

The Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter



September 2021

FROM REVEREND CANON SUE BOOYS, RECTOR OF DORCHESTER

Friendship

“A friend is one who knows all about you but loves you just the same”. This is something that I remember my grandmother saying. It’s very similar to a short passage from Charlie Mackesy’s book ‘The boy, the mole, the fox and the horse’ – a wise and beautifully illustrated book about friendship.

“So you know all about me?” asked the boy.

“Yes” said the horse”

“And you still love me?”

“We love you all the more”

“Sometimes I think you believe in me more than I do.” Said the boy.

“You’ll catch up.” said the horse.

At the end of July the church celebrates Jesus’ friendship with Mary, Martha and Lazarus. In a special prayer which includes the words that Jesus enjoyed the love of his friends, “in learning, argument and hospitality”.

I suspect that the best friends are those with whom you can be truthful, grumpy, argumentative and just plain tired! They are also those that see through the grumpy and argumentative person to the one that you may not even see yourself. We need friends to be the best that we can be – old friends, new friends, friends that we get to know because we share the same enthusiasms; friends with whom to be grumpy – and friends who tease us!

Perhaps the experiences of the past year and more have helped us to appreciate friends all the more, maybe even reconnect with them. That’s great – because we all need to be around the people who believe in us and love us for what we are not what we keep on trying to be!

What friendships will you celebrate as you read this?

The Revd Teresa Stewart-Sykes is Team vicar for The Baldons with Nuneham Courtenay, Berinsfield and Drayton St Leonard.

e-mail: RevTeresa@outlook.com and tel: 07823 809112

The Revd Jennifer Morton is Associate Team Vicar and lives in Toot Baldon: jennifer@morton8.co.uk.

Our current curate is ***The Revd Sorrel Shamel-Wood*** who lives in Berinsfield.

Our safeguarding officer is Sara McDouall: saramcdouall@gmail.com

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

Cover photo: Butterfly, Darren Baber

BALDONS APPLE PRESSING WEEKEND

Saturday 18th - Sunday 19th September

Bring your washed apples to the Village Hall and join
in the pressing -

Take away pasteurised apple juice made from your
own apples.

Start collecting screw top wine bottles now and bring
them along cleaned ready for your juice.

(Some bottles will be available if you're short)

No need to sterilise them.

In order to avoid everyone turning up at the same
time please book* in to a morning or afternoon slot:

Sat. 18th 10.-00am-1.00pm or 2.00-5.00pm

Sun. 19th 10.00am-1.00pm or 2.00-5.00pm

*catherinevmason@gmail.com, or 01865 343503

Delicious homemade apple-themed refreshments
available too

Come and join in the fun even if you possess no
apple tree!

Donations for the pressing in aid of the village
churches

Dorchester Team Pilgrimage – Creation and Harvest

11-12 September 2021

The Dorchester Team pilgrimage is 21 miles in total and visits many of the churches and villages in the Team. Please join us for the whole journey, one day, one section or for refreshments and worship at one of the stops on the way! We look forward to sharing together, reflecting on creation and harvest, making new friends and building on relationships we forged online in lockdown. Please contact Rev Catherine Schneider on dorchesterteamcurate@gmail.com for more details.

Saturday 11th September

9.45-10.30am Toot Baldon church. Coffee, croissants and reflection

Walk 2.3 miles

11.45-12.15 Chiselhampton church

Walk 1.1 miles

Stadhampton 12.45-2pm – lunch and prayers in churchyard

Walk 6.1 miles

4.15-5.30pm Warborough vicarage for refreshments and visit to church

Walk 1.7 miles

6.15pm onwards Dorchester rectory for evening meal and overnight stay in the guesthouse (or tents if preferred!) with candlelit compline

Sunday 12th September

7am pack and breakfast

8am Holy Communion in the abbey

Walk 1.3 miles

9.15-9.30am prayer in Little Wittenham church

Walk 2.9 miles

10.30am-12 noon Clifton Hampden Harvest service and refreshments

Walk 2 miles

12.45-2pm Berinsfield church for lunch and reflection

Walk 2.8 miles

3.15- 5pm Drayton St Leonard - closing prayer and BBQ

BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Durham Leys Developments

Building the houses on this site is expected to start early in September. This is the largest development that has occurred in the village with the work expected to take about 12 months.

There will inevitably be some increase in traffic and inconvenience along Baldon lane and the south side track on the Green. The parish council have established a dialogue with the developers to deal with any issue and homeowners along the southern track have received a letter from Lucy's, the developers, providing contact details should problems arise.

Planning applications

- *1 The Croft:* A Permitted Development application which was objected to by the Parish Council has been approved by SODC.
- *2 Potlands Cottages:* An application for a small extension and internal changes has been approved by SODC.
- *11 The Green:* SODC has approved an application for a rear extension.

Solar farm

SODC have issued a further short period of consultation on minor changes to the Solar Farm application which have been submitted in response to questions raised by SODC. They do not address the fundamental objections raised previously. At the time of writing the Parish Council will be considering its response required by the end of August and is likely to restate its previous objections.

Oxfordshire Strategic plan 2050

The Oxfordshire Growth Board has published a consultation on their website on the development framework and broad policy issues to be adopted for the next 30 years. This is to support of the population growth, commercial development, housing and transport required as part of the Oxford to Cambridge Arc promoted by government and the Oxfordshire Growth Board's ambitions for the county. Consultation is open until 8th October for anyone to comment.

The options for the numbers of houses and where they should broadly go have very serious implications for the county as a whole and the Green Belt in particular, as at their highest, they will have a devastating impact on the county and countryside. Rather than summarise all the issues here, Oxfordshire CPRE has distilled them onto their website www.cpre.oxon.org.uk, with advice on how to respond to the questions posed and they urge as many councils and individuals as possible to respond. The Parish Council will be discussing its response at our meeting in September.

Date of next meeting: 13th September 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

NUNEHAM COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Council Tax checks

SODC has announced its contractors are going to send letters to everyone who currently receives the 25% single occupancy discount on their Council Tax asking them to confirm who lives at the property. Around 30% of households in South Oxfordshire receive this 25% reduction in their Council Tax bill, which is not related in any way to their level of income or wealth. SODC will give people less than one month to respond – either online or by post.

Playing Field

The Trustees of the Playing Field wrote to the Council on 5th July and have said they are willing to see greater protection of the status of the Playing Field as a community asset. This is very welcome news and the Council is able to suggest a very cheap way of them doing this and alternative ways of covering the cost, which we understand would be less than £100.

However, the Trustees say it is the cost of public liability insurance that prevents them making the Playing Field available for use. The Council has offered to pay the cost but the Trustees say they won't have anything to do with the Council.

I asked the Council's insurers what they would charge a charity like the Association for the kind of policy required and they said £174 per year. There may be cheaper public liability insurance policies available but even if there aren't, is it really impossible, if the Trustees are refusing the Council's offer, for them to raise the necessary money from within the community?

The Trustees make a number of statements in their letter which the Council considers untrue. If you would like to read the full text of the Trustees' letter, you can find it on the Council's website. The Council will be publishing its reply when the Trustees have had a little time to digest it.

Broadband

The Government has announced a new programme to make full fibre broadband available to hard-to-reach rural properties. Project Gigabit targets properties that would otherwise have been left behind in broadband companies' rollout plans, prioritising those that currently have the slowest connections. The Government proposes to spend up to £114m in Oxfordshire and the neighbouring West Berkshire unitary authority where it estimates there are almost 69,000 eligible properties. The programme is due to get under way in April 2023.

Deep cleanse

South Oxfordshire's contractors should visit the parish in the final week of August to carry out what SODC calls a deep cleanse. The team litter picks, sweeps and removes weeds/moss on pavements next to the public highway.

In this parish there are only really two such stretches of pavement – on either side of the main road – so these should be left neat and tidy.

Next Council meeting

The Council's next meeting is on Tuesday 14th September at 7pm in the Village Hall – please note the change of date as the Council's meetings are usually on the first Tuesday of alternate months

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

PLEA FOR PEAOWL



On Monday 19th July our new Green County Councillor Robin Bennett was presented with a letter and a petition signed by more than 200 people by a representative of the Nuneham Courtenay peafowl.

The letter asked the County Council to install signs at both ends of the village warning drivers to slow down as, as there could be peafowl in the road. This was prompted by the loss of two peafowl and a beloved terrier on the road in the preceding weeks.

Cllr. Bennett promised to take the request to Highways and we are currently awaiting a response.

MUSICAL EVENTS IN DORCHESTER ABBEY

Saturday 11th September 7pm OSJ Concert Harp and Strings

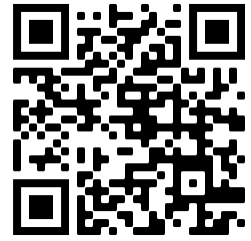
Discover gorgeous music for harp and strings. From Schönberg's warm Notturmo to Debussy's delicate Dances, we present overlooked gems by some of music's greatest composers. Tickets £15 to £20 from www.osj.org.uk

Saturday 2nd October 8pm Music at St. Peters at Dorchester Abbey

Handel: Alexander's Feast with The Thames Consort

Director Jeremy Boughton and soloists: Soprano: Lisa Gifford-Guy, Tenor: Chris Fitzgerald-Lombard, Bass: David Le Prevost.

Tickets: £16 (free for under 25s) Tickets must be pre-booked online at www.musicatstpeterswallingford.org.uk or phone Jules on 07968 703079



Using interpreters - tell us your views!

Have you, your family members or friends used interpreters for health and care appointments or treatments?

We'd like to hear from you about what it's like using interpreters in Oxfordshire. Whether you've used interpreters for GP, dentist, hospital appointments and treatments or for other health and social care services, we want to hear your views!

Please tell us what worked well, and what could be better. We'd particularly like to hear from you if English isn't your first language, or you use British Sign Language (BSL) interpreters. You can give your own views or help give the views of relatives or friends or someone you support in your work.

Please take time to fill in our short, anonymous survey at www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/usinginterpreters

We will share what you tell us with local health and care decision-makers to help shape the support people need and improve services.

Please ask us if you need this survey in another language, a paper copy or in large print. If you want our help filling in the survey or to tell us your story of using interpreters, please contact us by calling **01865 520520** or emailing hello@healthwatchoxfordshire.co.uk

Looking for OUTDOOR work

Anything considered: gardening, dog walking, odd jobs etc.

**I'm responsible, reliable, hard-working & resourceful;
aged 16 years old and live in the Croft.**

Experience in lawn mowing and bike maintenance.

Please email Bizu: Bizussm11@gmail.com



Baldon Runners

The running group meets at 8am on Saturdays outside the cricket pavilion, in Marsh Baldon.

We are a group of mixed abilities and we welcome anyone who would like to run, whether beginner, occasional or regular marathon runner. We divide into different groups after a warm up and no one gets left behind.

Our esteemed Captain is Nic Defillion and our deputy Captain (otherwise known as Hill Captain) is Mark Tidmarsh.

We also enjoy coffee and breakfasts from time to time - so do come along and try us out!

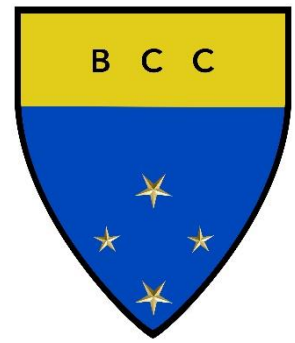
ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Items for the October 2021 newsletter
by 16th September 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

BALDONS CRICKET CLUB



Fixture Results:

Sun 27th June	Gary Crook XI	W
Sun 4th July	Hanney	W
Sat 10th July	Sydenham	L
Sun 18th July	Great Milton	W
Sun 1st Aug	Wycombe Lions	W
Sun 15th Aug	Astons	L

The Baldons Cricket Club have enjoyed a good second half of the season with plenty of impressive performances including a 140-run win away at Great Milton. They will be seeking revenge in our final competitive game of the season, at home on 5th September - come along and support the team.

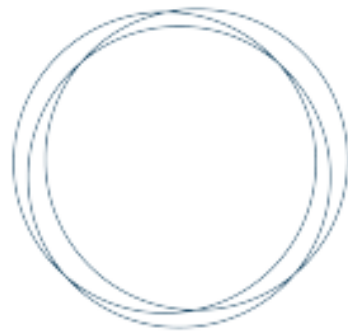
We are holding an end-of-season internal village game on Sunday 12th September. Please encourage friends and family to play and come along to celebrate a brilliant cricket season.



Please email baldonscc@gmail.com if you would like to get involved, we are always looking for more players and volunteers to help with scoring, umpiring and pitch preparation.

make a donation, or wish to be added to the mailing list for fixture / nets updates.





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Saturday 18th September 2021

From St.Mary's, Newnham Murren OX10 8BW

Starting times from 10am to 4pm - Free parking

Returning to Newnham Farm House for tea and cake!

Online booking via QR above or <https://tinyurl.com/yndytucy>

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BERINSFIELD LIBRARY

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN OPENING HOURS

Monday & Thursday am Closed

Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday

10-12.30 & 2-5.30pm

Thursday 2-5.30pm

Saturday 10-12.30

Our community activities are back

Rhymetime Wednesday 8th September 10.30am

Storytime Wednesday 8th September 3.30pm

Reading Group Thursday 9th September 2.30pm

Coffee Morning Tuesday 21st September 10.30am

All welcome

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CHURCH SERVICES FOR SEPTEMBER

5 th September	10.30am	Marsh	Holy Communion with Children's Corner
12 th September	4pm	Toot	BCP Evensong
19 th September	8am	Marsh	BCP Holy Communion
	5pm	Marsh	Harvest Songs of Praise
26 th September	10.30am	Marsh	Team Service

DORCHESTER TEAM SERVICES - NEW LOOK FOURTH SUNDAYS

Although the Pandemic was difficult in different ways for us all there were some unexpected joys and one of these was the way in which different people from across the Team came together for online worship. As a clergy team we learned how enjoyable and productive it was to work together with lay members of the Team to create different and original services. We received a lot of feedback from people wanting to 'capture' this. As a result the Team Council agreed that for six months beginning in September we would have a Team Service on the FOURTH Sunday so that we could see one another more regularly and build on the relationships created online!

This month in Marsh Baldon we will focus on Creation and on fourth Sunday in October we will be celebrating Berinsfield Church's 60th Birthday. On Advent Sunday (fourth in November) the service will be at Dorchester Abbey.

FOREST CHURCH

You may have noticed that our Church services have recently included "Forest Church", an informal time spent outside experiencing nature around us. Here are some photos from the July Forest Church, where on a beautifully warm and sunny Sunday afternoon, we collected meadow grasses and bound them into mats.

