


The Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter



February 2024

FROM REV TERESA

During February we enjoy the annual celebration  of which is Valentine's Day.

Of course, love and a loving relationship takes many different forms. In our society we see a wonderful diversity of expressions of love which reflect the joyful differences between us and how we interact and live with one another. Whether you are gay, straight, married, in a civil partnership, living with someone you love, single or anywhere in between any of these labels, you can enjoy the celebration of love that is Valentine's Day.

We don't know much about St Valentine who lived in the 3rd Century in Rome, but one legend maintains that Saint Valentine performed weddings for Christian soldiers who were forbidden to marry by the Roman emperor; and another legend claims that as he prepared for his execution, he wrote his jailer's daughter a letter signed "Your Valentine". The day of St Valentine's death on 14th February afterwards became associated with romantic love and was evermore connected with the lovebirds and flowers of early spring.

Christians believe that love and relationships are a gift from God, who is the source of all love. God created human beings as an expression of His love and loved us so much that he sent His Son Jesus to die for us. Of course, we know that Jesus also told his followers to "love one another, as I have loved you". None of us is perfect, but as Christians, loving others is the goal by which we strive to live.

Love comes in all shapes and sizes in our society today and if St Valentine was still alive, I'm sure he would be delighted at the outpouring of love on his feast day! We experience loving relationships in lots of ways, including through deep and lasting friendships, through their close and extended families, as well as through the romantic love that comes from being with a partner.

So, whoever you are squeezing this Valentine's Day may you be blessed not only in one another but in the love that God has for you!

Rev Teresa x

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

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

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

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

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

LETTER FROM BARBARA WRIGHT

It was wonderful to see so many friends at John's "Memorial Day". The weather was kind to us and "The Mole Inn" garden proved to be a perfect place for old friends to meet up after the service.

The family thank you all for coming, some of you from considerable distances and to Marcus for coming up from Devon to fulfil a longstanding wish of John's, agreed with Marcus on "Mount Sinai" many years ago - to officiate at his funeral. So thanks to both Marcus and to Teresa for John's beautiful service.

Now, Barbara has just received a letter from the CBM, Christian Blind Mission, John's preferred charity. I quote part of it "We wish to say thank-you for the kind and so generous gift of £947.40 received from the Baldon's Church, in loving memory of Mr John Wright - we are deeply grateful for the invaluable support and dedication John has given relentlessly for so many years."

CBM is an amazing project which changes young lives. We know well that if John could be here he would embrace you all for being so wonderfully generous and we say thank you on behalf of all the young children whose lives have been transformed through the skill of the surgeons who work with CBM. Thanks also to the doctor who started as a "one-man-band" back in the early 1900's and now has centres in so many of the poorest countries in the world.

Finally on behalf of our beloved John thank-you each and everyone for your much valued friendship which after all is what makes the world go round.

PS

John insisted he did not want his memorial service to be "sad" and he wanted enough hymn sheets so we didn't have to share!

He wanted people to leave the church on a joyous note hence the hymn "With Love in Your Hearts Lord at the end of the Day". and..... not forgetting "Bring me Sunshine" as we walked out through the porch. I hope we succeeded.

Cover: Frozen water at the Dam, Baldon House – Natasha Eliot

MARSH BALDON CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Happy New Year everyone! We thought it would be a good idea to interview some of the staff at Marsh Baldon CE School. We have started with the Headteacher, Mrs Hanwell.

Tell us what your favourite moment so far has been at Marsh Baldon CE School?

There have been many already! The lead up to Christmas was a very special time. The nativity, the concert, PTA celebration, Christmas dinner and panto were all magical! I think also there have been some small moments that have been very special, like when I saw an older child help a reception child tie their shoelaces, or when another KS2 child was showing the younger children how to safely watch the horses in the field.



(We also reminded Mrs Hanwell about the Oxford City football tournament, the Explorer Dome and the maths challenge - these were special moments too!)

What do you think makes Marsh Baldon a special place?

Definitely the school community makes Marsh Baldon a very special place to be. It is inclusive and everybody is made to feel welcome. I always feel very proud when I show visitors around. The location is also beautiful. We are fortunate to have such a wonderful landscape around us.

What do you like to do when you're not at school?

I love spending time with my family. This often involves football and water (but not at the same time!). I also love reading, music and going to the theatre.

What is your favourite colour?

Depends on how I am feeling! I'm going to go with green. I do wear a lot of beige and black!

What was your favourite subject when you were at school?

English. I loved writing stories and poems. I actually really like grammar too! I find words and sentences fascinating. PE, history and art are also my favourite subjects too.

What are you looking forward to in 2024?

I'm really pleased that Forest School is starting up again and I'm looking forward to spending some time there with the Woodpeckers and Swallows. I'm also very excited about an Opera that some year groups will be involved in at Dorchester Abbey.

Who are you going to vote for at the next election? (That is a question suggested by William!)

Haha, I like your curiosity but I think I will keep that to myself!

What is your goal?

That is a good question! My goal is for every child to leave Marsh Baldon CE School ready, fully equipped and excited for the next stage of their journey. I would love our children to have the very best memories of their time here at Marsh Baldon CE School.

Interview conducted by the Red Kites School Council Reps: Christopher Gordon, Savannah Nunley, Rylee Pearce and Lily-Grace Holton

CREATION THEATRE

A new version of *Everyman*
by Glyn Maxwell

Boatman Town

The Seven Stars
Marsh Baldon
7pm & 9pm

**27 Feb
2024**

creationtheatre.co.uk

OxLEP Business **European Union European Regional Development Fund**

Creation Theatre Ltd. Registered Charity No. 1119379

Did your dog do this?



On 12.1.24 our pregnant sheep were attacked and one killed. If you know any information or this was your dog, please call 07710471355 or 07712107498 .

**Please keep your
dogs on a lead when
walking past our
sheep!**

Straying dogs will be shot.

HILL FIELD FARM, TOOT BALDON

On 12th January one of our 3 year old, pregnant ewes was attacked by a dog.

This resulted in half her bottom jaw being ripped off and despite the best efforts of our vet, she had to be put down.

If anyone has information, dashcam or door cam footage, or would like to come forward, please do get in touch.

Nicholas and Rosie Brook

BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Happy New year to everyone.

The Parish council would all like to thank Thomas James who, after 5 years in the role of Clerk is stepping down to take on new projects. Tom has been a fantastic support to all on the Parish Council and a great help on a number of important projects. We wish you well for the future Tom.

Tom has handed over the role to Catherine Morgan and we are delighted to welcome her as our Parish Council Clerk. Catherine is based in Witney so will be carrying out the majority of her duties remotely, however she will be attending all Parish Council meetings and joined us for her first one earlier this month. She can be reached on the existing Clerk email address, clerk@baldonspc.org, or on her mobile, 07759 311335.

Spring Village litter pick

This year this will be held on the 13th April at 10 am. Please meet at the Mole inn Car Park for Toot Baldon and at the green by the Seven Stars Pub for Marsh Baldon. We will have bags and litter pickers for all.

Keeping the Baldons clean

The amount of dropped litter in the villages has grown lately (verges are often littered with cans, bottles, takeaway rubbish etc, and it seems a daily occurrence). If you are out walking in the area, perhaps take an old carrier bag and pick-up what you can. Our biannual clean up just doesn't seem enough at the moment.

Also, a member of the Parish Council will always report fly tipping when seen but it would be helpful if you do spot any larger fly-tipping incidents, then you can also report via emailing admin.southoxford@biffa.co.uk with the information. Provide photos of the fly-tipping and approximate location (<https://what3words.com/> is a good website/app to use to give them an accurate location).

South Oxfordshire and Vale District council joint local plan. Have your say

A Local Plan looks ahead fifteen years and plans how much development is needed in an area, like new homes, jobs, roads and schools, and where they should go. It also sets standards for environmental protection, sustainability, water quality and much more.

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils are working together to produce a new Joint Local Plan which will affect the Baldons. You can read about it and have your say by visiting this website: <https://theconversation.southandvale.gov.uk/jlp/>

You can also visit one of the drop-in events to chat, ask questions and have your say:

Location	Date	Time	Venue
Shippon	Wednesday 24 January	3pm – 8pm	Shippon Village Hall, Barrow Road, opposite Prince of Wales pub, OX13 6JQ
Wallingford	Thursday 25 January	3pm – 8pm	Centre 70, Wallingford Community Association Hall, off Kinecroft, Goldsmiths Lane, OX10 0DT
Henley-on- Thames	Saturday 27 January	11am – 4pm	Henley Town Hall, Market Place, Henley RG9 2AG
Thame	Tuesday 30 January	11am – 4pm	Candelo Lounge, 102 High Street, Thame, OX9 3DU
Wantage	Wednesday 31 January	11am – 4pm	The Beacon, Community Centre, Portway, Wantage OX12 9BX
Abingdon	Saturday 3 February	11am – 4pm	Pablo Lounge, Abbey Shopping Centre, 1-3 Bury Street, Abingdon, OX14 3QY
Crowmarsh Gifford	Monday 5 February	11am – 4pm	Crowmarsh Village Hall, Benson Lane, Crowmarsh Gifford, OX10 8ED
Faringdon	Tuesday 6 February	11am – 4pm	Faringdon Town Hall, The Pump House, 5 Market Place, Faringdon SN7 7HL
Didcot	Saturday 10 February	11am – 4pm	Berro Lounge, Orchard Shopping Centre, 44 Orchard Street, Didcot, OX11 7LG

Gigaclear Ultrafast broadband

Gigaclear have contacted us and are planning to include Marsh Baldon in their upcoming network build in partnership with the UK government's Project Gigabit. We do not have a timescale yet and Gigaclear have stated they have not finalised the plans.

We have been invited to discuss the upcoming build plans and answer any questions or concerns our community may have regarding the network roll out. We will address the possibility of the roll out including all of the Baldons as well as Marsh. When we have met and have more information, we will communicate next steps to everyone.

If you have any concerns or questions that you would like us to raise, please contact Catherine Morgan on clerk@baldonspc.org

Alternatively, if any residents would like to get in touch with Gigaclear directly, then contact the dedicated Customer Operations team on the details below.

Email: networkbuildqueries@gigaclear.com

Phone: 0370 774 0537

Residents can also register for build updates at gigaclear.com/locations

Marsh and Toot Baldon 20 MPH limit

The estimated date for implementation of the approved scheme is end of March 2024.

Planning Matters:

P23/S4261/CM – 2 new pumping stations at Toot Baldon to service the proposed provision of mains sewerage to the village. Villagers and the Parish Council have been contacted directly and can comment on the proposal. The Parish Council will raise the matter of proposed road closures during the time of construction.

Dates of future Parish Council meetings:

Date of Next Meeting 11 March 2024 at 7.30pm

Future dates 22 April 2024 – Annual Villages Meeting (to be confirmed)
13 May 2024 – BPC AGM
8 July 2024
9 September 2024
11 November 2024.

SUSTAINABLE ON SO MANY LEVELS

A very interesting issue has again been sent in for me to explore during this month's article, which is – What should gardeners be aiming to encourage more of in 2024? Effectively that's asking what kind of food chains or food webs we should be focusing on? I'd like to reframe that concept though, before we focus on these webs and chains.

I suggest we should be collectively thinking of ourselves within our garden's food chains and webs, not outside of them, or separate from them. From there I feel it would be a worthwhile exercise if we were to consider what positive and negative impacts, we actually have ourselves. Then, further still, let's think about whether those positive and negative impacts adjust at all if we either start seeing ourselves as part of it, or not automatically at the top of these hierarchical webs and chains? The act of reframing the question and reframing what our perceived role in the natural world is, really drills down into what our collective gardening ambitions might be for the coming season. So, let's all take the action to consider and churn on this conundrum.

I don't profess to claim to know at this stage what the conclusions are likely to be, or if they'll be far reaching, but it certainly feels like a place to start when roundly considering the innumerable cause and effects our mere existence has on the webs and chains we are directly involved with. Thanks for another intriguing concept for me to write about this month, keep them coming and together let's make 2024 a gardening year to remember. Making your mark and having a garden of your dreams can be sustainable on so many levels, I'm glad I can contribute to that debate, even in a small way.

Happy Gardening

Stuart Mabbutt - Wildlife Gardening Specialist - 01865 747243

www.wildmaninspires.co.uk

NUNEHAM COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Recent flooding

Lots of parishioners came to the parish council meeting on 9th January, mainly to express their concerns about the recent flooding episode. Bad as it was, some residents say there was even worse flooding in 2006.

And that has led to discussion about what was done and what was not done after that flood to try to make sure another one did not happen. It appears that South Oxfordshire District Council commissioned a report from an engineering consultancy called Monson. The report made lots of recommendations, but which ones were carried out and which ones weren't – and why not?

Parish councillor Charlie Vicary and other interested residents are holding a meeting to talk about what should be done and to try to work out who is responsible for what – because the flooding probably happened as the result of failures by more than one organisation.

Council Tax 2024-25

The Council has agreed to freeze the parish council element of your Council Tax for the second year in a row. You should see a 0% increase shown for the parish council when you receive your Council Tax bill for 2024-25 but if you see a freeze or a cut from any other body, I shall be very surprised indeed.

20mph limit

Most people seem to agree that traffic is generally passing through the village more slowly since the County Council implemented the 20mph limit on the A4074 in the village. And with lorries travelling more slowly, people seem to be saying their houses aren't being shaken so badly.

Culham Campus

The United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority has invited the parish council to send a representative to the meetings of the Culham Campus Local Liaison Committee – it meets twice each year.

The parish council is minded to say yes, but is interested to know if there is any parishioner particularly interested in being the parish representative.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the parish council is due to take place on Tuesday 5th March at 7pm in the Village Hall.

Geoffrey Ferres,

Parish Clerk - Nuneham Courtenay Parish Council

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

CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING

Many thanks to all who came to the workshop and to everyone who helped make it such a successful event. We had a great time and raised over £400, which will go towards maintenance of the village orchards.



The Gallery and Picture Framing

Original Art, Ceramics and Fused Glass



Long Barn 2c, Little Baldon Farm, Little Baldon, OX44 9PU
We are open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays 10:30am - 3:00pm.
Please make an appointment.

gallerythe00@gmail.com / www.janeelsworthart.com
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From The Maple Tree

Our New Year is well under way and by the time you read this, we will all be used to writing 2024! All sessions are drop-in, except our popular Maple Chefs which is bookable via Eventbrite. We have a few changes to our programme this time at The Maple Tree.



A great place to grow

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

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

Wednesdays: Little Explorers at 10:00-11:30am and Maple Chefs at 1:00-3:00pm

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

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

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

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

Did you know that it costs nearly £100,000.00 to keep The Maple tree running for a year? Please do get in touch if you would like to help with the fundraising. Our next big event is **Daffodil Day** at Shotover House on **Sunday 17th March**. We need volunteers to direct traffic and pedestrians, collect tickets, serve teas, coffees and cakes, and to bake goodies in advance, if you are unavailable on the day.

Have you thought about becoming a Friend of the Maple Tree offering monthly financial support or volunteering at one of the sessions above? These are two other ways that you can support our lovely charity. (Charity number:1174117)

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

Email: info@mapletree.org.uk

Website: www.mapletree.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheMapleTreeWheatley

Instagram: @themapletreecentre

Laura Spencer

The Maple Tree Centre Manager



Heal

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Dovecote Barn, Little Baldon Estate, Little Baldon, Oxford, OX44 9PU

www.healoxfordwellbeing.co.uk





The Dovecote Hair Studio

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

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

or you can contact me direct on 07538993460.

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

Hope to see you soon, Kx



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Oxfordshire Libraries

February at Berinsfield Library

Half-term Lego Challenge

Thursday 15 February 2.30-4pm

Can you build the tallest tower without it falling and breaking? Drop-in, no need to book. Ages 5+ accompanied by an adult



Rhymetime: Wednesdays at 10.30am
during term time

Gentle singing and rhyming fun for preschoolers and toddlers with toys, instruments and bubbles!



Digital Helper: Thursdays 2 to 5pm

Help in using smart phones, tablets and laptops. Support for those less confident with technology. Booking essential



Berinsfield Local History Group

Tuesday 27 February 2.30pm

New social group, explore and share local history. Everyone welcome. Light refreshments available



 @oxonlibraries  Berinsfield Library

Telephone 01865 340771

Email berinsfield.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk



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

EVENTS IN DORCHESTER ABBEY

Sat 17th Feb-7pm- 9pm OSJ- Themes of childhood Kodaly Dances of Galanta, Gliere Concerto for coloratura soprano Gorecki Symphony of sorrowful songs, Ravel Mother Goose, Hannah Davey soprano Free tickets available for NHS workers and for the disabled. Please email admin@osj.org.uk. Tickets £5 to £30 from www.osj.org.uk

TEAM EVENT

Team Quiet Day – Saturday 2nd March - Save the Date!

“How to eat bread”

21 NOURISHING WAYS
TO READ THE BIBLE



Dorchester Team Quiet Day

led by

Ven Miranda Threlfall Holmes

Saturday 2nd March

10am-4pm

for more information & to book contact

Admin Team: 01865 340007

admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk

The Bible is an amazing gift to us. Ancient text, which speaks so profoundly and powerfully to us today. History, poetry, prayer and story – it's not just a book but a library. Christians believe in its 'dual authorship' – written by people in particular times and places, all of it 'God breathed', inspired by God's Holy Spirit – so through it God speaks to us, reveals himself to us – so we can know God, and our world, and ourselves, better. It's an amazing gift – but somehow we find ourselves nervous of wading in and engaging with it.

In our Dorchester Team churches we want to make 2024 a year where we help and inspire people to go deeper in reading the Bible.

So – we are delighted to have been able to book Dr Miranda Threlfall-Holmes to come and lead a quiet day for us on Saturday 2nd March.

Miranda has been a parish priest until recently, and is now serving as Archdeacon of Liverpool. She is a biblical scholar and particularly gifted at inspiring and enabling anyone and everyone in getting into the Bible. Her most recent book, published by Hodder and Stoughton, is called 'How to Eat Bread – 21 Nourishing Ways to Read the Bible'.



Grief is hard.
Death can impact
all of life.

The Bereavement
Journey
WINDYBUSH TO BATH

7 Sessions of films
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for anyone bereaved anytime

Topics include:

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

To find out more visit:
thebereavementjourney.org

Running soon:

Hosted by Dorchester
Team of Churches

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

To book or for more info:
Contact Rev Teresa
07823 809 112
revteresa@outlook.com

CHURCH SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2024

4 th February	10.30am	Toot Baldon	Holy Communion
11 th February	4.00pm	Toot Baldon	Evensong
14 th February Ash Wednesday	9.30am	Berinsfield	Ash Wednesday Ashing
18 th February	9.30am	Marsh Baldon	Holy Communion
25 th February	10.30am	Chiselhampton	Team Service

SAVE THE DATE:

10th March: MARSH CHURCH @ 9.30am Mothering Sunday Service

24th March: TOOT CHURCH @ 10.30am - Palm Sunday walk with reflections

26th March: TOOT CHURCH @ 7pm- Tenebrae (A candlelit service of music and readings for Holy Week)

29th March: GOOD FRIDAY DSL Church @ 12pm Reflections for Good Friday

31st March: MARSH CHURCH @ 9.30am Easter Sunday Communion

CHURCH FLOWERS

Date

4th & 11th February

LENT

Marsh

Veronica Sandilands

No Flowers

Toot

Jenny & Jane

