

The Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter



October 2019

FAREWELL FROM REVEREND JON ROBERTS

I have a big change coming up. A big change that will affect my wife, children and myself considerably. In October my family and I will be moving to Bristol, and in November I will be starting my new job as a vicar there. I've been a 'curate' in the Dorchester Team for over 4 years, which is like being an apprentice or 'junior' - I was fully qualified after 3 years in college, and here I've been learning on the job with experienced colleagues, serving across these wonderful village communities. So I leave here fully equipped to go and be a vicar on my own... in theory!

When I first began ministry in these villages in July 2015 I was very green. Since then we've had our trials and tribulations, had our 2 boys, my own father passed away, I've conducted many funerals, baptisms, weddings, family services, civic services, communion services, assemblies in schools, and goodness knows what else! I've gotten to know a lot of people across the many villages in the Dorchester Team, and this has been a real pleasure. I've spent most of my time in Berinsfield, and have loved discovering the wealth of community spirit there. The people of Berinsfield have truly blessed me with this experience, of many extended families living alongside one another in the messiness of normal life, never losing their values of community, family, friends, work, and home. This is something that I'll take with me wherever I go.

I've loved and learned a lot working in these village communities. It will be emotional leaving, having to say goodbye to so many people I've worked with, befriended, walked with through some life-changing event, prayed with, or welcomed into the church. It's exciting heading off to pastures new, with new adventures ahead for our family, and going into a new role which will stretch me in ways I'm sure I cannot imagine. But I will not forget the people I've met and walked with in these villages, particularly the people throughout the church congregations, and the people of Berinsfield. You have all had an impact on me, helped to shape the kind of person, husband and father, and indeed priest that I am; the Dorchester Team has left your mark on me and my wife, and we will miss you.

My prayers for the villages of Berinsfield, Dorchester, The Baldons with Nuneham Courtenay, Drayton St Leonard, Stadhampton, Warborough with Newington, Clifton Hampden, Long and Little Wittenham, and Culham is that you'll be as willing and able to welcome all the other newcomers you'll be receiving over the forthcoming years, as well as you welcomed me into your churches.

That you'll have the courage to stand up for the poor, vulnerable, the foreigner and the refugee, wildlife and the environment as you were willing and able to stand up for the importance of my training for ministry and my spending time with my family. That you remember to value the things you've taught me to value, such as community, family, and above all kindness, decency and love.

Until we meet again, goodbye all - May peace and joy go with you, and God bless you.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Sunday 13th October

Harvest Service in Toot Baldon Church 5pm



Followed by Supper in the Village Hall

Harvest is a time for the whole community to celebrate. Additionally this year, it will be the first service in the Baldons for our new Vicar, the Revd Teresa Stewart-Sykes. Jennifer Morton and Teresa will be taking the service together.

Harvest Donations of non-perishable foodstuffs that we can take to the local food bank would be much appreciated.

It would be wonderful to see a full church or just come along to the supper in the Village Hall.

Please could you let us know if you are coming to the supper:

Veronica Sandilands: 01865 340562 or

vsandilands@btinternet.com

FOR YOUR DIARY

The Carol Service this year will be on Sunday, 22 December at 5pm in Marsh Baldon Church.

There will as always be plenty of wonderful Carols for everyone to sing, with a few special pieces for the Choir. This year we will be including "The Baldon Carol" which was found in an old "Psalter" of 1814 which is held in the Oxfordshire County Archive. The title page says "James Bridcut His Book" and would have been the Master copy for the church musicians. James Bridcut was the Gardener at Baldon House 200 years ago!

If you would like to join the Christmas Choir, please let me know so that I can add your name to my circulation list for rehearsals.

Veronica Sandilands
vsandilands@btinternet.com
01865 340562

EVENTS IN DORCHESTER ABBEY

St Frideswide Pilgrimage – Friday 18th – Saturday 19th October

Bishop Steven and Canon Edmund Newey write "We're delighted to invite you to take part in our inaugural **St Frideswide Pilgrimage**. The route begins on **Friday 18th Oct at 11.00am at Dorchester Abbey** with a short act of worship and formal blessing of the Pilgrimage and finishes with tea and a service at **Christchurch Cathedral starting at 3pm on Saturday 19th October**. There are a number of different walking routes all led by an experienced pilgrimage group leader and there will be opportunities for reflection on the way.

Please look at the leaflet on www.chch.ox.ac.uk for further information. A group will be staying in the Abbey and are planning to visit Little Wittenham – if you have the opportunity to say hello please do.

OSJ Concert Music in the Abbey – Saturday 12th October 7.30pm

Rossini Petite Messe Solennelle with soloists Ilona Domnich soprano, Ellie Edmunds alto, Xavier Hetherington tenor, Fraser Scott bass Catherine Edwards piano and Howard Moody organ. Tickets cost £12-20 from www.osj.org.uk

Adult Christmas Craft workshops

Come and get in the mood for the festive season in the Abbey Guest House by crafting something new for your Christmas decorations!

Mon 18th Nov 10.00am to 1.00pm Book Angel

Tues 26th Nov 1.30-4.30pm Angel Garland

Sessions cost £15 each including all materials and refreshments. To book (by 11th Nov) please contact Margaret education@dorchester-abbey.org.uk or tel: 01865 343164.



Wednesday 9th October
7.30pm

Marsh Baldon Village Hall
OX44 9LL

The South Oxfordshire Filling Station is one of a network of Filling Stations that meet nationwide (www.thefillingstation.org.uk), where friends gather to meet with God and grow their Christian faith. It is not a new church denomination; anyone of any denomination, any faith or no faith is welcome. You don't have to be a member or let us know you're coming, just turn up on the night. All are welcome.

Our speaker on 9th October is James Nickols, regional consultant for the south east of England, and operations officer, of The Filling Station nationwide. On the website, James is described as 'passionate about encouraging and equipping Christians to overflow with the presence of God as they speak about and live out their faith'. Come and be encouraged and meet with God on 9th October.

Coffee/tea and cake from 7.30pm, worship at 7.50pm,
a talk starting at 8.15pm, finish 9.30pm.

You are welcome to come and go at any point in the evening. If you are interested contact Catherine Mason: (southoxfordshire@thefillingstation.org.uk, 07879 626828) or Tom Hunnings (07778 104806).

Reliable non-smoker tenants from Nuneham Estate looking for a **2 bedroom house to rent in the Baldons**, for myself and my 15 year old daughter. If you have a cottage/house/property annex available to let, please contact me on 07483 862 514. I can do renovation and refurbishment works if needed. Good references. Sandra.



WHAT'S ON AT WALLINGFORD MUSEUM

- **Tuesdays to Saturdays** - Wallingford Museum's new exhibition 'Once upon a time... - the changing face of Wallingford.'
- **9 October** - TWHAS talk: 'The Bronze Age and Iron Age in Wallingford: the results of excavations at Slade End Farm'
- **Fri 25 October** - 'A Night at the Museum'

The Museum is open until 30 November on Tuesdays to Fridays 2.00pm - 5.00pm, and Saturdays 10.30am - 5.00pm. www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk



FIREWORKS NIGHT

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

SATURDAY 2nd NOVEMBER

Marsh Baldon Green

6.15pm Lighting the Bonfire

7.15pm Fireworks

Bonfire – We need your help. We shall be building the bonfire on the morning of 2nd November so bring material suitable for burning to The Green between 9.30am and 1pm. Please DON'T leave anything on The Green before 2nd November (we've had tyres and other totally unsuitable stuff dumped there presumably by people from outside the villages which costs a lot of money to dispose of). Start collecting now!

Helpers - If you can offer any help, whether putting up marquees, marshalling (which is simply wearing a hi-viz jacket and helping in the event of an emergency) or car parking on Saturday or litter picking etc. on Sunday please do get in touch.

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



THE BALDONS FUEL CHARITY
(But not just fuel)

Need help with education costs for school, college or university? Maybe travel, books, uniforms, computers?

The Charity gives financial help towards energy bills and personal alarms.

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

If you are experiencing financial difficulties, 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, Mrs Barbara Wright (343276) or any of the Trustees. All applications are dealt with in the strictest confidence by the Trustees.

Trustees:

Chris Nichols (Chair) - 343388

David Greenaway - 343496

Graham Hobbins - 343227

Alison Porter – 340405

Ali Barne – 343624

Alan Johns – 343268

BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Village Green Maintenance

The Neighbourhood Plan concluded that *“Marsh Baldon Green is a hugely valuable asset to The Baldons and its residents”*. Looking at past photographs, it is clear that the Green has deteriorated over the years. It is now looking increasingly unkempt and unless restorative action is taken there is a danger that area of the Green will be lost to saplings and bramble. These must be removed, and the area routinely cleared. With the right action the original view through the trees, along the ditch, from the north to the south will return.

The willow trees along the ditch are deteriorating. Two had to be removed following the strong winds and others need pollarding to preserve them. Other trees need specialist intervention to keep them safe.

At the Parish Council meeting on 9th September, Councillors discussed the condition of the Green and it was agreed to gather estimates for dealing with the trees as well as restoring and maintaining the Green. The cost of these activities may mean an increase in the precept for the year ahead.

The state of the track along the southside continues to cause concern. Due to large and irregular potholes, cars are often seen driving along the edge of the Green. Over the years, the track has increased in width, thereby eroding the Green. Following discussion with Queens College land agents The Council is committed to restoring the Green to its original boundary, reducing the track to 5m wide. Over the next few months, the Council will be gathering the views of householders along the south track on the way forward.

Village pond

Pictures in the Neighbourhood Plan clearly show that, once upon a time, the village pond, by the School, was clearly visible to residents and visitors. Sadly, it has become surrounded by bushes and brambles. In addition, the pond is being lost to weeds and reeds which need to be removed. With some hard work, the village pond could be restored as a visible asset to the Baldons.

Can you help on Sunday 20th October?

Is there a group of villagers willing to form a task force to tackle the pond?

The Council intends to hold a **Community Village Green Action Day** on Sunday 20th October to tackle the pond as a priority.

If you are keen to help, please contact Tom James, Clerk to the Parish Council clerk@baldonspc.org or Johnny Collett jcollett@brookes.ac.uk

Oxford to Cambridge Expressway

We have no additional information at present on this matter having circulated the latest information from the Expressway Action group a few weeks ago we are awaiting the Highways Agency publication of plans and consultation. SODC councilors have voted to oppose the Expressway.

Planning applications

31 The Green MB P19/S2537/HH. An application for a two-storey side extension and single storey rear extension. The Parish Council has indicated no objection to the plans.

Court House Toot Baldon P19/S2630/FUL. An application for replacement gates with remotely controlled black metal gates. The council has indicated no objections to the plan

Low Hill Farmhouse P19/S2180/HH. An application for conversion of an existing barn to ancillary accommodation tied to the main house. The Parish Council has supported the plan.

Boundary House MB P19/S2780/HH. An application for a replacement garage and garden room, currently being considered by Parish Council

All plans can be seen on SODC Website using the reference numbers

News from our District Council

SODC are still debating the Local plan with concern about the number and location of houses needed for the district. There is pressure from the County Council and other bodies to agree to the original plan prepared by the previous council due to the tie up with money from Government for infrastructure. SODC's plans should be clearer after a meeting in October.

SODC will be prioritizing cycling routes in future planned developments and have appointed a cycling champion (our district councilor Sam Casey Rehay). If you have views about cycling and safe cycling routes, she is interested to hear from you.

Date of next meeting Monday 11th November 7.30pm Village Hall

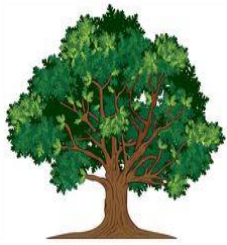
Baldons Village Hall

Quiz Night

Saturday October 12th
7.30 pm

Maximum 6. per team
Superb Prizes
Chicken & Chips Supper
BYO Drinks

£10.00 per person
Tickets Available From John Maskell
Call 343 203



Funding for a Baldons Eco-project

Do you have a good idea on how to improve the green environment of the Baldons? On how to protect or encourage biodiversity in our villages? This may be in the form of new hedgerows, tree planting, ponds, insect enhancement or other biodiversity initiatives.

The Millennium Committee has a fund of £900 to help fund or part-fund an eco-project in line with infrastructure priorities identified by The Baldons Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Please email your idea, plus costings and a timeline by 10th December 2019 to Alison Barne:

alibarne13@gmail.com or post it through the letter box at 8 The Green.



BALDONS VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

AGM

TUESDAY 22ND OCTOBER, 8pm
BALDONS VILLAGE HALL

All Welcome

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Items for the November newsletter
by 16th October 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.

Oxfordshire County Council is urging residents who have been affected by suicide to give their feedback to help shape a suicide prevention strategy

In Oxfordshire there is a determination to reduce the number of deaths by suicide. The Oxfordshire Suicide Prevention Multi-Agency Group formed in 2014 and brings together public, private and charity sector organisations, all of whom are committed to suicide prevention.

The Oxfordshire suicide prevention group is about to revise its action plan and develop a strategy and wants to hear from people in Oxfordshire who have been affected by suicide or who may have had suicidal thoughts themselves.

There is a determination to reduce the numbers of death by suicide therefore we are asking residents to complete the survey to help achieve this understanding. The survey can be found at: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/suicidepreventionsurvey

Adult Painting Classes

Nuneham Courtenay Village Hall, OX44 9NX

All levels of ability welcome

Mondays 10.00am until 12.30pm

£12 per session

Starting November 2019

Life Drawing Sessions also available

For more information call Charisse Gardiner

07928 288321 or email

charisseartclasses@gmail.com

Contact Citizens Advice for rapid help with online scams



Citizens Advice has set up a new Scams Action service to help people who have been scammed or defrauded online, or think they might have been.

Call a Scams Action specialist adviser on 0300 330 3003 if you want to report an online scam. You can also call us if you're acting on behalf of someone else who has been scammed. We'll let you know what to do next and give you support with any problems you might be facing.

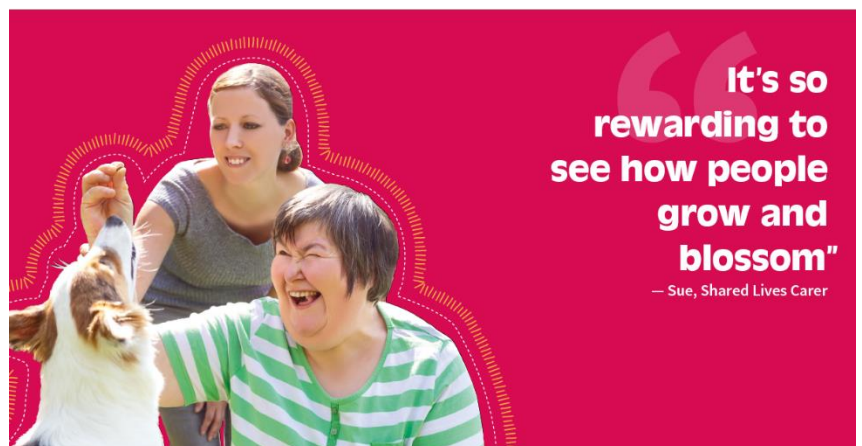
The Scams Action helpline is open Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (closed on bank holidays). We don't charge for calls to the helpline but check with your telephone provider for their conditions. You can also use our "chat" service to talk to an adviser on the web. Chat is available from www.citizensadvice.org.uk Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more guidance telephone Citizens Advice Consumer Service on 03454 040506 or visit Citizens Advice during opening hours. Details of office locations are on www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale

Sharing a life can change a life

The Shared Lives scheme matches people who need additional support to be independent, with carers and their families.

Sharing a family's life means that people who need support can choose to become part of an ordinary household, instead of staying in residential care or being looked after by a team of support workers.



Could you give someone the chance to learn and grow, develop new skills and gain the confidence to become as independent as possible in a family environment? Become a Shared Lives Carer in a home based, paid role oxfordshire.gov.uk/sharedlives

NUNEHAM COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The next Parish Council Meeting will be on Tuesday 4th November 2019 at 7pm in the Village Hall. The last meeting was on Tuesday 3rd September. It discussed all the usual subjects such as planning, the Playing Field, speeding, and the possible purchase of a defibrillator.

A parishioner attended the meeting to ask if the Parish Council could pay for a water butt at the churchyard and the meeting also discussed a couple of things that come around regularly.

The first of these was polling arrangements for the parish. South Oxfordshire District Council asked for comments so the Parish Council has recommended that the parish continues to vote at the Village Hall.

The second was winter salt. There are no County Council salt bins in the parish and the Parish Council is not suggesting one is needed but the Parish Council is going to order winter salt so residents can put salt on minor roads and the footways – the County Council only grits the A4074 and the B4015.

A reminder that Parish Council Meetings are open to the public and there is still one vacancy on the Parish Council so you can not only attend the meetings but you could also put your name forward to become a parish councillor and take a full part in them.

NUNEHAM COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL NEWS

October

Hopefully you are all busy making your **scarecrows** to be displayed so they may be seen from the roads and sidewalks of the village and park. You can vote for your favourite scarecrow either by writing down the house name/number and putting it into the box on the front porch of the Village Hall, or email jenny@datadaysolutions.com. Prizes will be awarded at our November event. Happy creating!

November

Talk on the gardens of Nuneham Courtenay. This event is still in the planning stages but at present we are planning on November the 7th. This will be along the lines of the talk kindly given by Dr Malcolm Airs on the history of Nuneham Courtenay. Afterwards there will be a social and we will give the prizes for the scarecrows. Please look out for more details in the next newsletter.

December

Christmas bingo! Date to be confirmed

In general... Yoga takes place most Mondays at 7:30 pm. Text Jenny at 07787 507304 to make sure it's on. All abilities welcome.

THE MAPLE TREE – SEPTEMBER 2019



We hope that everybody has now settled back into school/nursery after the long summer break.

The Maple Tree programme continues to run as usual with some exciting new additions such as our new Under 5s cooking group on a Tuesday afternoon, Crafty Stay and Play on a Wednesday afternoon 3.15-4.30 and twice monthly visits from Oxford Sling Library during our Well Baby Clinic on a Wednesday morning.

Have you recently had a baby or know somebody who is expecting? Join our baby group on a Thursday afternoon 1-2.30pm for babies up to 1 year. Come along, have a hot drink and meet some other local families.

We still have some spaces at our Parent and Carer First Aid courses on Thursday 26th September (1-3pm) OR Wednesday 2nd October (6.30-8.30pm) at the cost of £20 per person – a great course for peace of mind.

Don't forget our Silent Auction is on Saturday 5th October with some fantastic Lots. If you would like a copy of the catalogue, email auction@mapletree.org.uk.

The Maple Tree AGM is on Thursday 24th October from 7.30 – 9pm. A great chance to come along and meet the Maple Tree team, find out what the Trustees have planned for the year ahead and also enjoy a glass of prosecco and a few nibbles (adults only please). If you have spare time, why not consider joining us as a Trustee yourself?

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday 7th December 2-5pm for some Christmas craft activities at Holton Village Hall.

Why not have a flutter on the SODC Lottery? – not only will you be supporting The Maple Tree, there is also the chance to win up to £25,000
<https://www.socharitable.co.uk/>

See our new Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/TheMapleTreeWheatley> or to volunteer, hire the MT or just for more information contact hayley@mapletree.org.uk

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BERINSFIELD LIBRARY

VISIT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY AND SEE WHAT WE HAVE ON OFFER

Halloween Craft Afternoon

Wednesday 30th October 2.30pm

Rhymes for the Under 5's

Wednesdays 10.30am

Storytime Wednesdays 3.45pm

IT Drop in

Knit and Natter 2.30pm

Tuesday 1st October & 5th November

Reading Group 2.00pm

Thursday 10th October & 14th November

Coffee Morning 10.30am

Tuesday 15th October & 19th November

All Welcome

Berinsfield Library Opening Times

Tuesday - 10.00 - 12.30 & 2.00 - 7.00pm

Wednesday - 10.00 -12.30 & 2.00 - 5.30pm

Thursday - 2.00 - 5.30pm

Friday 10.00 - 12.30 & 2.00 - 5.00pm

Saturday - 10.00 - 12.30

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries



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COUNTY COUNCIL

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1788



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References Available Upon Request



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SERVICES FOR OCTOBER 2019

6 th October	9.30am	Holy Communion <i>Jennifer Morton</i>	Toot Baldon
13 th October	5.00pm <i>Please note time</i>	Harvest Service followed by Supper in the Village Hall <i>Teresa Stewart-Sykes</i> <i>Jennifer Morton</i>	Toot Baldon
20 th October	9.30am	Holy Communion <i>Jennifer Morton</i>	Marsh Baldon
27 th October	8.30am	Said Holy Communion <i>Jennifer Morton</i>	Marsh Baldon
	9.30am	Family Worship <i>Teresa Stewart-Sykes</i> <i>Jennifer Morton</i>	Marsh Baldon
3 rd November	9.30am	Holy Communion <i>Teresa Stewart-Sykes</i>	Toot Baldon
10 th November	10.45am	Remembrance Sunday <i>Jennifer Morton</i>	Toot Baldon

SIDESDUTY

	Marsh Baldon	Toot Baldon
6 th October		9.30am Jenny van Dijk
13 th October		5.00pm Ian Gillespie
20 th October	9.30am Graham Hobbins	
27 th October	9.30am John Mason	
3 rd November		9.30am Ann Druce

FLOWERS

29 th Sept & 6 th Oct	L Martin & I Wright	J Brook
13 th & 20 th October	F Ardern	A Druce
27 th Oct & 3 rd Nov	C Attewill & V Sandilands	V Bowler