

The Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter



October 2023

FROM REV TERESA STEWART-SYKES AND REV JANE WILLIS

I'm sure that as you read this you will be looking out of the window at the turning of the season to Autumn; summer will be a memory and Christmas is just around the corner! The Harvest will have already been gathered and the winter crops planted in the fields. The change of the seasons passes us by in the rush and business of our lives, even though we live in rural Oxfordshire surrounded by farms that have been there for generations. But for those who work the land and are affected by the weather and the seasons, climate change and extreme weather events have altered how they farm the land and present challenges to farmers across the world. It makes you wonder; how much do we truly appreciate and give thanks for the food that finds its way to our tables? The Dorchester Team Rector, Rev Jane, has asked also this question:

For most of us the nearest we get to food production is a vegetable patch – we've been rescuing at least part of the vegetable patch in the Rectory garden and are also enjoying having a greenhouse for the first time. But with fresh produce readily available in our supermarkets now apparently independent of season or the elements – we generally find ourselves somewhat removed from its source – and hence to any sense of dependence on God for all that he gives us. Some years ago I was ministering in a number of deeply rural North Devon communities. One of my congregations was made up entirely of farmers and their families, two of my churches were in farmyards. Suddenly all the metaphors of harvest that had featured in my preaching in previous years were these people's real lives – and I was very much a lay person. I will never forget passing the peace shaking farmers' strong hands, or placing the communion bread in hands rough and stained from farm work. These people's relationship with land and place was like nothing I had ever known – and yes, farmers are always talking about the weather: asking me to pray for rain, or for it to stop raining (in North Devon it was usually the latter!). Here these people's livelihoods were deeply dependent on the elements – and on the grace of God. Churches were packed at Harvest – and the other agricultural festivals of Rogation and Plough Sunday.

So this harvest may we remember our farming community, pray for them and give thanks for them. May we tend our gardens and vegetable plots with love and care and encounter God in the goodness of his creation. And wherever we earn our living – in business or academia, in schools or in healthcare, in retirement or wherever – may we indeed know that, as the Harvest hymn goes, 'all good gifts around us are sent from heaven above' – and 'thank the Lord, yes thank the Lord, for all his love'.

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

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

ADVANCE NOTICE - THE BALDONS CAROL SERVICE

Making music at Christmas has long been a special tradition in the Baldons. The Carol Service is a wonderful community event, centred around the mystery and magic of Christmas. The date this year is Sunday afternoon, 17th December (time to be confirmed). As usual there will be favourite Carols for all to sing and some special pieces from the Choir and school.

Do please get in touch if you would like to join the Christmas Choir. Rehearsals will start after half term but the music has already been planned, so please ask for details in advance if you would like to sing.

Handbells are a special feature in the Baldons and Denice Timofeev would be delighted if ringers new or old would like to ring this year. No experience is needed, just an enjoyment of Christmas music! We especially welcome young people 9 years and upwards. Rehearsals will start after half term and fit in with choir rehearsals.

**For choir or handbells, contact Veronica Sandilands
vsandilands@btinternet.com
01865 343367**

**Cover – St Lawrence’s Toot Baldon from the air – Joe Cullen.
This is Joe’s winning entry into the Dorchester Team Youth
Photography Competition – Many Congratulations Joe!!**



HOLD THE DATE!

FIREWORKS

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

4th NOVEMBER

Marsh Baldon



BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The Council met on 11th September:

Tinny Lane

Any major works to the surface of the path will be in Spring next year. In the meantime, following the advice of the countryside officer, the overhanging foliage, and overgrown saplings along the worst affected part of the path require clearing to allow more airflow and sunlight to the path at the wettest section.

Andy Speight will lead this project for the Council. We are asking for volunteers to come and help with this on **the 28th October** this year. Further details will be circulated via Baldons info. You can contact Andy at andy.speight@baldonspc.org

Village winter litter clear up

In response to a resident's suggestion and due to an increasing level of litter in the villages, we will have a second village litter clear up on **Saturday 11th November**. Please look out for the notice from Baldons info email nearer the time for detail and how to join in.

Consultation for 20 MPH scheme through Marsh and Toot Baldon

The official SODC consultation documents have been circulated via Baldons info with a link to the survey and documents detailing the proposed scheme. You can access the documents via the link provided. please contact Tom James at clerk@baldonspc.org if you need further information.

Village survey - Proposed children's play area/Village recreational facilities

We are considering the addition of play facilities for children and potentially outdoor exercise equipment for both children and adults. We would like to gather your opinions on these potential additions to ascertain whether this is something we actively pursue funding for or not. There will be a survey send to all residents for everyone to provide feedback and if there is support for this, further consultation will be sought from the Villagers on details of a plan.

Planning applications

The following applications have been received and are under consideration.

P23/S2889/FUL The Mole Inn

Demolition of existing building and erection of replacement building to provide B&B accommodation to be used in connection with adjacent public house.

P23/S2620/HH 25 The Green

Single and two-storey rear extensions

NUNEHAM COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

20mph limit

The County Council is currently consulting on the details of introducing a 20mph speed limit on the main road through the village. The County Council proposes replacing the current 30mph signs with 20mph signs, which means drivers approaching from the south – from the Golden Balls roundabout – would find themselves suddenly confronted by the need to reduce their speed from 60mph to 20mph.

The County Council has previously said this is unrealistic, but it's what it is suggesting for this village. The parish council understands that the speed camera cannot be altered to enforce the 20mph limit, so there would generally be no enforcement of the new limit in either direction. The public consultation closes for Nuneham Courtenay on 22 September.

Replacement of stiles on the Oxford Green Belt Way

CPRE Oxfordshire has announced that work will begin to replace stiles with accessible gates on the Oxford Green Belt Way at Nuneham Courtenay – also at Toot Baldon, Cumnor and Wytham. CPRE Oxfordshire is working in partnership with the County Council, who will be overseeing the contractors undertaking the work. CPRE Oxfordshire received a grant from the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE) with funding from Grundon, a large, family-owned waste management company.

Eco-houses

South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) is considering an application to build two supposed eco-houses on part of the land at the northern entrance to the village where the yew tree is after which Yew Tree Court is named. The two houses would be much higher than the properties in Yew Tree Courtyard and built at an angle to them, supposedly to get more sunlight.

The parish council has objected to the application. So have the County Council's Highways department, the Oxford Preservation Trust and the Oxfordshire Architectural and Historical Society. But the application has support from some neighbours.

SODC told the developer under the system called pre-application advice that it was likely to refuse the application if it were submitted, but the developer has gone ahead.

Funding for the community

The parish council has drawn the attention of the Sports and Playing Field Association to the latest round of South Oxfordshire District Council's Capital Grants Scheme, the scheme the Association has said many times it might approach for funding for children's play equipment. The scheme gives grants of between £1,000 and £75,000, but will only fund up to half the cost of any project.

The parish council has also drawn the attention of the Adult Lunch Club to the Connected Communities Fund which gives money from the County Council of up

to £5,000 per project. The fund is aimed, amongst other things, at the continuation or expansion of regular, ongoing activities that provide opportunities for socialising for the over-50s.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the parish council is due to take place on Tuesday 3rd October at 7pm in the Village Hall. This replaces the meeting that was due to be held on 5th September, which did not go ahead. The parish council now has four members following the co-option of Charlie Vicary at the last meeting. This still leaves one vacancy. If you're interested in becoming a member of the parish council, please speak to one of the existing councillors or contact the Parish Clerk.

Geoffrey Ferres,
Parish Clerk - Nuneham Courtenay Parish Council
Tel: 07419 991623 - Email: clerk@nunehamcourtenay.org.uk

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M: 07449 925444

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Hello from The Maple Tree!



The children are back at school and the nights are drawing in – autumn is truly here again, so why not treat your little one to a visit to The Maple Tree to brighten their day? We have sessions to fit all interests:

Mondays: Messy Mondays at 10:00-11:30am

Tuesdays: Story and Rhyme-Time at 10:00-11:30am

Wednesdays: Baby and Bump Cafe at 10:00am-12:00pm

Thursdays: Little Explorers at 10:00-11:30am and Twinnies at 2:00-4:00pm

Fridays, a new session: Little Chatterboxes* at 10:00-11:30am

Family Fun at 10:00-11:30am, 3rd Saturday every month

Village Outreach: The Maple Tree at Forest Hill Village Hall on Thursdays from 11:00am-12:00pm.

*Little Chatterboxes is in response to parent and teacher concerns about the lack of communication and language skills of children entering reception. Join us on Friday mornings for tips and tricks to enable children to become more effective communicators!

Check out our Website and Facebook page for more details.

Have you thought about becoming a Friend of the Maple Tree offering monthly financial support or volunteering at one of the sessions above? These are two ways that you can support our lovely charity. (Charity number:1174117)

We are here to help if you need advice or support: 01865 236700 or 07849 466249.

Email: info@mapletree.org.uk

Website: www.mapletree.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheMapleTreeWheatley

Instagram: @themapletreecentre

Laura Spencer

The Maple Tree Centre Manager



Heal

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HOW WE HEAL

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Telephone: 01865 590800 Email: itstime@healoxford.co.uk
Dovecote Barn, Little Baldon Estate, Little Baldon, Oxford, OX44 9PU

www.healoxfordwellbeing.co.uk





The Dovecote
Hair Studio

Hello! My name is Karen, and I have opened a small hair studio in the dovecote in Little Baldon Farm.

My hours, prices and online booking is available via my website
www.thedovecotehair.studio

or you can contact me direct on 07538993460.

Tuesday Thursday and Friday are long days with late appointments, while Wednesday and Saturday are by prior arrangement and as required.

Hope to see you soon, Kx



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Oxfordshire Libraries

October events at Berinsfield Library

Half-term Monster Lego Challenge
Tuesday 24 Oct 2.30-4.30pm
Build the biggest monster out of Lego!
Drop-in session suitable for ages 6+
with an adult.



Half-term Junk Modelling Marble Run
Thursday 26 October 2.30-4.30pm
Make a marble run out of cardboard,
plastic and paper. Drop-in session
suitable for ages 4+ with an adult.



Book Club Friday 27 October 2pm
Contact the library for this month's book
or turn up to say hello and help choose
the next one. All very welcome



Digital Helper: Thursdays 2 to 5pm
Help in using smart phones, tablets and
laptops. Support for those less confident
with technology. Booking essential



 @oxonlibraries  Berinsfield Library

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or our opening hours



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EVENTS IN DORCHESTER ABBEY

Thursday 12th October - 2 CONCERTS 6pm – 7.15pm and 8.30pm- 9.45pm

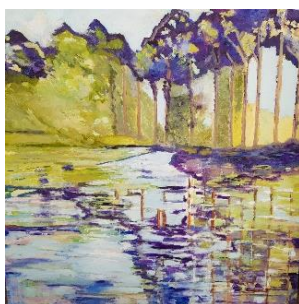
London Film Music Orchestra – Best of Hans Zimmer & John Williams Illuminated
1 hour and 15 minutes jam packed with cinema's most iconic music, beautifully performed by a live chamber orchestra, including: E.T, Jurassic Park, Jaws, Harry Potter, Man of Steel, Star Wars and many more. Tickets from £32.00 (plus booking fee) <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tribute-to-hans-zimmer-john-williams-illuminated-dorchester-early-tickets-660486461787>

Saturday 14th October - 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm OSJ- Russian Masters

From magical forests and rustic fairs to triumphal revolution and sweeping romance, tonight's concert will transport you to lands far away. Rupert Egerton-Smith and the orchestra will bring to life music from four Russian greats, each one a master of musical storytelling. Free tickets available for NHS workers and for the disabled. Please email admin@osj.org.uk. Tickets £5 to £30 from www.osj.org.uk

The Gallery and Picture Framing

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Long Barn 2c, Little Baldon Farm, Little Baldon, OX44 9PU

We are open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays 10:30am - 3:00pm.

Please make an appointment.

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07841 590237

Dioceses of Kimberley & Kuruman and Oxford



2023 Summit

11-14 October



“Encourage one another and build each other up” (1 Thess. 5:13)

Link Parish Gathering

FEATURING

SHARED WORSHIP
LINK PRESENTATIONS • DINNER

Join
in!

Join in the opening of the link summit.
We will have time to connect with each other -
and a live link will connect Thame & Kimberley.
Bishop Steven will preside at our Eucharist.
Lunch and dinner provided.

October 11, 2023
12:00 - 7:00

AT ST MARY'S, THAME OX9 3AJ
Registration essential: bit.ly/KKOxonSummit

KIMBERLEY AND KURUMAN SUMMIT

From the 11th to the 14th of October, members of the Diocese of Kimberley & Kuruman and Diocese of Oxford are invited to join our 2nd link Summit, coming together in shared prayer, study, learning and conversation. The theme is "Encourage one another and build each other up" (1 Thess. 5:11), which is also the Diocese of Kimberley and Kuruman's theme for 2023. Encouragement and mutual support are part of our calling as members of the Body of Christ - whether we are together or far apart, we can help each other to serve Christ faithfully.

Our 2017 summit was held face-to-face only: this time we will have a hybrid meeting, with some people meeting face-to-face and others meeting online. The opening and closing worship, daily Bible studies, evening prayer, and keynote addresses will be live streamed for anyone in both dioceses to attend. In addition, UK link parishes will meet in Thame on the 11th, where an online hub will connect them with Kimberley to share in the opening worship and presentations. Link parishes on both sides will also have opportunities to share with each other in Bible study and in other discussions throughout the summit. Youth hubs, for young people between the ages of 18 and 25, will be formed on both sides and will share in online discussions on the 13th and 14th.

We encourage ANYONE in the Dorchester team to join in! If you'd like to attend the in-person meeting in Thame (11 October), where you can meet up with other parishes who also have links in the K&K Diocese, please RSVP to Amy Herlihy (see below) as we need a head count for catering.

What are the topics that will be discussed at the Summit? We will be hearing about each other's contexts through presentations and conversations; sharing daily Bible studies, evening prayer, and two eucharists; learning about key missional areas such as tackling gender-based violence and working for climate justice; and reflecting on how we can faithfully serve Christ in our own contexts and as partners in the Gospel. We will soon have an Eventbrite page to register your interest for attending the sessions. For more information, please contact Amy Herlihy (a.herlihy@btinternet.com)

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Items for the November 2023 newsletter
by 16th October 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

CHURCH SERVICES FOR OCTOBER 2023

1 st October	10.30am	Toot Baldon	Holy Communion
8 th October	4.00pm	Toot Baldon	Evensong
15 th October	9.30am	Marsh Baldon	Holy Communion
22 nd October	10.30am	Marsh Baldon	Team Service
29 th October	11.00am	Berinsfield	All Saints Cluster Service

CHURCH FLOWERS

Date

1st & 8th October

15th & 22nd October

29th Oct & 5th Nov

Marsh

Alison Lyall

Laura Martin

Dinah Southern

Toot

Jane

Linda, Tracey and
Vanessa

The flowers in our churches create a beautiful and welcoming feel, whether it be for services or for more informal visits and we would like to say a special thank you to all those who give their time and talents to decorating St. Lawrence's and St. Peter's throughout the seasons. The harvest decorations in St. Lawrence's this year were particularly appreciated and created a wonderful atmosphere for our Harvest celebrations. A big thank you to the decorators.



Wednesday 11th October
7.30pm

Marsh Baldon Village Hall
OX44 9LL

Join us at the October meeting of the South Oxfordshire Filling Station – a monthly Christian meeting where we come together to celebrate our faith in an informal way, with coffee and cake from 7.30pm, informal worship at 7.45pm, a talk starting at 8.15pm, finishing by 9.30pm.

Our speaker this month is Dr. Sharon Dirckx, a neuroscientist, lecturer with the Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics, and author. In her book 'Am I Just My Brain?' she lays out the current understanding of who we are from biologists, philosophers, theologians and psychologists, and points towards a bigger picture, that suggests answers to the fundamental questions of our existence.

If you are interested just come along, or contact Catherine Mason (southoxfordshire@thefillingstation.org.uk, 07879 626828).