

# The Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter



**June 2018**

## FROM REVD DAVID HAYLETT

There seems to have been quite a bit written and said about the rural church in recent years, and, as a Team we are mostly very much a rural church. I found a report, "Enhancing the Rural Church in the Diocese of Oxford" (January 2017). The Report highlights the needs of rural churches. Rural churches have less infrastructure and very different needs to those in large towns or cities. The Report addresses areas which impinge on the life of the rural church.

*"In many rural situations, small things may have huge evangelistic potential even if they are not reflected in an immediate rise in numbers in any one particular church. For example, occasional offices and visitor ministry may have particularly rich possibilities in sharing faith with cold contacts."*

Contacts with marriage, baptism and funeral families can provide a foundation on which to build. One example is an annual All Souls service to which recently bereaved are invited.

*"A particular characteristic of rural ministry is that the clergy may take three or four services on a Sunday with congregations that never exceed twenty. And that can be dispiriting because that can lead to a feeling of failure."*

*"It is easier to stand in front of a congregation of two or three or four hundred people and feel successful than to stand in front of ten and feel that the work you are doing is valued."*

Yes, I sometimes feel a sense of failure, it takes time and effort to prepare a service and a sermon and then Sunday comes and the congregation struggles to make it into double figures. I take some comfort by the half-recalled comment of a former colleague from my days of paid employment "a small rural church is not a failed large urban church". Our congregations may be small, but expressed as a percentage of the population, the rural church does well.

*"We all know that the Church is not all about the building, they are both a significant asset and a spectacular drain on limited resources. Maintenance of a listed building, repair, insurance, heating and lighting and care of the associated churchyard all take time and money." "Many of our rural churches are used for little more than conducting worship. That being the case there may be an argument for closing many of our church buildings. There are powerful arguments for the retention of church buildings but with that there is a recognition that there is a need for these facilities to be put to wider use." "People are not likely to want to be associated with a building which is cold and dark or both and lacking basic facilities."*

Our buildings are enormously important. Stadhampton has made a fantastic transformation into being a dual purpose village and worship centre; Culham is contemplating following a similar route; Long Wittenham is hoping to install toilet facilities as a precursor to making the building more a village resource; Little Wittenham's and Clifton Hampden's visitor book often have comments from people grateful that the building was open as a place of quiet and contemplation; Dorchester Abbey nearly always has visitors looking around it. Do we witness to our visitors and secular users, by displays, attractive literature, information on service times? Do we make our buildings welcoming? One simple way is by making sure that when the local school wants to use the building for an assembly, the heating is on, especially in winter our buildings can be very cold places!

For the rural church it has to be recognised that the day of the traditional stipendiary Vicar for each Parish has passed. But we still have a building in every Parish. Is that still a viable option? When we have buildings which are only a couple of miles apart, perhaps the time is coming when hard questions need to be asked. Thirty years ago the Vicar was expected to be Chair of Governors of the local school, that was a much easier task than it is now. The report says, "*being Chair has almost become a full time job*".

In our churches people seem to be becoming increasingly reluctant to volunteer for Churchwarden, PCC member, Deanery Synod members etc. This is something which affects other village organisations too. Is this a symptom of increasing demands on people's time? Is 'job-sharing' an option? Is there scope for training to be made available? If so, who and where are the trainers? Training courses are provided by the Diocese for many of the roles in Church life, but that does not provide an answer to the basic problem of finding the volunteer in the first place.

On the positive side it is always a great joy to see our churches packed on Christmas Eve for the Carol Service, no urban church would expect to see a third of its population at a single service, but I would find it an even greater joy if just 10% of those people came next Sunday! And again the following Sunday.

As the Rural Ministry report says, "*40% of worshippers in the Church of England are attending rural churches, which serve only 17% of the general population.*" "*What's more, if you rank all the dioceses by the proportion of the population attending church, it's the rural dioceses at the top.*" So we in the Rural Church have a lot to be positive about!

## CHURCH NEWS

We were sorry to see our vicar, Paul Cawthorne, leave us in May after four years working with the Baldons, alongside Drayton St. Leonard and Berinsfield where he lived. Paul has returned to Shropshire to be nearer to his family and we wish them well.

The Church authorities like to have a period between appointments so that we will have a few months without a vicar of our own. However, as we are part of a wider 'Dorchester' team, which covers the villages around Clifton Hampden, Culham, the Wittenhams, Stadhampton and Warborough, the clergy have been very organised about covering all the services and other roles and activities for which we thank them.

There is a central number to call 01865 340007 (office hours) if you have any queries, and the churchwardens Debbie Dance 341323 and Ian Gillespie 341398 remain unchanged.

Enjoy the Summer sunshine

Debbie & Ian



Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2018  
2018  
at  
7.30pm

Marsh Baldon Village Hall  
OX44 9LL

**Religion and Science** ... can one embrace both? Professor Martin Smith from Oxford University will be addressing this question at our Filling Station meeting this month. Come and join us if you're interested.

We meet 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, followed at 7.50pm by worship, a talk and prayer. The talk usually starts about 8.15pm and you are welcome to join us then if you can't make it earlier.

If you are interested you can find out more at <http://thefillingstation.org.uk>. Or contact Liam McCormick (07738 004176), Catherine Mason (07879 626828) or Tom Hunnings (07778 104806).

## **NICOLA BARCLAY-WATT, 1946 – 2018**

**By Graham Hobbins**

We first met Nicola and Peter at a party in Toot Baldon some 45 years ago. Within several days, Nicola had invited our young family around to their house to meet her children. At the door, a beaming Nicola and hearty greeting, accompanied in the background by children's happy voices, and Jamie the dog. We were soon to find out that this was typical. A warm and welcoming home with the door always open.

First and foremost, I think of Nicola as such a loving and supportive person: as wife to Peter - they made a great team - and as mother to their 3 children, together with the 15 children they fostered. I once told her what a fabulous mother I thought she was. "Oh!" she exclaimed, and replied in her usual self-deprecating way. She welcomed into the family, with open arms, the children's spouses and adored their 7 grandchildren. She came from a big family and treasured the regular contacts with them.

She had such energy and empathy with others, always honest and unselfish. She spoke it the way it was, straight and to the point, with finely tuned antennae, dependable, a get on with it approach. Her laughter unique and infectious. Nicola never sought the headlines nor public recognition and all these qualities led naturally to her becoming interwoven in all aspects of village life.

As a village school parent, she always participated wholeheartedly in all school activities. She was a terrific all-round athlete. I remember her competing in the mothers race on school sports day, and being narrowly beaten by another very competitive mum, but she got her revenge the following year; she was involved in the Mothers Union, she played the piano at village events and the organ in church, she sang in the choir, she was a fantastic hostess, helped with village fetes, she could knit and sew and knock up tasty dishes from anything; for many years there were discussion and bible study groups in their home – these groups had a profound influence on my life; she helped edit and produce the newsletter, she delivered meals on wheels, she coached children and adults tennis, she welcomed the new arrivals in the village and visited those who were sick or needed help; she loved music, reading, dancing, a good communicator who also acted as Peter's private secretary and technology maestro. The list of talents seemingly endless.

Wherever Nicola was, whether in England, Scotland, up the Atlas Mountains, in New Zealand, Ethiopia, South America, wherever in this world, she felt nearby and that feeling of closeness will always remain with us.

## **BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

### AGM Election of officers

Councillors re-elected Dorothy Tonge as Chairman and Charles Barclay as vice chairman. John Maskell, who has been Treasurer of the council for 30 years, has decided to stand down and the duties of finance officer are being transferred to the Clerk, Lisa Fermer. This follows the pattern adopted by most parish councils. John was thanked for his long service as treasurer and remains a councillor.

### Freedom of Information and Transparency Policy

Following discussion the council agreed to adopt a new code of conduct for freedom of information and transparency in line with recent legislation. This will shortly be posted on the village website.

### Flooding north of The Croft

Discussions have continued with land owners and highways department representatives. It is hoped that as the drier weather comes in summer the level of water in the ditches and on the road will reduce sufficiently to allow landowners to excavate the area more fully and dig out ditches and unblock any culverts. The parish council will be reviewing the situation at the end of June.

### The Baldons Neighbourhood Plan

Following their public consultation of the Plan we submitted in January the SODC appointed Mr John Freeman to conduct an independent examination of the Plan and its supporting documents. Mr Freeman has now submitted his draft report to SODC, which is posted on their website. We are delighted to say that his report endorses our Plan, subject to a number of amendments which we will implement. After these amendments have been made SODC will arrange a referendum of Baldon residents to approve or not the Plan. The timing of the referendum is at present unsure but is likely to be in September.

### Planning applications

2 Wilmots, Toot Baldon: P18/S1147/HH. An application for a small single storey rear extension. The council have supported the plans in principle subject to volume calculations to ensure the plan fits SODC policy on extensions.

Highfield Nurseries, Marsh Baldon: P18/S0791/HH. This application is for a 5 bedroomed single storey house on a brown field site. The council has expressed concerns that it is not consistent with the Neighbourhood plan which supports smaller housing and it would extend the built line of the village to Nuneham Courtenay. SODC's decision is awaited.

Queens Cottage 5 Toot Baldon: P18/S1291/LB. A listed building application for internal works. The council has supported the application.

Belchers Barn next to Queens Cottage, Toot Baldon: P18/S1425/HH. An application to convert this barn to a 3 bedroomed house. The council is considering its response.

Durham Leys Farm, Marsh Baldon P18/S1509/HH A new application for 2 four bed roomed houses to replace one larger house previously granted planning consent on the site of the current stables. The council is considering its response. In addition the council discussed Mr Wells' ideas for an alternative strategy for the site for up to 6 smaller houses, which could be more consistent with the Neighbourhood Development Plan and provide more affordable homes including some community owned housing. The council indicated it could support in principle this approach subject to more discussion.

### Expressway

John Howell, our MP, arranged a meeting of parish representatives with Ian Stewart MP, the government's Champion of the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway. There was little new he could tell us but he was made aware of the strong feelings from parishes about the lack of consultation and the problems for villages and the environment should a southern route be chosen.

EAG is however aware of a great deal of lobbying by vested interests as land owners and developers stand to make a great deal of money from the housing development that will flow from the Expressway project.

### GDPR General Data Protection Regulations

New privacy regulations become effective from 25<sup>th</sup> May. The parish council has discussed its draft privacy policy which will be posted on the website in due course. The council holds little personal information other than the a copy of the electoral roll. As a small village with a relatively small population we communicate information to villagers collectively via the Baldons web site, in minutes of our meetings also displayed on the website, and summarised in the village newsletter. We also circulate information via the Baldons Info email system run by John Clark for which we hold no individual personal data. Where appropriate we will communicate with you by e-mail as a direct response to requests for action or information.

Date of next meeting 9<sup>th</sup> July 7.30pm village hall

## **CICELY JOYCE PARSONS (1925-2018) By Marcus Braybrooke**

Those who knew her will be sorry to hear that Cicely died recently. She and Bob, who died ten years ago, lived for many years on Baldon Green. In earlier years, they travelled widely. In 1992, they both climbed to the top of Big Ben. Cicely worked as a radiographer at the Churchill Hospital for over thirty years. Mary and I got to know her as a member of the NB group and when she was unwell quite often visited her and Bob at their home. We express our sympathy to Terry and Carol and all the family.

# Marsh Baldon Church of England Primary School

Website: [www.marshbaldonschool.co.uk](http://www.marshbaldonschool.co.uk)

Email: [office.3188@marsh-baldon.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3188@marsh-baldon.oxon.sch.uk)

Telephone: 01865 343249



To All Members of the Community,

I am pleased to report that the school is thriving and is going from strength to strength; We also have an increase in pupils starting with us in September 2018. As you may know, Marsh Baldon Church of England Primary School has been **providing an education to children since 1771** and has a history we should all be very proud of! The school has been through many changes since founded not least, over the last few years. However, Governors and the School Leadership have been committed to stabilising the school and supporting it to grow and thrive and the children are now seeing the benefits of this.

Our vision is to be an inclusive school where all are supported to grow and succeed informed by the Christian values of **love, cooperation, equality, respect, courage and integrity**

We aim to put the child at the centre of everything we do by:

- Providing an affectionate, calm and stable environment in which children grow strong relationships and develop values to live by
- Providing rich, purposeful and stimulating learning experiences
- Ensuring that every child achieves as much as possible and progresses as fast as possible across the whole curriculum
- Teaching children to become confident, creative and responsible free thinkers -supporting them to learn for themselves
- Developing strong partnerships with parents and the community

To ensure that the whole community values the school and that we have strong engagement between the school and the community we would like to **seek further help and support from you**. The Governing Board have therefore agreed to set up “**Friends of Marsh Baldon**” This group would support the school in a variety of ways including Fundraising (with the PTA), general volunteering, increasing the awareness of the school in the community and supporting us with wider community engagement including school involvement in community events and community involvement in school events. We would really love to draw on the wealth of experience and expertise in the school community including any former pupils who wish to give something back to the school!



Marsh Baldon C.E Primary School is a very special place and we would love to hear from anyone in the community who is interested in supporting and helping our school to ensure we can continue to provide a well-rounded education for children. Even if you can only offer a few hours per month then we would love to hear from you!

If you would like to be involved in any way or would just like to know more then please contact our lead Governors : Tina Flannery and Samantha Hunter on [fombps@outlook.com](mailto:fombps@outlook.com)

Best wishes,

**Beccy Harris**  
**Headteacher**

**Kevin Moyes**  
**Chair of Governors**

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## BONFIRES AND SMOKE

### How can I complain about a bonfire nuisance?

There are no bylaws about garden bonfires, so anyone can light one at any time and as often as they like.

However, if it causes a statutory nuisance, the council can do something about it and so can you. For a bonfire to be classed as such a nuisance, the smoke will have to be affecting you in your home and/or garden. It will also need to be happening on a regular basis (two or three times a week).

There are laws relating to burning trade waste on industrial or commercial premises (including building sites). If these bonfires emit dark smoke, then an immediate offence is committed and the council or Environment Agency can take action which could include prosecuting the offender.

### Report a problem online

If you feel comfortable, speak to the person who has the bonfire and explain the problem it is causing. If the problem still continues and is affecting you in your home or garden, you can make a complaint.

You can report a problem by using the contact details on this page or by filling in our [online report form for bonfire smoke nuisance issues](#).

**Email:** [env.health@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:env.health@southandvale.gov.uk)

**Phone:** 01235 422403

**By post:** South Oxfordshire District Council, 135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park, Milton, OX14 4SB

### How to prevent your bonfire being a problem to others

Think about if you really need to have a bonfire to dispose of the waste. We recommend either composting the waste or taking it to a [county council waste recycling centre](#)

You may also wish to consider using the council's [garden waste collection service](#).

If you still feel that having a bonfire is the only option, it is important that you follow the advice:

- out of courtesy, inform your neighbours you are proposing to have a bonfire
- only burn dry 'clean' wood/garden waste
- do not burn household rubbish, such as plastic, foam, paint or rubber.
- do not light bonfires when the material is damp because this shall generate more smoke
- do not use old engine oil, meths or petrol to light the fire
- do not light bonfires when the wind is likely to blow smoke into neighbours' home or garden
- do not leave bonfires unattended, even if it is just smoldering.

## NANNY WORK - PART TIME

I live in Toot Baldon and am looking for a before school nanny 3 days a week from September, plus occasional after school care. Total hours 8-10 / week. Driving essential for the school run, plus a love of early mornings! If you are interested and would like to know more please get in touch with Sara on sara@mcdouall.co.uk or 343567.

Many thanks.

## ADVANCE NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS OF BALDONS AND NUNEHAM COMMUNITY SOCIETY (BNCS) – AGM WEDNESDAY 4TH JULY 2018

All BNCS shareholders (Seven Stars shareholders) are invited to the fifth annual general meeting of the Society which will take place at 7.30pm on Wednesday 4th July 2018 at the Seven Stars. The committee hopes to see as many BNCS shareholders as possible at the meeting. Further information will be circulated to shareholders nearer the time.



### COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH (CSW)

is a national initiative where active members of local communities join with the support of the Police to monitor speeds of vehicles using speed detection devices.

Vehicles exceeding the speed limit are referred to the Police with the aim of educating drivers to reduce their speeds. In cases where education is blatantly ignored and evidence of repeat or excessive offences is collated (even across county borders), enforcement and prosecution follow.

As requested by the parishioners, Nuneham Courtenay Parish Council has arranged a meeting with neighbourhood policing team to gather information on what it takes to organise Community Speedwatch activities effectively.

**The meeting will be held in Nuneham Courtenay Village Hall on 12th June, 2018 at 7pm.**

# Glorious cut flowers from Toot



**Lizie's "COUNTRY BUNCHES" are available to order now until the first frosts.**

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**Info...**

**Ox 343 219**

**07590 580 631**

**[liziegiraudeau@gmail.com](mailto:liziegiraudeau@gmail.com)**



## **Citizens Advice guides PIP benefit appeals to success**

**I have a long-term health condition but I recently had my Personal Independence Payment (PIP) reduced after a reassessment. I want to challenge the decision - where do I start?**

The first thing to try is the process known as "mandatory reconsideration", which involves asking the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to take a second look at your assessment decision.

You'll normally need to contact the DWP within a month of your assessment decision being issued, and it's best to do so in writing. (Under some circumstances, you can ask for mandatory reconsideration up to 13 months after the date of your assessment decision.)

Your letter should list all the reasons why you think your PIP award should not be reduced. Make sure that you provide evidence to back up each point you make, such as practical examples, medical records and supporting letters from specialists who are treating you. If you don't have the required evidence yet, you can submit it separately at a later date.

Once the DWP has looked again at your assessment decision, you'll receive a Mandatory Reconsideration Notice, which states whether your request has been successful or not. If it is successful, your original award will be reinstated and your payments backdated.

If you are unsuccessful, you could appeal against your assessment reconsideration by taking your case to tribunal. For help filling in the tribunal form and preparing for your hearing, contact Citizens Advice.

Already in 2018 Citizens Advice South Oxfordshire and Vale has helped at least two clients to win appeals against the reduction or cessation of their PIP benefits. In one case a Henley client won her case at tribunal and had her benefits reinstated with a backdated lump sum to cover the stoppage period. In another case a Didcot client had his award increased to the enhanced rate of mobility and standard living allowance.

For further information on subjects covered by Citizens Advice, visit [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk) or telephone Adviceline on 03 444 111 444 or drop in to your nearest Citizens Advice. For locations and opening hours see [www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale)

## **NUNEHAM COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

The Council held its own annual meeting on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May in the Village Hall. Madhvi Saini and John Peters were re-elected as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively, and James Fallon was co-opted to fill the vacancy that arose when Jenny Ballam resigned.

The Council agreed a grant of £1,565 to cover the cost of building proper disabled access for the Village Hall.

The Annual Parish Meeting took place on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April in the Village Hall. 12 parishioners attended. Parishioners raised concerns about:

- The difficulty of children crossing the main road safely
- Speeding on the main road through the village
- Car parking and
- The proposed Oxford to Cambridge Expressway.

What came out of the discussion?

- Crossing: There appears to be no immediate possibility of anyone paying for a crossing because the County Council is not prepared to pay anything at all towards the enormous cost in its present financial position.
- Speeding: The Parish Council will look at whether a speed camera can sometimes be placed on the other side of the main road, whether a Vehicle-Activated Sign flashing a message at drivers of vehicles exceeding the speed limit would be worth the cost and whether it would be worth setting up Community Speedwatch in the village where volunteers trained by the police can use speed guns which lead to drivers being prosecuted if they are exceeding 35mph.
- Parking: The Council is not unwilling to look at paying for a hard surface to be laid on the piece of ground the Village Hall has been allowed to use for car parking but there would need to be an agreement with the Nuneham Estate before this could actually happen.
- Churchyard: The Council will look at paying for a garden waste bin.

## **NUNEHAM COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL NEWS**

We have had some enquiries about running a gardening group to beautify and upkeep the area round the village hall, especially after the new disabled access is complete. If you would like to be involved in this, on any scale, please tell Pete Brookes or let me know at [jenny@datadaysolutions.com](mailto:jenny@datadaysolutions.com)

Yoga will continue through the summer. Please text Jenny at 07787 507 304 to make sure that it is meeting each week. Mondays 7:30pm.

Thank you to Brian Ball for the speedy work on our new updated disabled toilet!



# Vintage Tea Party

**June 23rd  
3-5 pm**

*Nuneham Courtenay Village Hall*



For one day only the Village Hall will be transformed into a vintage tea shop selling a traditional afternoon tea. Join us for refreshments and music from the 40s and 50s. No charge to attend but cakes, refreshments, and vintage china will be offered for sale

Mallams  
1788

# Thinking of selling your jewellery, watches & silver?

Valuation mornings  
in Oxford by  
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June 15 - 10am-1pm  
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Rhymes for the Under 5's Wednesdays 10.30am

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I.T Help Thursdays 2.00pm

Knit and Natter  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June & 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2.30pm

Reading Group  
Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June & 12<sup>th</sup> July 2.00pm

Coffee Morning  
Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June & 17<sup>th</sup> July 10.30am  
**All Welcome**



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## SERVICES FOR JUNE 2018

3 <sup>rd</sup> June	9.30am	Holy Communion	Toot Baldon
10 <sup>th</sup> June	6.00pm	Evening Service	Toot Baldon
17 <sup>th</sup> June	3.00pm	Sung Evensong with Dorchester Abbey Choir, followed by tea	The Chapel Nuneham Courtenay
24 <sup>th</sup> June	8.30am	Said Holy Communion	Marsh Baldon
	9.30am	Family Worship	Marsh Baldon
1st July	11.00am	Aircrash Memorial Service	Toot Baldon

## SIDESDUTY

	Marsh Baldon	Toot Baldon
3 <sup>rd</sup> June		9.30am Ann Druce
10 <sup>th</sup> June		6.00pm Ian Gillespie
17 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Nuneham Courtenay 3pm:</b> Stephen Dance	
24 <sup>th</sup> June	9.30am Liam McCormick	
1 <sup>st</sup> July	11.00am Graham and Sonia Hobbins	

## FLOWERS

	Marsh Baldon	Toot Baldon
27 <sup>th</sup> May & 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	F Ardern	V Bowler
10 <sup>th</sup> & 17 <sup>th</sup> June	I Wright & L Martin	S Hobbins & J van Dijk
24 <sup>th</sup> June & 1 <sup>st</sup> July	P & J Slaney	H Maskell & J Knight

### ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Items for the **July/ / August 2018** newsletter  
by **16<sup>th</sup> June** 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.

**The Editor would like to apologise for the errors in the dates in the sidesduty and flower rotas in the last newsletter**