The Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter



November 2021

FROM REVEREND TERESA STEWART-SYKES

Blessed are the peacemakers

This year Remembrance Sunday will be on 14th November and there will be special services and gatherings in our churches. Hopefully we will be able to gather in ways not possible last year, this will bring an extra poignancy to our commemorations, as we also recall the sacrifices made by so many who worked selflessly throughout the pandemic and who continue to do so as the pandemic continues to affect our lives.

Each year on Remembrance Sunday I am struck by the number of names read out of those who lost their lives in war, particularly the losses borne in the First World War and comparative to the small size of many of our communities. Their loss and the effect it had on our villages was immense. I imagine them as fit young men, who had parents, families and partners at home.

It is right that we gather together as communities to pay our respects because Remembrance Day is not just a private occasion; it is a time when we can meet together as a community and bring our remembering, prayers and reflections into the present. Remembering is a very important part of our Christian faith and of our own lives. At the heart of the Eucharist, we remember Jesus last supper with the disciples and bring that event into our presence, so that Jesus is present amongst us in a very special way.

I believe that the gift of memories is an important part of our God given nature, when memory is taken away as it cruelly is in diseases such as Alzheimer's we rightly mourn its loss. To be able to spend even a few moments remembering a special event is a special gift. At times such as Remembrance difficult memories and emotions can surface. As communities gathered, we can offer love and support to each other, and assure others that sacrifices for the greater good made are not forgotten, and that we continue to offer our thanksgiving.

Remembrance Day is never just about the past, it should also inform our present and our future. This November let us pray with thanksgiving for the lives of those people who have died in conflict. Let us also pledge ourselves to work towards peace between nations and in our homes and communities.

Jesus said, 'Blessed are the peacemakers'. And at this time of Remembrance, I like to recall these words of Jesus and see them both as honouring the memory of all those who have given their lives for our freedoms, but also holding before us an example of a life of loved lived fully in the service of peace.

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

THE REV TONY MOORE

We have had sad news from Hazel Moore telling us that Tony died on Tuesday, 5th October, after some months of illness. Tony was Team Vicar here from 1982 till 1993 and he, Hazel, their four children lived in the Rectory in Marsh Baldon. We send to the whole family our deep sympathy.

Tony and Hazel always kept their link to the villages, including through the Newsletter which they continued to receive. When they lived here Tony and his son Jeremy edited and produced the Newsletter for a number of years.

After the Baldons, Tony became Vicar in Enstone and after retirement he and Hazel moved to Oxford. They had recently moved to Marsh Gibbon to be close to their daughter.

The funeral Is expected to be during the first week of November, details will be announced shortly.



Forest Church

We continued the theme of creation in our October Forest Church gathering, starting by considering how the world has changed in the lifetime of the trees we see today, and turning our thoughts into this prayer:

Creator God,

We praise you for the creation we live in, For the connection we have with it and the feeling of permanence and groundedness being in creation gives us.

Forgive us when we step so far away from your created world that inertia and sadness imprison us.

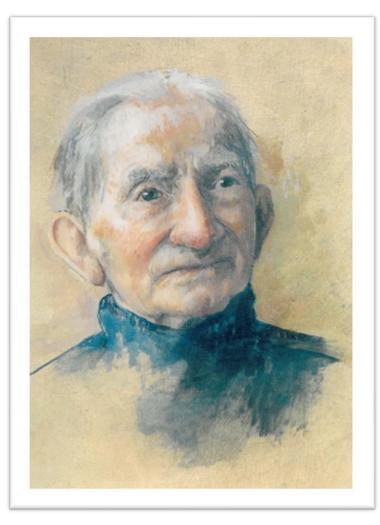
Help us through reflection and passion to have momentum to work for climate justice.

Help us through education of ourselves and others, through listening to others' stories, and through individual action, to instil a sense of awe for the gift of creation.

May all this inspire us in a desire to protect and care for all you have given us.

Amen

JACK GREENAWAY



The 22 December 2021 would have been Jack Greenaway's 100th Birthday and we will be remembering this event at the Carol Service on 18th December. It will be 10 years since Jack's last appearance as "Master of the Handbells" and Denice Cullen, who has maintained the Handbell Tradition will be making sure that Jack's legacy is celebrated in style at the Carol Service.

We also have available copies of Jack's book "A Short History of Baldon and Baldon House". A wonderful account of life here in Jack's own words. On the cover is a picture of Jack, from the portrait painted by Caddie Attewill and presented to Jack on his 80th Birthday. If you haven't read his book and are interested in Baldons history, do ask for a copy.

They cost £5 and all profits go to Helen House Children's Hospice.

Here are two snippets taken from the book:

"In the mid-'70s disaster struck. A particularly violent form of Dutch Elm disease hit this country. It was quite incredible the way it would affect a mature tree. Suddenly you'd see all the leaves go brown and the tree would die within six weeks; it was amazing. From 1974 to about 1977 we lost 153 full-sized elm trees on Baldon House grounds alone."

.....

Both for the historical facts and Jack's own reflections on life, this little book is a lovely read.



FIREWORKS NIGHT

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

SATURDAY 6th NOVEMBER

Marsh Baldon Green 6.15pm Lighting the Bonfire 7.15pm Fireworks

Bonfire – We shall be building the bonfire on the morning of 6th November so bring material suitable for burning to The Green between 9.30am and 1pm. Please DON'T leave anything on The Green before 6th November. Start collecting now!

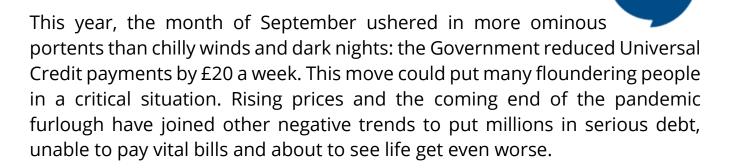
Helpers – Please let us know if you could help with:

- 10am Putting up marquees, roping off the Green etc
- Marshalling (which is simply wearing a hi-viz jacket and helping in the event of an emergency)
- Car parking from 5.30pm
- Sunday, 7th November, 10am Dismantling marquees, taking down the roping, litter picking etc.

If you have any questions about bonfire night, feel free to get in touch with one of the committee, or email <u>baldonsevents@hotmail.com</u>



Citizens Advice on coping with Universal Credit shortfall



But, if you are in this position, remember that support and help are available and you need not suffer alone.

Take charge of your situation. Start by making a list of what you owe and add up what you need to pay out each month. This list puts your financial position clearly in front of you in black and white. Next, prioritise your debts. There is Advice website advice on the Citizens to help do vou this: https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/debt-and-money Some bills are more urgent than others. Rent or mortgage arrears, gas and electricity bills and Council Tax count as priority debts as there could be serious consequences if you don't pay them.

Get in touch with the companies to whom you owe money. Not everybody feels confident about doing this but the organisations expect such calls and they might be able to help by letting you pay smaller amounts over a longer period or even take a temporary payment break.

The government-backed Breathing Space scheme could also give you extra time to pay. See our website for details or <u>www.gov.uk</u> If you are eligible, you could get 60 days during which your creditors can't contact you, take any action against you or add interest and charges to your debt. A Citizens Advice adviser can check your debts to see if they are covered by the scheme.

If you need more specific support or don't feel able to manage your situation alone, call the Citizens Advice debt helpline on 0800 240 4420. It really helps to make personal contact with somebody who understands. You can also call our Adviceline free on 0808 278 7907 (Monday to Friday 9 am to 5 pm) or try our webchat (click on "chat with us online about debt").

citizens

BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Track round the Green

Posts will be in place within the next ten days. The Council is in discussion with the pub committee concerning the parking by the Seven Stars. We need to remind everyone that the Council is required by Queen's College to maintain the Green and prevent 'track-creep' and driving on the Green.

It will be very helpful if residents between the pub and Durham Leys avoid parking their cars on the track and use only their drives to minimize access problems for developers' vehicles.

Durham Leys Development

The development at Durham Leys Farm has begun and Lucy's Developments have filled all the potholes along the track to minimise the impact of their vehicles. This process will be repeated by Lucy's at regular intervals throughout the build.

Once the development is finished, the Council plans to work with Lucy's on the restoration of the track, however, this can only go ahead if there is an agreement in place with the residents along the southern track for the regular maintenance of the track. The Council cannot commit valuable infrastructure resources to the project without such an agreement. This will be discussed at a meeting of the homeowners in the new year.

SODC have agreed that the development will be named Spindlers Close.

Flooding Problems in the Croft and Toot Baldon

The Parish Council has been in discussion with the Highways in an endeavour to resolve problems experienced last year. The Highways department will be undertaking a survey to establish whether there is a pipe under the road from the ditch at the top of The Croft, which will determine what additional work may be needed. In Toot Baldon the additional work needed is, we understand, on a planned list for highways action in 2022.

Mains Drainage Toot Baldon

The Council has become aware that houses in Wilmots are currently not included in Thames Water plans for mains drainage in Toot Baldon due to being on a separate SODC provided system. The council supports the appeal being made by residents for their inclusion.

Planning applications

Parsonage Farm Barns P21/S3960/HH: An amended application has been made to reconfigure internal space to provide 2 mezzanine levels and a fifth bedroom. The parish council are objecting to this plan to SODC as out of step with Baldons Neighbourhood Plan requirement for smaller housing and not in keeping with the integrity of the old barn.

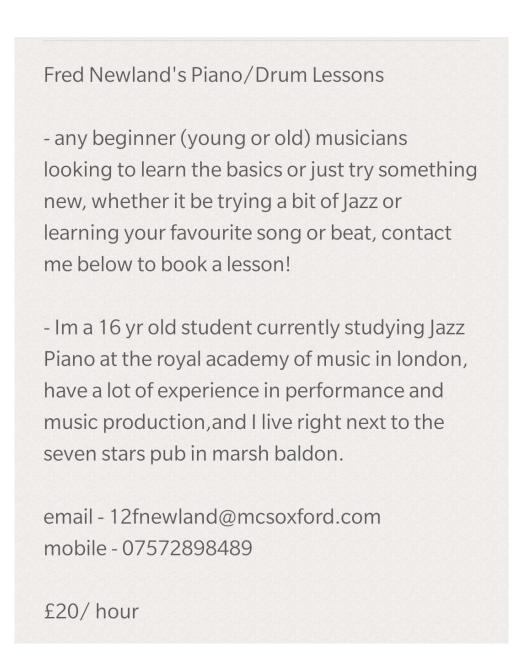
<u>Aldworth Cottage Marsh Baldon P21/S3685/HH</u>: an application for a garden room for ancillary domestic use. The council will be considering its response.

Solar Farm

We still have no news about SODC decision on the Solar Farm.

We have noted in the local papers that Oxford City Council are starting to plan for the development of houses on the site off Grenoble Road, the site being included in SODC local plan and to which the Solar Farm will be detrimental. We have restated our objections to the Solar Farm on these grounds.

Date of next meeting 8th November 7.30 pm Village Hall



NUNEHAM COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Nuneham Courtenay Legal Agreement

Our District Councillor Sam Casey-Rerhaye has been trying for many months to set up a meeting with the District Council about the Nuneham Courtenay Legal Agreement, which SODC is supposed to be responsible for enforcing.

She has now received a positive response from Paula Fox, who is a manager in the Planning Team. Paula Fox has said:

"I think ... the issues the Parish would like to discuss will cover a mixture of conservation, enforcement, legal and planning matters. I'm afraid that a meeting with a representative of each of these teams is not something I am able to offer resource wise at the moment. However, I wonder whether a representative or two of the Parish would like to have a general discussion with you and me in the form of a [Microsoft] Teams Meeting so that I hear their concerns first hand and hopefully gain a better understanding of them."

Parking

Beware! From 1st November, officers from a new team at Oxfordshire County Council will begin patrolling the streets of South Oxfordshire, Cherwell and the Vale of White Horse to help prevent illegal parking. The county council is taking on responsibility for enforcing on-street parking from Thames Valley Police. The police will continue to be responsible for the only three types of offences they have actually been enforcing:

- Dangerously parked vehicles
- Obstruction offences
- Moving traffic offences.

The county council will hire a contractor to do the work and issue Penalty Charge Notices. There will be two levels of Penalty Charge:

- £70 for the more serious offences, such as parking on yellow lines

- £50 for less serious offences, such as overstaying in a limited waiting bay.

Both charges will be reduced by 50% if paid within 14 days.

Playing Field

Prospects for funding for the Playing Field have improved enormously since I last wrote.

Firstly, South Oxfordshire District Council has announced the launch of a Capital Grants Scheme in early November. The scheme will be open for applications from voluntary and community sector organisations and town and parish councils until mid-December.

The scheme will offer capital grants to improve community facilities to help build and support thriving communities and improve the quality of life for the residents of South Oxfordshire. The total budget is £320,000 and organisations can apply for up to £75,000, and a maximum of 50 per cent of their total project cost.

But SODC is also opening a Revenue Grants Scheme for organisations in the voluntary sector. The scheme offers funding for two years and has a total budget

of £667,992 to allocate. This grant will launch on the 18th October and closes at noon on 26th November this year.

As well as covering core operational costs, this funding can also be used to help organisations diversify their incomes. The aim is to help the voluntary sector become more sustainable and have a greater impact in the communities they serve.

The Councillor Support Fund still has smaller amounts of money available from our District Councillor Sam Casey-Rerhaye.

So, let's hope the Nuneham Courtenay Sports and Playing Field Association puts together a successful application to one or more of these schemes and is able to re-open the Playing Field next spring.

Next Council meeting

The Council's next meeting is on Tuesday 2nd November at 7pm in the Village Hall. Council meetings are always open to the public so do come along either to watch or if you want to bring something to the Council's attention – let Madhvi Saini, who chairs the Council, know in advance if you want to address the meeting.

Geoffrey Ferres - Parish Clerk Nuneham Courtenay Parish Council clerk@nunehamcourtenay.org.uk

PEAFOWL PETITION - UPDATE

We have now heard back from Oxfordshire County Council with an invitation to present our petition to a meeting of the whole council, which we have accepted. We plan to do this on the 14th December, in person in the council chamber, unless anything changes in respect of Covid restrictions. We have 3 minutes, so have requested that the Chair allows us to use PowerPoint, as we think this will be more effective in recruiting support than just a speech. We'll report back when we have further news.

DOES ANYONE RECOGNISE THIS BICYCLE PLEASE?

It was left in the Avenue (Nuneham end) back in July, disappeared for a while and has apparently been abandoned again.

It is currently leaning against the fence a short way up the Avenue from the West end.

If no one claims it then we'll ask SODC to dispose of it. Thank you.



AWARENESS, A POWERFUL FIRST STEP

As we face another Winter of collective unknowns, with more potential Covid – Brexit – Supply Chain problems etc etc, the main consistency, the main reliable friend, the main supportive crutch we can call on, as we did during the lockdowns, is nature. In all its forms, in all its locations, in all its glory.

It's sometimes hard to have our consciousness opened to it, it's even harder to keep our awareness open to it. It's just so easy to go back to the comfort of old habits, old mindsets, old ways. Awareness of all that though, is a fantastic initial step. If you have a garden, keep making that effort to be aware that natures active out there, even in the depths of the coming Winter. If you don't have your own garden, or access to a garden, utilize your local greenspace, and observe the natural local soap opera that plays out there.

I'm writing this in a café near Reading rail station, looking out of the window and watching the wildflowers growing out of the cracks in the pavement, bobbing about in the wind. Remember, us, we, you, are part of nature too, not remote from it. So, get out there, and take an active role in the ecosystem you're part of. If you can't get out in it, just being aware it's there and it's your ecosystem is very powerful, trust me.

Our pets, our cattle, our animal companions, are all part of that ecosystem too, so we need to think about how and when we introduce them, or even, if we should? It's easy to forget we have a micro ecosystem of animal companions around us, let alone that that micro system forms part of the giant ecosystem out there. It all mainly starts with awareness though. Start by considering how we are impacted, and how we impact on the ecosystem out there in our gardens, our local shared greenspace, and our communities. We all face the same uncomfortable truths going forward in these unknown times. Rest assured though, nature is there consistently, reliably and supportively. We're all part of that too, so let's support it and ourselves, it's a mere cycle.

Stuart Mabbutt - Wildlife Gardening Specialist 01865 747243 - <u>www.wildmaninspires.co.uk</u>

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Items for the December 2021 – January 2022 DOUBLE ISSUE newsletter by 16th November 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

FROM JOHN HOWELL MP

During the parliamentary recess that coincides with the various Party Conferences I have taken the opportunity to meet up with representatives from a number of parish councils across the constituency. It is good to be able to meet with people face to face again and I know that many people welcome this. Around the constituency I see more and more community activities restarting and events taking place.

I was also delighted that international travel has opened up and that I was able to attend the autumn session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) in person. This was the first Session for some time that the UK delegation had been able to attend in in person. As Leader of the UK delegation and as a Deputy Speaker it was a great pleasure to be able to welcome to Strasbourg members of the Delegation who were making their first visit as members of the Assembly. I am sure everyone benefited from being able to attend committee meetings and plenary sessions in person and conduct the accompanying diplomacy in the corridors and coffee halls of the Parliamentary Assembly. Indeed I know from many a conversation that people returning to offices are finding the less formal contact invaluable and realise how much has been missed when this was absent.

With COP26 very close now I was pleased that in this session PACE devoted a whole day to climate change and environmental rights and it was a privilege to be able to chair part of the session. The day on this subject was divided into 3 parts. In the first part there was debate on reports on the right to a healthy environment, participative democracy in deciding climate change issues, criminal and civil liberties around climate change, and the rule of law across the whole gamut of climate change and environmental protection. In the second part, a high-level panel was convened which looked across a number of issues relating to climate change and heard from a number of experts including the UK judge at the European Court of Human Rights, the Secretary General of the United Nations, the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, the President of Hungary, the Speaker of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, the Portuguese Deputy Minister for the Environment and Climate Action. They each looked at climate change from their own perspectives. The third part of the debate examined inequalities as a result of climate issues and migration and environmental protection in the context of climate change. Overall, the debate considered what practical actions could be taken to combat climate change and uphold environmentalism. This marked a major contribution to COP26 and recognised particularly that any one country was not going to be able to make the most of change in itself. If we want to make change we need to be working together and working cross-border.

The UK is committed to working with all countries and joining forces with civil society, companies and people on the frontline of climate change to inspire climate action ahead of COP26. The summit itself will bring parties together to accelerate

action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Overall in its COP26 Presidency the UK has four clear objectives:

To ask countries to commit to net zero by mid-century, with more ambitious nationally determined contribution targets for 2030;

To urgently protect and help adapt our communities and natural habitats from the destructive effects of climate change;

To increase funding to support these aims, making good on the \$100 billion annual climate finance goal affirmed through the Paris Agreement;

To close off the outstanding elements of the Paris Rulebook, and accelerate delivery of the Paris Goals through collaboration between Governments, Businesses and Civil Society.

Ultimately, these aims will allow the world to keep the prospect of limiting global temperature rises to 1.5C alive, thereby avoiding the worst of climate change damage.

There is, of course, lots more to do and much work in preparation. The Government will soon be publishing the Heat and Buildings Strategy, the Net Zero Strategy, the Net Zero Review, as well as the Biomass Strategy and Rail Environment Plan next year. For my part I want to see these being as ambitious as possible.

MUSICAL EVENTS IN DORCHESTER ABBEY

Saturday 20th November: 7pm OSJ Concert. Faure, Saint-Saens and Schubert

A lively evening of music perfect for warding off the winter chill! We present Schubert's romping Fifth Symphony alongside songs by Fauré and Saint-Saëns with star soloists Frazer Scott and Hannah Fraser Mackenzie. Tickets £15 to £20 from www.osj.org.uk

Saturday 6th November 7.30pm Rossini's Petite Messe Solennelle conducted by Richard Laing.

Tickets from £18 or £15 (reserved), £12 unreserved) from ww.bensonchoralsociety.org.uk or phone Stephanie 01865 407395





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CHURCH SERVICES FOR NOVEMBER

7 th November	10.30am	Marsh	Holy Communion with Children's Corner
14 th November	10.45am	Toot	Remembrance Service
21 st November	8.00am	Marsh	BCP Holy Communion
	3.00pm	Marsh	Forest Church
28 th November	10.30am	Dorchester	Team Advent Service

Decorating the Churches

As our churches open up, our thoughts are turning to church flowers and decorating again. Thank you so much to those who magically provide welcoming vases in both our churches - lovely for services but equally lovely for visitors dropping in to enjoy our beautiful buildings.

Christmas is a wonderful time for decorating the churches, which will have been devoid of flowers during Advent. Traditionally we decorate for the Carol Service which will be on Saturday, 18 December in St. Peter's, Marsh Baldon. We would greatly appreciate holly or other beautiful greenery you may have in your gardens at that time. Do please get in touch if you can spare some.

We are also hoping that more of you might like to exercise your creative skills and help with decorating! Do let us know if you would like to help at Christmas or any other time. It would be lovely to have more volunteers.



Veronica Sandilands - 01865 343367 - vsandilands@btinternet.com