

# **The Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter**



**November 2020**

## FROM REVEREND TERESA STEWART-SYKES

“Remember, remember.....”

November is the month of Remembrance and remembering. I wonder how we will remember 2020, an extraordinary year of political upheaval, a global pandemic and a wonderful upsurge of community spirit and support?

The 2<sup>nd</sup> November is All Souls' Day, an important day of prayer and remembrance in the Church when we speak the names of those we love but see no longer and we offer prayers for them and for ourselves in our grief. This year many families have experienced bereavement in the most difficult circumstances of funerals with only a very few family members or no one present at all. Remembering and praying for those we have lost will be particularly painful this year.

The 11<sup>th</sup> November is of course Remembrance Day, a special day to honour those who serve to defend our democratic freedoms and way of life. This year our Remembrance Tide is more poignant as we remember the sacrifice of all those who serve our communities during the pandemic, the NHS workers, those who work in social care, teachers, delivery drivers, Post Office staff and supermarket staff.



These three strands, remembering our loved ones, remembering those who died for our political freedom, and remembering those who support our communities; these are woven together in this extraordinary year into a tapestry which comforts and challenges us in equal measure. We can feel comforted by the resilience of our communities, the kindness of our neighbours and the knowledge of God's love for us and for those who have died. However, we are challenged to recognise the frailty of democracy when nations and governments experience a health and economic catastrophe; and we are challenged to recognise in ourselves a selfish concern for our own needs when things get tough - remember the stockpiling of loo rolls and pasta?

As we progress through the winter months of this extraordinary year and look towards a new year, I wonder if we will remember the pain and distress of 2020 or the love and the hope shown in our response to the trials of the pandemic? My prayer for us all as we remember, is that we will cling to values of justice, mercy and love in our dealings with friends and with strangers.

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

e-mail: [RevTeresa@outlook.com](mailto:RevTeresa@outlook.com) and tel: 07823 809112

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

## **GENEROUS GIVING APPEAL FOR ST PETER'S CHURCH MARSH BALDON AND ST LAWRENCE'S CHURCH TOOT BALDON**

I have already written to individually thank those who so generously gave to our giving appeal, but I thought I would write to let everyone in the villages know how the churches are doing financially.

Since June 2020, the response to the Generous Giving Appeal has been wonderful. In the period to end of December 2020 the PCC will have received, through one-off and regular monthly, quarterly or annual giving, a total of £14,416 (including tax reclaimed under the Gift Aid Scheme).

Furthermore, from the increased regular donations the receipts for 2021 will be increased by £5,875 (including tax reclaimed). This is an amazing response and I am very grateful to you all, you have enabled the Church to continue to offer services, work with the school and hold community events like our recent art exhibition.

However, we are not out of the woods yet and we are facing a financial deficit of £5,000 for the year ending 31st December 2021. So, we have work to do in raising a little more money! We have plans to sell Christmas cards and to hold some fundraising social events once the pandemic is over, maybe even a concert in St Peter's!

Thank you again for your support. If you would like to get involved with safeguarding the future of the churches in our villages do give me a call: I'd love to hear your ideas and to have a chat.

God's blessing to you,  
Rev Teresa



### **Service of Remembrance Sunday 8 November 10.55am St Peter's Marsh Baldon**

We remember with thanksgiving and sorrow  
those whose lives,  
in world wars and conflicts past and present,  
have been given and taken away.

*Space is limited so please contact  
Jennifer Morton if you would like to come  
[jennifer@morton8.co.uk](mailto:jennifer@morton8.co.uk)*

**Keep the Date!**



**Rambling with Dogs and Dog Collars on  
Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November 3pm  
Meet at the Village Hall car park**

Last year I invited all villagers of every age to join me for a community ramble. We had quite a crowd and really enjoyed ourselves. This year we are planning another ramble but keeping a social distance and walking in groups of 6!

Bring your dogs (or not) and join me for a time of conversation and to make new friends. We will meet in the Village Hall car park and will walk for about 40 mins

Hope to see you then, Rev Teresa

**CHRISTMAS WREATH-MAKING WORKSHOPS 2020**

Dear villagers

We are sounding you out re the Christmas wreath-making workshop.

Our thoughts so far:

- The date would be Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December (times tbc)
- The workshop would be held in the gardens of numbers 27 and 29 The Row, Toot Baldon (Diana and Lizie's gardens)
- There would be 2 small groups, one in each garden... obviously respecting the rules at the time regarding social distancing and numbers

**Please let us know if you are provisionally interested so we can start planning.**

Obviously, numbers would be limited.

Please email Lizie if you would like to be added to the list:  
[liziegiraudeau@gmail.com](mailto:liziegiraudeau@gmail.com)



## EVERY **POPPY** COUNTS

Registered charity number: 219279

**The Legion's work is more vital than ever as they support people from all generations who have new hardships as a result of Covid-19.**

**Because of the Coronavirus there will be no house collection for this year's Poppy Appeal. However, poppies will be available from Iris Wright, at Justyn, The Croft (343318) and at St Peter's Church.**

**There are also other ways you can donate.**

**ONLINE:** You can go to the Royal British Legion website, where you can donate, buy poppies and even download posters like the one above: <https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/>

**BY PHONE:** Call 0845 845 1945 to make a donation by phone.

**BY TEXT:**

**To donate £2 text POPPY2 to 70545\***

**To donate £5 text POPPY5 to 70545\***

**To donate £10 text POPPY10 to 70545\***

**\*Texts cost £2, £5, or £10 plus one standard network rate message (typically 97% of the donation amount goes to the Royal British Legion).**

## **BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

There has not been a Parish Council meeting in October.

### **Village Green**

Work has been done to clear the ditch across the green and cut back most of the brambles etc. round the base of trees. We hope that villagers will feel that this is an improvement. The parish council will be considering as part of next year's budget setting the work that will continue to be needed to maintain the green.

### **Maintenance of ditches round the village**

As winter approaches it is important that ditches are maintained and where necessary cleared to prevent flooding during periods of heavy rain.

**Can we remind those villagers who have a drainage ditch outside your property that you have a riparian responsibility identified by the Environment Agency to ensure that it is kept clear. It is essential that ditches allow water to flow easily.**

### **Planning applications**

Owls Barn, Toot Baldon P20/S3506/HH an application for a raised deck area on the garage. Not yet commented on by the council.

### Orchard trees on the Green

Land agents for Queen's college have now agreed to the plans for planting orchard trees on two sites on the village green as part of the tree trail project.

**Date of next meeting**      Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 7.30 pm

This meeting will again be held by Zoom. Details of log in will be circulated by the Parish Clerk with the agenda. We will be discussing budget priorities for 2021 in order to advise SODC of the precept needed from April next year.

## **NUNEHAM COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

The next meeting of the Council is on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. It won't be a physical meeting in the Village Hall but another remote one using Zoom, like the ones the Council held in July and September.

John Peters, the Vice-Chair, will be running the meeting and we have not had to finalise the agenda yet so I can't tell you for certain what will be down for discussion but if there is anything you want to say to the Council you can join the meeting by telephone if you don't have a computer. Contact the Clerk, Geoffrey Ferres, for more information, on [clerk@nunehamcourtenay.org.uk](mailto:clerk@nunehamcourtenay.org.uk) or 07419 991623

## **CHRISTMAS CAROLS 2020**

**Carols and music for Christmas will be different this year but new ideas are being worked on.**

**In next month's Newsletter we will be unveiling creative and exciting ways to celebrate and enjoy the wonderful music of Christmas.**

### **NUNEHAM COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL NEWS**

The Village hall remains closed at this point for repairs. Thank you to everyone who helped with clearing away the tree from the roof of the hall. Please do not park behind the hall as we need this space for repair work. Any enquiries for renting the hall can be made to June Harris on 343 371.

Apologies to anyone who has not been added to the Yoga WhatsApp group. If you remind me I will add you to it. We are continuing to meet weekly, either in person or via Skype, depending on weather and the current guidelines. Contact Jenny on 01865 343459 or [jenny@datadaysolutions.com](mailto:jenny@datadaysolutions.com) to be added.

The Old All Souls cleaning group hopes to meet with a gentleman from the Historic Church Conservation Trust the first week of November. Jenny is creating a WhatsApp group to support this. Please contact her if you wish to be added to it.

Jennifer Taylor  
[Jenny@datadaysolutions.com](mailto:Jenny@datadaysolutions.com)

### **JUNE SHEPHERD**

With much sadness we report the death of June Shepherd on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2020. June had been ill for some time and had moved from her house on the Green to be close to her sister. She was 89.

June was a great contributor to the community and there will be a proper appreciation of her life in next month's Newsletter.

## THE BALDONS CRICKET CLUB - END OF SEASON WORK

Last month we carried out an end of season renovation of the cricket square to improve the pitch for next year.

The work was not without its challenges; the scarifier from Oxfordshire Cricket broke down days before we were due to borrow it but thankfully Tom James was able to help organise a last-minute replacement. And then the van delivering a tonne of loam arrived without a forklift and was unable to unload until Martin Delafield came to the rescue in his JCB.



The weather was fine and we spent Friday evening, all day Saturday and Sunday morning scarifying - special mention to Chris

Shephard who, together with many members of the cricket team, put in a serious shift removing tons of thatch and moss from the square. We then fertilised and reseeded, before applying a topdressing of loam. The shoots have started to emerge and should be due their first cut in the next couple of weeks.



Thanks to the kind donations we have received, we have been able to send two of the club's mowers off to a specialist firm in Aylesbury to be given an overhaul and service. We have started to organise fixtures for next year, so if you know of a cricket team who would like to come and play us in Marsh Baldon, please put them in touch with Cosmo Taylor - baldonscc@gmail.com





## Using rights of way responsibly

A summary of reasonable and responsible use of public rights of way.

You have a right to 'pass and repass' along public rights of way. You may take a pram, pushchair or wheelchair if the path is suitable. If you come across an illegal obstruction then you have a right to take a short deviation around it or remove as much as is necessary to get past.

When using public rights of way please remember:

- to have the correct maps or literature with you to find your way accurately along the route
- to follow the countryside code
- that the countryside is where farmers, foresters and others earn their living. Please exercise your rights with courtesy and consideration for their livelihood
- cyclists and horseriders must not use footpaths. Cyclists should give way to riders and walkers. Horseriders should give way to walkers
- wherever possible use public transport to get out into the countryside
- if you use a car, do not park where it could cause obstruction to local residents or access to a field
- if you go as a group, please walk or ride in single file where necessary (for example through crops) and do not spread out beyond the width of the path
- if you come across problems, such as locked gates, dangerous animals, obstruction by crops, fallen or overhanging trees please help by reporting them to the county council
- keep dogs in sight, under close control and on the lead around livestock. Do not let your dog foul a public right of way and show respect by putting dogs on leads when you meet other walkers. For more information about how to manage your dog in the countryside, see our recommendations for dog owners.

For further information, please go to:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/environment-and-planning/countryside/countryside-access/public-rights-way/using-rights-way>

## Healthwatch Oxfordshire wants to hear from employed home carers



Healthwatch Oxfordshire wants to hear from anyone who works to provide care and support to someone in their own home in Oxfordshire.

The county's independent health and social care watchdog is asking people employed in home care support - including those who work privately, on a self-employed basis or for an agency - to share their experiences of what this is like by completing an anonymous survey at [www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Paidcarers/](http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/Paidcarers/)

The feedback received will help those who pay for and plan care in the county understand what is working well and what could be better.

Executive Director of Healthwatch Oxfordshire Rosalind Pearce said: "Carers do an extraordinary job, but we know this is not always an easy one. If you work as a home carer please do take a few minutes to fill in this survey and tell us what this is like and what support might make it easier. What you tell us will be treated in confidence - we don't need to know who you are, but we do want to hear your views."

If you'd prefer to talk this through over the phone, or to request a paper copy or translated version of the survey, please call 01865 520520.

To find out more about Healthwatch Oxfordshire see [www.healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk](http://www.healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk)

### **ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER**

Items for the December 2020 / January 2021 double issue newsletter  
**by 16<sup>th</sup> November please**

Any villager is welcome to send items for publication in the newsletter. Please send copy to 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 Leanna Maggs on:  
[leanna.maggs@gmail.com](mailto:leanna.maggs@gmail.com) or on 01865 340 521

## Citizens Advice needs volunteer advisers



We can all face problems that are too stressful or complicated to sort out alone.

Last year our 150 volunteers advised over 11,000 people. We helped three quarters resolve their debt, benefits, employment and housing problems.

We now need more advisers to help us during and after the Covid-19 crisis. Our main offices are in Abingdon, Didcot, Henley and Thame. Since March, 90 volunteers and staff have been advising the public from home on our Adviceline service. Recently we partially re-opened our offices, in part to train new advisers.

What will you get out of it? You will join a friendly team, meet new people, develop your skills and make a real difference to people's lives.

You'll need to have good listening and interpersonal skills, a willingness to learn and be confident with computers. Full training will be provided.

If you have eight hours a week to spare for the next two years or more and are looking for a satisfying and stimulating volunteer role in your local community, please contact us at:

[www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale/volunteer/](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale/volunteer/)

### **EVENT IN DORCHESTER ABBEY**

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November 6pm and 8pm – OSJ unlocked

*Glazunov 'Intermezzo Romantico'*

*Faure 'Four songs'*

*Samuel Coleridge-Taylor 'African Suite: Danse nègre',*

*Wagner 'Siegfried idyll'*

*with Ilona Domnich soprano and the Orchestra of St John's.*

*Tickets £15 from [www.osj.org.uk](http://www.osj.org.uk)*

***Prebooking essential***

## **ENJOY THE EBB AND FLOW OF LIFE AND DEATH**

Autumn has arrived, and we're getting a series of former storms from the US, that have successfully crossed the Atlantic Ocean.

After all the fine weather during the lockdown in 2020, the gardens are certainly grateful for the rain we're now experiencing. Mind you, some people are experiencing a deluge, which is rarely ideal.

Is this proof of global warming, these weather extremes? Personally, it is hard to show any one event is proof of global warming. A series of events, and regular new patterns, are to me more convincing.

Having said that, in my wildlife garden, the slugs and snails are well adapted to this weather. Sat at my desk, looking out the window at my own garden, the slugs are actually climbing up the windows. Chased close behind by a frog, who has been sharing the space with me for most of the summer. He or she, seems to certainly enjoy gorging on the slugs and snails, and fattening up for the winter hibernation.

Then again, a not so tame local Song Thrush is also enjoying regular meals of snails in my garden. Breaking the shells on my rock pile, and enjoying the juicy snail inside.

I always say, wildlife gardening does not have pests and diseases. It is all part of the jigsaw and mosaic that makes up any health ecosystem.

Enjoy your garden for what it is. Enjoy the ebb and flow of life and death, and everything in between. If gardening is stressful, then we are probably doing something wrong.

Happy Gardening  
Stuart Mabbutt  
Wildlife Gardening Specialist  
01865 747243

# SARAH WELLS

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# BERINSFIELD LIBRARY

**PLEASE NOTE THE SLIGHT CHANGE IN  
OPENING HOURS**

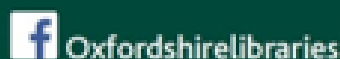
**Monday & Thursday Closed**  
**Tuesday - 2-5.00pm**  
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## PLANNED SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER 2020

Date	Time	Service	Location
1 <sup>st</sup> November	8am	Holy Communion	Dorchester and Warborough
	9am	Holy Communion	Drayton St Leonard
	9.30am		Clifton Hampden
	10.30am		Dorchester
8 <sup>th</sup> November	9.30am	Remembrance	Long Wittenham (tbc)
	10.30am*	*or earlier if memorial	Dorchester
	<b>11am</b>	<b>Act of Remembrance</b>	Berinsfield at Propeller, <b>Marsh Baldon (10.55)</b> Clifton Hampden, Stadhampton, Drayton St Leonard at Memorial tbc
	4pm		Culham
15 <sup>th</sup> November	8am	Holy Communion	Dorchester
	9am	Holy Communion	Drayton St Leonard
	9.30am		Clifton Hampden
	10.30am	ZOOM	Warborough
	10.30am	Family Craft	Dorchester
	<b>11am</b>	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>Marsh Baldon</b>
22 <sup>nd</sup> November	8am	Holy Communion	Dorchester
	8.30am	Holy Communion	Little Wittenham
	9.30am	Holy Communion	Long Wittenham
	10.30am		Dorchester
	11am	ZOOM	Berinsfield
	<b>4pm</b>	<b>Evensong</b>	<b>Toot Baldon</b>
29 <sup>th</sup> November	8am	Holy Communion	Dorchester
	4pm	Team Advent Service	Dorchester

We are gradually making our way back to normal with services but of course in these uncertain times we do not know what the future holds. Services of worship can happen with more than 6 people as long as the Churches in which they happen are Covid secure. **One aspect of this is asking you to register in advance for services so that we can ensure there is space.** I'm glad to report that people have been enjoying the return to church and wanted to remind you that **you may worship anywhere in the Team.** Each week the Team sends out information about Sunday services and who to contact if you would like to attend in person. If you would like to be included in that correspondence do let Rev Jennifer know at [jennifer@morton8.co.uk](mailto:jennifer@morton8.co.uk) or ring the office on 01865 340007.

There are regular services on the TV and radio and prayers and other information are on the Church of England's or The Diocese of Oxford's website. **We are also able to offer small weddings and funerals in church. To make a funeral or wedding arrangement please call 01865 340007 or Rev Teresa on 07823 809112.** Current information will be posted to [www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk](http://www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk) and [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)