

**The Baldons and
Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter
December 2016 – January 2017**



FROM THE VICAR, REVD PAUL CAWTHORNE

What a messy world we live in! I'm not just talking about mud on the carpets or binbags full of rubbish. After the American elections and with Britain so divided over how to respond to the prospect of leaving Europe, there seems so much change and uncertainty that we can think of mess on a different level too.

Is messiness something we should try to avoid? I guess that is not possible for most of us and we have to learn how to deal with it. Unless we try to build a wall around ourselves and limit engagement with much on the other side, there is so much unexpected that life can seem a roller coaster ride for more of the trip than feels comfortable. There are a few things in life that can be insured against but mostly we have to take events as they happen. Its not easy but we know it is really what a lovely hymn describes as the dance of life. "Dance then wherever you may be" starts the chorus to Lord of the Dance and that 'wherever' can be on the hilltops, down in the dark valleys of life or splashing through the puddles with muddy footsteps.

I was brought up in a little country church where people used to come dressed in their Sunday best and it used to strike me as strange that people were wanting to wear clothes which weren't normal everyday wear to come into God's presence. So it was a relief to be told by a curate as a teenager that he thought wearing shorts in church on a hot day was fine and that Jesus used to wear sandals so wearing black shoes was probably being overdressed.

When it comes to styles of worship, in Berinsfield it has been lovely to continue the tradition of a deliberately relaxed form of worship for some occasions, with informal songs, eating together just as the disciples did, different craftwork organised by creative people in our congregation and lots of talk about the normal messy things of life.

That's why we call it Messy Church and we are having a Messy Christmas service for the parish cluster in Berinsfield on Sunday Dec 4th at 4pm.

In this Advent season, we can prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming by remembering that he came as a messy baby into a messy stable to be part of our messy world. We made a mess of how we understood his message of love and forgiveness, of darkness giving way to hope, and yet the candle Jesus lit in human hearts still burns brightly and we celebrate its light in the innocence of a child's face. Let's cherish God's messy world and the fact that he walks in it alongside us every step of the messy way.

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

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Marsh Baldon Church of England Primary School

Christmas in primary schools is always a very special and exciting time and this year is no exception! The children have started practising carols, learning lines and making Christmas food and crafts. The children in Class 1 will be performing the nativity in church at the start of December which for me is one of the joys of teaching young children. As you can see below the children in Class 1 are busy getting into role!



Class 1 Nativity rehearsals

The children in Class 2 and 3 will be performing the play The Lion King in school and rehearsals are well under way. We are holding a dress rehearsal in our school hall on Wednesday 7th December at 10.30am. The dress rehearsal is for family members who can't make the evening performance and for members of The Baldons and Nuneham community, so please do come along if you are able to. If you would like to watch the performance, please contact Christa Menmuir in the office who will add your name to the audience list.

Some of our children will also be singing in the Carol Service at Marsh Baldon Church on Sunday 18th December. Thank you to Helen Wright our Class 2 teacher and Veronica Sandilands who have started rehearsals with our wonderful singers. We are all very much looking forward to the service.

Sarah Herring – Head Teacher

Cover Photo – Sunset over Baldon woods – James Eliot

CHRISTMAS COOKING TIPS FROM EMMA REYNOLDS OF TOOT BALDON

Christmas cooking doesn't have to be stressful. I've been working with a great chef over the past few weeks and here are a couple of recipes to help you alleviate the Christmas food nightmare.

If you're eating at lunchtime, start cooking your turkey at about 0730. The turkey will stand and hold for a long time so it means you can cook it, leave it out of the oven and have a glass of something nice whilst the potatoes are cooking. Peel your potatoes the night before and leave them under water in a saucepan....in the fridge if you have room, if not, then out is fine. They need to be under water so that they don't turn brown.

Here's a recipe that guarantees your turkey will be moist!

ROAST TURKEY

Ingredients

1x 5kg ASDA turkey
1L chicken stock
500ml white wine
1 bunch of thyme
3 large onions, quartered
250g of butter

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 420F, 210C.
2. In a large heavy roasting tin, scatter the onions and thyme (and turkey neck if you wish) pour in the stock and wine, sit the turkey on top, slather it in butter. Make sure you've taken the giblets out first!
3. Season the turkey.
4. Cover the whole thing very tightly in foil.
5. Place in the oven for 1hr30mins, remove foil and cook for a further 45mins. To keep turkey moist it only needs 15 minutes per kilo.
6. Place the turkey onto a warm plate and rest for at least 45mins.

Serves 10

ROAST POTATOES

Ingredients

15 large King Edward potatoes, peeled and halved
440g of goose fat
1 tbsp of sea salt

Method

1. Preheat oven 420F 210C
2. Place potatoes in a large pan and cover with cold water.

3. Bring to the boil and cook for 2 minutes.
4. Drain into a colander and shake them to take the edges off.
5. Pour into a large roasting tin with the goose fat and sprinkle with sea salt.
6. Roast for 30-40 minutes. Shaking halfway through.

Serves 10

Gravy

1. Drain all juices from roasting tray into a clean saucepan.
2. Add 1tbsp of Bovril or Marmite or Yeast extract.
3. Bring to the boil and reduce. This may need to be thickened with a butter and flour mixture. If it does, mix the butter and flour together in a bowl first then add drop by drop. Don't use cornflour and water as it will just go lumpy. The butter/flour mixture ensures the sauce is rich and tasty.

Or if turkey isn't your thing, why don't you try a leg of lamb? Lamb isn't just for Easter, in fact its taste improves with age over the year and it's actually better towards Christmas than at Easter.

BUTCHER'S SELECTION LAMB LEG

Ingredients

- 1 Butcher's Selection Lamb Leg
- 1 small bunch of rosemary
- 1 bulb of garlic, peeled
- 1 kilo of King Edward potatoes
- 1 onion
- Salt and Pepper
- 500ml of beef stock

Method

Preheat oven to 400F 200C

1. Slice the potatoes and onion thinly. Lay the potatoes in a deep and oven proof dish. They don't need to be laid in a certain way, just throw them in. Throw in a layer of onion and season. Keep going until all the onion and potatoes have been used up.
2. Cover with stock.
3. Stud the lamb with rosemary and garlic. You can always add tinned anchovies if you like them too.
4. Place the potatoes in the oven with the lamb above the potato dish on the rack. (Yes the rack.....no tin!)
5. Cook for 1hr 30mins. The "weeping lamb" will flavor the potatoes with the lamb fat/juices.
6. Rest the lamb for 20mins and serve with potatoes.

Serves 6



Wednesday 14th **December**
7.30pm
Marsh Baldon Village Hall

All are welcome to join us for a Christmas meal at the South Oxfordshire Filling Station – no speaker, just friendship, food and a celebration of Christmas, with thanksgiving for how God has blessed us through our Filling Station this year.

[RSVP: catherinevmason@gmail.com or 01865 343503]

Wednesday 11th **January** 2017
7.30pm
Marsh Baldon Village Hall

A New Year – a new start. We renew our commitment to the Lord at our first regular meeting of the year with worship, Bible-based teaching, testimony, and prayer.

[Contact: Liam 07738 004176]

CLIFTON HAMPDEN SURGERY PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

For the information of Nuneham Courtenay and Baldons residents who are registered at the Clifton Hampden Surgery the 24 hour ECG monitor, which avoids patients having to wait for a hospital referral, is now in full use.

New furniture and equipment has been installed in the nurse's room in accordance with clinical assessment compliance requirements. A defibrillator has been installed at Burcot at the Close Home.

Any Nuneham Courtenay patient who would like to receive the Patients Group Newsletter and notice of forthcoming meetings should please register with the secretary at rogerrmmit@aol.com. We would like to have a Nuneham Courtenay or Baldons resident on our committee.

BERINSFIELD LIBRARY

Visit your Local Library
and see what we have on offer
Christmas Craft Afternoon
Wednesday 21st December 3.45pm

Rhymes for the Under 5's Wednesdays 10.30am

Storytime Wednesdays 3.45pm

IT Lessons Thursdays 2.00-4.00pm

Junior Reading Group Saturday
December 3rd 10.30am

Reading Group December 8th + January 12th 2.00pm

Christmas Coffee Morning Tuesday
December 20th 10.30am
Knit and Natter Tuesday December 20th +
January 17th 2.30pm



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BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Baldon Feast

It was with great regret that the Parish Council at its meeting on 14th November received the resignation of the Baldons Feast Committee. Therefore there will not be a Baldon Feast for 2017 or for the foreseeable future.

Baldon Feast has been a long standing village event with the Fairground coming in August. When threatened with the loss of the Fairground due to falling numbers of attenders, Ralph Slaney and his family took on the organisation of a village fete to run alongside the Fair and this has been hugely successful. A public meeting was held in October 2014 to discuss the continuation of the Feast when The Slaney Family appealed for more village help in planning and organising the event, consequently a small committee was formed. Very successful Feast days have continued with more stalls and activities which have given great pleasure to many and acted as a platform for local village groups such as the Church, Village Hall and BEC to raise money.

Organising the event takes a lot of commitment and this autumn it hasn't proved possible for Ralph and the remaining members of the committee to fill vacancies to plan for the 2017 Feast. It is felt unrealistic for them to continue without more village support.

Therefore unless others come forward to take over and plan for the future it is regrettable that this long standing summer event will lapse from next year

Planning applications

Penstemon House: P16/S0376. SODC have approved this application for stables.

No 3 The Croft: P16/S3545. An application for an extension to the front of the property is currently being considered by the Parish Council and SODC.

Signage for Tinny lane

The Highways Department have agreed to relocate the recently installed 'Unsuitable for Vehicles' signs in Pebble Hill and Baldon Row to more useful locations at either end of Tinny Lane in an endeavour to stop vehicles using the bridleway and getting stuck (they were placed in error).

We have also asked the OCC Countryside service to also look at the bridleway and advise on repairs to improve drainage.

Village Green

As a result of some concerns by Queens College, and their land agents Savills, at breaches of the rules of the village Green which have occurred in front of properties round the Green, a short guidance note for householders may shortly be issued in conjunction with the parish council.

The Baldons Neighbourhood Plan

Although we have been rather quiet since the consultation at the Baldon Feast, which (maybe thanks to the rain showers?) was well attended, we have been making steady progress appraising the relative merits of the potential development sites that were identified. The results of this appraisal will enable us to draft the Plan itself which will be distributed to all households in the Baldons at the end of December or soon after for a 5 week period of consultation. At the end of this period, early in February, we will hold a public meeting to discuss your comments and views so that the final draft Plan reflects Baldon opinion as comprehensively as possible.

Grenoble Road and Protection of The Green Belt

Many villagers may think that a large housing development off Grenoble Road has been put on the back burner particularly as SODC have consistently opposed its development. However it is important for villagers to be aware that it hasn't gone away completely and the fight to stop development in the Green Belt between us and the city may have to be regenerated. In its consultation on strategic sites for housing SODC are supporting a large development at Chalgrove airfield which is outside the Green Belt but perhaps not unexpectedly this is being opposed by local communities who would prefer to see development on the edges of the city. Much depends on what SODC put in the final version of their Local Plan and whether it is supported by Planning Inspectors following a formal Enquiry. It is believed that a planning application for housing development at the Grenoble road site is in preparation by Savills on behalf of the land owners and it may come forward next year. The local branch of The Council for Protection of Rural England (CPRE) are encouraging parishes on the fringes of the city to get together and think about a coordinated campaign to protect the Green Belt and fight any such application should it arrive.

Date of next meeting: 9th January 2017, Village Hall, 7.30pm



POPPY APPEAL 2016

This year's appeal raised £856.54. Thank you to all those who gave so generously to this most worthy cause and also a big thank you to those who walked our villages to collect the donations.

Thank you.

Iris Wright

(The Editor thought readers would appreciate this beautiful flower arrangement by Jenny van Dijk, which was at the altar in St Lawrence's, Toot Baldon)

FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LINDSAY-GALE

Apply Online For Primary And Secondary School Places

Applications for children due to start primary or secondary school in September 2017 can now be made online. Families with children born between 1 September 2012 and 31 August 2013 are urged to visit the [primary school admissions pages](#) on OCC's website to find out how to apply for places for next year. Applications for primary or junior schools also need to be made for children currently attending an infant school who were born between 1 September 2009 and 31 August 2010. Families with children due to move up to secondary school next September should visit the [secondary school admissions pages](#). (There is also information for anyone interested in applying for a Year 10 transfer to a [University Technical College \(UTC\) or Studio School](#).) When applying parents are strongly advised to state three preferences and include their catchment school as one of these – even if it is their third preference school. This does not in any way affect families' chances of securing a place at their first-preference school. OCC still accepts postal applications but recommends families apply online where possible, as this helps speed up the applications process. It also means families receive an automatic response confirming their application has been received and can be quickly notified if further information is needed.

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Items for the **February 2017** newsletter
by **16th January 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.

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THE BALDONS FUEL CHARITY **(but not just fuel)**

For the past 50 years, the Baldons Fuel Charity has been helping some residents living in Marsh, Toot or Little Baldon with their energy costs. Financial support has also been given towards **personal alarm systems for the elderly, training expenses, costs of education such as uniforms or school transport** or in any other situation when financial help might make life a bit easier.

The Charity has an annual income of about £15,000.

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.

**PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU NEED HELP
THAT IS WHAT THE CHARITY IS FOR!**

Trustees:

Chris Nichols (Chair) - 343388

John Wright - 343276

Ray Claridge – 343393

David Greenaway – 343496

Graham Hobbins – 343227

Alison Porter – 340405

FROM JOHN HOWELL MP

Christmas Wishes from John Howell MP

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all constituents a peaceful Christmas and to send my best wishes for the year ahead.

The end of the year is often a time of reflection and planning. As I look back it has not been an easy year. There have been many challenges and some of these will continue forward into the coming year. We are in times of change and as such it can be unsettling. I welcome correspondence on issues of concern. Whether or not our views are shared it is good to know how others perceive situations and what issues are uppermost in people's minds.

There is no doubt that some constituents face hard times but overall in this constituency we have many privileges much due to the work of many in our communities who give their time in many voluntary activities. May I take this opportunity to say thank you to all those who work hard in our communities to make them special for the rest of us. It is always a pleasure when I get the opportunity to visit community activities and I look forward to learning yet more about what is being done in 2017.

News Update

One piece of recent news that I know touched many people was on the dreadful accident on the A34 killing many in one family all because a lorry driver's attention was diverted to his music selection on his phone. I recently joined with other local MPs to debate the concerns in Westminster Hall which is a way of getting the concerns widely aired. Following that we meet with Highways England and other stakeholders about safety on the A34.

A Bill of local importance going through Parliament at present is the Neighbourhood Planning Bill. This is important to a number of our communities either with adopted Plans or with Plan in preparation. The Bill will further reform the planning system to give greater support to Neighbourhood Plans and there are measures which if taken forward will help in this area with some of the key concerns in planning. As a keen advocate of Neighbourhood Planning I recent sought the Prime Minister's support in a question at Prime Minister's Question time. In response the PM confirmed that neighbourhood plans are a crucial part of the planning system. She added that this is how local people can have a real say over what is happening in their local area.

For more information, please see www.johnhowellmp.com I look forward to continued correspondence on the wide range of issues that are of concern across the constituency in the New Year.

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ADVENT PRAYER

This Advent, as a team of local parish churches we're going to pray, not just as we do every year, but this year we're going to pray for the presence of God's Spirit to bless the lives of everyone who comes to church, and for us to have the grace to respond in ways which best witness to the love of God.

We're going to pray for each person we come into contact with throughout Advent and Christmas, we're going to pray for the love of God to be in their lives. We're going to pray that they will enjoy and be fed through our services and through contact with us the family of God.

We're especially going to pray that those searching will find, that those interested will be welcomed, and that we your local church can best know how to serve our parishes; and that we may be blessed with new relationships in this most exciting time of year, the time of year when we get ready to welcome Jesus Christ into our world and into our lives.

IMPROVEMENTS AT ST PETER'S CHURCH

This is a project for the whole village and plans will be on show at the carol service.

If you would like to be involved and have any experience of fundraising please contact Debbie (341323 or djdance1071@gmail.com) or Sara (343567)

FLOWERS

ADVENT
Christmas
18th & 25th
December
8th & 15th Jan
22nd & 29th Jan
4th & 11th Feb

Marsh

I Wright & L Martin
F Ardern
P & J Slaney

Toot

A Druce
M Trinder
V Bowler

NO FLOWERS

**HELP AND HOLLY MUCH APPRECIATED –
ST PETER'S WILL BE DECORATED ON SATURDAY
17TH DECEMBER**

SERVICES FOR DECEMBER 2016 AND JANUARY 2017

4 th December	9.30am	Holy Communion	Toot Baldon
11 th December	4.00pm	Christingle	Toot Baldon
<i>Please note time</i>			
18 th December	5.00pm	Carol Service	Marsh Baldon
<i>Please note time</i>			
Christmas Eve	11.30pm	Midnight Communion	Marsh Baldon
Christmas Day	10.30am	Family Communion	Toot Baldon
<i>Please note time</i>			
1 st January	9.30am	Team Service (BCP with hymns)	Dorchester Abbey
8 th January	6.00pm	Evening Worship	Toot Baldon
15 th January	9.30am	Holy Communion	Marsh Baldon
22 nd January	8.30am	Said Holy Communion	Marsh Baldon
	9.30am	Family Worship	Marsh Baldon
29 th January	11.00am	Team Service for Candlemas	Berinsfield
<i>Please note time</i>			
4 th February	9.30am	Holy Communion	Toot Baldon

SIDESDUTY

	Marsh	Toot
6 th November		9.30am Jenny van Dijk
13 th November		10.45am J & H Maskell
20 th November	9.30am Ian Gillespie	
27 th November	9.30am Natasha Eliot	
4 th December		9.30am Ann Druce
11 th December		4.00pm Sara McDouall Saw
18 th December	5.00pm Stephen Dance	
24 th December	11.30pm Ian Gillespie	
25 th December		10.30am Graham Hobbins
8 th January		6.00pm Jenny van Dijk
15 th January	9.30am John Mason	
22 nd January	9.30am Liam McCormick	