am Natasha Eliot	
27 <sup>th</sup> January	9.30am John Mason	

## FLOWERS

	<b>Marsh Baldon</b>	<b>Toot Baldon</b>
Advent		No Flowers
16 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>All help welcome to decorate the churches for Christmas: please contact Veronica (340562) for Marsh or Jane (343457) for Toot</b>	
6 <sup>th</sup> & 13 <sup>th</sup> January	I Wright & L Martin	V Bowler
27 <sup>th</sup> Jan & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	F Ardern	S Hobbins & J van Dijk

## SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2018 & JANUARY 2019

2 <sup>nd</sup> December Advent Sunday	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> <i>Marcus Braybrooke</i>	<b>Toot Baldon</b>
	<b>6.00pm</b>	<b>Team Advent Service</b>	<b>Dorchester Abbey</b>
9 <sup>th</sup> December <i>Please note time</i>	<b>4.00pm</b>	<b>Evening Service</b> <i>Brian Newey</i>	<b>Toot Baldon</b>
16 <sup>th</sup> December <i>Please note time</i>	<b>5.00pm</b>	<b>Carol Service</b> <i>Jennifer Morton</i>	<b>Marsh Baldon</b>
23 <sup>rd</sup> December	<b>8.30am</b>	<b>Said Holy Communion</b> <i>Jennifer Morton</i>	<b>Marsh Baldon</b>
	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Family Festive Fun</b> <i>with breakfast</i>	<b>Marsh Baldon</b>
Christmas Eve	<b>11.30pm</b>	<b>Midnight Communion</b> <i>Jennifer Morton</i>	<b>Marsh Baldon</b>
Christmas Day <i>Please note time</i>	<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Family Communion</b> <i>Jennifer Morton</i>	<b>Toot Baldon</b>
30 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Team Service</b>	<b>Berinsfield</b>
6 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> <i>Jennifer Morton</i>	<b>Toot Baldon</b>
13 <sup>th</sup> January <i>Please note time</i>	<b>4.00pm</b>	<b>Evening Worship</b> <i>Marcus Braybrooke</i>	<b>Toot Baldon</b>
20 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> <i>Jon Roberts</i>	<b>Marsh Baldon</b>
27 <sup>th</sup> January	<b>8.30am</b>	<b>Said Holy Communion</b> <i>Jennifer Morton</i>	<b>Marsh Baldon</b>
	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Family Worship</b> <i>Jennifer Morton</i>	<b>Marsh Baldon</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> February	<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b> <i>Jennifer Morton</i>	<b>Toot Baldon</b>