

**The Baldons and
Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter**



February 2018

**FROM REVD CAROLINE KING,
TEAM VICAR FOR STADHAMPTON, NEWINGTON AND WARBOROUGH**

February is a short but pivotal month; in the church, we transition from the season of Christmas and look towards Lent, Holy Week and Easter. February begins with the Feast of Candlemas on 2nd February, which is forty days after Christmas. It is the last of the church's Christmas celebrations and the final mention of the infant Jesus in the bible.

The date for Candlemas is significant; 2nd February is forty days after Christmas and lies exactly half way between the winter solstice and the spring equinox, so it marks the day upon which winter is half over. On the 2nd February winter is half over and we can truly look forward to signs of spring.

The passage in Luke 2:22-40 is one of the most beautiful and haunting passages in the bible. In it God speaks through Anna and Simeon. Sometimes God speaks to us through surprising people. Anna was an 84-year-old widow, yet she could see the potential wrapped up in the tiny helpless child. She could see the man he would become. Simeon could see too that this child was a light to lighten the world. Simeon took Jesus into his arms and said the words which are well known because they have come down to us as the Nunc dimittis. He was saying to God that he could now die happily because he had seen the Saviour. These are the words as found in the *Book of Common Prayer*, 1662):

**Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace: according to thy word.
For mine eyes have seen: thy salvation,
Which thou hast prepared: before the face of all people;
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles: and to be the glory of thy people Israel.**

It is better to light a candle than to stumble in the dark. Candles are an important part of our worship especially during the Christmas season but we must remember that Jesus the light of the world is for all times and all places, not just this time of year. We are called to see that the light of the love of God shining in our parishes throughout the year.

For me one of the most hopeful signs of spring are the snowdrops which even now are just beginning to poke through. They are so delicate, so simple, so pure, a little sign that lighter days and the colours and blossom of spring is on the way. As we move from the celebrations of Christmas to observing Lent I find the poem below speaks to me in many ways:-

**Into a dark world
a snowdrop comes,
a benison of hope and peace, carrying within it
a green heart,
symbol of God's renewing love.
Come to inhabit our darkness
Lord Christ,**

**for dark and light
are alike to you.**

**May nature's white candles of hope remind us of your radiance
and light our journey
through Spring, and beyond.** (Kate McIlhagga, Iona Community)

With best wishes
Caroline

*The Revd Paul Cawthorne is Team vicar for The Baldons with Nuneham
Courtenay, Berinsfield and Drayton St Leonard.*

e-mail: bbdparishoffice@rocketmail.com and tel: 01865 340460

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



Wednesday 14th February
2018
at
7.30pm

Marsh Baldon Village Hall
OX44 9LL

Anyone is welcome to join us at our South Oxfordshire Filling Station meetings where we come together in a relaxed setting to engage with the Christian faith in an informal contemporary context. We meet at 7.30pm for coffee/tea and cake, kicking off at 7.50pm with worship, a talk and prayer.

This month we start a series of three talks by Nick Page, a historian, writer (over eighty books) and Christian speaker... He will be addressing the subject of personal transformation in three talks entitled: 1 The Vision, 2 The Intention, 3 The Means.

If you are interested you can find out more at <http://thefillingstation.org.uk>.
Or contact Liam McCormick on 07738 004176.

BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Welcome to 2018 and a late Happy New Year from the Parish Council.

Neighbourhood plan.

At last the Baldons Neighbourhood Plan is nearing completion and following the inclusion of some amendments and clarifications arising from comments made during the period of consultations it is expected, at the time of writing, that the document will have been submitted to SODC by the beginning of February.

Planning applications

New Farm House, Toot Baldon: P17/S3706/FUL. This application for a 2 storey extension and conversion of garage to a separate annexe has been withdrawn prior to SODC decision.

4 Baldon Lane, Marsh Baldon: P17/S4425/HH. An application for a 2 storey side extension to provide integral garage and additional bedroom. The Parish Council has agreed to support this application.

31 Toot Baldon: P17/S3448/HH. An application for a single storey side extension to provide additional bedroom and ensuite. The Parish Council has agreed to support this application.

32 The Green MB P17/S4051/FUL. An application for change of use of land from agricultural to garden status. Supported by Parish Council.

44 The Green MB P17/4270/HH an application for a flat roof single storey rear extension. The Parish Council has agreed to support this application.

All applications can be seen on SODC website using the planning reference number

Village Green

Villagers and councillors have become increasingly concerned at the deteriorating condition of the edges of village green arising from parking and inappropriate driving in the vicinity of the school and on the south side. Some of the latter being attributable to pub parking and the condition of the track.

After a long discussion at the council meeting there is agreement to a broad strategy to achieve repairs recognising that this will require much more discussion with stakeholders, land owners and villagers to gain support and funding which is not the responsibility of the Parish Council and is beyond its means.

The council has agreed that the priority for 2018 is to improve conditions outside the school and have agreed to progress discussion with the school governors and other stakeholders to reach agreement on the way forward and means of funding. Estimates for work will be obtained and progress discussed at the council meeting in March.

The council have also agreed to fund a 'No Driving on the Village Green' notice which will be installed on the south side.

Finances and Precept for 2018/9

Following consideration of our balances and the expenditure anticipated for next financial year the council is asking SODC for an inflation increase of 3% on the precept.

Village Spring Clean day Sunday April 8th

This is an early warning of our annual village spring clean. Please put the date in your diary and try and come and help. More info in next month's newsletter.

Oxford to Cambridge Expressway

Three members of the Expressway action group attended a stakeholder meeting with the Highways England and gave a presentation of the objections and issues of importance to South Oxfordshire communities. A further meeting is expected to be held in the New Year. It is expected that recommendations on the route will be made in the summer of 2018. In addition, lobbying of the county council has resulted in a vote requiring the OCC to demand that the government undertake a public enquiry.

Baldon Web Site

The web site has been updated and now displays minutes and agendas of Parish council meetings from 2013. Other parish council information will gradually be added to comply with the requirement for greater transparency.

Date of Next Parish Council Meeting

Monday 12th March 7.30 pm Village Hall

Annual meeting of the Parishes of Marsh and Toot Baldon

Monday 9th April 7.30pm Village Hall

This is the open meeting when the councillors are required to give an annual report but at which villagers can raise issues about the villages for open discussion. Put the date in your diary.

FIBRE BROADBAND UPDATE report from our County Councillor

This update covers the following areas: **Toot Baldon, Marsh Baldon**, Garsington, Stadhampton, **Nuneham Courtenay**, Clifton Hampden, Culham and Dorchester.

The superfast broadband infrastructure upgrade scheduled for your location has moved from being expected to complete this December, to the first half of 2018. OCC understands this is likely to be very disappointing, and the council wishes to reassure everyone affected that all effort is being made to have this work completed as soon as possible. For context, the programme has achieved its 95% coverage target on time, but as part of a major infrastructure project which has delivered over 73,000 premises with access to superfast broadband, there are some instances where mostly engineering related challenges have not been overcome in time for completion by December. These instances are normally

related to gaining access wayleaves, high cost structures needing re-planning, collapsed ducts requiring new track (with commensurate traffic management notice periods), or in some cases a technology change where we are not confident the proposed new technologies such as Fibre to the Remote Node, will be properly deployed.

If you would like to have further specific information in respect of your location, please see our website map <http://www.betterbroadbandoxfordshire.org.uk/cms/content/postcode-checker-map> or contact us and we will provide you with all the information we have, and if necessary we can arrange a call in the New Year to discuss this with you.

NUNEHAM COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Jumble Sale

Saturday the 24th of February, 2-4 pm

Rent a table and have a clear out for £6 or donate unwanted items for sale to benefit the Village Hall funds. Donations may be left at the hall the week leading up to the sale. Book a table by contacting Jenny at 01865 343459 or jenny@datadaysolutions.com. Come along a bag a bargain or just stop by for tea and cake!

Bingo

Easter Bingo, Friday the 23rd of March

Doors open 7:30. Eyes down 8pm

Children's Film Afternoon

Friday the 13th April tbc

We have been asked to screen a children's film and would like to keep the cost to the villagers as low as possible. In order to do this, we need you to register your interest so we can choose the most age appropriate film. Please contact Jenny on 01865 343459 or jenny@datadaysolutions.com We will sell pizza and pop corn and drinks. This will be an afternoon activity.

Looking Ahead....

May Dance! We are waiting for the band to confirm so we can pick a date

Vintage Tea Party! This was very popular last year so we hope to hold one again in late May or early June

And don't forget

Yoga is held weekly in the village hall at 7:30(ish). Please confirm that it is meeting that week. However, we are a small mixed ability practice and all are welcome. Cost is £2 per person.

NUNEHAM COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Appointment of New Clerk

Geoff Ferres has been appointed as Clerk to Nuneham Courtenay Parish Council with immediate effect. Stewart Deakin will remain Responsible Financial Officer till end of financial year. Please note that Geoff can be contacted on nunehamcourtenay.clerk@gmail.com

Tree Pruning on Main Road

Parish Council and the residents of Nuneham Courtenay would like to thank Oxford County Council for pruning the mature trees on the main road. Apologies to the road users for any inconvenience caused.

Conservation Plan

District Councillor, Sue Lawson has met with a SODC Conservation Officer and a Senior Planning Officer to consider Nuneham Courtenay and the need to protect it. A meeting is to be set up for these to visit the village to assess the current situation. Results will be on the agenda of the next meeting.

Oxford to Cambridge Expressway

We have been made aware that the route of the new Oxford to Cambridge Expressway is currently being discussed, and one of the proposed routes could have a huge impact on Nuneham Courtenay and other surrounding villages. This means that emails and letters should be sent to the decision makers of this project. If you would need further information, please contact clerk.

Playing Fields

The proposed lease has been received from the solicitor and is circulated to Councillors for review.

Traffic

Concern was also raised by another resident about the speed of vehicles travelling South through the village at night. Keith Stenning, Area Steward from Highways is invited to the next meeting to discuss the ongoing concern.

Important Dates

Date of next meeting – Tuesday 6th March 2018 in the Village Hall at 19.30. It is proposed to hold the annual parish meeting in April 2018, date/time TBC at next meeting.

The annual meeting of the Parish Council is to be held on 8th May 2018. Time TBC.

MURDER On The **Thames**

A Chris Bertrand Murder Mystery

10th February 2018
Marsh Baldon Village Hall
7.00pm

An evening of fun and intrigue with a two-course meal, complimentary bottle of wine per table – all for £12.50 per head or £10 per head when booking teams of 6 or more (maximum team size 8).

To book a place for your team, or just for yourself, please email:
baldonsevents@hotmail.com

Bar. Prize for best solution to the mystery.

For more information see www.baldons.org.uk/calendar



A co-production by Village Hall Murders and Baldons Events Committee

MURDER MYSTERY PLAY, SATURDAY 10TH FEBRUARY – LAST CHANCE TO BOOK

It's your chance to play detective in a murder mystery play! See the poster, opposite, for details. If you've never been to one of these before, they are great fun. The play will be acted out by "The Village Hall Murders" players who have many years of experience in such productions.

This basically is how it works. The first part of the play introduces you to all the suspects and their possible motives. Over dinner you look at the information pack provided and chat with your team mates about what you've seen. After a few more scenes, and probably a few more murders, you can interview each character. The final scene will either confuse or clarify things for you. Then your team need to solve the crime. Finally the actors play out a scene in which the truth is revealed.

Places are limited and time is short so book now, either as a team or for just yourself/selves and we can place you into a team, by emailing: baldonsevents@hotmail.com

ASPIRE TO BUILD – CONSTRUCTION OF MEDIEVAL CATHEDRALS AND CHURCHES

Mike Chamberlain will talk to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) about cathedral construction.

His talk will discuss the rise in cathedral construction during and after the medieval period, and the complexity of these magnificent buildings. It will also a look at the human endeavours during the process, and the material requirements from planning to completion.

Mike has lived in the area for many years and after retirement joined the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust, the Churches Conservation Trust, and the National Churches Trust. He takes an interest in preservation of the past, and is keen to learn more about our historical buildings.

The talk will be held on Wednesday 14th February, 7.45 for 8pm, at St Mary's Church, Wallingford.

Visitors (£4) are most welcome.

www.twhas.org.uk

Katharine Keats-Rohan



FROM JOHN HOWELL MP

In a constituency that stretches from the edge of Reading to the south and the edge of Bicester to the north, and from the River Thames to the West and the Buckinghamshire border to the east there are often relatively local issues that do not immediately affect the whole constituency – although there may be implications on a wider scale.

In the middle of the constituency concern has been raised over the proposed Oxford to Cambridge Expressway as there has been suggestion of a route which cuts through the Green Belt around Oxford. Although roads are permitted in the Green Belt, this new road would need to be funded with substantial housing development which is neither appropriate or permitted under normal Green Belt regulation. In my view such a route is entirely unnecessary and not the most practical. A key area for growth is the Oxford – Milton Keynes - Cambridge arc and such a road would need to include Milton Keynes in the link. I have made my views known to the Secretary of State for Transport. I have also called for full public consultation on this project which so far has not been included in the National Infrastructure Commission proposals. A project of this magnitude must be open to public scrutiny.

If you would like to know more about my work in Westminster, on behalf of the Government and the Constituency please do look at my website which is regularly updated. The address is www.johnhowellmp.com. I also produce a periodic electronic newsletter and briefings on specific issues as well as writing in these parish magazines. If you would like to subscribe to these please email me at john.howell@oxfordshireconservatives.com You can also follow me on Facebook www.facebook.com/JohnHowellOxfordshire or on twitter @JHowellUK Further details of the work of Parliament is available on the parliament website at www.parliament.uk. As always, I am interested to hear constituents' views on the proposals before the House.

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SO BUSINESS AND INNOVATION STRATEGY ACTION PLAN 2017-2020

South Oxfordshire District Council's SO Business team and Councillor Rob Simister are pleased to announce a new three-year plan to help small and medium enterprises to thrive.

Councillor Robert Simister, cabinet member for economic development, said, "Small and medium businesses make up 82 per cent of all employment in our district and the action plan demonstrates our commitment to support local enterprises to boost the local economy."

He added, "If you are considering starting a business, growing your business or need a point in the right direction, I encourage you to contact us for support and advice."

The action plan outlines four significant actions, detailing the benefits of undertaking each one:

Superfast Broadband

The district council has invested £1,090,000 in the Better Broadband for Oxfordshire programme and is working with businesses to identify where the service needs improving. Superfast broadband helps businesses to work smarter and results in a fast and reliable service.

Business space

The district council will offer support in looking for an innovative space for business. Improving signposting of available premises and supporting the availability of high quality, affordable workspace will ensure that there is an adequate area for businesses to grow.

Skills and employment

Businesses have informed the district council that they need assistance in attracting young and recently-graduated skilled staff in key sectors. The SO Business team will promote career opportunities in local businesses to schools and local job seekers and will work with business to see if apprenticeships or interns are appropriate.

Business support and communication

The SO Business website and fortnightly newsletter makes it easier for businesses to find contemporary and relevant information about available support. Throughout 2018 the SO Business team will deliver a full programme of events and workshops in partnership with local businesses and other organisations.

For any further information on support or the action plan, please contact the team by email economic.development@southandvale.gov.uk or call 01235 422224.

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Items for the **March 2018** newsletter
by **16th February** 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 343478 or at Baldon House East, Marsh Baldon.

For advertising queries, please contact Sheila Harris on:
sheilaharris778@yahoo.co.uk or on 340403.

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Half Term craft Afternoon
Wednesday February 14th 3.45pm

Rhymes for the Under 5's Wednesdays 10.30am

Storytime Wednesdays 3.45pm

I.T Help Thursdays 2.00pm

Knit and Natter
6th February 2.30pm

Reading Group
8th February 2.00pm

Coffee Morning
20th February 10.30am
All Welcome



Here to help



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References Available Upon Request



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EVENTS IN DORCHESTER ABBEY

Sat 11th Feb 8.00pm Chiltern Arts Festival Concert Mozart and Mendelssohn – Ben Goldscheider and City of London Sinfonia

The stellar players of the City of London Sinfonia perform a programme bringing together two of the greatest child prodigies who ever lived, Mozart and Mendelssohn. After the evergreen overture that Mendelssohn wrote inspired by a trip to Scotland, Ben Goldscheider, recent finalist in BBC Young Musician of the Year, is the soloist in Mozart's effervescent 4th horn concerto. The concert, and festival, culminates in a performance of another holiday-inspired work by Mendelssohn – the joyous symphony named after his travels in Italy.

Tickets from <https://chilternarts.com/event/mozart-mendelssohn-ben-goldscheider-city-london-sinfonia/>

Sat 25th Feb 5.00pm Stepping into Song Concert

Join members of Rock Choir, Didcot Girls' School Choral Group and All Saints CofE Primary School, Didcot, in a fantastic evening of music.

Supporting the Footsteps Foundation – offering therapy to children with disabilities and assisting them with walking.

Afternoon tea, coffee and delicious homemade cakes will be available as you listen in the beautiful Abbey.

Please help us by supporting this event.

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED AT:

Online at <http://buytickets.at/steppingintosong/121699>

The Co-Op store, Dorchester-on-Thames; Footsteps Foundation, Dorchester-on-Thames; Pupil Services, Didcot Girls School

Adult tickets – £9

Children and Concessions – £7

Sun 4th Feb – 10.30am Morning Service

Mrs Penny Faust from the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust will be coming to speak. The title of her talk will be Holocaust Memorial Day: from 2001 to our post Brexit era; 'Why a journey of hope and good intentions has had to become a leap of faith.'

Penny worked freelance for the BBC for 20 years, including 10 years as a contributor to R4's **Thought for the Day**, and also worked in education. Penny has been actively involved in interfaith activities for more than 40 years. She is the former Chair of Oxford Council of Faiths and currently co-Chair of the annual Interfaith Friendship Walk. In 2017, Penny received a High Sheriff's Award for her interfaith work in Oxford.

Penny has delivered the reflection at the Holocaust Memorial Day Service in Oxford since its inception in 2002.

SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2018

4 th February	9.30am	Holy Communion	Toot Baldon
11 th February	6.00pm	Evening Prayer	Toot Baldon
14 th February	9.30am	Holy Communion	Berinsfield
Ash Wednesday		<i>with imposition of ashes</i>	
	7.30pm	Holy Communion	Warborough
		<i>with imposition of ashes</i>	
18 th February	9.30am	Holy Communion	Marsh Baldon
25 th February	8.30am	Said Communion	Marsh Baldon
	9.30am	Family Worship	Marsh Baldon
4 th March	9.30am	Family Communion	Toot Baldon

SIDESDUTY

	Marsh Baldon	Toot Baldon
4 th February		9.30am Ann Druce
11 th February		5.00pm Ian Gillespie
18 th February	9.30am John Mason	
25 th February	9.30am Liam McCormick	

FLOWERS

	Marsh Baldon	Toot Baldon
4 th & 11 th February	V Sandilands	V Bowler
LENT		NO FLOWERS