

The Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter



March 2022

FROM REVEREND TERESA STEWART-SYKES

There is an old country saying that 'March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb!'. It seems to me that this is particularly apt for this year as we emerge again from another wave of Covid and look forward to a summer of freedom from the pandemic; and as we emerge from the cold winter weather and into more springlike sunshine and warmth. Of course, March is also a month for Lent, where the church prepares for new beginnings and new awakenings of faith at Easter. My colleague Rev Paul Wignall, Vicar of the Wittenhams, Culham and Clifton Hampden, has been reflecting on what it is like to emerge from difficult times and the hope of finding new strength in a return to normalcy. Here's what he has written:

Loneliness can take many forms and I suspect that loneliness has become an underlying state for many of us over the past couple of years, with lockdowns, isolation, loss of the familiar rhythms of life and calendar landmarks. We aren't quite sure how to get back into circulation again, even if we want to; our energy levels have fallen through the floor.

The last two years have hit individuals very hard, and we will need time to recover. It's hit schools and communities, clubs and pubs, and churches hard too. They will need time to recover: time for convalescence, for taking pressure off, for self-compassion and for mutual care above all. Do you remember the days of convalescent homes? Often run by trade unions or charities, they gave people time and space, a chance to get back to some level of health and fitness, renewing confidence and helping us accept ourselves as we are, and having a realistic understanding of what we can be.

There aren't many convalescent homes around now – not in that sense – so perhaps we have to find them in family and community life, being compassionate with one another, and confident that these times too will pass, eventually, and like spring, new life will come again (even if isn't quite like the old life). So don't be afraid of being tired, detached, uncertain. It's part of the recovery. And don't be afraid of finding joy wherever you can: in your garden, in a flickering candle, in a smile, in music or a good book. Take time and time will take you in its loving arms and gently nurture you into health. It takes time to regroup with friends and family, with community gatherings; but time will do it with you, if you let it.

I hope you find that March 'is going out like a lamb' and that your days are full of spring breezes and the hope of easier days ahead.

God bless,
Rev Teresa



Many congratulations to
Rev Sorrel Shamel-Wood and her
husband Andy on the birth of their baby
Tobias Peter Rupert who was born on 18
February weighing 7lb 12 oz.



LIVING IN LOVE AND FAITH



'Living in Love and Faith' is a consultation with all Churches across the Church of England about issues of identity, sexuality, relationships and marriage. In the Dorchester Team during Lent, you are invited to join a supportive and open group and explore your understanding of these issues.

- ❖ **WHEN:** 'Living in Love and Faith' sessions will be on **Wednesdays 2pm and 7pm** during March so people can join in at a time to suit them
- ❖ **WHERE:** All sessions will be held at **Berinsfield Church Hall** which has good parking available and step free access.
- ❖ **WELCOME:** The afternoon sessions will begin with **tea and cake at 2pm** and the evening sessions will begin with a **Fish Supper at 7pm**.
- ❖ **FIND OUT MORE:** You can find out more about 'Living in Love and Faith' on the church of England website here:
<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/living-love-and-faith/about-living-love-and-faith>

Contact Rev Teresa (revteresa@outlook.com 07823 809 112) if you are interested in coming along to any of the sessions

Session One Wednesday 9th March 2pm or 7pm

Session Two Wednesday 16th March 2pm or 7pm

Session Three Wednesday 23rd March 2pm or 7pm

Session Four Wednesday 30th March 2pm or 7pm

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

*The Revd Jennifer Morton is Associate Team Vicar and lives in Toot Baldon:
jennifer@morton8.co.uk.*

Our current curate is The Revd Sorrel Shamel-Wood who lives in Berinsfield.

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



South Oxfordshire Filling Station

presents a performance of

'The Passion'

at the Great Hall, Cholsey Meadows, Fair Mile, Wallingford OX10
9GW

on Tuesday 6th April

Doors open at 7pm for performance start at 7.30pm.

Following acclaim for 'Bread & Starlight', performed in Marsh Baldon village hall in December, South Oxfordshire Filling Station have engaged Lamps theatre company to present their novel interpretation of a 'Passion' play at an Easter performance in the larger venue of the Great Hall, Cholsey. We invite you to come and enjoy this professional thought-provoking theatre performance. Everyone welcome. (See the flyer in the link below for more information)

Tickets for £10 can be bought at <https://cholseycdt.org.uk/bookings/the-passion/>
Tickets also available on the night at £15. Refreshments provided.

MUSICAL EVENTS IN DORCHESTER ABBEY

Saturday 19th March 7.30pm Chilcott Requiem and Haydn Nelson Mass: Benson Choral Society. Our first concert under our new musical director, David Wordsworth will feature Bob Chilcott's gentle and beautiful Requiem coupled with one of Haydn's most successful and stirring choral compositions, the Nelson Mass. For more details see <https://www.bensonchoralsociety.org.uk/>.

Saturday 26th March 7pm Classic Mozart: Orchestra of St John's. Mozart's last work, written as he drew his final breaths, is his most loving and human. Ave Verum, unlike the dramatic Requiem on which Mozart was working at the same time, is simple and humble; Mozart called it sotto voce (subdued). Tickets £5 to £25 from <https://www.osj.org.uk/>

LAMPS

presents

THE PASSION

The life, death and resurrection of Jesus are recreated in this moving, memorable and ultimately joyful retelling of the Easter story.

Told from the perspectives of Peter, Mary Magdalene and a Roman centurion named Marcus, The Passion leads us up to and through the events of Holy Week, to the cross and beyond.

Performed by a small talented cast, this original and inspiring production has been toured all over the UK.

“A life-changing experience for me... I honestly had trouble getting to sleep as I kept reflecting on what I had seen and heard.”

R.Dennett - Oxfordshire

LAMPS is a registered charity - no.1162692

Memory Café every Tuesday 10.30am-12pm in Berinsfield Church Hall

Do you live with memory loss, or do you care for someone with dementia?

Our Memory Café is dementia friendly with quizzes, activities, sing-alongs and lots of friendly chat. Each week has a theme and we share our memories of times past.

You will be welcome to come along and join us. Contact Rev Teresa (07823 809112 – revteresa@outlook.com) for more information or just turn up!



Chair Based Exercise Class with Emma Monday 2pm-3pm in Berinsfield Hall

Are you over 50 and would like to return to fitness? Emma's gentle chair-based exercise class could be just the place for you to start!

Emma will lead you through a series of exercises that will gently bring movement and strength back to your whole body. All accompanied by an energising playlist of favourite golden oldies!



There is a chance to chat and be sociable afterwards with a refreshing cuppa! Contact Rev Teresa (07823 809112- revteresa@outlook.com) for more information or just turn up!

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Items for the April 2022 newsletter
by 16th March please

Any villager is welcome to send items for publication in the newsletter. Please send copy to 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

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 £16,000.

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, Emma Timms (341461 or emmy980@hotmail.com) 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:

**Ali Barne – 343624
Bruce Don – 343330
David Greenaway – 343496
Alan Johns – 343268
Chris Nichols - 343388
Alison Porter – 340405**

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

BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

20 mph speed limit

An application has now been made to OCC for a 20-mph limit through the villages. As part of the process, we are required to provide information on the extent of villagers' support and to do this a short questionnaire was circulated in February via Village Info email. At the time of writing early responses indicate a majority support. We will also be providing data on the speed survey conducted in The Croft in 2016. OCC are expecting many applications from villages and will be assessing and initially supporting those with greatest priority.

Southern track

A constructive meeting has been held with residents on the south side of the green to discuss the repair and maintenance of the track and whilst there are a number of questions and issues to be addressed there was broad support for repair of the track and for exploring the project and maintenance in more detail. There was agreement that a working group be established by residents to take this forward and bring firm proposals to the Parish Council. Residents will be kept informed.

Village Spring Clean Sunday 3rd April

Please do not forget to come along and help us clear up the footpaths, roadside verges and village green. It is 2 years since we were last able to plan it due to Covid restrictions.

Meet on the village green at 10 am or liaise with John Maskell for arrangements in Toot Baldon. Wear good shoes or wellies and gloves. It should only take an hour or so. The more come the quicker we can be finished. Bring your family.

Planning applications

Durham Leys Farm. An application under permitted development for construction of a farm track from the gateway by the caravan site to access fields.

Footpath and Bridleway Closures

Temporary footpath closure notices have been issued for footpaths in Toot Baldon and Marsh Baldon which will be effective for short periods in March, May, and June to permit work on the overhead power lines between Cowley and Didcot to be refurbished. Details have been circulated via Village info email.

OCC draft Local Transport and Connectivity Plan

Oxfordshire County Council are undertaking a wide consultation with parishes and the public on the future of roads, local transport, and connectivity policy over the next 30 years. The objectives are to achieve decarbonization and improved air quality and health, by reduced use of the private car and encouraging alternatives including cycling and walking including walking to school. This is to be achieved by:-

- Reduced availability of parking spaces and more parking charges

- Promotion of more cycling and walking routes including the policy of encouraging 20-minute neighbourhoods where services are accessible by walking.
- Improved Public Transport

Documents can be read on <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/ltcp> where comments can also be made. The parish council will be discussing its response. Whilst the overall objectives may command support many of the policies may be more applicable to urban areas but will impact on rural communities and there are questions of affordability.

Dates of next meetings

Parish Council meeting: 14th March 7.30 pm Village Hall

Annual Meeting of the Parishes of Marsh Baldon and Toot Baldon:

Monday 4th April 7.30 pm Village Hall

This is the open meeting for the village where the council is legally required to report on activities and financial performance for the previous year to the village.

But it is also the open meeting where village issues can be brought forward and discussed. It helps if items for the open agenda can be indicated to the clerk in advance, but this is not essential.

We have invited a Queen's College land agent from Savills to attend as this was requested by villagers at a previous Parish Council meeting.

DITCH CLEARING AT BLENHEIM CORNER

We would like to record our thanks to Martin Delafield and Ron Wells for their joint work in clearing the ditch around Parsonage Farm, along the west end of public bridleway (118/5 outside Willowbrook, 43 QC and Rojac) at Blenheim Corner.

Also to Ron for the installation of drainage pipes in the verge, which we hope will improve the long-standing flooding issues in this area and for his contribution to filling potholes in the bridleway itself. We look forward to the spring when the verge can return to its natural state.

Margaret and Graham Hilton and
Anna Marie Wise



GREENGARDEN
— PROFESSIONAL GARDEN SERVICES —

Experienced **RHS** Trained Gardener. I offer a specialist garden maintenance service, to include the basic services of mowing, pruning and weeding. Specialising in the overarching care and vision to keep the garden looking lively throughout the year. Please call Dan.

07910001288

NUNEHAM COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Housing Infrastructure Fund 1 road

The Council is working as part of a joint committee with four neighbouring parishes to challenge the plans for the Housing Infrastructure Fund 1 road that is related to the Didcot Garden Town project and may turn out to be the start of the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway by stealth, channelling traffic from the A34 at Milton over the Thames and right across the Golden Balls roundabout to the south of the village towards the M40.

The other parishes are Appleford, Burcot & Clifton Hampden, Culham and Sutton Courtenay. They are all much bigger parishes. This Council cannot put much money into the project so we have agreed to administer the joint committee, which basically means receiving and paying the bills for which the other four councils will provide almost all the cash.

Meetings

The Council next meets on Tuesday 1st March at 7pm in the Village Hall and the Annual Parish Meeting, open to all, will be two days later on Thursday 3rd March at 7pm in the Village Hall – refreshments and snacks will be available.

We will, as usual, invite the Lunch Club, the Playing Field Association and the Village Hall Committee to let everyone know their plans.

20mph speed limit

The Council is submitting a formal request to the County Council to have the speed limit reduced on the main road through the village with the support of our County Councillor, Robin Bennett.

Council Tax

You will soon receive your Council Tax bills for 2022-23. Your bill includes an element that South Oxfordshire adds to your bill to recover the cost of the precept for the parish council.

The Council decided to keep its precept demand the same as for this year: £6,408. But there has been a tiny fall in the number of people in the parish paying the Council Tax so this will show on your bills as a 1% increase in the Council Tax element for the parish council.

I'm afraid it may turn out to be the smallest increase on your bill as well as the smallest part of it – the parish council costs you about £1 per week, if your home is a Band D property.

Geoffrey Ferres

Parish Clerk - Nuneham Courtenay Parish Council

FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR ROBIN BENNETT

OCC has just agreed the first budget of the Oxfordshire Fair Deal Alliance, a new administration for Oxfordshire which has been forged around a shared commitment to nine priorities. The three political parties of the Alliance (Lib Dems, Labour and Greens) are working together because we want to see a greener, fairer, healthier Oxfordshire. We want to build on our strengths while confronting the challenges we face: addressing climate change, tackling inequality, strengthening the resilience of individuals and communities, fostering more social cohesion and common purpose.

Our initial budget proposal in December had more than double the number of responses received last year. We have sought to reflect these in the budget, and have added:

1. £500,000 to support the review into home-to-school transport, with a particular focus on supporting more active travel and more sustainable transport opportunities.
2. We are offering tenants of the Council in community assets a one-year rent holiday to take account of financial pressures on many community and voluntary organisations.
3. We will undertake a strategic rail feasibility study advance the proposals for new rail links to Cowley, Grove/ Wantage, North Cotswolds and West Oxfordshire.
4. We are investing to accelerate our work on active travel in the county: planning for new walking and cycling schemes and including them in any future proposals.
5. Further investment to (a) support projects that will generate future savings for the Council budget; (b) make early interventions to improve the lives of children and young people; (c) accelerate our climate response.

The Alliance called on national government to respond to the challenges facing local government in a meaningful way through the autumn spending review. Unfortunately, they did not. Instead, in adult social care for example, they directed that local authorities should use council tax to meet rising costs.

In some areas, we have found that the sums provided for capital projects by the previous administration were inadequate, for example we have had to budget £27m extra for Kennington Bridge. The largest example is the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF1) scheme linking Didcot and Culham; When the previous administration committed to deliver this, it accepted the full financial liability for any additional costs. We now face disruptions to the supply chain, very significant inflation and labour shortages in the construction sector, which will hugely increase the expense of such projects. We have asked officers to take a more sober and realistic assessment of the costs and risks associated with major programmes.

The OCC budget also included £8m over 3 years to allow communities across the county to bring in 20mph limits in built up areas; it's great to see such a positive response already.

20mph limit and Peafowl Petition

I was very happy to support applications from both Nuneham Courtenay and the Baldons parish councils for 20mph limits within the villages (as you can already see installed in places like Long Wittenham and Cuxham). These applications will now go forward for consideration by highways officers, with the default being to support. There is £8m in the OCC budget to support the necessary legal costs and signage changes for communities across Oxfordshire over the next 3 years. I was also very glad to help get the community's petition on peafowl crossing the A4074 heard by OCC Cabinet on 15th February. My colleague Tim Bearder, the cabinet member for highways management, displayed an excellent awareness of the history of Nuneham Courtenay, and I will continue to discuss with him possible solutions for the safety of these much-loved birds.

NUNEHAM COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Jumble Sale

Jumble sale will be held on Saturday March 19th. We are not selling tables at this event as we are going to have a huge clear out ahead of demolishing the old sheds

Bingo

Hurray! Easter Bingo is back! We have provisionally scheduled it for Friday the first of April. Pete Brookes would like to retire as bingo caller. We invite anyone interested in learning the ropes to get in touch with a view to take over this role.

Audit

As June is retiring the books are being audited. The Duffy family have kindly offered to look after the village hall finances. A huge thank you to June. We are currently speaking to someone about taking over the booking role.

Village Party

As this is the centennial of the village hall moving to our village the village hall committee is eager to support a party this summer.

Yoga

Yoga continues on Monday evenings. Contact Jenny if you would like to join

A reminder that all villagers are welcome to join the village hall committee! Do get in touch or come along to a meeting.

TRUSTEES WANTED: CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND - OXFORDSHIRE

Do you care about your local countryside? Want to make a difference?

CPRE Oxfordshire is the voice of the countryside in Oxfordshire. Due to retirement of current members, we are looking for new trustees to join our team. This is an excellent opportunity to play an influential role in a respected and long-standing environmental charity, applying your experience to make a real difference and to be part of a friendly group that is passionate about the Oxfordshire countryside.

Application deadline is 31 March 2022 in the first instance, but we are happy to receive expressions of interest on an ongoing basis.

For further info, please contact our Branch Secretary Dorian Grier.

E: dorian.cpre@gmail.com

T: 01491 612079

See our website for more information: www.cpreoxon.org.uk

TIME TO GET WALKING AGAIN!

At this time of year we start to think about the mud drying up and getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

Walking in Oxfordshire <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/oxfordshire> has hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John Harris (the custodian of the website) said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Oxfordshire (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris

www.walkinginengland.co.uk

john@walkinginengland.co.uk



THE SEVEN STARS
at
MARSH BALDON



NEW SMALL PLATES MENU

We wholeheartedly believe that dining should be a sociable and fun way to get together with loved ones, friends, and colleagues. Our team of chefs pride themselves on bringing the best local and fresh ingredients together for all to enjoy. Our menu offers a combination of traditional pub classics with exceptional small plates, thus allowing guests to submerge themselves in an array of flavoursome, fresh, seasonal dishes. Why limit yourself to one dish when you can share plenty?



Scan to view our latest menu or head over to www.sevenstarsatmarshaldon.co.uk to view and book your table.

Contact us on
sevenstars@freespiritpubs.co.uk
01865 343337

The Seven Stars at Marsh Baldon, The Green, Marsh Baldon, Oxford, OX44 9LP





GT INSURANCE
SERVICES LTD

**Finding the right
cover for you, at
the right price**



Your local insurance experts, specialising in..

Personal:

- ✓ Car
- ✓ Van
- ✓ Household
- ✓ Motorhome
- ✓ Classic vehicle

Business:

- ✓ Fleet Insurance
- ✓ Public Liability
- ✓ Employers Liability
- ✓ Commercial Combined

**Find out
how much
you could
save!**

Call Keith, Sophie or Robin on **01865 570970** or email us at info@gtinsuranceservices.co.uk with any questions you may have, alternatively, please visit our website at www.gtinsuranceservices.co.uk

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

CHURCH SERVICES FOR MARCH

6th March	10.30am	Toot Baldon	Holy Communion
13th March	4.00pm	Toot Baldon	Evensong
20 th March	9.30am	Marsh Baldon	All Age Holy Communion
	3.00pm	Marsh Baldon	Forest Church
27 th March	9.30am	Marsh Baldon	Mothering Sunday service for all the family

(NO CHURCH FLOWERS IN LENT)

LENTEN JOURNEY

Ash Wednesday 2nd March

Begin your Lenten journey with an act of repentance and a commitment to follow Jesus:-

9.30am Berinsfield Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes

7.00pm Dorchester Abbey We will mark the start of the Season of Lent with a quiet, contemplative evening service at 7.00pm. This will include reflective readings and the symbolic marking with ashes. All are welcome as we journey together into Lent.

Through the week in Lent Devotional Services:

Mondays: Compline 8pm Drayton St Leonard Church A service of music and words for quiet reflection

Thursdays: Stations of the Cross 5pm Berinsfield Church A devotional reflection on Jesus' journey to the Cross

Lent Coffee and Lunches across the Team

Tuesdays Lent LOAF Lunch 12.30pm Berinsfield Church Local, Organic, Animal friendly and Fairtrade food for the body and soul! Come for lunch and a sharing of recipes and ideas to make your shopping and eating environmentally friendly.

Wednesdays Lent Lunch 12pm in the Bridge Group – contact clergy for details

Thursdays Lent Coffee and Cake 11am Vicarage Warborough Contact Rev Caroline for more detail

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday 4th March 3pm: "I Know the Plans I Have for You" Berinsfield Church followed by afternoon tea - Everyone welcome!