

The Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter



September 2022

FROM REVEREND TERESA STEWART-SYKES

Do you remember the penny arcade game popular at seaside amusements? The one where you drop in your coins into the machine to force the tipping point and hopefully you get a jackpot of coins crashing into your hands! You might also know this game from the TV gameshow 'Tipping Point'?



My colleague Paul Wignall (Vicar of the Bridge group of parishes) has been reflecting that there are some tipping points after which nothing is ever the same again, for good or bad. He writes:

We are at a tipping point. A moment when a huge chunk of past assumptions is about to slide off the precipice. We've talked about climate change and the climate crisis and in recent weeks we have seen what it's going to look like. We can't avoid any longer the universal impact it will have – on climate, inequality, hunger, employment, wars, trade – you name it. The Earth is changing and how we live on Earth will change too. But how? Some of the old stuff is going to the recycling centre as we take stock: what will we take with us when we move on, what do we leave behind?

These aren't easy or comfortable questions, and there aren't easy or comfortable answers. But there is one thing we do know, this new world we must make out of the shreds and tatters of the old as well as our precious keepsakes, will still be part of God's creation, with its underlying value of life. This wonder at the value of life is what remains as the world swings into a new era. And so, we may ask ourselves, are we being called to be part of these new challenges of how to live, not as consumers of the quickly vanishing world's goods, but by rediscovering stewardship and care for creation? Past or future, we have to choose. Stay put or change, we have to choose. A world with humanity extinct, or a new world in which humans share, we have to choose. But is there really a choice?

In the Dorchester Team we are passionate about caring for the Earth and we are exploring ways that we can do this together to have more impact. So the Dorchester Team of churches will be running a 'Care for Creation' marketplace event at Little Wittenham Manor on Sunday 25th September 11.30am onwards to showcase what the churches are already doing to care for creation. We will also be welcoming to this event Hannah Mann the Environment Programme manager for the Diocese of Oxford and a representative from the Earth Trust to tell us about eco-projects going on in the area around us.

Do come along to find out what's going on and how you can join in. Or if you want to chat about this do give me a call on 07823 809112.

Rev Teresa

**Cover Photo: Everlasting Dried Flower Garland – Lizie Giraudeau
(See p5 for details of Lizie's Garden Gate Sale)**



VILLAGE HARVEST EVENT

Sunday 25th September
Marsh Baldon Village Hall



APPLE PRESSING – CREATION CARE – HARVEST SUPPER

APPLE PRESSING 10.00-4.30pm

Come and press your apples and take away your own delicious, pasteurised juice. Make a donation towards the upkeep of the new village orchards. Bring your own screw-top bottles; spare bottles available if needed. To avoid a bottle neck, please let us know whether you're coming to the morning or afternoon slot:

10.00am – 12.30pm

1.30pm – 4.30pm

Contact:

1. Catherine Mason catherinevmason@gmail.com 07879 626 828
2. Diana Belli dianabelli@toucansurf.com 07779 537 765

HOMEMADE CAKES AND REFRESHMENTS

Available all day - please bring cash for donations and refreshments as we cannot process electronic payments

CREATION CARE REFLECTIONS AND ACTIVITES

in the hall 10 - 4.30

VILLAGE HARVEST SUPPER & QUIZ

5.30pm in the Village Hall

This is a bring and share buffet supper so please bring a plate of food

Everyone is welcome

Contact Sara McDouall for more information
saramcdouall@gmail.com or 07703 278053

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2022

I would like to thank all the villagers who gave money to Christian Aid. We raised from the house-to-house collections £566.13 and also another £69.25 in Gift Aid. This totalled £635.38 in all. I would also like to thank all the people who assisted and did the house-to-house collections - Natasha Eliot, John & Catherine Mason, Stephen Dance, Jaff Slaney, and John Barne. Together we visited some 165 houses and collected some 75 envelopes.

Many thanks indeed
Ian Gillespie - Churchwarden

UPDATE ON FINDING THE NEW TEAM RECTOR

We thought it would be helpful to outline the Diocese's timetable for appointing a new Team Rector. The appointment process is governed by legal procedures, historic custom and past practice. So, the process is rather more complex than might be thought.

As the appointment is for a Team Rector, all the parishes in the Team are involved in the process. One question often asked is: which parishes form the "Team"? The answer: Berinsfield, Drayton St Leonard, Marsh and Toot Baldon with Nuneham Courtenay; Warborough, Stadhampton with Chiselhampton, Newington; Clifton Hampden, Long Wittenham with Little Wittenham, Culham and Dorchester.

A big thank you to all those who came along to our Community meeting in the Dorchester village hall in May. It was extremely helpful to hear your views on the type of person (skills, experience etc) you would like to see as your new Rector.

Since then we have been preparing a "parish profile". This is our "shop window" giving a pen portrait of Dorchester and of all the parishes in the Team together with a role description and person specification of the new person. So, all the 10 parishes in the Team have been involved in this process and during July we held two formal meetings of the Parochial Church Councils to finalise the profile.

The post will now be advertised in relevant Church of England publications during late August/early September with interviews planned for late October. The appointee will, of course, have their own notice period to serve which will then determine when our new Rector will be in residence.

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**

SAVE THE DATE!

Harvest Evensong 9th October 4pm in St Peter's Marsh Baldon
Traditional harvest hymns and a sung Evensong service. Please bring harvest
gifts for the Wallingford Foodbank



GARDEN GATE SALE

EVERLASTING WILDFLOWER
GARLANDS AND DRIED FLOWER
BOUQUETS

SUNDAY 11th SEPTEMBER

10am- 5pm

29 TOOT BALDON

TEA and CAKE available in the garden

20% of profit to DEC for UKRAINE

FRIENDSHIP WALKS AT NUNEHAM PARK

The Global Retreat Centre are holding 'Friendship Walks' each Wednesday evening during August and September. The walks start from the front courtyard of the Retreat Centre at 6.30pm and will take in the different areas around the Centre's grounds.

Each walk lasts for between 45 and 60 minutes. If anyone is less-abled, we can provide a golf buggy (and driver, of course) for you. These will be windows of time to walk and talk, maybe hear something the history of the grounds, ask questions and just enjoy each other's company.

There will be soft drinks afterwards, if anyone wishes – maybe hot drinks as we move further towards autumn! Everyone welcome.

BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Resignation of John Maskell as a Parish Councillor

It is with regret that the council must announce that John Maskell as decided to resign from the council effective from after the September council meeting. John has served as a Parish Councilor for Toot Baldon for 36 years and for a long period of time was our treasurer and finance officer. It is an important length of service to the community, a bit unusual in these days, for which the Baldons will be forever grateful. He has worked within the council with commitment and passion representing the interests of the whole community and Toot Baldon in particular.

Hopefully a major legacy of John's work will be in installation of mains drainage in Toot which he has championed for a long time and which he will continue to work on with Thames Water and villagers until its completion. His contribution to the council is going to be greatly missed but hopefully we won't have heard the last of him in other roles in the village.

As a council we will be seeking to fill a vacancy by co-option as soon as we can to take us up to the next formal Parish Council elections in May 2023. See separate advert on p8.

Southern Track Repairs

The Council received a report that the majority of house holders are now committed to the arrangements for maintenance of the southern track round the green and the council has now agreed to release the funds to allow the track surfacing to go ahead in conjunction with the completion of developments on Durham Leys Farm. The work will take 5 days and is expected to commence on 30th August.

The track will be resurfaced to the approximate current width at the entrance near the pub and taper to 5 meters at the existing post and be 5 meters thereafter. Parking will be restricted for some months in the winter until the track and edges settle down. Posts will be installed to protect the green edges.

Other plans improving parking on the green near the pub and lowering the height of the pound will be initially impacted on by the laying of the new track and are on hold while plans are reviewed with the pub committee.

Notice Boards

The parish council has agreed to replace two noticeboards which are in poor condition. One on the green outside the Seven Stars and the other in Toot Baldon at the top of the avenue to the church. The present noticeboards are beyond repair and notices are not secure or protected from the weather. Hopefully they will be in place before the end of the year. Once in place, it will be possible to hire space for small advertisements.

Platinum Jubilee

The council has now agreed to provide two trees to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee: one in Marsh Baldon will be planted on the west side of the green and involve participation of the school; the other in Toot Baldon will be on a site to be confirmed at the next meeting of the council in September.

Planning applications

The Parish Council has been given preliminary information that Nineveh Farm land owners are intending to apply for planning permission for a small housing development on land identified in the neighborhood plan on the west side of the green. It is not expected that plans will be ready for submission to SODC until later in the year, but it is hoped more information will be available for the September Parish Council meeting.

35 The Green P22/S2599/HH: a planning application has been made for a small front and side extension to this property. The Parish Council are supportive of the application.

Solar Farm P22/S1541/FUL: SODC are formally consulting on the application to vary the length of the life of the project at Nineveh Farm from 35 to 40 years. Although this has been raised earlier in the year as an application for an amendment, due to planning legislation a new formal application has been required. Details are on SODC website. The Parish Council's original objections will be restated with additional concerns about the increasing impact on the Green Belt and we will be pressing our district councillor to ask for the decision to be taken at a planning committee.

Hedges

The council received a request from a group of villagers who having made progress on tree planting and orchards would like support to make progress on the repair and regeneration of hedges round our fields to protect and improve habitats for wildlife. Whilst supporting this in principle it will require the agreement and support of landowners and farmers and Laurence Attewill will take the initial lead on this. Any funding for it will need to be by grant applications.

Date of Next meeting: Monday September 12th 7.30 pm Village Hall

The Baldons Parish Council

Vacancy for a councillor

Following a Member's retirement, The Baldons Parish Council invites applications from members of the public interested in being a member of the Council, which meets six times a year.

This is an exciting opportunity to shape the area in which you live.

For further information, please contact the Parish Clerk on 01865 343256 or email clerk@baldonspc.org.

Applications should be made, in writing, to the Parish Clerk by 5pm on Friday 19th September.

BALDONS VILLAGE HALL REBOOT – BALDONS VILLAGE HALL NEEDS YOU!

The Baldons Village Hall needs your love. We are looking for some new Trustees to push us forward. In the past we've had everything from lectures, fencing classes, clubs and quizzes. This dropped off about five years ago but post pandemic there are signs that things may pick up again – which gives a great opportunity to build up the programme again.

We have made a lot of progress in refurbishing the hall but there's still more to be done. The roof is probably not strong enough to support solar panels but we could put cladding on the outside to improve the appearance and insulation. We have wi-fi and by the time this is published there should be a web page showing bookings and classes – but again there's more that could be done.

What is missing is new blood willing to get stuck in, bring fresh thinking, add enthusiasm and drive. There are plenty of ideas out there but we need people to implement them. Would you be willing to help? It's a great opportunity to put something back into the village.

At the end of September the present Chair is retiring (after fifteen years on the committee he's probably a bit stale and needs replacing)* and we would like to take this opportunity to reinvigorate the committee.

For more information email james.bufford@btinternet.com.

*I can say this – I am that Chair

NUNEHAM COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Discretionary Council Tax Energy Rebate

South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) is administering a Government scheme to give people some additional help with those soaring energy bills. When I say additional, I mean on top of the £150 that has already gone to everyone resident in a property in Bands A to D (the lower bands).

Local councils have been given a total of £144m and South Oxfordshire's share of that was £214,050. SODC has designed a scheme for using its £214,050 which affects people differently according to the Council Tax band of the property which is their sole or main residence:

- If you receive Council Tax Support (generally a form of means-tested help with your Council Tax bills) and the property is in Bands E to H (the higher bands), you are entitled to a one-off payment of £178
- Whereas if you receive Council Tax Support and the property is in Bands A to D (the lower bands), you are entitled to a one-off payment of just £28 so you also end up having received £178.

In both cases, you only qualify if you were resident in the property on 1st April 2022. You don't qualify if you only moved in after that date. The expression Council Tax Support does not include other ways your bill may be reduced, for example the single person discount or a disability reduction by one band. It's not clear to me what happens if SODC finds it has used up all the money before it has made all the payments it intended. I hope they have got their sums right.

If you pay your Council Tax by direct debit, SODC will generally be able to pay the money straight into your bank account. But if it does not already have your bank account details, it may have to write to you. SODC says that all eligible households will receive their money by 28th September 2022. I hope they manage it!

Audit and Accounts 2021-22

The audit period is over and, as usual, no one submitted any questions to the External Auditor. But if you do still have any questions about last year's accounts, I am happy to answer them – and you don't have to wait until a financial year is over, I'm happy to field questions at any time in the financial year.

Meetings

The next ordinary meeting of the Council will be on Tuesday 6th September at the usual time of 7pm in the Village Hall. If you want to address the Council about anything, please let John Peters, the Chair of the Council, know before he starts the meeting.

There is still one vacancy on the Council so do contact me or any of the four existing councillors if you're interested. All the existing councillors live on the main road so it would be good to have a councillor from another part of the parish.

NUNEHAM COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Community BBQ

We would like to hold the long-promised community BBQ on Saturday 24th September at the village hall. Drinks will be available to buy but otherwise we would like to hold this as a community event. Please bring a covered dish to share and something to put on the BBQ. BBQ will be fired up by 2pm! Come along for a nice community meal.

Halloween Party

We plan to hold a traditional Halloween party on October 29th. We know that trick or treating can be difficult with the road. We plan on holding a fancy dress event with the best of Halloween traditions and a nice giggle for the younger members of our community. Timings to be confirmed.

Wreath Making workshop

Rachel Taylor has kindly agreed to host a wreath making workshop for the community. We would like to hold this event along the lines of a sip and craft event. More details to be confirmed closer to the time.

Christmas Bingo

Christmas Bingo is provisionally booked for December 9th.

Yoga

Most Monday nights at 7:30 in the village hall. Come along to join this fun friendly group. Contact Jenny at jenny@datadaysolutions.com for me details.

Thank you!

Thank you to Martin Drew for cutting the grass in the village hall car park across from the Old Forge. And thank you to Nicola Small for auditing our accounts. We hope to have these signed off soon.

Bookings

If you wish to book the hall or its equipment, please contact Karen on nunehamcourtenay.villagehall@gmail.com.

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Items for the October 2022 newsletter

by 16th September 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

DORCHESTER TEAM EVENTS

Saturday 10th Sept Ride and Stride

Ride+Stride is an annual sponsored event to raise money for your home church & Oxford Historic Churches Trust. Ride + Stride is a **FUN**draising day out! Further information is available on Oxford Historic Churches Trust website, <https://ohct.org.uk/>, including a list of participating churches, sponsorship forms and instructions for taking part.

Saturday 10th Sept 7pm OSJ perform Tales from the Wilderness Prokofiev Peter and the Wolf, Saint-Saens Carnival of the Animals, Canteloube Songs of the Auvergne and Rachmaninov Vocalise.

Tickets £15 to £25, family concession from www.osj.org.uk

Building back Greener:

Christian perspectives on the future of our economy, money and work:

Friday 7th & Saturday 8th October – Online & in Birmingham

On Zoom on the evening of Friday 7th October, is environmentalist and writer, Paul Kingsnorth, founder of the Dark Mountain project. The event starts at 7pm, with Paul's talk starting at 7.30pm.

This will be followed by an in-person event at the Priory Rooms (7 minutes' walk from Birmingham New Street Station), Birmingham B4 6AF, from 10.15am to 4.30pm on Saturday 8th October.

Speakers on Saturday will be:

Grace Blakeley, economics and politics commentator and Professor Christopher Southgate, scientist and theologian. For more information and tickets please see <https://greenchristian.org.uk/conference2022/>

And if you would like to travel by train with others from the team, please contact Rev Teresa email revteresa@outlook.com 07823 809112

DORCHESTER ABBEY CONCERT MANAGERS REQUIRED

The demand for Events to be held in the Abbey has been steadily increasing this year and we need to increase the number of volunteer Concert Managers who play a vital part in helping to make the events run smoothly.

This is an opportunity to find out more about what goes on behind the scenes, meeting interesting artists, hearing lovely music and being the welcoming face of the Abbey to the audience.

Training will be given. For further details please contact the Events Administrator, Dorchester Abbey, Kate Herbert; events@dorchester-abbey.org.uk and 01865 340007 (Mon, Tues and Fri mornings)

Oxfordshire Libraries

Regular Events at Berinsfield Library

Rhymetime

Every Wednesday 10.30am

Join the Rhymetime toys for songs, rhymes and actions with lots of fun! Babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers very welcome!



Storytime with crafts

3rd Saturday of each month 10.30am

Storytime session followed by themed craft activities for children with their parents and carers.



Knit and Natter

1st Tuesday of each month 2.30pm

Pop along and share your skills over a cup of tea and a biscuit. Any craft welcome.



Coffee Morning

3rd Tuesday of each month 10.30am

Good company, a cup of coffee/tea and a chat.
A warm welcome guaranteed to all!



 @oxonlibraries  Oxfordshire Libraries



OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL



THE SEVEN STARS
at
MARSH BALDON



SEVEN STARS

Is it too early to mention the dreaded C-Word?... Well here at the Seven Stars, we think the early Freespirit bird catches the worm!

Across all our Freespirit pubs this month you will be seeing our Christmas menus go 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.



Scan to find out more and book your table.

This month at the Seven Stars sees a BRAND NEW lunch menu from our talented Head Chef Patrick, as well as some new delicious seasonal dishes on our small plate menu. To make the experience all that much sweeter, we are offering readers a FREE small plate per table when you visit this September! Just quote "FREESMALLPLATE" to our team when you join us on the night!

Please give us a follow on the new Facebook, Instagram & Tiktok @freespiritpubs for all the latest offers at all our pubs.

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

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





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CHURCH SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER

4 th September	10.30am	Toot Baldon	Holy Communion
11 th September	4.00pm	Toot Baldon	Evensong
18 th September	9.30am	Marsh Baldon	All Age Holy Communion
	4.00pm	All Saints Chapel Nuneham Park	Music and Reflections
25 th September	10.30am	Little Wittenham	“Care for Creation” Team Service followed by marketplace event in Little Wittenham Manor
25th September	10am – 6.30pm	Baldons Village Hall	Village Harvest Event, including Apple Pressing, Creation Care Activities and Harvest Supper – see advert on p3!
9th October	4.00pm	Marsh Baldon	Traditional harvest sung Evensong service. Please bring harvest gifts for the Wallingford Foodbank

**ALL SAINTS CHAPEL,
NUNEHAM PARK**

Music & Reflections
Sunday 18th September
4pm

From May to October at
All Saints Chapel in Nuneham Park
there will be a monthly service
Come along and enjoy the music,
the silence and the beautiful
chapel