

The Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter



May 2019

FROM REVD DR MICHAEL LAKEY, CURRENTLY THE CURATE IN CHARGE IN THE BRIDGE GROUP OF PARISHES

“If you don’t want to know the score, please look away . . . now!”



I wonder in how many houses those words have rung in recent weekends? I mean, almost every Saturday someone is kicking, batting or throwing something at someone or something else, be it net, basket or stumps. And it is, of course, difficult for the legion of interested followers and fans to keep up with every wicket, pass or goal. When I was growing up, around the time video recorders were becoming popular, the person who had taped the game and who therefore had to rush home without gaining knowledge of the results was something of a stock scene in sit-coms. When we want to enjoy a process, we don’t want to get to the finish before time. This is true of sports games, detective novels, good films, days off and lots of the best things in life.

However, from time to time, we all are also painfully aware of the opposite phenomenon—when we are so desperate to arrive at an end (*any* end)—just that a process might stop. There is a saying attributed to Albert Einstein that captures the contrast between these two opposites beautifully. In 1929, he was asked to describe the experience of relativity and is reported to have replied: *‘An hour sitting with a nice girl on a park bench passes like a minute, but a minute sitting on a hot stove seems like an hour.’* The one goes too quickly; the other not nearly quickly enough. It probably feels to many of us that events out in the wider world are more like the second scenario than the first. By the time this piece is read, a few weeks from now, Brexit might finally be over . . . or Article 50 revoked . . . or negotiations might have concluded . . . or we all may still be sitting (and arguing) on the ‘hot stove’ together not really knowing what the outcome is going to be. Whatever does or does not eventually happen, I suspect that some will be disappointed, others elated and all of us fatigued.

For Christians at this time of year, the season of Easter captures both sides of this contrast. In the run-up to the festival, we spend time thinking about the hardships and temptations Christ endured and his death on a cross. And from Easter Sunday, we focus on his final victory over death, particularly evident in his empty tomb and his appearances to his friends. But without the death, there could be no climax of the story in the Resurrection, and without the Resurrection the death would have not have the meaning that it does. Both the ending and how we get there are equally crucial (no pun intended).

There is something for all of us here—as individuals, as families and communities, as a nation. The story of our journey through the big decisions of life, can be as crucial as the outcomes of those decisions themselves. We pray that we might all learn to travel well together!

God bless you all.

Ascension Day Thursday 30th May Toot Baldon

It is the Dorchester Team's custom to go to one of our higher parishes for Ascension Day!

This year we will meet and celebrate at **Toot Baldon** with its glorious view across the valley to the Chilterns. We look forward to seeing you there. The service starts at 7.30pm.

Sung Evensong - Sunday 19 May 3pm

Everyone is warmly invited to join us for our annual Service of Sung Evensong led by Dorchester Abbey Choir in the Chapel at Nuneham Courtenay.

This will be followed by tea under the portico.

Godparents and Christenings Special Sunday: 5th May, Dorchester Abbey

We would like to extend a special invitation to you, including all children, parents, and Godparents, to remember and celebrate your Christenings. There will be a mini breakfast and children's entertainment from Juggling John. So, bring your 'Godparents and teddies' to a special service in the Dorchester Festival Tent. RSVPs welcome, and for more information – admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk

THE REV DR MICHAEL LAKEY

By now most of you will know that Michael has been appointed Vicar of Chalgrove. After several years as part of the Team Michael has decided that his heart lies with parish ministry and Chalgrove is an excellent fit for his family – Amelia and Ava will be able to stay at their school and already have friends in Chalgrove. Michael will have a pub to look after. We will be extremely sad to say good bye to Kirsty, Michael and the girls in the summer but are delighted that this is such a good move for them.

Sue Booy is Team Rector for the Dorchester Team. Any queries about services, or if you would like to speak to someone about a baptism, wedding, or funeral the person to contact in the first instance is the Administrator in the **Dorchester Team Office** on **01865 340007**. Or, if you prefer, email admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk. **01865 340007** is also the number you can ring **at any time** if you need to contact a clergy person urgently.
Baldons Churchwardens: Debbie Dance (341323) and Ian Gillespie (341398).

Events in Dorchester Abbey

Thursday May 2nd 10.15am: Oneness-Dream is a male voice a cappella singing group whose members follow the spiritual teachings of Sri Chinmoy (1931-2007). Free

May 3rd – 12th, 15th- 17th and 19th: Dorchester Festival

See <https://dorchesterfestival.com>

May 24th – 27th English Music Festival The Thirteenth Festival of English Music. Tickets from www.englishmusicfestival.org.uk The programme includes many gems, including the world première performances of Robin Milford's Symphony, Vaughan Williams's *The Blue Bird*, Lord Berners' *Portsmouth Point*, Stanford's Violin Concerto in D of 1875, and a new work by David Matthews.



Wednesday 8th May

7.30pm

Marsh Baldon Village Hall
OX44 9LL

Is Religion the Cause of the World's Problems?

Gareth Black, a fellow of the Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics, will be countering the argument that religion is the reason for most of the world's problems. The talk will be followed by a question and answer session, and hopefully a lively discussion. You are invited to come and debate this issue.

This is the final talk in our series addressing the issues that challenge faith in God.

Everyone is welcome. Coffee/tea and cake will be served at 7.30pm, there will be a brief time of worship at 7.50pm and the talk will start at 8.10pm. You are welcome to join in at any point in the evening. The event will end at 9.30pm.

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

Baldons Garden Group

ANNUAL PLANT AND SEEDLING SWAP

Sunday 5th May

10.30-12.00 Marsh Baldon village hall

Bring seedlings and plants to swap or just come and buy.

The more you can bring.... the more we have to swap/sell

So now is a great time to pot up your surplus seedlings /cuttings/and divided plants

As usual we will have tea, coffee and delicious cakes and this year we will also be selling local eggs, homemade bread...etc

For more information contact liziegiraudeau@gmail.com or dianabelli@btinternet.com



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We have been advised by Oxfordshire County Council that the B4015 between Golden Balls Roundabout and Chiselhampton will be closed for resurfacing from 25 – 29 June 2019 inclusive.

Limited access will be maintained for emergency service vehicles and for frontages within the closed section of road, subject to the progress of the works.



HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF BECOMING AN ON-CALL FIREFIGHTER?

Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service are looking for On-call Firefighters to join their team!

Do you want to earn extra money, serve your community and save lives in a rewarding role? If so, a career as an On-call Firefighter might be just the thing for you.

On-call Firefighters are the backbone of the fire service and

anyone can be one. If you're employed full-time, are a parent, out of employment or just have some spare time, you can respond to emergency calls.

On-call Firefighters are trained and paid for their time and service - and on average are expected to be called out two or three times each week for about an hour at a time - this can be at night or during the day.

They are looking for anyone over the age of 18, who is physically fit (this can be worked on), doesn't suffer from vertigo, claustrophobia or dislike the sight of blood. They need good common sense, to be enthusiastic, reliable and honest.

If this sounds of interest, please visit www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oncallfirefighters

Councillor's Priority Fund

This year I have awarded the following grants to Parish Councils and community groups in my Division:

Warborough Parish Council	£750.00	New railings for War Memorial
Employment Action Group – The Berin Centre	£3,500.00	Repairs to building & new classes
Baldons Parish Council	£2,000.00	Improved parking on the green
Berinsfield Bus Club	£5,629.50	Subsidy for bus fares to Abingdon
Culham Parish Council	£2,500.00	Application for speed limit reduction
Total:	<u>£14,379.50</u>	

The balance from the £15,000 is being carried over, and I am already awarding grants to community groups for the coming year 2019-2020.

Cabinet Re-Shuffle – Change of Role for Me

The Leader announced a re-shuffle to his Cabinet effective from September 1st 2018. I was appointed the Cabinet member for Education, which is a completely new challenge for me. I have spent the last seven months getting up to speed with all the issues. This is in addition to my role with responsibility for the County's Cultural Services which I am delighted to retain.

CLIFTON HAMPDEN PATIENTS PARTICIPATION GROUP

For those who attend the Clifton Hampden surgery, we are having our AGM in the waiting room on Wednesday 29 May at 7.30pm

We would really appreciate your presence and interest in our future plans and to have your ideas. We can only contact patients who have given us their email addresses and hope that those who received our recent newsletter enjoyed it. It would be lovely to hear from anyone willing to attend and support our group. We are particularly keen to have representation from all villages. So far, we have members from Clifton Hampden, Dorchester, Long Wittenham and Sutton Courtenay and occasionally other villages.

If you are interested, please contact Gerry Moscrop our PPG hon. Secretary geraldmoscrop@btinternet.com
Mary Braybrooke (Chairperson)

BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Annual Parishes Meeting 8th April

A useful but thinly attended meeting was held on Monday 8th April. Apart from the formal reports villagers raised a number of issues including repairs round the green, highways issues in Toot Baldon, Toot Baldon mains drainage and whether there is a future for Baldon Feast.

Thanks were given to Sue Lawson our District Councillor who is standing down at the May SODC election. The Parish Council appointed 2 new trustees to the Fuel Charity, Alison Barne and Alan Johns. All annual reports are on the Baldons website

Parish Council Election

SODC Electoral Office have now advised us that as only 5 candidates have stood for the 6 vacancies on the parish council there will be no formal election process in May. The councillors standing for re-election are Laurence Attewill, Stephen Dance and Dorothy Tonge for Marsh Baldon and Elizabeth Gillespie and John Maskell for Toot Baldon, who are automatically elected. This leaves one councillor vacancy for Marsh Baldon which the council will seek to fill by a co-option that will be advertised after 2nd May. We hope that someone will be interested and bring new thoughts and ideas to the council

Village Green

As spring is with us and we see the Village Green growing and in bloom again for us all to enjoy it is worth reminding villagers and their visitors of the rules that govern the Village Green, and also mentioning a few things relating the care and the management of the Green in which you can be helpful particularly if you are new to the villages.

The Rules of the Green are set out in The Law and Property Act of 1925 incorporated into the Commons Act 2006 and are displayed on the notice board overlooking the Green near the cricket pavilion. The Green is formally owned by Queen's College, farmers have rights over it, and the Parish Council is responsible for maintenance.

The Village Green is there for all to enjoy as a public amenity with rights of access, and the size and beauty of our Green is well known. However, the rules do prohibit certain activities which includes amongst others:

- Driving and parking
- Dumping of rubbish and refuse
- General injury or disfigurement the land or interference with its use as a public amenity.

Recognising the realities of modern life and dependence of villagers on cars for transport the parish council has always tried to be tolerant of cars around the Green but it is important that villagers and visitors are aware that driving or parking on the Green is not a right and in fact is a cause most of the damage round the

edges. We need villagers to respect the Green and help to maintain and protect it.

There has been increasing erosion and damage to the edges of the Green from cars, 4WDs, and other vehicles particularly outside the school, on the south side, and on road side verges throughout the village. Cars are an essential part of village life, but we do need everyone to respect the Green and to drive and park with care.

There are new car tracks on the south side of the Green despite the 'No Driving' notice and there are complaints being made to the council. Although the track is rough it is drivable and should be used. Driving on the Green to avoid the track is totally inappropriate.

Village Spring clean

A big thank you to everyone who turned out on Sunday 7th April to help with the litter pick. As usual there was a lot of stuff but for once no car tyres. There had been a big problem of fly tipping few days earlier which left more litter behind after SODC removed the big stuff.

Can we remind you that if you see fly tipping taking place please take the vehicle number and report it to SODC. Similarly, if there is anything that could identify the source of the waste i.e. names or addresses report that also. All fly tipping can be reported by phone to SODC waste services or on line, follow links <http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/environment-and-neighbourhood-issues/street-cleaning-and-fly-tipping/fly-tipping>

or

Telephone **03000 610 610** or email admin.southoxford@biffa.co.uk

Planning applications

Land next to the Old Telephone Exchange and The Old Telephone Exchange land. Amended plans for both these developments have been received and supported by the parish council and are now awaiting SODC decision.

Durham Leys Farm. An amended plan has been received and councillors are considering their response.

Date of next meeting

Annual General Meeting of the Council

9th May 7.30 pm Village Hall

Apart from the usual business this meeting deals with the formal adoption of the new Parish Council and election of officers.

BIRDSONG - EMBEDDED MEMORIES

At this time of year, now Spring is well and truly underway, I'm often asked to write and talk about how to recognize differing birds' songs. No beating getting out there and practicing bird recognition by connecting the birds seen with the songs heard.

That said, just getting out there and enjoying birdsong, and not worrying about which species we are watching or listening to is enough in itself. For those who want to know which birds are singing, a tip for this is to try and align the sounds of the songs to personal memories. This embeds the sounds better.

Great Tit: These sound like a squeaky wheelbarrow wheel.

Wren: Sound like tiny machine guns.

Blackcap: Are like a set of Newton's Balls on a coffee table clicking away.

Jay: Remind me of a rusty nail being dragged over a metal cheese grater.

Song Thrush: Sing a selection of notes 3 times, then singing another selection 3 times, so on and so on.

Grasshopper Warbler: Sounds like a fishing line spinning away.

Chiffchaff: Do just that sound, often with an extra note dropped in there.

Yellowhammer: Often sound like they are saying "Little bit of bread and no cheeeese pleaaaaase.

Wood Pigeon: Can be heard calling as though they are saying "Get off my toe Betty".

Happy Gardening

Stuart Mabbutt

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**'BLUESTONES AND WHITE BONES: THE ORIGINS OF THE PEOPLE BURIED AT STONEHENGE' BY PROF RICK SCHULTING
7.45 FOR 8PM, WED 8TH MAY, ST MARY'S CHURCH, WALLINGFORD**

While much work has been done on understanding (or speculating on) Stonehenge's stones themselves, far less attention has been paid to those who created it. Rick Schulting of Oxford's School of Archaeology will present the intriguing results of the strontium isotope analysis of the remains, which suggested there were strong connections between west Wales and Wessex, extending beyond the transportation of stones, to the movement of people.

Visitors (£4) are most welcome. www.twhas.org.uk





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Citizens Advice boosts help for Universal Credit claimants

Citizens Advice has designed a new service to help you and speed things up if you are claiming Universal Credit for the first time but having problems with the application.

The "Help to Claim" service will be available in England from 1 April 2019 over the telephone, face to face, and online through "webchat" and Internet content.

We can advise on your eligibility, set up an email address or Universal Credit account, fill in the initial application form, get access to a computer, or arrange advance payments. We can also help you by ensuring that the right evidence is submitted with your form. And if you only need minimal help with your application, Citizens Advice can provide tips if you get stuck.

As part of its normal service, Citizens Advice also supports people who are already receiving Universal Credit. The national Freephone number for Help to Claim is **0800 144 8444**. Telephone and webchat services are available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Monday-Friday)

For any other issues you might need help with, please telephone the Citizens Advice Adviceline on 03 444 111 444. Come and see us in person if you prefer. For locations of offices and opening hours see www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale

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NUNEHAM COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Annual parish meeting

The friendly Annual Parish Meeting, open to all parishioners, will be held on Tuesday 30th April in the Village Hall from 7pm to 9pm. There will be wine, nibbles, etc. Let's hope for a good turn-out like last year and an enjoyable event.

Parish Council election

When nominations closed, there were just four candidates for the five places on the Parish Council, all members of the outgoing council: James Fallon, John Peters, Mandy Rigault and Madhvi Saini. They have been re-elected unopposed.

This means there is one vacancy and the new Parish Council can fill that vacancy at its first meeting. If any parishioner is interested in becoming a parish councillor, they can speak to one of the four elected councillors or come along to the Annual Parish Meeting to meet people.

District Council election

The whole of South Oxfordshire District Council is up for election in 2019. Nuneham Courtenay is part of a ward called Sandford and the Wittenhams, for which just two candidates have been nominated: Fiona Ardern for the Conservative Party and Sam Casey-Rerhaye for the Green Party.

The election will take place on Thursday 2 May 2019 between the hours of 7am and 10pm. The polling station will be the Village Hall. Poll cards giving the address of the polling station, the date of the election and the hours of the polls, will be issued.

Next council meeting

The first meeting of the new parish council will be on Tuesday 21st May at 7pm when the newly-elected councillors have to choose a chair and vice-chair.

Superfast Broadband

Two fibre-enabled cabinets are now live and ready to take orders in Nuneham Courtenay as part of the Better Broadband for Oxfordshire programme. This should mean that 93 residents and businesses in the parish will be able to request an upgrade to fibre-enabled broadband from a range of Internet Service Providers. In most cases, this means that residents can select a product offering download speeds above 24Mbps. The two cabinets should carry a large sticker declaring: 'Fibre broadband is here'. This indicates that the cabinets are live and ready to take customer orders. They are:

Nuneham Cabinet 2: this cabinet is located outside The Old Forge, Oxford OX44 9NX. It went live on 15th March 2019 and serves five OX44 postcodes: OX44 9NX, OX44 9NY, OX44 9NZ, OX44 9PB and OX44 9PD.

Nuneham Cabinet 11: this cabinet is located opposite 1 Park Cottage, OX44 9PE. It went live on 12th March 2019 and serves five OX44 postcodes: OX44 9PD, OX44 9PE, OX44 9PF, OX44 9PG and OX44 9PQ.

Please note that improved broadband services are not turned on automatically. To access fibre-enabled broadband, please contact your chosen Internet Service Provider or use comparison sites to find available packages.

If you contact an Internet Service Provider, please state that you wish to order 'fibre-enabled/superfast broadband,' otherwise they may offer you a slower broadband service. Your chosen Internet Service Provider should be able to offer any technical assistance to access fibre-enabled/superfast broadband. There is also an Availability Checker on the Better Broadband for Oxfordshire website: <http://www.betterbroadbandoxfordshire.org.uk>

It is also important to note, that not all premises within a postcode area will necessarily be able to order superfast speeds (above 24Mbps). Premises will be able to access a range of speeds – some will get superfast broadband and others will be able to get anywhere between 2Mbps and 24Mbps, depending on distance from the cabinet.

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Items for the **June 2019** newsletter
by **16th May** please

Any villager is welcome to send items for publication in the newsletter - this can be anything from articles, poems or pictures, to publicising your event. In addition, if you have an image you would like us to consider for the cover, do send it in!

If you would like to receive a reminder e-mail each month for newsletter contributions, please let me know.

Natasha Eliot: tashaandjames@btopenworld.com. Alternatively, I can be contacted on 343478 or at Baldon House East, Marsh Baldon.

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

OWN A PUB – BECOME A BNCS SHAREHOLDER!

The Seven Stars is a community-owned asset in the heart of our villages. It is run by Matt and his team and supported by the Baldons and Nuneham Community Society (BNCS), which was set up to save the pub. Villagers chipped in to buy shares and it's now owned by over 150 shareholders, represented by the BNCS committee.

There is an opportunity to buy shares in BNCS, which will give you not only a stake in the pub but also a small rate of interest annually. We'd love to have new members, so if you are interested please click on the website or contact any of the committee.

LONG WITTENHAM PRIMARY

SCHOOL PRESENTS.....



MAY FAYRIE

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12pm -3pm

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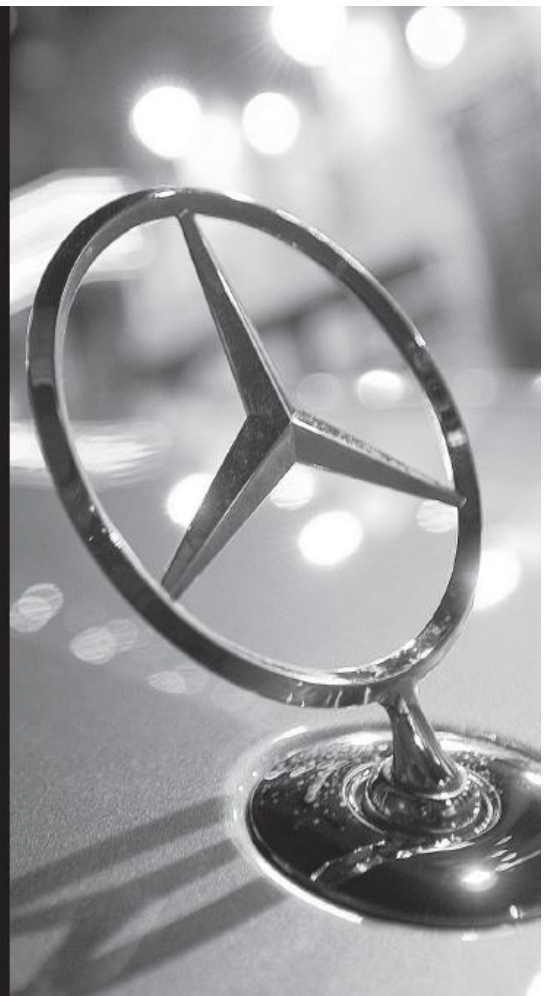
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Half Term Craft Afternoon

Wednesday 29th May 3.00pm

Rhymes for the Under 5's

Wednesdays 10.30am

Storytime Wednesdays 3.45pm

IT Drop in Thursdays 2.00pm

Knit and Natter 2.30pm

7th May & 4th June

Reading Group 2.00pm

Thursday 9th May & 13th June


Coffee Morning 10.30am

21st May & 18th June

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SERVICES FOR MAY 2019

5 th May	9.30pm	Holy Communion <i>Marcus Braybrooke</i>	Toot Baldon
12 th May	6.00pm	Evening Worship <i>Jennifer Morton</i>	Toot Baldon
19 th May	3.00pm	Sung Evensong <i>with Dorchester Abbey</i> Choir <i>Jon Roberts</i>	The Chapel Nuneham Courtenay
26 th May	8.30am	Said Holy Communion <i>Jennifer Morton</i>	Marsh Baldon
	9.30am	Family Worship <i>Jennifer Morton</i>	Marsh Baldon
Thursday 30 th May	7.30pm	Ascension Day Team Holy Communion <i>Jennifer Morton</i>	Toot Baldon
2 nd June	9.30am	Family Communion <i>Jon Roberts</i>	Toot Baldon

SIDESDUTY

	Marsh Baldon	Toot Baldon
5 th May		9.30am Graham Hobbins
12 th May		6.00pm Sonia Hobbins
19 th May	9.30am Natasha Eliot	10.00am Sonia Hobbins
26 th May	9.30am Catherine Mason	
2 nd June		9.30am Jenny van Dijk

FLOWERS

5 th & 12 th May	I Wright & L Martin	S Hobbins & J van Dijk
19 th & 26 th May	F Ardern	H Maskell & J Knight
2 nd & 9 th June	C Attewill & V Sandilands	J Brook