The Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter



March 2017

FROM THE REVD PAUL CAWTHORNE

What are you giving up for Lent?

This feels a rather different question to ask in our present 'age of austerity' than in previous times of excess. At the risk of coming across as a po-faced Puritan, it is worth exploring a bit about how all this works in our modern society and our lives.

When one has been enjoying the cream of the land, a period of dieting can seem worthwhile and even righteous. The discipline of moderation can easily be understood and its underlying spiritual benefits appreciated. Forgetting the need to rein in one's appetites can lead to big problems. Recent official health initiatives about obesity have focussed minds on the dangers of eating junk food for too long. I wonder whether there is a rough parallel with the "irrational exuberance" which Alan Greenspan diagnosed during the dotcom bubble of the 1990s before the wider financial crash. One could say the banks ate too much junk food in their lending and investment, grew bloated and didn't realise until too late how little nutrition some of it contained.

One can recall too the breezily entitled 'pension holidays' some organisations took, which really meant inflating profits by not putting enough money aside into employees' schemes in anticipation of the lean years. How much has changed now with prominent organisations burdened with pension scheme deficits and having to formulate painful long-term plans to get back on a level again. It is complex stuff which is clearly spiritual, about fall and restoration, as is explored in the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book for this year, Dethroning Mammon: making money serve grace.

Looking back before we look forward, it has been interesting to see how Alcohol Concern's Dry January campaign has caught on. For some it is a way of coming down from the party-fuelled excesses of the build-up to Christmas and the season itself. Of course one could say that with more moderation and spiritual focus on the meaning of Christmas the excess would not occur, so such an antidote would not be needed. Perhaps that is too idealistic. The traditional spiritual wisdom was to do things the other way round and put the period of restraint before rather than after. Advent used to be a period of waiting and preparation before enjoying Christmas to the full, but that has sadly been rather overtaken by our impatience in recent years.

So moving on to Lent, what can we do and why should we? Giving up chocolate or biscuits or coffee for Lent can be a neat little way to symbolise in our own lives preparing our hearts for Easter. The traditional approach over centuries has been observing Lent as a period of fasting and penitence for our sins, the failings from which Jesus lovingly died to set us free and give us hope of a way out. It prepares us to walk with Jesus through suffering to his victory over the forces of destruction

and helps get us ready to celebrate the wonderful redeeming mystery of his resurrection.

A church congregation I know decided that giving up most meetings for Lent was the best way to prepare for Easter! For that busy congregation, it had real benefits in creating fresh space they hadn't thought was there. In the Dorchester team this Lent, at the Abbey on Sunday evenings from 6pm and in parish gatherings during the week we will be thinking about ways of caring for creation and all are welcome to come along. Many Christian organisations have tried to give assistance with very practical ways of walking with Jesus. There is a helpful little booklet which gives practical suggestions for how people young and old in the wide family of the church can get into the spirit of Lent called *'Love Life, Live Lent: transform your world'*. It is downloadable at

https://books.google.co.uk/books?isbn=0715141821

There are lively down-to-earth suggestions about giving things up and taking things on; being generous; making more time for quiet; being greener; helping those who are suffering; preparing for new life.

So this Lent, how will you join in the spiritual fellowship of this special season?

The Revd Paul Cawthorne is Team vicar for The Baldons with Nuneham Courtenay, Berinsfield and Drayton St Leonard.

e-mail: bbdparishoffice@rocketmail.com and tel: 01865 340460

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



EASTER LILIES

Each Easter we decorate the churches with lilies in memory of loved ones who have died. If you would like to buy a lily in memory of someone, please let us know. £3.00 a stem.

Debbie Dance 341323 d.dance@oxfordpreservation.org.uk

Cover photo: Crocuses at Baldon House, spring 2017 by Natasha Eliot

STRUGGLING WITH DEBTS? CITIZENS ADVICE CAN HELP

More people saddled with unmanageable debts are turning to Citizens Advice, leading the charity to call for people to seek help before they reach crisis point. Nationally, a rising number of people have resorted to a debt relief order (DRO) since the amount of debt covered by a DRO rose from £15,000 to £20,000 last October.

DROs are a last resort for people who have exhausted all options for repaying their debts and won't be able to pay in the near future. They work by "pausing" most of your debts for a year so that your creditors can't chase you for repayment. At the end of the year, unless your circumstances change, your debts will be written off.

Debt write-offs can have a serious impact on people's credit rating, which makes it more difficult to take out more credit agreements or even open a new bank account. Citizens Advice is now urging people who are failing to keep on top of their debts to seek advice early, so that they have the best chance of managing their debts and avoiding debt write-offs. An adviser stressed: "We will discuss your individual situation and look at the options available to you, so that you can make an informed decision about the best kind of debt management for you."

For further help, visit www.citizens.advice.org.uk phone **03444 111 444** or drop in to your nearest Citizens Advice. For locations and opening hours see www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale

SAFE AND WELL VISITS FROM OXFORDSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Did you know that Oxfordshire County Council's Fire and Rescue Service offer free Safe and Well Visits? Our firefighters will visit you at home to see what they can do to help you reduce the risk of fire.

What does a visit cover? It combines a Home Safety Check to help reduce the risk of fire in your home, such as checking and fitting smoke alarms and helping you make a fire escape plan. We can also offer you advice and support to help your health and wellbeing.

During the visit firefighters are able to provide advice and support to reduce any immediate risk from falls, fire, flood or power cuts, along with advice to help protect you from scams and doorstep crime.

You can request a visit online at www.365alive.co.uk/safewell or call our Community Safety Helpline on 08000 325 999. If a loved one or friend would benefit from a visit please let them know about our Safe and Well visits.

Do you have a fire safety concern or question? There's lots of great tips and advice to help keep you and your family safer at home on www.365alive.co.uk. Or you can call our Community Safety Helpline on 08000 325 999.

DISNEY WORLD: A LARGER-THAN-LIFE EXPERIENCE

At the March meeting of the Wallingford Gardening Club, John Negus will talk about "Disney World: a larger-than-life experience". The talk will be an exploration of the plants used to furnish the beds and borders at the Florida attraction where



Disney's expert team of horticulturists work year-round to create beautiful landscapes for Disney World.

John is a gardening journalist, writing for Amateur Gardening magazine, and is Wisley trained. He specialises in trees, shrubs and climbers, and lectures regularly. John broadcasts on Radio Surrey and Sussex, and on board cruise liners.

The talk will be held at Ridgeway Community Church, Wallingford at 7.30pm on Thursday 9th March. Visitors are very welcome (£3). Isabelle Darby 01491-836867

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Items for the **April 2017** newsletter by 16th March please

Any villager is welcome to send items for publication in the newsletter - this can be anything from articles, poems or pictures, to publicising your event. In addition, if you have an image you would like us to consider for the cover, do send it in!

If you would like to receive a reminder e-mail each month for newsletter contributions please let me know.

Natasha Eliot: tashaandjames@btopenworld.com. Alternatively I can be contacted on 343478 or at Baldon House East, Marsh Baldon. For advertising queries, please contact Sheila Harris on: sheilaharris778@yahoo.co.uk or on 340403.

BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The next Baldons PC meeting will be held on Monday March 13th, 2017 to be followed by the Annual Joint Parishes meeting on Monday April 10th and the Annual General Meeting on Monday May 8th. All meetings to be held at 7.30pm in the Marsh Baldons Village Hall.

We hope that you will be able to come along as these meetings are YOUR opportunity to ask questions and raise issues with the Parish Council and to discuss important local issues.

South Oxford Science Village / Grenoble Road

Planning consultants acting on behalf of Magdalen College, Thames Water and Oxford City Council held three public consultation events in Oxford in January to promote development at Grenoble Road and to extend the South Oxford Science Village. The proposal, on Green Belt land, would include 3,000+ new homes, various infrastructure improvements, an expansion of the Science Park, a school, up to 8 sports pitches, a new community centre, new shops next to the Kassam Stadium and a new roundabout on the A4074.

It is clear that there is a strong body of opposition. South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) have already stated that their preferred option is to support the Homes & Communities Agency (HCA) proposal to build 3,500-4,000 residential units at the Chalgrove Airfield site. Cllr. Lorraine Lindsay-Gale (Oxfordshire County Council) has stated her opposition to development on Green Belt land at Grenoble Road preferring to see development at Culham and Berinsfield instead. However, as Cllr. Lindsay-Gale states, "reaching decisions which are the most appropriate and sustainable locations for building more houses in South Oxfordshire and the County to meet demand is a highly complex and emotive problem".

In the next few weeks SODC will present a draft 'Preferred Options part 2' strategy for public consultation to be followed by a pre-submission consultation in the summer. SODC will then submit a final draft of the Local Plan to the Inspector at the end of 2017 to be followed by an Examination in Public (EIP) sometime in 2018.

Neighbourhood Plan

It is hoped that the Neighbourhood Plan will be published in the autumn and, in preparation for this, Baldons PC is completing a 'Landscape Character Assessment' and an 'Appraisal of Potential Building Sites'.

As part of this appraisal, letters have been sent to local landowners seeking to:-

- 1. identify sites suitable for the construction of up to approximately 15 houses, an increase in the overall present housing stock of 9%;
- 2. restrict new houses to sites within the present built up area, with no further expansion in the surrounding countryside;
- 3. require that new housing should comprise small houses; and

4. require that the design of new houses should conform to an enhanced Baldons design code.

Oxfordshire County Council 4.99% Council Tax increase

OCC are making a further £16m worth of cuts for 2017/18 due to ongoing financial pressures imposed by Central Government. These follow the £292m cuts made since 2010. In addition, OCC is to increase Council Tax for 2017/18 by 4.99% (the 1.99% allowed by Central Government without the requirement for a local referendum plus an additional 3% that is now allowed to be spent on Adult social care).

The additional 3% will raise £3.4m to be spent in 3 key areas over the course of 2017/18 and 2018/19:

- 1. £1.01m to grow, develop and build resilience in external care;
- 2. £1.485m to transform capacity in the public and private sector;
- 3. £650,000 for Daytime support (supporting independent living for the elderly and disabled).

'One Oxfordshire' - Unitary Status Update

On 6/2/17 OCC, SODC and the Vale of White Horse councils issued a joint statement stating that they have agreed to work together on a joint bid to government to create a single unitary council for Oxfordshire. The joint unitary proposal builds on the foundation laid by the draft OCC 'One Oxfordshire' proposal with significant improvements to ensure that the priorities of local communities, raised by district council partners, are fully addressed. The focus over the next few weeks will be on:

- Ensuring that decisions can be taken at a more local level than offered by the area executive board model;
- Ensuring that locally held reserves are used for the benefit of local residents while recognising the collective benefits of pooling resources to leverage investment;
- Commitment to a revised model of council tax harmonisation across the county;
- Ensuring that the planning framework builds on existing and emerging local plans;
- Establishing a housing company to ensure delivery of sustainable housing and infrastructure;
- Encouraging Oxford City Council to join the working group to draw on their knowledge and expertise of running services in the city and to develop a model of local governance that works for Oxford. It is essential that the model of local government incorporates the very different social and economic make-up of Oxford City but also embraces the vital economic importance of the City to the whole county.

Village Spring Clean

The annual Village Spring Clean will take place on Sunday March 26th, 2017. Baldons PC hopes that many villagers will come and help for an hour or so,

children included, to get the village looking tidy for Easter and the spring. For the Marsh tidy, please meet on the Village Green at 10.30 am. For the Toot tidy please meet at 10am opposite the Mole. Both groups will all then join up for a refreshing drink in the pub later. Bags and litter sticks will be provided but please bring gloves and strong shoes.

Minerals & Waste Strategy (Gravel Extraction)

The Examination in Public was held for 10 days from 20/9/16 and the Inspector then issued an Interim Report instructing OCC to carry out a further strategic environmental assessment / sustainability appraisal. In accordance with this request, OCC have published the following consultation document - 'Main Modifications to the Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Part 1 - Core Strategy'. The consultation runs until 20/3/17 and the document can be viewed at: oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/minerals-and-waste-core-strategy

Health Services consultation

A consultation on proposed changes to health services in Oxfordshire has been launched by the Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group. A full debate on the consultation will be hosted by the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 7/3/17. HOSC is an independent joint committee that includes representatives from the four District Councils, the City Council and County Council.

Planning Applications

P16/S3545/HH - 3, The Croft, Marsh Baldon, OX44 9LN.

Proposed extensions and alterations to existing residential dwelling. Amendment 19/12/16 - erection of single and 2 storey front side & rear extensions (drawings MD02A, PL01E and PL02C to reduce the front projection of the extension and alter the overall design of the proposal). Planning permission GRANTED, 20/1/17.

P16/S3848/FUL Durham Leys Farm, Marsh Baldon, OX44 9LP.

Demolition of buildings. Erection of new dwelling with outbuilding and associated works and landscaping (amended scheme to include basement). Planning permission GRANTED, on 20/1/17.

P16/S4196/FUL - Poultry Building, Parsonage Farm, OX44 9LH.

Demolition of the redundant 'B Use Class' Poultry Building and the erection of one 1.5 storey residential dwelling with associated access and garden amenity.

BPC recommended Refusal. Referred to Planning Committee for decision, 13/2/17.

P16/S4136/HH & P16/S4137/LB - Thurlfield Cottage, Pebble Hill, Toot Baldon, OX44 9ND.

Remove existing modern two storey side extension and replace it with new two storey side extension and associated minor internal works to main building cloak room.

BPC responded with no objections. No decision issued by SODC at 12/2/17.

P16/S4195/PAR (Permitted Development Rights) - Sheepshed Hillfield Farm, Toot Baldon, OX44 9NH.

Conversion of sheep shed to residential dwelling.

BPC responded with no objections. Permitted Development Rights GRANTED on 9/2/17.

P16/S4205/LB (Listed Building Consent) - Baldon House East Wing, Marsh, OX44 9LS.

Single storey extension revised design.

BPC responded with no objections. Listed Building Consent GRANTED, 10/2/17.

P16/S4261/FUL (Full) - Harcourt Arboretum, Nuneham Courtenay, OX44 9PX. A plant propagation unit located between the mower garage and composting bays consisting of concrete hardstanding, a concrete road between the garage and composting bays and a shade frame construction. BPC responded with no objections. No decision issued by SODC at 12/2/17.

P17/S0115/HH (Householder) - 33, The Green, Marsh Baldon, OX44 9LP. Proposed rear two storey extension. BPC responded with no objections. No decision issued by SODC at 12/2/17.

P17/S0200/FUL (Full Application) - Little Baldon House, Baldon Farm, OX44 9PU. Proposed change of use of existing B1 office to C3 (3 dwellings). As amended by revised block and location plans received on 10 August 2016 showing the site area abutting the highway and pedestrian vision splays for Unit 2. P16/S2379/FUL Conditions 2, 6, 7, 8, 9,10. BPC responded with no objections. No decision issued by SODC at 12/2/17.

P17/S0413/FUL (Full) - Harcourt Arboretum, Nuneham Courtenay, OX44 9PX. Construction of a timber frame and timber clad building 6.121m long by 4.293m wide and a maximum height of 3.5m to provide an Education Room and Meeting Place for the Friends of the Botanic Garden and Harcourt Arboretum. BPC responded with no objections. No decision issued by SODC at 12/2/17.

Paul Isaacs, Baldons Parish Clerk 07733 555750 pisaacs4@yahoo.co.uk

FROM JOHN HOWELL MP

This month I will focus on Brexit to try to help bring some clarity. Firstly let me turn to the debate revolving around Article 50. This is something which was introduced by the Lisbon Treaty in 2009. It allows a Member State to leave the EU and sets out the procedure for this to happen. The debate in Parliament followed the judgement of the Supreme Court that the Prime Minister must seek approval of Parliament to trigger Article 50. The short Bill presented to the House was simply to enshrine in Statute the power for the Prime Minister to judge the timing of when this should occur. The Bill is currently with the House of Lords. The Lords may suggest some amendments but as it stands it is not anticipated that there will be anything new coming forward to the House of Commons when it returns. Nonetheless, whatever the outcome, this Bill will not lead to the immediate triggering of Article 50. Article 50 remains as untriggered today as it has always been. The clock will not start ticking from the day of Royal Assent and the timing would be in the hands of the Prime Minister.

The Government White Paper entitled 'The United Kingdom's exit from and new partnership with the European Union' sets out the key priorities for negotiations in a number of areas and for the first time sets out clearly some of the critical issues. It has already proved useful in the constituency as a starting point for discussion to help me get a feel for the issues that are most important or of most concern to constituents.

The terms 'hard Brexit' and 'soft Brexit' are widely bandied around and many have asked me just what they mean. Essentially they represent the extremes and following negotiation we are likely to have neither as currently defined. For now the term Hard Brexit identifies a situation in which the UK leaves the EU swiftly, not as a member of the Single Market but as a member of the World Trade Organisation. The World Trade Organisation is an international organisation with over 164 member countries. The UK is already a member of the WTO. Relying on WTO rules would led to multiple individual negotiations. In contrast soft Brexit identifies a situation in which the UK leaves the EU but negotiates continued membership of the Single Market in some way e.g. as part of the European Economic Area, while giving up influence over single market rules. At best the idea of a hard or soft Brexit sets the ends of the spectrum but I think that the two terms suggest something simplistic and mask the true complexity of the negotiations.

A further important aspect of our withdrawal will be the 'Great Repeal Bill'. It is planned to introduce this in the next session of Parliament in May this year. It will repeal the European Commission Act 1972 which marked our entry into the EU and where practical will convert EU law into domestic law. As I understand it, it is likely that this will mop up any unfinished business and will be the means by which we avoid falling off a 'cliff edge'; that is leaving with outstanding issues to resolve; as some worry we could. However we have yet to see the details of this.



BERINSFIELD LIBRARY

Visit your Local Library and see what we have on offer

Rhymes for the Under 5's Wednesdays 10.30am Storytime Wednesdays 3.45pm

IT Drop in Thursdays 2.00pm

Knit and Natter Tuesday 7th March 2.30pm

Reading Group Thursday 9th March 2.00pm Enjoy a cup of tea and a bun and chat about a good book

Junior Reading Group Saturday 4th March & 18th March 10.30am

Coffee Morning 21st March 10.30am Wednesday 12th April Easter Craft Afternoon 3.45pm

All Welcome
Children to be accompanied by an adult please



join in ● explore ● discover ● log on



Safari Supper

Saturday, 1st April

Welcome drink, canapes and starters in Toot
Mains in Marsh
Puddings at The Seven Stars

Cost: £15.00 to include food and wine

Places are limited so early booking advisable, from baldonsevents@hotmail.com

Or Robin Timms on 07825 355289

Priority given to villagers until 7th March
As parking will be restricted at each venue, please try to avoid bringing a car.
NB couples will be split up for starters and mains!

PAID HELP NEEDED - 2ND Thursday each month

at

NUNEHAM COURTENAY ADULT LUNCH CLUB

(A non-political non-profit group)

The Lunch Club require two people for an hour's work at Lunch time on the second Thursday of each month, to help with washing and drying of dishes.

Location: Nuneham Courtenay Village Hall

Rate of pay at £10.00 per hour

Applications to: Georgia Gillett Telephone: 01865 343531

WHAT DID WALLINGFORD CASTLE LOOK LIKE?

Wallingford Castle was one of the greatest royal strongholds of Medieval England, and it ranked alongside the Tower of London and Windsor Castle in its importance in the Thames valley. When Wallingford Museum opened



with its new exhibitions on 1st March there was also on display a new artistic impression of the Castle. The new illustration has been produced by Museum volunteer June Strong, whose striking drawing brings to life the amazing details discovered in newly translated documents and investigations, revealing the daily life and the layout of the Castle.

There are three new exhibitions:-

- 'Wallingford Castle the Inside Story' presents a closer look at different parts of the Castle as revealed in the new documentary research.
- 'Pettits: past to present' exhibition gives a history of Wallingford's department store, and the family who have run it from its beginning in 1856 to the present day.
- 'Ways to Wallingford' describes how Wallingford has been an important crossing point on the Thames since the Saxon times.

Further details at www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk

'New light on the Romano-British countryside'

March's talk to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) will be given by Alexander Telford Smith. He will present "New light on the Romano-British countryside: Current results of the Roman Rural Settlement Project".



With the huge mass of mainly developer-funded excavation data created over the past 25 years, the incredible diversity and density of Roman rural settlement across the landscape is now starting to be demonstrated. Dr Alex Smith is a Senior Research Fellow at Reading University, and his main area of interest is the rural settlement of Roman Britain. His talk will provide a brief overview of the current state of this research, concentrating on southern Britain, and assessing how the TWHAS excavated site at Coldharbour Farm fits in with wider patterns in the Romano-British countryside.

This talk will be held on Wednesday 8th March, 7.45 for 8 pm at St Mary's Church, Wallingford. Visitors (£4) are most welcome.

Further details at www.twhas.org.uk

Ben Smith

Carpentry & Building 07803533163 01865 361171 07884103142 Enquiries@bscarpentry.co.uk

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References Available Upon Request





VAT REG NO: 212 6529 30





CARING FOR CREATION - LENT 2017 IN THE DORCHESTER TEAM

On Sunday evenings during Lent at Dorchester Abbey there will be a number of events and speakers focussing on the fifth mark of mission of the Worldwide Anglican Church: **To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth**

Each event will begin at 6pm with a short act of worship. No event will end later than 8pm. We would love for you to join us.

Programme:

5th March

Showing of **The 11th Hour**, a documentary film created, produced, co-written, and narrated by Leonardo DiCaprio on the state of the natural environment.

12th March

Dr Michael Northcott, Professor of Ethics at University of Edinburgh and author of 'The Environment and Christian Ethics', 'An Angel Directs the Storm' and 'A Moral Climate' will help us to explore a Biblical and theological approach to climate change.

19th March

Dr Martin Hodson of A Rocha and John Ray Initiative will speak on the science of the environment and climate change and a practical Christian approach to it.

No event on 26th March

2nd April

A **Panel of local experts** will gather to interact and respond to questions on the subject of Climate Change and our care of Creation

9th April

Palm Sunday Service of Reflection

CONCERTS IN DORCHESTER ABBEY

11th March 7.30pm OSJ Concert

A public concert by performers on the autistic spectrum of classical and jazz music including Derek Paravicini piano, Ashleigh Turley piano and Claire Doran soprano. Tickets £12 from www.osj.org.uk

25th March 7.00pm Benson Choral Society

J S Bach – St John Passion with Evangelist – Ben Alden, Mezzo Soprano – Carris Jones, Bass – Timothy Murphy Johann

SERVICES FOR MARCH 2017

LENT

1 st March Ash Wednesday	9.30am	Holy Communion with imposition of ashes		Berinsfield
Wednesday	7.30pm	Holy Communion with imposition of ashe	s	Clifton Hampden
Friday 3 rd March	7.00pm please note time	Women's World Da of Prayer	ч	Drayton St Leonard
5 th March				Toot Baldon
	6.00pm	Lent Talk		Dorchester Abbey
12 th March	6.00pm	Lent Talk		Dorchester Abbey
19 th March	9.30am 6.00pm	Holy Communion Lent Talk		Marsh Baldon Dorchester Abbey
26 th March	8.30am 9.30am	Said Communion Family Worship for Mothering Sunday		Marsh Baldon Marsh Baldon
2 nd April	9.30am	Holy Communion		Toot Baldon
	6.00pm	Lent talk		Dorchester Abbey
9 th April	9.30am	Palm Sunday Walk		Toot to Marsh
	6.00pm	Palm Sunday Medita	ation	Dorchester Abbey
SIDESDUTY				
5 th March 12 th March 19 th March 26 th March		9.30am .		lenny van Dijk Sonia Hobbins
		Marsh		Toot
LENT		NO EL OVA	/ EDO	

NO FLOWERS