

The Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter



February 2020

FROM REVEREND JENNIFER MORTON

February is, for me, a transitional month. At long last days are getting longer although we have not yet said goodbye to winter and the rather variable weather we have experienced over the last few months. However, there are already signs that spring is on the way. As I write this in early January the hazel catkins are forming and the first snowdrops flowering in the grass. By the beginning of February no doubt the snowdrops will be in full bloom, the other spring flowers joining them and the buds swelling on the trees ready to burst into leaf. They have survived their downtime after all despite erratic temperatures and rainfall!!

February is also a transitional month in the seasons of the Church. The Christmas season comes to an end on the 2nd with the presentation of the baby Jesus in the Temple in Jerusalem. The final chapter of the story of his birth forty days after the celebrations of Christmas day. This, however, was only the beginning. At the end of the month the Church begins Lent, with Ash Wednesday on the 26th the next period of forty days. The baby has become a man and Christians will be preparing to remember again his death and resurrection at Eastertide.

This year there are a few weeks in between these two seasons of the Church when we can take the opportunity to reflect on what life holds for us, our families and friends, our communities, our country, our world, at the beginning of this new decade. Will the world become a place where there is equality and justice? Will we have finally left the European Union and all that means for this country? Will the pressures on the natural environment be taken seriously? Can people be persuaded to tolerate views that are different to their own without resorting to the nastiness that seems to be a detrimental characteristic, not only of social media, but also all public comment.

It is sometimes difficult to feel optimistic in the light of all that is happening around us, socially, politically and perhaps most of all in the natural environment. The blossoming of the spring flowers, and the promise of new life in creation does give us a hope that the seasons of the year will come and go as expected.

Maybe then we can also reflect through the seasons of the church's year on the life of a child born in humble circumstances, who grew to be the man who showed us the way to treat each other and creation. If only we would listen, hear and act on his words then there might be a greater hope for all of us.

*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

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



THE BALDONS FUEL CHARITY
(but not just fuel)

For the past 50 years, the Baldons Fuel Charity has been helping some residents living in Marsh, Toot or Little Baldon with their energy costs. Financial support has also been given towards personal alarm systems for the elderly, training expenses, costs of education such as uniforms or school transport or in any other situation when financial help might make life a bit easier.

The Charity has an annual income of about £18,000.

If you are experiencing financial difficulties, or know anyone in the villages who is, please let us know. Either talk to one of us or obtain an application form for a grant from the Clerk, Mrs Barbara Wright (343276) or any of the Trustees. All applications are dealt with in the strictest confidence by the Trustees.

**PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU NEED HELP
THAT IS WHAT THE CHARITY IS FOR!**

Trustees:

Chris Nichols (Chair) - 343388

David Greenaway – 343496

Graham Hobbins – 343227

Alison Porter – 340405

Ali Barne – 343624

Alan Johns – 343268

Help with energy costs may also be available from
the National Energy Foundation www.nef.org.uk

BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS: **News from the meeting on 13th January 2020**

Happy New Year from the Parish Council

Planning applications

Glebe House, Marsh Baldon P19/S4433/LB

A Listed building application for internal changes has been supported by the Parish Council in its response to SODC.

Penstemon House, Baldon Lane P19/S4475/FUL

An application for an all-weather exercise area for horses, also supported by the Parish Council.

Land on Pebble Hill P19/S4399/FUL

An application to build two three-bedroomed houses on land north of Hunters Gap cottage, a site identified as suitable for development in the Baldons Local Plan. Whilst supporting this application in principle, the council has responded to SODC indicating that the current plan cannot be supported in its present form and expressing concerns at the lack of sufficient detail on design, materials, and access which should be addressed in an amended application.

Details of all the above plans can be seen on SODC planning website

Millennium Committee Tree Trail Project

Last year the council supported members of the Millennium Committee investigating a scheme for a lasting project for the use of the residual money in the millennium committee account. The Council has now considered and given its support for Millennium Tree Trail. The extract below is taken from the full application to the council.

'Why plant a Tree Trail?

A tree trail would enable us in the Baldons to help to increase biodiversity and wildlife habitat. In the Baldons Neighbourhood Development Plan 'Biodiversity protecting and enhancing projects' was identified as one of the infrastructure priorities for the Baldons, and Green Infrastructure, i.e. new hedgerows, ponds or trees.

The benefits of a Tree Trail are:

1. A commitment and action by the Baldons to Green Infrastructure which is widely supported and would play a part in combating loss of biodiversity.
2. A way to bring the community together to create the Tree Trail through tree planting days (for the school children, as well as adults in the village and resident children not at the village school).
3. The tree trail would be mapped and used as an educational resource for learning about the importance of trees and tree identification as well as providing a focal point for walks.
4. A legacy in perpetuity for the money raised by the Millennium Committee.

5. A potential way to kickstart thinking about other eco-projects which we could carry out in the villages (e.g. we plan to give away free trees to village residents, residents have spoken to us about how the churchyards might encourage more biodiversity, there are suggestions for hedgerows, wildflower planting and other possible tree planting sites not on footpaths).
6. A hopeful message to future generations.'

Discussions are being held with landowners, householders and the Parish Council about possible sites including planting on college land and consultation is need with land agents for the college. Some trees have already been planted on Parsonage Farm land with cooperation from Martin Delafield.

This is an exciting project that we do hope villagers and local organisations and groups can get behind as the group makes progress. Meanwhile the council has agreed to release money from the account as the as the need arises. The Leaders of the project are Alison Barne and Sue Shaw. Villagers will be kept up to date on progress and if you want to be involved speak to Ali or Sue.

Protection of the Green

There are increasing concerns being expressed to councillors about the condition of the green and the damage which has been occurring. There are two problems. One is the increase in cars and other vehicles driving on the green to avoid the conditions on the track. The college land agents have indicated that the edges of the green should be restored and protected from damage by cars and the council will be drawing up plans for this which may or may not be able to be coordinated with repairs to the track. In the meantime, we hope all householders together with any of their contactors will respect the green and avoid driving on it.

The second concern is the damage occurring as a result building work at some properties with contactors' vehicles and material parked on the green. Problems here are being exacerbated by the wet weather. The council has written and spoken to householders pointing out that it is their responsibility to protect the green and undertake all necessary repairs at the completion of work. The college land agents Savills do expect householders undertaking work round the green to consult and agree with the Parish Council management of these issues to minimize problems.

New residents to the village may not be familiar with the rules under The Commons Act which govern all village greens including ours. The Rules of the Green are displayed on the large notice board outside the cricket pavilion. If you are new to the village, please try and read them.

Maintenance of the south track round the Green

In the last few weeks villagers on the south side of the green have responded to a questionnaire issued by the council concerning their use of the track and its condition and responsibility for repair. Not surprisingly there are mixed views

and the parish council will be holding a meeting to which we hope all residents from all the houses on the south side will come to discuss the issues of repair and maintenance responsibility and costs. Details of the meeting when arranged will be circulated.

Parish Council budget for 2020/21

Following discussion at the November Parish Council meeting and now confirmed, the council is advising SODC that the Parish Precept for the next financial year should be increase by 9% to allow for the increasing expenditure now being incurred and allow us to meet the costs of essential work and priorities.

Thames Water road closure Toot Baldon

As a result of the inconvenience caused by Thames Water road closure outside Hillfield Farm and the lack of sufficient warning we made a complaint to them and in response Thames Water donated £50 to the Parish Council, which we have given to the school and which will be used to help the children learn more about rivers and water management.

Village Participation in Meetings

There has been some concern within the council at the apparent lack of interest by villagers in the work that we do for the village on your behalf, very few villagers attend our bimonthly meetings. Prior to the meeting on January 13th we circulated the agenda on the village email and as a result were pleased to see several villagers keen to hear the discussion on the various items including planning applications and the Millennium tree project.

We will circulate the agenda like this in future but if anyone has other ideas for publicity do let us know. Agendas are always displayed on the 3 village notice boards a few days before our meetings. All meetings have an open session for you raise matters with us and your contribution in open session on matters on the agenda can be helpful.

Date of next meeting: 9th March, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Advance notice: Annual Parishes Meeting: 20th April, 7.30 pm, Village Hall

This is the open meeting for all villagers when we hope to have a discussion on both the village school and climate change, in addition to the council giving its required annual and financial reports.

NUNEHAM COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Gravel

At the last Parish Council meeting there was a lot of discussion about the proposed gravel extraction site, which has been included in a list approved by the County Council. The Parish Council was concerned about the impact of gravel extraction on the landscape and the impact of the heavy lorries on the village.

Our County Councillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale said she felt the Nuneham Courtenay site was the least unacceptable of the sites proposed in the area and emphasised the site allocation is not a planning application. She suggested the Council contest any planning application that finally comes forward and explained it would go before the County Council's Planning Committee, not South Oxfordshire's.

Lorraine said it had been felt that having one large site that would meet all of South Oxfordshire's responsibilities was preferable to having many smaller sites in the district, such as Cumnor. She felt that the concern about the lorries could be addressed by a Traffic Management Plan routing the lorries away from the village. She questioned whether parishioners shared the Parish Council's concerns, but she offered to view the site and to help the Parish Council if there is a planning application.

Playing Field

Madhvi Saini, who chairs the Parish Council, attended a meeting of the Trustees of the Nuneham Courtenay Sports and Playing Field Association in November. The Trustees made clear how unhappy they are with the Parish Council not agreeing to sign a lease for the Playing Field and Madhvi tried to explain the Parish Council's reasons.

There are sure to be more discussions because both bodies share the same aim of seeing the Playing Field used again by the children of the village.

Yew Tree Court

Residents of the new Yew Tree Court development attended the last Parish Council meeting to complain the electric gates were removed and not replaced. They were also fed up with the fact there is still a builder's hoarding at the site. The Parish Council encouraged the residents to raise concerns about the gates with the management company responsible for the development and has agreed to contact South Oxfordshire's Planning Enforcement Team to see if anything can be done about the hoarding.

Tree root damage to footways

The Parish Council is trying to find out what would be the cost of the work that could be done to improve the footways on the western side of the main road without damaging the protected trees.

Once the Parish Council knows how much the work might cost, it can then find out what possibility there may be of the County Council actually doing the work.

Winter salt

The Parish Council ordered winter salt from the County Council and it is stored behind the Village Hall. There has been one request so far from a parishioner. Contact John Peters, Vice-Chair of the Parish Council, on 07582 170960 if you want salt for local roads and pavements. There has been a lot of rain so far this winter but there will probably be ice and snow before winter ends and we don't want people slipping, falling and hurting themselves.

Traffic calming

The Parish Council is looking for ways of encouraging drivers to slow down in the village. A new idea raised at the last Parish Council meeting was getting warning signs installed showing a peacock.

There are warning signs in other places for badgers, ducks, frogs, otters, squirrels and toads so why not peacocks?

Unofficial peacock warning signs appeared in 2015 in the Essex village of Stansted Mountfichet, but it is thought official peacock warning signs in Nuneham Courtenay would be a first.

Christmas tree collection-point

Was it helpful for the Parish Council to arrange with South Oxfordshire District Council and the Village Hall Committee for a Christmas tree collection-point at the Village Hall car park – the grassy space at the corner of the lane that leads to the rear of the Village Hall? Please let us know what you think.

Homes with a South Oxfordshire District Council brown bin can put out their Christmas tree with their brown bin so not everyone has much difficulty getting rid of their Christmas tree.

The trees that were left at the Village Hall car park were due to be collected on Monday 13th January. Should the Parish Council arrange a collection-point again next year?

Deep cleanse

South Oxfordshire District Council's contractors have arranged to come to the parish for three days from 21st - 25th February to carry out a deep cleanse.

The team will be litter picking, sweeping and removing weeds/moss on pavements. The team will not spray weeds, cut grass or vegetation or remove weeds and moss that is on roads and it only clear lands to which the public is permitted access and that is under the direct control of the district council.

The Council will ask the team to sweep the footways on both sides of the main road. If there is anywhere else in the parish that you would like to be cleaned, please contact the Parish Clerk or any member of the Parish Council.

Electronic communication

Simon Gray, who created our website, is putting the finishing touches to this system. It should be ready shortly, at which point parishioners will be able to sign up via the website to receive information and notifications from the Parish Council by email.

This will enable us to keep you up to date quicker and more efficiently. We will, of course, continue our updates in the newsletter. Keep an eye on the website for the Sign-up button to appear.

Next Council Meeting

The Parish Council meets in alternate months, so there's no meeting scheduled for February. Instead, the next meeting is due to be held on Tuesday 3rd March at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Remember that there is still a vacancy on the Parish Council: it should have five members, but it only has four. If you are interested in being that extra person, come along and see a Council meeting or speak to a member of the Parish Council. Geoffrey Ferres, Parish Clerk, Nuneham Courtenay Parish Council.

VILLAGE HALL PARTY

The Village Hall Party was held on January 4th. There was a good turnout of revellers from the villages, who enjoyed the usual multiple rounds of refreshments and a general knowledge quiz. Musical entertainment was on hand in the shape of the Oxfordshire group The Woodentops, our very own Village Handbells team and local magician Kevin Hutchinson. The event was supported by the Fuel Charity and the Baldons Events Committee, to whom the Village Hall committee are very grateful.

A THANK YOU FROM THE WOODENTOPS

A big thank you to everyone who attended the annual village party on the 4th January from the Woodentops!

On Saturday 4 January, we were pleased to be asked to entertain the senior folk from the Baldons, in the village hall. The Woodentops are a rather quirky trio of old men, playing bass, ukulele and guitar, who like to have some fun with their audiences. We had fun in spades at the Baldons, and were clearly all on the same wavelength throughout, laughing and singing together.

John Maskell, who first got in touch with us, promised that our fee would include a donation to the charity we are currently supporting, namely building a women's health clinic in eastern Uganda.

We were surprised and delighted that, in addition to this, our lovely audience had a whip round and raised a further £93 more for this cause. Thank you, Marsh, Toot and Nuneham Courtenay for your generosity. We've sent off £150 to them, and money like that goes a long way in Uganda.

Thank you once again

Paul, John and Larry (aka The Woodentops)



Wednesday 12th February

7.30pm

Marsh Baldon Village Hall

OX44 9LL

The South Oxfordshire Filling Station is one of a network of Filling Stations that meet nationwide (www.thefillingstation.org.uk), where friends gather to explore their Christian faith. It is not a new church denomination; anyone of any denomination, any faith or no faith is welcome. All are welcome.

Our speaker on 12th February is Samara Levy. Samara has a remarkable story. She collected clothes from her son's primary school in Sussex to send to a refugee camp in Syria five years ago. The charity she subsequently set up has now set up four emergency field hospitals in Syria and has launched an appeal to build a multi-million-pound hospital. She tells the story of how God called an ordinary stay-at-home mum to a task beyond her wildest imagining.

Coffee/tea and cake from 7.30pm, worship at 7.50pm, a talk starting at 8.15pm, finish 9.30pm. You are welcome to come and go at any point in the evening.

If you are interested contact Catherine Mason (southoxfordshire@thefillingstation.org.uk, 07879 626828) or Tom Hunnings (07778 104806)



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BALDONS GARDEN GROUP

Thank you to all the villages for attending the Christmas wreath making workshop and for making it such an enjoyable occasion.

It was great to walk around the village and see everybody's wreaths on their doors, looking wonderful.

Together with the cream tea event, we have raised a total of £300.

We will, as usual, split this between our two charities "Restore" and "Keyhole gardens"

We hope to see you all at the next event, which will be our annual plant swap.

AUSTRALIAN FIRES, LITERALLY: Stuart Mabbutt, Wildlife Gardening Specialist

Our friends in Australia are on fire, quite literally. The bush fires as seen on TV, show the seriousness of the situation, quite literally. Here in Britain, between Christmas and New Year, many of us enjoyed some quite stunning glowing sunsets. I've been wondering if they had their stunningness enhanced by those Australian fires, quite literally?

The smoke has spread high into the atmosphere, and I wonder if it has spread around the globe? I'm left wondering if this smoke, in part, is having an impact on our very own sunsets? What's this got to do with gardening and wildlife, which is always the angle of my monthly jottings? Well, here's the link. When you are all out there tending your gardens, what's the residual effect of that activity? What effect does it have locally, nationally, internationally? None of us exist in isolation. Our gardening habits can impact on us, on wildlife in it, on our neighbours and community. We can impact nationally and internationally if a critical mass buy into new and old habits, quite literally.

So as the nights draw out heading towards the new growing season, take a step back and consider what impact your garden has had, is having and will have? It might inform what you do and don't do during the 2020 growing season. Happy Gardening.

01865 747243, www.wildmaninspires.co.uk

BERINSFIELD LIBRARY

VISIT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY AND SEE WHAT WE HAVE ON OFFER

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 4th February & 7th March

Reading Group 2.00pm

Thursday 13th February & 12th March

Coffee Morning 10.30am

Tuesday 18th February & 17th March

All Welcome

Berinsfield Library Opening Times

Tuesday - 10.00 - 12.30 & 2.00 - 7.00pm

Wednesday - 10.00 - 12.30 & 2.00 - 5.30pm

Thursday - 2.00 - 5.30pm

Friday 10.00 - 12.30 & 2.00 - 5.00pm

Saturday - 10.00 - 12.30

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries



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OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Items for the March 2020 issue 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 Leanna Maggs on:
leanna.maggs@gmail.com or on 01865 340 521.

WE HAVE A NEW ADVERTISING CO-ORDINATOR !

A thank you and a welcome from the editor:

First a big thank you to Sheila Harris for all her work coordinating the advertising for the newsletter over many years.

And then a big welcome to Leanna Maggs, who has taken this on from Sheila. Leanna has recently moved to Marsh Baldon and we are delighted that she will be helping with newsletter advertising from now on.
Leanna's contact details are in the box above.

BABYSITTER AVAILABLE

I am very reliable and have some past experience of babysitting. I'm pet friendly and love spending time with the children. In addition, I have taken a first aid course.

Contact me:

Hannah Margan-Barrett

Mobile: 07522 062554

Home: 01865 343483

Email: hannahmb26@hotmail.co.uk

A background image featuring a black staff with white musical notes and a portrait of Ludwig van Beethoven in the lower right corner. The notes are scattered across the top half of the page.

Beethoven:

MISSA SOLEMNIS

OBC
**OXFORD
BACH CHOIR**

**Saturday 14 March 2020,
7.30pm**

Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford

Conductor: **Benjamin Nicholas**
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THE MAPLE TREE FROM COORDINATOR HAYLEY HAYLE



We would like to take this opportunity to thank the many families who have supported us throughout 2019 including the 200 lucky dippers at Wheatley Christmas Street Fayre, the 50 families who came along to our Christmas crafting event, the 30 families who supported Wheatley Scouts and ourselves by buying Christmas Trees, the congregation of St Bartholomew's Church who arranged a collection for us during their Carol service and the many people who regularly put their loose change into one of our many collection tins scattered around the area.

Since April 2019, we have had 359 unique families through our doors, joining us for universal sessions including Well Baby Clinic, Stay & Play sessions, first aid courses, cooking sessions and summer activities. This is a tremendous achievement of which we are very proud. Let's see if we can beat that number in 2020. If you are already a user of The Maple Tree, why not bring a friend along to a session. If you are not currently a user, please do come along and see us, we would love to meet you.

You can also help The Maple Tree continue to be sustainable in one of the following ways:-

- Joining our team of volunteers helping families feel welcome and enriching our play activities
- Offering practical voluntary help or consultancy, such as with fundraising, publicity, grant applications and the upkeep of our building and garden
- Helping to manage The Maple Tree by becoming a Trustee
- Taking part in the SODC So Charitable lottery
- Giving regular financial support through a new Friends of the Maple Tree scheme for a little as £5 a month

Don't forget that you can also arrange to book the Maple Tree Centre for children's birthday parties. We offer use of most equipment, toys and our well stocked kitchen and garden area for a competitive price.

Our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/TheMapleTreeWheatley> provides more information about our timetable. Alternatively, email hayley@mapletree.org.uk

Your home affects your health



Find out what support is available to help keep you safe and well in your home.
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/homerepairs



There are services and funds available to help people (owners and private tenants) stay independent, safe and well in their homes, and Oxfordshire County Council has developed a referral service to help residents (or carers) access the right organisations in their area, to get the help they need.

The type of help that can be provided are services such as new boilers, repairs to boilers, loft or cavity wall insulation, access to a local and trustworthy repairs service and general advice on how to stay safe, well and affordably warm in your home. For more information or to make a referral visit www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/homerepairs



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service

The MBE for volunteer groups

'The re-use of castles' - a TWHAS talk



Dr Elaine Jamieson (Reading University) will present 'The re-use of castles' at this TWHAS meeting.

Elaine's talk is about the research project funded by the Leverhulme Trust which aims to explore the date, form and palaeo-environmental context of large mounds in England in order to test the hypothesis that some medieval castle mottes are re-used monuments from earlier periods.

This talk to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) will be held on Wednesday 12th Feb, 7.45 for 8pm, at St Mary's Church, Wallingford. Visitors (£4) are most welcome. www.twhas.org.uk

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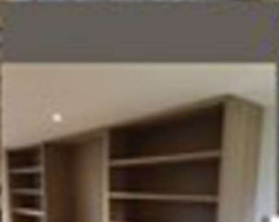
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References Available Upon Request



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Citizens Advice can help you through relationship breakdown

There is no storm quite like an emotional storm, and the trauma of a separation from a loved one can be devastating and overwhelming. Some people say it feels as if the ground is falling away beneath their feet. It helps if you know there's somewhere you can go right away for help: Citizens Advice.

If you and your partner or spouse have decided that separation is inevitable, you should try to work out the practical details between yourselves. But bear in mind that you might eventually need to consult a solicitor as well to enshrine your agreement in law, especially if you have assets or children. Going to court should be regarded as a last resort.

Discuss with your ex-partner where you will live, where your children will live, and how to split any money or belongings. If you and your partner are too upset to talk to each other calmly, wait and talk later, or use a mediator.

If your partner makes you feel threatened, get help. Call Refuge or Women's Aid on 0808 2000 247. There is also a Men's Advice Line on 0808 801 0327.

If you have children with your partner, you are both responsible for the cost of looking after them when you separate, even if you are not married. The parent who moves out might have to pay maintenance to the parent who looks after the children.

Consider any outstanding debts or loans that you might have, and think about who needs to be informed about the separation. If you pay council tax, or receive benefits or tax credits, get in touch with the relevant people and tell them about your new status.

Citizens Advice can help you find the ground beneath your feet so you can move on. Call Citizens Advice Adviceline on 0300 3309 042 or come and see us in person. For locations of offices and opening hours visit <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale>



Citizens Advice in South and Vale needs volunteers to help with:

- Reception duties in Abingdon, Henley and Thame
- Advisers in Abingdon and Didcot
- Head office administration in Abingdon
- IT support in Didcot and Thame
- Fundraising (from any location)
- Communications and website designers (from any location)

We are a local charity providing free, confidential advice. Last year, our 150 skilled advisers helped over 11,000 local people from advice centres in Abingdon, Didcot, Faringdon, Henley, Thame and Wallingford.

Many people who come to us face difficult and sometimes frightening problems that threaten to overwhelm them. In 2019 we helped three quarters to resolve their problems.

For volunteers, we offer a welcoming office environment and an opportunity to gain new skills, meet new people and make a real and valued contribution to your local community,

It's up to you when you volunteer. We normally ask for two half days a week but can be flexible. If you are interested, please follow this link:

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale/volunteer/>

Or, if you would like to discuss these volunteering roles, please email Jon Bright, Director: jon.bright@osavcab.org.uk

EVENTS IN DORCHESTER ABBEY

Narnia Exhibition open until 8th March – see the Abbey website for details.

Narnia Craft Workshops Saturdays and 17th to 21st Feb 1.30-3.30pm £2

There are at least 3 different crafts planned for each session bookable in advance. Colouring pages will also be available at every session (including a make your own mini colouring book). Tickets and more details on the Dorchester Abbey website www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk

Planned workshops include: Make a folding Lion, make a light catcher, design and make a shield and make a crown.

Telling the Story of Narnia - 6th February

Join us in Narnia to hear storytellers, authors and Narnia enthusiasts trace the history of Narnia with some favourite readings and the opportunity to weave the stories of our own imaginations. Our guests include Francis Spufford – a Narnia enthusiast who was recently part of the Radio Four ‘Beyond Belief’ broadcast about the Narnia Chronicles.

‘Meet the Author’ coffee morning – 7th February

Francis Spufford author of Golden Hill and Unapologetic who is joining us for the Narnia storytelling event has kindly offered to stay on and discuss his books over coffee on Friday 7th February. Depending on numbers this will be held at the Rectory or in the Guest House. Please contact the Rector, Sue Booy, direct to reserve your place (admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk or 01865 340007).

Sat 8th Feb 7.00pm Supper and Concert featuring Two-a-part and YoCo Abingdon Group who will be travelling to Kenya on 13th February Tickets £25 per person available from January at the CoOp Dorchester or from John Cornelius johntcornelius@aol.com mob: 07912 351018

Sat 29th Feb 7.30pm Corona Strings Concert

HEARTSTRINGS

Corona Strings under their conductor Janet Lincé return to Dorchester for a beautiful concert featuring romantic music for string orchestra. The programme ranges from Tchaikovsky’s well-loved Serenade for Strings to a delightful but little-known concerto by Vincent Lindsey-Clark for guitar and strings with soloist Raymond Burley. The concert also features two gorgeous Romances by Sibelius and Finzi and Nielsen’s youthful Little Serenade.

Tickets £20 (£15 concessions) £5 full-time students and under 18s are available online from coronastrings.co.uk/heart or on the door from 7.00pm.

Sat 7th March 7.30pm Thames Consort Concert

Thames Consort, led by director Jeremy Boughton, bring a varied programme of vocal and instrumental music to raise money for Dorchester Abbey
Sharon Warnes & Claire Parkin (Violins), Judith Dallosso (‘Cello), Glynne Stackhouse (continuo organ)



As part of the international World Interfaith Harmony Week, a service in which people of several world religions will participate will be held at **St Michael's Church, Clifton Hampden on Sunday 9 February at 2.30 p.m.** All are welcome and are invited to stay for refreshments.

King Abdullah II of Jordan proposed observance of a World Interfaith Harmony Week at the United Nations in 2010 and it was adopted unanimously within a month. In King Abdullah's words, "the world's single most important threat is the attack on interfaith harmony, mutual respect, and trust. Every global challenge in this 21st century demands that we resist hatred and exclusion. Economic growth, peace-making, protecting the environment, global security, inclusive opportunity — all these critical goals require that people of faith cooperate and combine our strengths to our common benefit."

The service on 9 February will be led by **Rev Marcus Braybrooke**. Marcus was vicar at the Baldons before retiring to Clifton Hampden. In 1997, together with Sir Sigmund Sternberg and Sheikh Zaki Badawi, he founded the Three Faiths Forum, a charity initially focused on relations between Muslims, Christians and Jews, but which, now named Faith and Belief Forum, has evolved to work with people of all faiths and beliefs, including the non-religious.

Also taking part at the service on 9 February will be Monowar Hussein, now Imam at Eton College but whom many will remember from the Turnpike Garage, Penny Faust, a leading member of the Oxford Jewish Community and Philip Koomen of the Baha'i, who lives in Burcot, as well as members of other faiths.

“AFTERNOON TEA WITH MARCUS AND MARY BRAYBROOKE” - A BIOGRAPHY: A REVIEW BY VERONICA SANDILANDS

In 1993 when Marcus and Mary were considering coming to the Baldons, John Crowe, the Team Rector of Dorchester Abbey, gave to my husband Hew and myself a small book of Sermons by Marcus Braybrooke, entitled “Be Reconciled”. We were so excited when we read it, we knew that we, in the Parish, had to do everything we could to encourage Marcus and Mary to take up the “House for Duty” Vicar’s post in the Baldons. How right we were! And how fortunate the Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay were to have the dynamic duo living in the Rectory, transforming our Church Services and bringing such friendship, wisdom and care to the parish.

Helen Hobin, the Braybrookes’ second granddaughter, has written this wonderful ‘biography’ of Mary and Marcus. Her aim was “to bring to life - through their eyes - the world as it has changed over the last eighty years”. She has more than succeeded. It is a book of insight and of humour and I am sure Marcus and Mary must be delighted with the quality of her writing.

It was a constant source of amazement to us all, when Marcus was our Vicar, that he would take the Sunday service, preach a brilliant sermon, disappear to the other side of the world to give a major speech at a conference, and arrive in church the following Sunday - to preach yet another erudite sermon (not forgetting to add in some humour). He might, in addition, have made time to visit a parishioner in hospital on the way! In Helen’s book we can now read about Marcus and Mary’s work on the international stage, at the heart of the Interfaith movement. Work for which in 2004 Marcus was awarded a special Doctorate by the Archbishop of Canterbury, for his contribution “to the development of inter-religious co-operation and understanding throughout the world.”

It was also fascinating to catch glimpses of Mary’s career as a forward thinking and highly respected social worker and long-serving magistrate. Two pictures, one with Ron Hewitt, remind us of Baldon Players’ productions and Mary’s acting skill. This is the story of a joint ministry to a wider world, with family and Parish at its core.

There is nothing dry in this account - the book is full of adventures and entertaining incidents. Above all, throughout its pages, the very different and totally complementary characters of Mary and Marcus shine out. Helen’s book also reminds us about the many books which her grandfather has either written, or contributed to. In this divided world, books such as “Beacons of Light” give us hope.

Thank you, Helen.

“Afternoon Tea with Mary and Marcus Braybrooke” published by the Braybrooke Press
www.Lulu.com Available from Mary and Marcus:
marcusbraybrooke4@gmail.com or 01865 407566 – price £12



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SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2020

2 nd February	9.30am	Holy Communion	Toot Baldon
9 th February	4.00pm	Evensong	Toot Baldon
16 th February	9.30am	Holy Communion	Marsh Baldon
23 rd February	8.30am	Said Holy Communion	Marsh Baldon
	9.30am	Family Worship	Marsh Baldon
26 th February	9.30am	Holy Communion <i>with imposition of ashes</i>	Berinsfield
Ash Wednesday	7.30pm	Holy Communion <i>with imposition of ashes</i>	Dorchester Abbey
1 st March	9.30am	Holy Communion	Toot Baldon

SIDESDUTY

2 nd February	Marsh Baldon	Toot Baldon
9 th February		9.30am Ann Druce
16 th February	9.30am Natasha Eliot	4.00pm Ian Gillespie
23 rd February	9.30am Stephen Dance	

FLOWERS

2 nd & 9 th February	Marsh Baldon L Martin & I Wright	Toot Baldon V Bowler
16 th & 23 rd February	C Attewill & V Sandilands	S Hobbins & J van Dijk
LENT	NO FLOWERS	