

**The Baldons and  
Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter**



**November 2022**

## FROM REV TERESA STEWART-SYKES

In Britain, we like to talk about the weather, we are famous for it, but this summer's intense heatwaves, the recent catastrophic floods in Pakistan, and the devastation caused by Hurricane Ian are perhaps conversations we wish we didn't need to have! With the soaring temperatures in the UK this summer causing the deaths of approximately 1,000 people; with one third of Pakistan covered in flood water; and with over 100 people dead because of Hurricane Ian, these are not weather events to take lightly. Lives and livelihoods have been turned upside down by these extreme weather events.

### **So, what should a Christian say in a conversation about the weather?**

Before I answer that question, I would add as a sort of parenthesis a comment about what it means to 'Love your neighbour'. This 'golden rule' of the major religions has a Kantian undertow; treating people as ends in themselves and not the means to an end requires us to be generous and selfless in all our relationships. But where do you draw the line? Does my neighbour live in the next street, the next village, the next county, across the channel or across the world? The radical answer is that my neighbour is any person, wherever they live across the globe, who needs my emotional or physical support.

In the context of the climate crisis, loving my neighbour means any action I take should benefit rather than harm those people living in vulnerable regions of the world. For example, thinking about my fossil fuel consumption and reducing my carbon footprint is loving my neighbour affected by rising sea levels and extreme weather events. Choosing to eat less red meat and fewer dairy products is loving my neighbour whose natural landscape has been destroyed to provide grazing for beef or dairy cattle. Finding a pre-loved winter jumper in a charity shop rather than buying from a high street retailer is loving my neighbour trapped in a poverty wage job at a clothing factory. Simple choices and small actions that have a huge impact on my neighbours across the globe.

So, what about the weather, what should a Christian say about the weather? Christians are a people of justice and a people of hope. If our conversations about the weather and about climate change are begun with words of climate justice and end with words of hope for the future of our planet, we are on the right track.

Rev Teresa

***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**



# **FIREWORKS**

*Bonfire, Fireworks, Funfair, Bar, Mulled Wine, Food and more*

**5th NOVEMBER**  
***Marsh Baldon***

**6.15pm Lighting the Bonfire**  
**7.15pm Fireworks**

**Help Wanted, please!**

**5/11 Saturday 10.30am erecting marquees**  
**6/11 Sunday 10.00am taking down marquees**

***Do come, it is actually quite fun***

**Bonfire Material**

**Please bring material that we can easily burn from 10am  
on Saturday 5/11, nothing before that**

## **THE BALDONS FUEL CHARITY**

**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, a new boiler, mobility aids, costs of education and in many other situations when financial help makes life a little easier.**

**The Charity has an annual income of about £17,000.**

**If you are worried about your fuel bills in these challenging times, 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).**

**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**

**Jacque Lake - 343006**

**Chris Nichols - 343388**

**Alison Porter – 340405**

**Help with energy costs may also be available from the  
National Energy Foundation [www.nef.org.uk](http://www.nef.org.uk)**



Dear everyone,

Now is the time to sign up for the ever-popular Christmas wreath making workshop - Book now as places are limited!

It's always great fun, no experience is needed. Everyone goes home with a beautiful wreath to hang on their door.

As usual, there will be coffee, mince pies and mulled wine.

Sunday 11th of December 10.30 to 12.00 ...Marsh Baldon Village Hall. £15 for basic materials and refreshments.

Please bring extra foliage .... Green/silver/variegated, berries and cones and anything you would like to experiment with. We will have some... But there is never too much. Remember to bring your own secateurs, wire clippers and scissors and wear warm clothes in case you want to work outside.

To book a place please email:

Dianabelli@btinternet.com 343 384

Liziegiraudeau@gmail.com 343 219

Proceeds will go to maintenance of the village orchards

## **BALDONS VILLAGE HALL NEWS**

At the Village Hall AGM Chairman James Bufford announced his retirement after serving in the role for the last fifteen years. Under his guidance and chairmanship the village hall has flourished, and his dedication and commitment is very much appreciated by all of the committee and villagers alike.

As we so often forget, the unstinting, unpaid work by people like James is what makes the Baldons so special. We wish him all the very best for the future and thank him his valued contribution.

We are pleased to announce that Alan Johns has accepted the role as Village Hall Chairman after being duly elected at the AGM.

Village Hall Committee



## Talk about the Life of Bees

Wednesday the 16th November, 7pm for  
7:30pm start.

Nuneham Courtenay Village Hall are proud to have Busby's Bees giving a talk and showing their locally produced honey at this event. Honey will be available to purchase

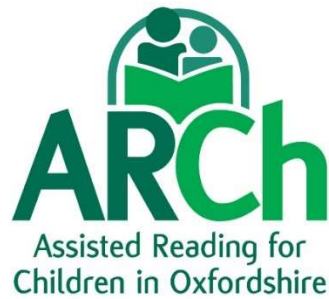
*Tickets £5 includes tea/coffee*

*Refreshments of beer/wine/soft drinks available*

*Cash only for this event please*

**Margie from Nuneham Pottery** will be there showcasing a new Bee-related line. A proportion of sales will go to the charity - **Bees for the Developing World.**





# Could you help a child to enjoy reading and change their life forever?



## Volunteers needed in local primary schools

All it takes is one and a half hours twice a week during the school day as an ARCh volunteer.

Sandra Selby, ARCh Volunteer for 10 years, says ***"I always left school with a smile on my face. ARCh was a very rewarding charity to work with and the ARCh back-up team supports volunteers so well."***

Full training, ongoing support and travel expenses are provided.

[www.archoxfordshire.org.uk](http://www.archoxfordshire.org.uk)

Tel 01869 320380

The charity obtains enhanced DBS checks on all volunteers before placement  
Registered Charity Number 1146276





## **WARM HOME DISCOUNT RULES UPDATED FOR 2022-23 – CITIZENS ADVICE**

As winter approaches, many people will be nervously anticipating the cold weather and its inevitable effect on their heating bills. The Warm Home Discount (WHD) was introduced by the government in 2011 to offset some of this burden.

For 2022-2023 there have been a couple of significant changes to the WHD: the number of energy suppliers participating in the scheme will increase, and those on disability benefits who don't have low incomes nor high energy costs will not receive the WHD.

The value of the WHD payment is currently £150. Nobody needs to apply in order to receive it, with the exception of those living in mobile homes on a park home site (see below). The payment is credited automatically to the consumer's electricity supply account (or credit is directly applied to a pre-payment meter), and energy suppliers have to make this payment by 31 March each year at the latest.

Eligibility for the WHD is ascertained by means of data-matching between energy suppliers and government departments. There are three eligible groups of consumers: low-income pensioner households; low-income people on some means-tested benefits; and households with high energy costs. This last criterium is determined by the type of property you live in, especially its age and its floor area (based on information supplied by the Valuation Office Agency or the Land Registry).

There is an alternative form of WHD for those living in mobile homes on park home sites. For more information about this, visit [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) and search for "Warm Home Discount". Also see the information under "Check if you'll get the Warm Home Discount in 2022" on <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk>. The Citizens Advice consumer helpline is 0808 223 1133 and our Adviceline is 0808 278 7907 if you have other concerns about energy costs.



## BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

### Parish Councillor for Toot Baldon

The Council is intending to fill the vacancy for a councillor for Toot Baldon by co-option at its next meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> November . There is only one candidate so no formal election process will be needed and the council is free to vote to co-opt.

### Solar Farm

Following the approval by SODC in December last year of the application of the Solar Farm on Nineveh farmland, the developers made an application to extend the permission from 35 to 40 years. This was considered and rejected by SODC planning committee in September. Both CPRE and the Baldons Parish Council made strong representations against this latest application.

### Southern Track

Work on the southern track was completed on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October and we hope all the residents along the track will see it as a great improvement. A slightly raised area has been built at the entrance to the track opposite the pub . This is intended to deter vehicles cutting the corner when approaching from the north.

There is also an edging of stones along a few meters of track to allow some overflow parking from the pub to park at right angles to the green. In discussion with BNCS pub committee they have agreed to be responsible for the maintenance of the green in this area and the Parish Council is very grateful for the generous contribution from the pub committee towards the capital cost of the restoration project.

Thanks must also be given to the hard work of the track committee particularly Peter Cave and Andy Speight and Tom James who have worked hard with Reeds the contractors to plan, and develop the scheme and to ensure it came in on Budget. It couldn't have been achieved without their input and expertise.

### Use of the Track

It is important to remind all villagers that this is not an adopted road round the green: it is only a track to access properties on the southern edge of the green and access for delivery vehicles etc. Its surface is not permanent and will require periodic maintenance for which residents have accepted responsibility. To reduce the risk of damage to the track surface the council believe it is necessary for vehicles to drive slowly and to avoid excessive speed, therefore we are asking drivers to respect *a voluntary 10 mph speed limit* and notices to this effect have been placed along the track.

### OCC transport consultation on Traffic Filters

Hopefully you have seen and read the leaflet published by OCC on the planned traffic filters in the city which we had circulated on the village email and mentioned in last month's newsletter

The Parish Council have responded and, whilst supporting the intention to reduce traffic in the city centre and in so doing improve air quality and health, we have expressed our strong reservations about the filters. These have included the risk of more traffic problems and chaos, accessibility to essential services unless by use of the ring road e.g. hospitals, train station etc., the economic cost to Oxford shops and businesses and the likely inadequacy of bus services intended to provide the alternative travel options.

### Planning applications

2 Queens Barn Toot Baldon P22/S2613/HH an amended application for a two-bay garage has been received with the location of the garage being moved towards centre of the drive. The council has indicated its support for the location but has also commented on the design in the conservation area. The council will accept SODC decision.

SODC has approved planning application for Hillfield Farm Toot Baldon and 35 The Green Marsh Baldon.

### Development on the West side of the Green

As we mentioned in the September newsletter, plans are being considered by the landowner for a small housing development of up to 6 houses on Nineveh Farm land on the west side of the green on a site identified in the Neighbourhood Plan. Following an initial briefing of councillors by the agents, we understand that a planning application is currently being prepared for submission to SODC. The Parish Council will keep villagers on the west side informed of progress and involved in consultation.

### SODC Offices

We have been advised that SODC are relocating from their offices at Milton Park to temporary offices in the Abbey Building in Abingdon whilst new offices are being built in Didcot. Contact details remain the same.

Date of next meeting is on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023. Village Hall 7.30 pm

### **ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER**

Items for the December 2022 – January 2023 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

## **NUNEHAM COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

### Solar Farms

South Oxfordshire District Council's Planning Committee decided on 21<sup>st</sup> September to refuse to give the huge solar farm between this parish and Grenoble Road an extra five years. This was against the Planning Officer's recommendation. There is now a planning application for a solar farm in this parish, on the western side of the main road on the fields between Upper Farm and Lower Farm.

### Road Safety

Following the recent sad loss of a cat called Leo on the main road, which was communicated to our County Councillor Robin Bennett, he has arranged a meeting in the village with Highways officers to look at the situation and discuss what can be done.

The Council has asked before for traffic data on speed and volume, a seismological survey to measure the vibrations caused by heavy vehicles passing and consideration of different types of signs that might reduce speeding.

This meeting is due to be held on Tuesday 18th October, so will have already happened by the time you read this.

### Deep Cleanse

The parish's turn has come round again for a deep cleanse by South Oxfordshire District Council's contractors. It is due to happen between 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> November. The contractors will do litter picking, sweeping and removing weeds and/or moss on pavements but not on private roads.

So, the Council usually asks them to attend to the pavements on the main road through the village but can anyone think of anything else the Council can ask the contractors to do? Please let me know.

### Boundary Commission's review of Oxfordshire County Council

The Boundary Commission has begun a review of Oxfordshire County Council. The Commission is concerned that there are some wards with far more and others with far fewer people on the Electoral register than others. This division is not actually one of them: it's bang on the average. But that doesn't mean it will be unaffected if divisions around it need to be changed. It's pretty obvious from the figures that some of these differences are the result of recent changes to the way in which people register.

One of the Commission's first decisions will be how many councillors it thinks Oxfordshire County Council needs. That will then determine the average size of a division. Later on, there will be detailed proposals about new boundaries.

You can have a look at the Commission's Guide for Councillors here: <https://www.southandvale.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/LGBCE-Oxfordshire-Members-Briefing-Pack-Guide-for-Members-1.pdf>

## Meetings

The next ordinary meeting of the Council will be on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November, not Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November as originally planned. Usual time and place: 7pm in the Village Hall. Do come along and watch – or speak, if you have something to say. If you want to speak, just let John know before he opens the meeting.

No one has yet come forward to fill the vacancy on the Council, so do contact me or any of the four existing councillors if you're interested.

Geoffrey Ferres, Parish Clerk, Nuneham Courtenay Parish Council  
Tel: 07419 991623 Email: [clerk@nunehamcourtenay.org.uk](mailto:clerk@nunehamcourtenay.org.uk)

## **NUNEHAM COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL NEWS**

### Bee Talk

Wednesday the 16th of November, 7pm for 7:30 start. Please see the notice for more information

### Tree Decoration and Community Celebration

Using a small portion of the food exchange funds, come along and celebrate the Christmas season. Complementary tea, coffee, mulled wine and mince pies on arrival. There will be further refreshments available to purchase. There will be Christmas music as we make decorations and decorate a community Christmas followed by a Christmas light switch on. Time TBC but we are planning a 6:30 start on Friday Dec 2nd.

### Christmas Bingo

Come along for this traditional Christmas Bingo! Lots of nice prizes and family friendly, on Friday Dec the 9th.

### For the calendar:

Wreath making tbc

Dancing through the decade to return in February!

### A little help please!

There are still a series of small jobs to complete from repairing and painting window to hanging toilet roll holders. If you are handy and want to give back to the community do get in touch. These jobs can be done at a time to suit you.

### Yoga

Mondays at 7:30ish. £3 a session, with the funds going direct to the village hall. Come and have a go!

### Bookings:

Please contact [nunehamcourtenay.villagehall@gmail.com](mailto:nunehamcourtenay.villagehall@gmail.com)



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4TH  
DEC



Christmas  
Bazaar

12-4PM | FOOD | STALLS

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VILLAGE HALL

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# STRETCHING CLASS

Run by Zoe Tidmarsh

Marsh Baldon Tuesdays - 1st/15th/22nd  
village hall November  
7:30-8:15pm

£4 a session,  
£6 for two  
people in the  
same household  
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or cash on the  
day



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[zoetfitness@outlook.com](mailto:zoetfitness@outlook.com) for  
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W: [willonthegreen.com](http://willonthegreen.com)

M: 07449 925444

P: 01865 340521



Oxfordshire Libraries

# Berinsfield Library this autumn

## Berinsfield Library Reading Group

We are relaunching our library reading group! Do you enjoy exploring different books? Would you like to share your love of reading? Contact the library for more information.



## Children's Lego Club Every Tuesday from 4-5pm

Weekly Lego play for children age 9 and over. Please call or email the library for more information and to register your place – booking essential!



 @oxonlibraries  Oxfordshire Libraries

Telephone: 01865 340771

Email: [Berinsfield.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Berinsfield.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk)



OXFORDSHIRE  
COUNTY COUNCIL



STUDIO THEATRE CLUB  
Unicorn Theatre Abingdon  
Shakespeare's

# MACBETH

Stephen Player [playergallery.com](http://playergallery.com)

**16 to 19 NOV**

19:30 (+ 14:30 Sat.)

Tickets - [studiotheatreclub.com](http://studiotheatreclub.com)  
or from the Bookstore, Bury St., Abingdon





THE SEVEN STARS  
at  
MARSH BALDON



# SEVEN STARS

We will be welcoming a new manager to the Seven Stars shores this month - Gus Evans - so please come down and join us in welcoming him to the wonderful community. He has some fantastic ideas to push our pub even further and we can't wait to see them.

We have also got a brilliant new offer starting this month too! Our amazing Chef Patrick will be cooking up a Chef's special dish each week and a drink for just £12. With something new each week this is the perfect excuse to take the night off cooking. Follow our social page @freespirtpubs to find out whats on offer.

## BARN

Don't forget the early Freespirt bird catches the worm! Across all our Freespirt pubs our Christmas menus are live online and booking system open for December. So if you have been tasked with organising the office Christmas party or need to take the stress out of the family Christmas this year, then scan the link below and get your party planned and booked.



Scan to find out more and book your table.

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

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





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

## **DORCHESTER ABBEY EVENTS**

### **Wednesday 2nd November 7pm All Souls – An Autumn Concert**

Autumn is the time of harvest and wine making. Nature shuts down, golden leaves are falling, nights get darker, winter is coming. It is a time of closure, hibernation and preparing for winter. There is so much music about this time. Join us for a spooky autumn concert with music by Strauss, Mahler, Faure, Turina, Guridi, Garcia Abril, Britten, Barber, Händel and Purcell with Susanne Mecklenburg – voice – and William Hancox – piano.

### **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November 7.30pm Benson Choral Society**

Our Winter Concert will be an all-Mozart event featuring the Requiem and the Solemn Vespers (which includes the exquisite Laudate Dominum). To conduct the West Forest Sinfonia orchestra and a wonderful quartet of soloists will be the renowned conductor, Nicholas Cleobury. Tickets £18 reserved £15 unreserved from <https://www.bensonchoralsociety.org.uk/>

### **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November 7pm Mendelssohn Violin Concerto**

Virtuoso violinist Jan Schmolck performs Mendelssohn's iconic violin concerto. This thrillingly and emotional piece is accompanied Mendelssohn's symphonic poem, the Hebrides Overture (Fingal's Cave), and his Symphony No. 5 'Italian'. Tickets £5 to £30, from [www.osj.org.uk](http://www.osj.org.uk)

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November 10am to 5pm Advent Market** followed by Team Advent Service. We are packing the Abbey with stalls of Christmas food and gifts and live music for your entertainment. Come along and buy your presents (or a treat for yourself), drink mulled wine and eat Bratwurst and stay for our Dorchester Team advent service at 6pm

### **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 7.30pm The Mirth & Melody of Angels**

Music for Christmas and the festive season from medieval and renaissance Europe Played and sung by The York Waits with singer Deborah Catterall. The York Waits return to Dorchester Abbey with a concert that explores the rich tapestry of seasonal music from the fourteenth to the seventeenth century. Angels abound, from the 1350's Angelus ad Virginem – or Gabriel from Heven-King, to Orlando Gibbons' Thus Angels Sung from the late Elizabethan era. Familiar German chorales are followed by French Noels and Mediterranean songs from the folk tradition, all accompanied by the full array of period instruments – shawms, sackbuts, curtals, crumhorns, bagpipes, recorders, flutes, fiddles, rebec, guitar, hurdy gurdy and portative organ.

The Waits perform regularly throughout the country, appearing frequently at festivals and celebratory events at home and abroad, on radio, and producing many recordings. They still play for civic occasions in York in the manner of their well-documented historic predecessors, leading processions and greeting important visitors to the city.

Tickets £10 to £15 from <http://www.theyorkwaits.org.uk/performances.html>

## CHURCH SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER

6 <sup>th</sup> November	10.30am	Toot Baldon	Holy Communion
13 <sup>th</sup> November	10.45am	Marsh Baldon	Service of Remembrance
20 <sup>th</sup> November	9.30am	Toot Baldon	All Age Holy Communion
27 <sup>th</sup> November	6.00pm	Dorchester Abbey	Team Advent Carol Service

## MAKING MUSIC FOR CHRISTMAS

The Baldons Carol service this year will be on **SATURDAY, 17 December** (time to be confirmed).

We look forward to making it a wonderful community celebration and if you would like to join our Christmas Choir please get in touch. We would welcome singers of all ages and can arrange practices at appropriate times for children.



Handbells are an essential part of the Baldons Carol Service and Denice Cullen would greatly welcome some new young recruits to the team. We would love to hear from children of 9+ who enjoy making music and would like to have a go.

Do please get in touch with Veronica Sandilands if you are interested in joining the Christmas Choir or the Handbell Team and would like to receive our emails about Music for the Carol Service.

**vsandilands@btinternet.com**  
**Tel 01865 343367**