

# The Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter



**March 2018**

## FROM REVD CANON SUE BOOYS, RECTOR OF DORCHESTER ABBEY

How are you getting on this Lent?

I'm writing to you just before lent begins so at the moment everyone's mind is focused on what they might give up - however by the time you read this you may be doing well - or not. Or, of course, you may have decided on a dry or vegan January and be giving Lent a miss!

The ancient purpose behind giving something up for lent it is that by doing so I will draw closer to the Creator, the ground of my being, to God. This might be alcohol to clear my mind, it might be chocolate - to purify my body. It may be increased service of my neighbour in whose service I believe I am serving God. Whatever it is the purpose is to understand better my relationship with God and creation and to make a habit of it so that each lent builds on the last. Apparently it takes about six weeks to establish a habit so Lenten timing is good - if you're doing well keep at it!

Listening to an art gallery commentary recently I heard an artist say that the purpose of art was not to be looked at or commented but to be stood in the presence of. In other words don't work too hard - allow the art to speak for itself, to speak direct to your heart.

This year Lent began on St Valentine's Day. A recent piece of research showed at couples who stayed together we're ones who were able to be silent together. Do you ever take time to simply look at your beloved - to take delight in the gift that person brings to your heart and life.

During the rest of Lent, however you've been doing so far, why not take a bit of time just to "be" in the presence of the Spirit of God whatever that might mean to you and allow yourself to soak it up without overthinking.

...and when you've gazed for a while there is a simple question to ask. "Where is God, or Gods spirit in my life?"

Whatever your answer the question is worth asking every so often and Lent is a particularly good time to ask it! There aren't any right answers and sometimes it's a question that just raises more questions!!

I'm enjoying the curiosity this year that Lent began on Valentine's Day and ends on April Fools Day. Yes, Easter is on 1st April. What do I make of that? Do ask - or join us on Easter Day!

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

e-mail: [bbdparishoffice@rocketmail.com](mailto: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**



Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> March  
2018  
at  
7.30pm

Marsh Baldon Village Hall  
OX44 9LL

Come and join us at the South Oxfordshire Filling Station where we meet together in a relaxed setting to engage with the Christian faith in an informal contemporary context. We meet at 7.30pm for coffee/tea and cake, kicking off at 7.50pm with worship, a talk and prayer.

This month we continue the series of three talks by Nick Page, an historian, writer and Christian speaker. He is addressing the subject of personal transformation in three talks entitled: 1 The Vision, 2 The Intention, 3 The Means. On 14th March he will bring his customary wit and wisdom to the second talk – The Intention.

If you are interested you can find out more at <http://thefillingstation.org.uk>.  
Or contact Liam McCormick on 07738 004176.

## 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.

£4.00 a stem.

Debbie Dance 341323

[d.dance@oxfordpreservation.org.uk](mailto:d.dance@oxfordpreservation.org.uk)



## **BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

### Water on the road

We know many villagers have been concerned at the amount of water flooding off the fields at the top of The Croft. The matter has been reported to Highways on more than one occasion and it is hoped that it will have been dealt with by the time the newsletter is published. It is likely the problem is a blocked culvert and the Highways department have advised us they are under considerable pressure to deal with all the other problems notified to them due to the winter weather.

### Village Spring Clean Sunday 8th April

We are holding the spring clean a little later this year. Please come out and help, The more families and individuals are involved the quicker we can do it and children often enjoy helping.

We will have pick up sticks etc but make sure you have strong shoes and gloves . It should only take an hour to cover the village green and all our roadside verges and ditches and there is usually plenty of stuff to pick up.

For Marsh Baldon please meet on the Green near the pub at 10 30 am. For Toot please contact John Maskell (343203) about timing and meeting point.

### Primary Care Services in Oxfordshire

Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning group have recently been working with GPs and related community services to look ahead and plan for the future taking into account local health needs and population changes, and how to meet these challenges. Some local consultation meetings were held last year including one in Wallingford in November.

If you are interested in how your GP service are looking ahead you can see this on

<https://consult.oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk/consult.ti/LocalityPlansOxon/consultationHome> GP services covering Berinsfield and Clifton Hampden are contained in the West Oxfordshire draft report. You can find this by following the links on the website.

Consultation is open during 2018 and you can register to comment, also on the website.

### Date of next meeting

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm in the Village Hall

### Annual Parishes Meeting for residents of Marsh Baldon and Toot Baldon

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm Village Hall

Please put this date in you diary and come along. It is the open meeting when the council has to give a report of our activities on your behalf but also an opportunity for open discussion.

## THE BALDONS NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Following the 7 week public consultation on the draft Neighbourhood Plan, which culminated in the Village Hall meeting in October, the draft Plan was revised in the light of comments received and formally submitted to The South Oxfordshire District Council by the Parish Council in January. The process up to completion is now is:

- SODC are holding their own public consultation on the submitted draft from 12th February to the 26th March
- SODC appoint an independent examiner to review the submitted Plan, its associated documents and the comments received. The examiner reports at the end of April
- The Baldons Parish Council considers this report and makes any necessary amendments.
- A copy of the final revised version of the Plan will be distributed to each household in the Baldons
- SODC hold a referendum for all adult Baldon residents on the acceptability or otherwise of the final revised Plan, hopefully in June/July.

The Plan and all the associated documents have been placed on both the SODC website at [www.southoxon.gov.uk/thebaldons](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/thebaldons) and on the Baldons website at [www.baldons.org.uk/Hard](http://www.baldons.org.uk/Hard) copies of the documents are available to view at St Lawrence's Church, Toot Baldon, during daylight hours and the Seven Stars during usual opening hours.

The documents are also available to view at SODC's office, 135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park, Abingdon, OX14 4SB during usual opening hours.

Those responding to the consultation are encouraged to use SODC's online questionnaire which is available by clicking on this link:<http://survey.southandvale.gov.uk/s/Baldons/>

Responses can also be made by:

- email to [planning.policy@southoxon.gov.uk](mailto:planning.policy@southoxon.gov.uk)
- post to the above address
- completing a comment form (available at the above venues) and posting or emailing it back to SODC

The Neighbourhood Plan will be on the agenda of the Parish Council meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> March at the Village Hall which you are welcome to attend and give your views in person.

## THANK YOU

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who sent me lovely cards and beautiful flowers after my recent operation.

I appreciate all the support you have given me.

Once again many thanks.

Ann Druce

### **NUNEHAM COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL NEWS**

#### **Bingo**

Easter Bingo, Friday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March

Doors open 7:30. Eyes down 8pm

#### **Children's Film Afternoon**

Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> April tbc

We have been asked to screen a children's film and would like to keep the cost to the villagers as low as possible. In order to do this, we need you to register your interest so we can choose the most age appropriate film. Please contact Jenny on 01865 343459 or [jenny@datadaysolutions.com](mailto:jenny@datadaysolutions.com) We will sell pizza and pop corn and drinks. This will be an afternoon activity.

#### **Looking Ahead....**

May Dance! We are waiting for the band to confirm so we can pick a date

Vintage Tea Party! This was very popular last year so we hope to hold one again in late May or early June

#### **And don't forget**

Yoga is held weekly in the village hall at 7:30(ish). Please confirm that it is meeting that week. However, we are a small mixed ability practice and all are welcome. Cost is £2 per person.

## CASTLE HISTORY WALK

By popular demand on Saturday 31st March, an historic guided walk around Wallingford Castle has been arranged, which will be led by Judy Dewey (local historian and Museum curator).



This Castle history walk will start at the Museum at 2.30pm and last about 2 hours, [unsuitable for dogs!]. There is a charge of £6 for this guided walk, but you could combine it with a season ticket to the Museum, and view 'Wallingford Castle - the Inside Story'. So, why not immerse yourself in the town's fascinating local history for the day!

## TREASURES WITH TALES @ WALLINGFORD MUSEUM

There's been a great response to the public appeal for the loan of 'Treasures with Tales' for the new 2018 exhibition opening on 1st March at Wallingford Museum. The volunteers are delighted to have had a wide variety of fascinating objects brought in, each with its own special significance - from exotic to fun to poignant - or just beautiful! Visitors are able to follow the 'Treasures Trail' and discover these things for themselves throughout the museum. Each will have its own 'tale' displayed and can be enjoyed by the whole family. The treasures are woven in amongst our other exhibitions which include not only the story of Wallingford's Saxon origins, its great Royal castle, the town's links with Agatha Christie, but also updates on the recent archaeology that is being uncovered by new developments around the town.

[www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk](http://www.wallingfordmuseum.org.uk)

## PUTTING WALLINGFORD ON THE MAP: FROM GOUGH TO

**GOOGLE:** Wednesday 14th March, 7.45 for 8pm, St Mary's Church, Wallingford.



John Leighfield will talk about the development of mapping. This talk will be heavily illustrated with pictures of all the key maps that show Wallingford from 1574 onwards. It will provide a brief introduction to mapping from prehistoric times up to the earliest, primitive maps of Britain. It will also look at the first extant map of Britain with genuine cartographic content and the revolutions in mapping in the 16<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, and then the transformation in mapping brought about by the technological revolution of the late-20th and the 21st centuries. Visitors (£4) are most welcome.

[www.twhas.org.uk](http://www.twhas.org.uk)

## EXPOSURE TO NATURE

Time spent in gardens, parks and countryside and amongst wildlife itself can help most people's mental wellbeing, according to new research.

Research carried out by King's College London, J&L Gibbons who are landscape architects and art foundation Nomad Projects claims if we experience an interaction with nature it will improve a person's mental wellbeing.

The research found "significant immediate" benefits associated with trees, the sky and birdsong. It's claimed the benefits lasted for several hours.

Businesses and companies are starting to improve staff wellbeing via access to outdoor spaces and interactions with nature.

The research maybe suggests that nature could be especially beneficial to those individuals who are at risk of poor mental health. It's a low-cost activity and if aimed at in urban populations it could make quite some impact I feel.

This study shows the value of academic and non-academic researchers coming together to make tangible real-world benefits."

The paper, entitled *Urban Mind: Using Smartphone Technologies to Investigate the impact of Nature on Mental Wellbeing in Real Time* has been published in the journal BioScience.

I'm sure we could have all told them stepping out into our own gardens or local park has measurable and immeasurable benefits, but at least they are now listening.

Don't underestimate the impact on our minds and bodies from time we spend out there in the wildlife garden. Wildlife gardens give us so much in return for our care and time.

Happy Gardening

Stuart Mabbutt  
Wildlife Gardening Specialist  
[www.wildmaninspires.co.uk](http://www.wildmaninspires.co.uk)  
01865 747243



## FROM JOHN HOWELL MP

When Parliament is in recess it does not mean that MPs are on holiday. Recess offers a time when we can undertake visits which do not fit with the Parliamentary cycle of business when the House is sitting. For example, in my role as the Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Nigeria I sometimes visit the country in recess. Recess can also offer the opportunity to be out and about in the Constituency much more than in a usual week. In this recess that is precisely what I have been doing. I have spent most days out walking in a number of different communities stopping and chatting to those I meet. These 'conversations on the street' have proved to be very valuable to me in learn what issues are uppermost on people's minds. I have had discussion on many things from Brexit to potholes including health, traffic, parking, Neighbourhood Planning and housing along the way.

With our system of central and local government it can be both confusing and frustrating to find out who to contact on particular issues. I do not sit at the top of our system of government where I have authority over our local councils. (I'm sure those who serve on our councils will be pleased to have this stated!) Each council has specific responsibilities devolved to it. Whilst I am always interested to know what is going on and where things are not working as well as they could, there are some issues raised with me that I cannot directly assist with. I have to refer to the relevant council for their view on the problem and to ask them to respond. I am happy to do this but it seems that there is an often underused resource in our local councillors. In addition to an MP every resident has an elected representative at the County Council, the District Council and several representatives on the Parish Council or Parish Meeting. All of these people have put themselves forward to work for the good of their communities. For all of us elected representatives it is important to know what issues are important to those whom we represent and to assist, as best we are able, with particular problems experienced in relation to the services of the organisation on which we sit.

Communications are vital and that is why I have taken the opportunity for these 'conversations on the street' which is an extension of what I do at the weekends throughout the year. I also produce a periodic electronic newsletter and briefings on specific issues as well as writing in these parish magazines. If you would like to subscribe to these please email me at [john.howell@oxfordshireconservatives.com](mailto:john.howell@oxfordshireconservatives.com) You can also follow me on Facebook [www.facebook.com/JohnHowellOxfordshire](https://www.facebook.com/JohnHowellOxfordshire) or on twitter @JHowellUK

If you would like to share your thoughts on an issue with me you can email me at [howelljm@parliament.uk](mailto:howelljm@parliament.uk) or call my office on 01491 613072.

If you would like to know more about my work in Westminster, on behalf of the Government and the Constituency please do look at my website which is regularly updated. The address is [www.johnhowellmp.com](http://www.johnhowellmp.com).

## **FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LINDSAY-GALE**

### **Carillion: OCC Agrees Exit Deal After Company Collapse**

OCC has formally terminated its contract with Carillion LGS Limited effective from 1 February 2018, following the collapse of the parent company. This brings forward the already agreed end of the contract negotiated last June set for the end of June 2018. OCC made a net payment of £10.65m to Carillion to cover work already completed as part of the final settlement to end the contract. Carillion provided school meals and cleaning; maintenance of council buildings; property services, and construction work such as school extensions. Services previously provided by Carillion will continue through a mix of bringing staff in-house; continuing with suppliers, and working with sub-contractors. Like every other Carillion customer, OCC is now working out the most cost-effective way to complete work left unfinished by Carillion. It has taken over direct responsibility for commissioning future construction work and service delivery.

### **Oxford To Cambridge Expressway**

On 12<sup>th</sup> December an overwhelming majority of County Councillors (57 out of 63) voted to support a motion tabled by Cllr Atkins calling on the Leader Ian Hudspeth to write to Highways England, NIC, the Minister Chris Grayling etc asking on behalf of the County Council for an Independent Inquiry before any decision is taken on the preferred corridor for the Expressway. (Two of the possible Southern routes cut straight across this Division.) Up until now the proposed timetable for the project only includes an Inquiry afterwards, when the choice between North/West, Central or South of Oxford has been taken. It was encouraging to get such widespread support from right across the county.

A cross party Cabinet Advisory Group has been set up at OCC to monitor and comment on the progress of the project. And I recently attended a meeting with MP's John Howell and Ed Vaizey who have committed to support the Action Group by lobbying at Westminster together. It's good to know that support continues to grow and we should be very grateful to the coordinator of the Group Peter Rutt, who is doing an outstanding job.

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## **ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER**

Items for the **April 2018** newsletter  
**by 16<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:sheilaharris778@yahoo.co.uk) or on 340403.

## **SARAH WELLS** **Cordon Bleu Cooking**

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# BERINSFIELD LIBRARY

Visit your Local Library  
and see what we have on offer

Easter craft Afternoon  
Wednesday April 4<sup>th</sup> 3.45pm

Rhymes for the Under 5's Wednesdays 10.30am

Storytime Wednesdays 3.45pm

I.T Help Thursdays 2.00pm

Knit and Natter  
6<sup>th</sup> March 2.30pm

Reading Group  
8<sup>th</sup> March 2.00pm

Coffee Morning  
20<sup>th</sup> March 10.30am  
**All Welcome**



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*Ben Smith*

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## EVENTS IN DORCHESTER ABBEY

### **4<sup>th</sup> March 6.00pm Sung Latin Mass, Thames Consort**

Palestrina, 'Missa Tu es Petrus' and Tallis, 'Verily, verily I say unto you'. This is an opportunity to appreciate our musical, architectural and liturgical heritage in one event as Dorchester Team clergy will Celebrate the Mass in the Abbey at George Gilbert Scott's High Altar in the context of this performance.

### **10<sup>th</sup> March YoCo Charity Dinner**

Come and enjoy a two course meal and wine with table service whilst being entertained with songs from Two-a-Part in support of YoCO.

YoCO is a local charity established to support young people aged 14 – 21 in youth groups following a guided 18 month programme designed to help them to overcome the problems that they face during teenage years by developing resilience and confidence. The young people then have the opportunity to visit Western Kenya and assist with the endeavours of the Nasio Trust by helping local teachers and charity workers in the day care centres supported by the Trust.

As well as providing the table service, the Berinsfield youth group will also be performing a song or two to say farewell before heading off to Kenya at Easter. Tickets are available from the Coop in Dorchester or by calling John Cornelius (07912 351018).

### **17<sup>th</sup> March Berkshire Maestros Concert**

The county groups of Berkshire Youth Choir, Camerata and Berkshire Youth Guitar Orchestra

come together along with alumni members of Berkshire Youth Choir and singers from Charters School

for this celebration concert. The concert will include performances of Handel *Dixit Dominus*, Bernstein *West Side Story* and Grieg *Holberg Suite*.

Tickets available from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/event/FFIIEG](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/event/FFIIEG)

### **24<sup>th</sup> March Benson Choral Society 7.30pm**

Brahms Ein Deutsches Requiem with Soprano Aoife Miskelly and Baritone Johnny Herfort.

Tickets from [www.bensonchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.bensonchoralsociety.org.uk)

### **30<sup>th</sup> March 6.00pm OSJ Bach and Faure**

Bach Cantata 32

Faure Requiem

Six unaccompanied motets on the Lord's Prayer

Conductor John Lubbock

Tickets from [www.osj.org.uk](http://www.osj.org.uk)

## SERVICES FOR MARCH 2018

4 <sup>th</sup> March	9.30am	Holy Communion	Toot Baldon
11 <sup>th</sup> March <i>Mothering Sunday</i>	9.30am	Family Worship <i>for Mothering Sunday</i>	Toot Baldon
18 <sup>th</sup> March	9.30am	Holy Communion	Marsh Baldon
26 <sup>th</sup> March <i>Palm Sunday</i>	8.30am	Said Communion	Marsh Baldon
	9.30am	Palm Sunday Walk	Marsh to Toot
	6.00pm	Palm Sunday Meditation	Dorchester Abbey
29 <sup>th</sup> March	6.30pm	Maundy Thursday <i>with supper</i> <i>(signup sheets in church)</i>	Dorchester Abbey
30 <sup>th</sup> March	10.00am	Good Friday Devotion	Marsh Baldon
	1.00pm	2 hour Devotion <i>with Graham Ward</i>	Dorchester Abbey
1 <sup>st</sup> April <i>Easter Sunday</i>	9.30am	Easter Family Communion	Toot Baldon

## SIDESDUTY

	Marsh Baldon	Toot Baldon
4 <sup>th</sup> March		9.30am Jenny van Dijk
11 <sup>th</sup> March		9.30am J & H Maskell
18 <sup>th</sup> March	9.30am Graham Hobbins	
25 <sup>th</sup> March	9.30am Natasha Eliot	
30 <sup>th</sup> March	10.00am Sonia Hobbins	
1 <sup>st</sup> April		9.30am Ann Druce

## FLOWERS

	Marsh Baldon	Toot Baldon
LENT		NO FLOWERS
1 <sup>st</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> April	P & J Slaney	S Hobbins & J van Dijk