

**The Baldons and
Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter**



May 2023

FROM REV PAUL WIGNALL, LONG WITTENHAM

The last Sunday in May is called, in the church's year, the Festival of Pentecost, when we celebrate God's gift of life. The Bible tells it as the story of Jesus' followers being overwhelmed by an empowering, burning fire that turned their world upside down.

But has the fire gone out? The church certainly seems to struggle to keep it lit, let alone attract others to come and warm themselves by it, or use it as a light to guide our path through life. The exuberance, the energy, that drove the apostles out across the whole known world – around the Mediterranean, into North Africa, the Middle East, probably even as far as India – and over many centuries across the globe; this fire doesn't burn like it did, certainly not in our neck of the woods.

It's not, it's precisely not, about numbers in church. It's about the deeply, joyfully serious business of finding and offering "life in all its fullness" – as the fourth gospel sums up Jesus' gift to the world. Where life is, there God is, but God is a strange comforter. What those first people of Pentecost discovered was that life isn't about comfort or self-satisfaction, not about keeping rules or keeping safe, not about staying out of harm's way or just doing enough to pay the bills. Life is for living in all its messiness, uncertainty, commitment, joy, sorrow and the elation – in the end – of being alive in our incomprehensibly wonderful universe. So Pentecost is God's final demand (like the giving of the law to Moses): be alive or else you will have forfeited your chance to share in the glory of creation.

On the first Easter morning, the followers of Jesus were huddled together in despair. The fire of life had gone out of their eyes. With nothing to hope for they were getting ready to drag themselves back to their old lives, dreams shattered. Then, from nowhere, came life – life that had defeated death. New life for them, new hope, a new chapter, a new journey.

Pentecost is the great explosion: not just life for me, not just for those who are content to huddle together in fear that the accounts won't balance, that numbers will fall away further and that the roof will collapse. Pentecost is the gift of life, beyond the bank balance, the head-count and the building – out into the world where true life is to be found in all its chaos, glory and challenge. Pentecost is the moment when the church is told to get out there and join in what the world is doing. Because that's where God is.

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



Coronation celebration on the Green - Update

When: Sunday 7th May from 12.30 pm

Come and Enjoy:

- *A free welcome drink & fairy cake*
- *Music: 2 live bands to get your dancing feet tapping*
- *Magic: a roaming magician to tantalise and amaze*
- *Competitions:*
 - *fancy dress - come as your favourite king, queen or royal theme - prizes given for best dressed adult and best dressed child!*
 - *Bring & share cake making competition - bring your best cake bakes for submission by 2pm. There will be a prize for the winner and then all cakes will be shared out as we toast the king later in the afternoon*
 - *Guess the sweets in the jar - win and they will be all yours!*
- *Games: Splat the rat, welly wanging & sack races*
- *Also available to purchase on the day: teas, coffees, hog roast*



Don't forget to bring your own picnic, picnic blanket/chairs....



Volunteers needed to help with Marquees please:
 Meet 7.5.23 9.30am on the Green to put up
 Meet 8.5.23 10.00am on the Green to take down

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Items for the June 2023 newsletter
by 16th May 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

ANNUAL PLANT AND SEEDLING SWAP

SUNDAY 7TH MAY

10.30 TO 12.00 Marsh Baldon Village Hall

Which happens to fall on the same day as the Coronation celebration.

Come to us in the morning and then on to the village green in the afternoon!

Bring seedlings and plants to swap or just come and buy with a donation.

The more you can bringthe 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.
All are welcome.**

Profit this year goes to maintenance of the village orchards, and the local charity 'RESTORE'

**We look forward to seeing you.
For more info please contact Lizie or Diana**

**liziegiraudeau@gmail.com
Dianabelli@btinternet.com**

NUNEHAM COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

London Plane Trees

The County Council's Tree Service has accepted that work needs to be done on the London plane trees along the main road – but more extensive work than last time. So, they're going to arrange for contractors to prune the trees over the main road, as well as over the pavement and the houses.

And that means they will need either to close the main road on one side at a time while they prune the trees on that side - with a system to control the traffic – or to close the main road completely with diversions in place.

The County Council's Tree Service asked to be allowed to discuss the options with the parish council at its next meeting on Tuesday 9th May and the council agreed. Do you want to find out more? Do you have an opinion? As always, anyone is welcome to attend. The meeting starts at 7pm and it's in the Village Hall, as usual. The work on the trees is unlikely to happen before July.

May 2023 elections

You will have a choice between just two candidates for South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) in the elections on Thursday 4th May: Sam Casey-Rerhaye for the Green Party and Edwin Samu for the Conservative Party.

If you intend to vote in person at the Village Hall, you will need to take photo ID with you. It must be something from a list that includes a passport, a driving licence, a concessionary bus pass and a Proof of Age Standards Scheme card. And the staff at the polling station have to agree the photo looks like you. Voting is between 7am and 10pm.

If you want to apply to SODC for one of the Government's new Voter Authority Certificates because you don't have any acceptable photo ID, the deadline for that is 5pm on Tuesday 25th April.

Annual Parish Meetings

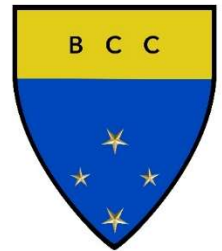
This year's Annual Parish Meeting will be on Thursday 18th May in the Village Hall, starting at 7.30pm. Refreshments will be provided and the Council hopes many of you will come along, meet your neighbours, let us know about anything bothering you.

Parish Councillors

SODC received just three nominations for the five places on the parish council, so existing councillors John Peters, Mandy Rigault and Madhvi Saini were all re-elected unopposed and there are still two places available. If you're interested, please contact the Parish Clerk or any of the councillors.

Geoffrey Ferres, Parish Clerk, Nuneham Courtenay Parish Council
Tel: 07419 991623 Email: clerk@nunehamcourtenay.org.uk

BALDONS CRICKET CLUB



Village Game, Sunday 21st May (2pm)

Come and join us to play cricket on the Green with the Baldons Cricket Club. All players and abilities welcome for the start of season friendly internal village game of cricket on Sunday 21 May 2023. It's a fun afternoon, do come along even if you are rusty or haven't played before - everyone is welcome to join in. Please come and watch, bring a chair and join in the afternoon. To sign up for the game please visit the link below:

www.tickettailor.com/events/baldonscc/885756

Baldons Cricket Club Fixture List 2023	
Sunday 21st May	Baldons Village Game
Friday 2nd June (Evening T20)	Warborough
Sunday 2nd July	Great Haseley
Sunday 9th July	Islip
Sunday 23rd July	Astons
Sunday 6th August	Britwell Salome
Sunday 3rd September	Hanney

We hold nets practices on The Green on Thursday evenings, everyone is welcome. Please email us your phone number to join the WhatsApp group. Contact baldonscc@gmail.com for more details and if you have any questions.





BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Elections May 4th

Hopefully, most villagers know a new Parish Council for the Baldons has already been announced by SODC. An uncontested election, such as this year, takes place when the number of candidates is equal to or less than the number of council vacancies. The list of new councillors who will be in place from May 5th has circulated via the village email.

**SODC elections for District councillors will still occur on May 4th.
Do not forget to take a photo ID.**

Village Spring clean Sunday March 29th

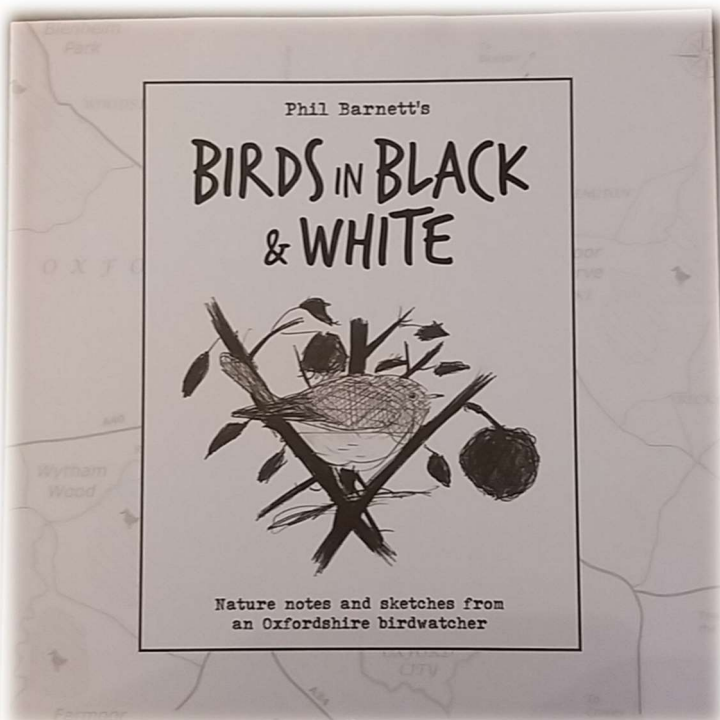
A big thank you to all who turned out to help, there were more than usual including those new to the village and we managed to clear an enormous amount of rubbish. A big thank you again.

Planning applications

Land at Court House Farm P23/S1053/FUL A plan for six single storey retirement houses for older people by Blue Cedar developers, on vacant land east of the Mole Inn. Blue Cedar undertook informal online consultation with villagers last autumn. The council is considering its response but is likely to be supportive but with recommended conditions.

Date of next meeting: The inaugural meeting of the new parish council is on May 15th at 7.30 pm in the village hall.

BIRDS IN BLACK AND WHITE



This book has been produced by Philip Barnett, whose family lived in the Baldons until recently. Copies of the book cost £10, with the whole cost being donated to the RSPB. If you would like a copy, please contact Natasha on 01865 343478 or tashaandjames@btopenworld.com.

NUNEHAM COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Movie Night

By popular vote, we will be showing *The Duke* on May 19th as part of our grant funded activities. This will be a free showing! Doors open at pm. Refreshments are available to purchase. *The Duke* is rated 12 A so everyone is welcome, including children and well behaved dogs as long as they are accompanied by a parent.



The Duke is a 2020 British comedy-drama film directed by Roger Michell, with a screenplay by Richard Bean and Clive Coleman. Dealing with the 1961 theft of the *Portrait of the Duke of Wellington*, the film stars Jim Broadbent, Helen Mirren, Fionn Whitehead, Anna Maxwell Martin and Matthew Goode. It was Michell's penultimate film before his death on 22 September 2021.

Yoga night

Yoga continues on Mondays at 7:30ish, priced at £3 a session

Bookings

Contact Nuneham Courtenay Village Hall
nunehamcourtenay.villagehall@gmail.com if you want to make a booking.

Help wanted

There are a number of roles available on the committee, including book-keeping (finance) and admin. You do not have to be involved with everything and each activity. Let us know if you are able to give a hand!

Next month...

We will be holding our vintage tea party! Hope you can make it!

JOHN HOWELL MP WRITES

I would like to begin this month with a personal note which some readers may already be aware of from media reports. After 15 years as the MP for the Henley Constituency I have decided that I will not be seeking to be a candidate in the next General Election. I have served this constituency since 2008 and by the time of the end of the next parliament I will be coming up towards my mid-70's. I do not want to be in parliament until that time as I would like to pursue other avenues. Until such time as the next General Election is called and Parliament dissolved I remain your MP and will continue represent concerns and assist constituents whilst also leading the UK Parliamentary Delegation to the Council of Europe on behalf of the Government.

Now let me turn to issues that I know to be of concern to constituents. A piece of good news on funding is the Spring Budget announcement of additional funding to repair our roads. I think most people agree that the state of our roads is unacceptable in many places, a view which the Government shares. As a result the Chancellor announced an additional £200 million for highways maintenance for the financial year 2023-2024. The amount apportioned to Oxfordshire is £3,706,000 which is passed to the County Council to decide how best to spend it. When I recently raised concerns over potholes with the Director responsible for this work I was advised that they are currently receiving unprecedented numbers of reports of potholes that have become deep in a very short timescale due to the usual weather patterns of heavy rain followed by freezing conditions. He added that they have limited resource to investigate the level of enquiries received and to maintain roads, paths and cycle paths. The council seeks to fix potholes reported via FixMyStreet based on the risk that they pose to all road users whilst also carrying out scheduled maintenance. I trust that the injection of this large sum of additional cash will help speed up this work.

I am delighted too that there is further investment of £1.2 million in the area through the Rural Prosperity Fund to support local businesses and create jobs to grow the rural economy. This will be administered via our District Councils, South Oxfordshire and Cherwell, which will receive £733,241 and £526,831 respectively.

There are, of course, many big issues which affect us all which are well rehearsed in the national media and which the government is already working to address. If there is a particular issue that concerns you, please do share your thoughts. If you would like to know more about my work on behalf of the Government, and in the Constituency, please do look at my website. The address is www.johnhowell.org.uk. My contact details are also on the website.

IT'S STILL SOMETHING MANY OF US DO

I'm noticing already, people are growing different things in their garden this year, or maybe growing their usual things, but in a different way.

Whether or not we realise it, my Spidey Sense tells me it's an example of us gardeners, us growers, us as a species, already adapting to the different growing conditions we get these days.

Whether that's man-made climate change, or natural climate change, or just the heatwaves we've experienced over the last two summers, causing this change in behaviour in the people I've seen out gardening lately. It's still that healthy year on year adaptation process, we gardeners go through, have always gone through, and will always go through.

Gardening and wildlife gardening is thriving and well, but it seems the concept of gardening and how we do it is changing, largely due to modern living. It still survives though and will be a popular pastime for generations to come yet.

Since I wrote the last article, I've spent time in cafes of local garden centres, people watching, especially over Easter. I overheard many conversations of people questioning if certain things will grow now conditions are dryer? The message is out there on some level, it clearly doesn't need commentators, experts, or article writers to keep telling us. Things are changing and from the conversations I overheard, they are changing permanently.

I'm really interested to hear if and how you are gardening differently this year. I'd like to hear why you are doing it, and what you are doing differently. I think a lot of shared learning can come from that.

Whether you are gardening the same this year, or completely differently, just get out there, give it a go. It's not something old people do, it's something we all do, even if we just have a view pots here and there. Enjoy.

Happy Gardening
Stuart Mabbutt
Wildlife Gardening Specialist
01865 747243
www.wildmaninspires.co.uk

Become a Healthwatch Oxfordshire trustee – and help us make local health and care better

- Do you care about the way health and social care services are run in Oxfordshire?
- Would you like to play a part in making these services better for all?

If so, Healthwatch Oxfordshire needs you to become a trustee!

Healthwatch Oxfordshire is the county's independent health and social care watchdog. We listen to people's experiences of local services and share what we hear with commissioners and providers to help bring about improvements.

Becoming a trustee offers a real opportunity for you to help improve care across the county.

The role will only require around 20 hours of your time a year.

We welcome applications from people of all ages and backgrounds, and no previous experience of being a trustee is necessary – your lived experience and skills are what we need! A full induction will be given, and you will be well supported by our existing trustees and staff.

One of our current trustees said the role was **rewarding and satisfying, adding: "Using skills and experience you already have, and learning new things, you get back much more than you put in."**

This is a voluntary role, although expenses will be paid.

To find out more, including how to apply, see

www.healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk/news/becomeatruster

You can also contact us for more information on **01865 520520** or at **hello@healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk**

Oxfordshire Libraries

May events at Berinsfield Library

Bee-themed story time and craft
Saturday 20 May 10.30am
Join us for a bee-themed craft and stories inspired by nature. Ages 4+



Rhymetime Wednesdays at 10.30am
Singing and rhyming fun for under 5s and their parents/carers



Book Club Friday 26 May 2pm
Contact the library for this month's book or just turn up to say hello and help choose the next one.



Playmobil Stay and Play
Wednesday 31 May 2-5pm
Half-term fun: get creative with the library Playmobil!



 @oxonlibraries  Berinsfield Library



OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL

SEVEN STARS at MARSH BALDON



QUIZ NIGHTS

Gather your team of eggheads and challenge the quiz master!

£2 per person - book direct with the team. 7pm start time

Thursday 27th April

Thursday 25th May

KINGS CORONATION

Saturday 6th May raise a glass as we toast to His Majesty King Charles III and celebrate his coronation, showing live at the pub.

We will also be joining in with the village celebrations on Sunday 7th on the green with a delicious Hog Roast

FATHERS DAY

Sunday 18th June treat dad to the best Sunday lunch in the shire! Pre-book now to avoid disappointment.

sevenstars@freespiritpubs.co.uk // 01865 343337
www.sevenstaratmarshaldon.co.uk



Cardinal House (between Marsh Baldon & Nuneham Courtenay) is looking for additional part-time bar-staff to support their growing schedule of events.

Pay starts at £12.50/hour and shifts can be flexible – primarily week-day evenings with occasional Saturday lunchtime/evenings.

Whilst experience is welcome, it is not required. Full training can be provided.
Must be 18 years or older.

Please contact Mrs. Tara Buck for further information:

Tara.Buck@omhc.org.uk



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

CHURCH SERVICES FOR MAY 2023

7 th May	10.30am	Marsh Baldon	Holy Communion
14 th May	4.00pm	Marsh Baldon	Evensong
18 th May (Thursday)	7.00pm	Toot Baldon	Ascension Day Holy Communion
21 st May	9.30am	Toot Baldon	Family Communion
28 th May	10.30am	Dorchester Abbey	Team Service
4 th June	10.30am	Toot Baldon	Holy Communion

DORCHESTER ABBEY EVENTS

Saturday 13th May 7pm- Brahms Requiem, Strauss Four Last Songs The sublime beauty and simple power of music is showcased in this evening's concert. Soprano Ilona Domnich, described by Opera Now as having a voice of 'silken beauty', joins the orchestra and OSJ Voices to perform three pieces from the German Austrian greats Brahms and Strauss on a theme of farewell, serenity and peace. Tickets £5 to £30 from www.osj.org.uk

Friday 19th May 7.30pm- Chiltern Arts Festival Part of Chiltern Arts Week Long Festival – 'Love, Loss and the Passage of Time' The Choir of King's College, London: Rachmaninov All Night Vigil (Vespers) with Joseph Fort conductor comes to Dorchester Abbey. The Choir of King's College, London performs Rachmaninov's breathtaking All Night Vigil alongside works by Taverner and the world premiere of a new work by John Strut, setting text by Anne Brontë. A truly special evening to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Rachmaninov's birth. Advanced tickets and refreshments available. £15- £35 from www.chilternarts.com/whats-on

Friday 26th – Monday 29th May-The English Music Festival- The Festival will be held in Oxfordshire, with events held in the glorious surroundings of Dorchester Abbey as well as at the Silk Hall at Radley College and the historic All Saints' Church at Sutton Courtenay. www.englishmusicfestival.org.uk/2023-may-festival/box-office/box-office-front-page.php