

The Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter



May 2018

FROM REVD PAUL CAWTHORNE

As the Easter season unfolds and the weather warms up, for many of us it is easier to look outward and upward. No more wearing extra jumpers and hunkering down to avoid the chill. More time getting into the garden looking for what needs to be done and what new can be planted in fresh hope to grow into fruition in the coming months. As one looks upward from my front garden, eyes are drawn through the modern bricks and mortar towards the Wittenham clumps which have seen so much over the centuries. From their time as base of operations for an Iron Age tribe which did its own building, we can still see the fortified outlines over 2,500 years later; to the coming of the Romans building mosaiced villas on the slopes explored by a modern-day 'Time Team', there is much which seems remote but deeply present.

The clumps look down across the main river into Dorchester on the Thame where nearly 1400 years ago St Birinus was bishop of a place of worship which eventually grew to become the great abbey dominating the river plain. It all makes one acutely conscious of the dizzying sweep of history. In the middle of our modern communications revolution of far-reaching import, with a seemingly ever-increasing pace of professional life and with virtual reality and nanotechnology now taking off for better and worse, it is salutary to think back to the wisdom of ancient ways and rhythms to keep some bearings.

Just over fifty years since the first human flew into space, I wonder where life will be in another fifty years time. How much will the narrative of Jesus' life-giving way of living for others and the perennial wisdom of his counter-cultural teaching still be heard amid the clamour of electronic instant entertainment and proliferation of ever-more targeted advertising? Will we have established a balance with less emphasis on success or narrow measures of growth and more on contentment? Will communities and countries pull up the drawbridge to preserve outdated privileges or choose to remain open-hearted to those a continent or a mile away? Will we still savour the beauties of sunset and silence, of riverside walks and the warm breeze of spring?

The story of the cross leading to Easter is one of death of the known, human, limited way of things leading to radically new life, unexpected and exciting. As Thomas Berry wrote in *The Sacred Universe* "In our contemplation of how tragic moments of disintegration over the course of centuries were followed by immensely creative moments of renewal, we receive our great hope for the future". It is an eternal deep theme of the way life itself works within the mysterious divine economy. As the traditional Easter hymn gently puts it, 'Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain....love has come again'. We can pray with trust and hope that God's love will make our common future a wondrous one.

CHURCH NEWS

This month we say goodbye to the Reverend Paul Cawthorne, whose final service will be on 13 May at Berinsfield. We wish him well in his new Parish in Shropshire.

If you require clergy assistance please phone the Dorchester Team Office on 01865 340007.

For matters relating to the church buildings, please contact the Church Wardens:
Debbie Dance – 01865 341323
Ian Gillespie – 01865 341398



Wednesday 9th May 2018
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 our speaker will be James Nickols, regional director of the Filling Station, who has been to speak to us twice before. We will use this opportunity to engage with the Archbishop of Canterbury's 'Thy Kingdom Come' call to prayer, between Ascension Day and Pentecost, for personal and community transformation across the UK and the world.

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

BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Annual Parishes Meeting Monday 9th April

We had a very good open meeting for the villages this year with about 20 villagers present. Discussion was held on the Expressway problems and publicity campaign, with different views and concerns expressed to us including arguments to use should a southern route impacting on us be recommended.

An update on the Neighbourhood Plan was given. There was also good discussion on the problems of the repairs needed to both the tracks and edges of the green and the approach the council is taking on fundraising and priorities.

As usual the council is required to present its annual report on the work of the council and priorities for the coming year together with a report of the Final year accounts. Both these documents are now on the Baldons website with the reports from our District and County Councillors and can be found linked with the Agenda: www.baldons.org.uk

There was a short presentation of the work of the Baldons Fuel Charity and the council supported the election of Trustees for one year with a request for clarity from the Trustees about the Charity's Constitution and Electoral procedure for future years.

Planning applications

Penstemon House ref [P18/S0333/FUL](#) This retrospective application for a store for horse feed has been refused by SODC.

The Old Granary Marsh Baldon ref [P18/S0787/HH](#) This application for replacement Velux windows on the rear of the property has been supported by the Parish Council.

Highfield Nurseries ref [P18/S0791/FUL](#) The council has received a planning application for a 5 bed roomed house on the site of the old paving slab and Christmas tree business off Baldon Lane. The council are considering the response to SODC.

4 Baldon Lane refs [P18/S1089/PDH](#) An application for a rear extension under Permitted Development regulations. For information only to the council

Oxford to Cambridge Expressway

The Expressway Action Group (EAG) now represents over 33 villages in articulating concerns about this proposed road. More information has been received from Highways England about the route options through Oxfordshire; the southern route options having serious implications for villages on the south side of the city including the Baldons. In addition SODC, in delaying the submission of its Local Plan, has raised the need for additional sites for housing in the Green Belt to be included which could introduce again the possibility of land off Grenoble Road being included.

We understand that Highways England will make its recommendations on the scheme in July when consultation will be held. In the meantime The EAG are raising the profile of our concerns with more media campaigning and encouraging posters on road sides through villages which you will see.

Elizabeth Gillespie, Dawn McGiveron and John Clark are members of the EAG steering group and a village email has recently circulated with up to date information from them and the Parish Council.

More information is on the EAG Facebook page and the EAG website expresswayactiongroup.com and Baldons Parish council web site.

Village Clear up Sunday 8th April

A big thank you to all who turned out and helped with the litter pick on a dull and damp day. There seemed to be more rubbish than ever. The village green was particularly bad this year. What is disappointing is how quickly new rubbish appears even by Monday morning!

Parish Council Meeting

AGM - Monday 14th May – Village Hall, 7.30 pm This meeting is a full business meeting but also the AGM for the council dealing with the annual election of officers.



SUMMER FUN
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FAMILY



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SUMMER

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SATURDAY 9TH JUNE 2018



12-4PM

COMPETITIONS

GAMES



All proceeds go to
Clifton Hampden
Primary School

cliftonhampdenpta@outlook.com

IS IT HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT?

Ever wondered where colour goes in winter or where it comes from in spring? Is it hiding away or staring at us in plain sight? Maybe it actually does disappear at some times of the year? A philosophical start to another article but something I've been thinking about recently as we emerge from the long, cold, dark days of winter to the long, warm, bright days of spring.

The colour palette may seem less varied, obvious or in your face in winter but there is still plenty out there. On a windy winter day, the bramble patch varies from shades of green to bronze as the breeze passes through. The underside of the leaves flash silver if you care to look and see.

Now the colour is appearing in the spring distance like an old friend appearing off a steam train and walking towards us in the mist on the railway platform. Stop for a moment and question. Where has the colour been for so long? What is colour? What processes are in place to make the colours we actually see? Do we all see colour in the same way at the same time?

These reflections have led me to realise that no matter how familiar we get with our own wildlife gardens, some mysteries and surprises always remain. Like during a walk in the woods or an African safari, we have no idea what wonders Mother Nature will present to us around the next corner or on our own doorstep. So your challenge today is to take a philosophical walk around your own garden and see what you find.

Happy Gardening.

Stuart Mabbutt

01865 747243 www.wildmaninspires.com

Baldons Garden Group

Plant and seedling swap

Sunday 6th May

10.30-12.00 Marsh Baldon village hall,

Bring seedlings and plants to swap

Or just come and buy

The more you can bring...the more we have to swap/sell!

As always there will be coffee and delicious cakes.

All welcome.

Unlike other parts of the county,
South Oxfordshire & Vale of White Horse
District Councils are
not having an election on 3 May 2018
so we won't be sending out any voting cards or
postal votes to residents in our district.

South Oxfordshire & Vale of White Horse
District Councils next scheduled elections are in
May 2019

Please make sure you are registered to vote for
those elections, and if not please visit
www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

If you'd like further information on elections or to
find out who your local councillor is, please visit
our website –

[http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-
advice/local-democracy](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/local-democracy)

[http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-
advice/local-democracy](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/services-and-advice/local-democracy)

NUNEHAM COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The next meeting of Nuneham Courtenay Parish Council will be on **Tuesday 8th May**, which will be the Council's annual meeting where it elects its Chair and Vice-Chair for the coming year and conducts some other formal business. The meeting will be at the usual time of 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The agenda and papers will be available nearer the date on the new website: <http://nunehamcourtenay.org.uk/>

The Council held an extra meeting on 26th March where it agreed to make a grant to cover the cost of creating a proper disabled toilet at the Village Hall. It is hoped work will be complete in time for the Annual Parish Meeting on 20th April. The Parish Council welcomes written applications for grants from local organisations in line with its Grants Policy, which was recently amended.

You can find the current policy on the new website

here: <http://nunehamcourtenay.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/grants-policy.pdf>

LOCAL HISTORY TALK

MAY 18TH, 7:30 PM, NUNEHAM COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL



Professor Malcolm Airs, Emeritus Fellow, Kellogg College, Oxford will give an illustrated talk on the history of Nuneham Courtenay.

Tickets are £3. There will be a 50 minute talk followed by a social. Please bring your Nuneham Courtenay memorabilia to share at during this time.

Refreshments will be available to buy.

Advance tickets are available to purchase from June Harris, 28 Nuneham Courtenay, from 2-4, Mon-Fri. If you can't make these times contact

jenny@datadaysolutions.com and arrangements will be made. Tickets are strictly limited.

Looking ahead... Vintage tea party in the Village Hall in June. Date tbc

Haydn: Nelson Mass

Handel: Dixit Dominus

Conductor:
Paul Spicer

**The Instruments
of Time and Truth**

Soprano:
Elizabeth Skinner

Mezzo-Soprano:
Catherine Carby

Tenor:
Daniel Auchincloss

Bass:
Tristan Hambleton



Saturday 9 June 2018, 7.30pm

Sheldonian Theatre, Broad Street, Oxford OX1 3AZ

Tickets: £10–£42

Student and Limited Mobility
concessions available.
Also group discounts.

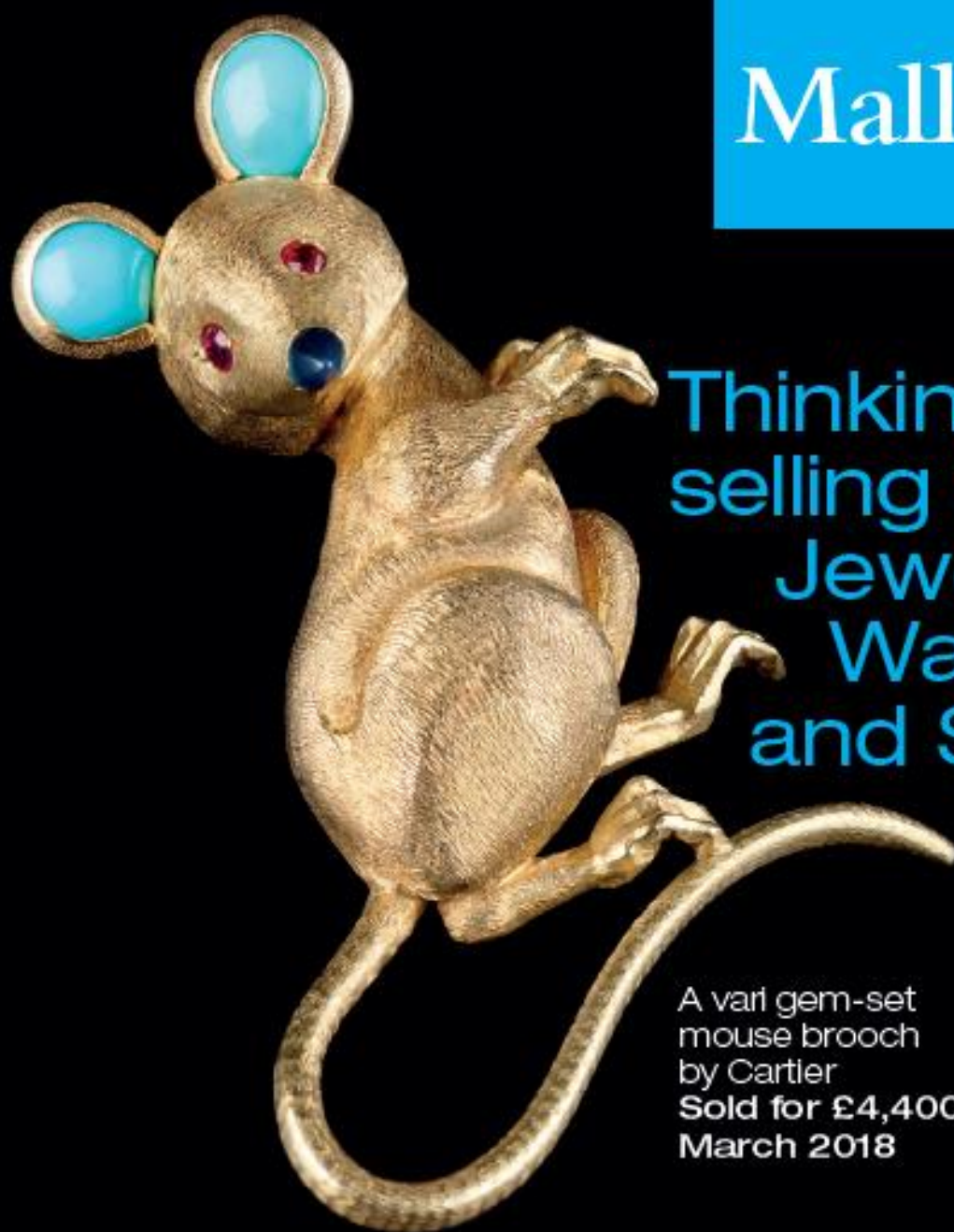
Online and by phone:

From the Choir Box Office online
at tickets.oxfordbachchoir.org
or telephone 01865 980220

In person:

Oxford Playhouse Theatre,
Beaumont Street, Oxford OX1 2LW

Mallams
1788



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March 2018

Valuation mornings
in Oxford by
appointment on:

April 27 - 10am-1pm

May 11 - 10am-1pm

June 15 - 10am-1pm

July 13 - 10am-1pm

Home Visits
also available

Contact:

Louise Dennis FGA DGA

E: oxford@mallams.co.uk

T: 01865 241 358

www.mallams.co.uk

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Items for the **June 2018** newsletter
by 16th May 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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BERINSFIELD LIBRARY

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ELMER the ELEPHANT

Craft afternoon

Wednesday 30th May 3.45pm

Rhymes for the Under 5's Wednesdays 10.30am

Storytime Wednesdays 3.45pm

I.T Help Thursdays 2.00pm

Knit and Natter

1st May 2.30pm

Reading Group

10th May 2.00pm

Coffee Morning

15th May 10.30am

All Welcome



Here to help



join in ● explore ● discover ● log on

Ben Smith

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Enquiries@bscarpentry.co.uk

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References Available Upon Request



VAT REG NO:
212 6529 30



EVENTS IN DORCHESTER ABBEY

Mon 7th May

Two A Part will again welcome May morning by singing from the top of the Abbey tower and then give a free concert in the Abbey. Funds raised from breakfast and donations will go to Youth Challenge Oxfordshire (YoCO), a local charity established to support young people aged 14 to 21 to develop resilience and confidence so that they can overcome the problems that they face during the teenage years. Their year long programme culminates with a week volunteering at the Nasio Trust centre for AIDS orphans and destitute children in Kenya. Continental breakfast: from 8.30am in the Abbey. Two A Part sing from the tower at 9.00am then in the Abbey. Breakfast tickets £5 available from Dorchester Coop or tim.cook21@btinternet.com

Sat 19th May

Singing for Syrians 11.00am Concert 6.00pm

Come and sing Mozart's Requiem with conductor David Wordsworth. David is the musical director of the Addison singers and Associate Director of the Brandenburg Choral Festival of London for 2018 and has conducted choirs in many parts of the world. The money from ticket sales will go to Hands Up Foundation supporting GP salaries, prosthetic limb clinics and teacher salaries in and around Syria. Further information and tickets available from <https://singingforsyrians.com>

Fri 25th May to Mon 28th May

English Music Festival

Booking has now opened for the Twelfth Festival of English Music. Join us for top-quality music-making in convivial surroundings. Highlights include Owain Arwel Hughes and Hilary Davan Wetton conducting beautiful British orchestral and choral works; the UK première of Richard Blackford's Violin Concerto; the celebrated Armonico Consort in a semi-staged performance of Dido and Aeneas; and a dramatic programme about Dame Ethel Smyth. For further information and tickets please see www.englishmusicfestival.org.uk

Wed 30th May 8.00pm

Following a successful week of concerts across the Chilterns in February, Chiltern Arts returns to Dorchester Abbey in May with internationally-renowned violinist Nicola Benedetti playing Vivaldi and Telemann alongside the Academy of Ancient Music. For tickets and information visit chilternarts.com

Oxfordshire Art Week Abbey Guest House 19th – 28th May

During Oxfordshire Art Weeks there are several artists in Dorchester exhibiting a variety of crafts and art. In particular the Dorchester Art Group are showing paintings, prints and theatres in the Abbey Guest House between 19th and 28th May. Please come along.

DORCHESTER TEAM NEWS

The Dorchester Team is (nearly) 40!!

The Dorchester Team was created in 1978 and so this year we will celebrate our 40th Birthday. We plan to celebrate on 29th September with a special Team Service in the Abbey at 10.30am. We will also mark the actual date of the legal Instrument that brought the team into being nearer to its actual date. We would love to hear from you if you were involved in the original plans for the Dorchester Team (especially if we have lost touch) or if you have any photographs of past Team events. We are one of the oldest Teams in the country – something worth celebrating!

Thy Kingdom Come

Familiar words perhaps – but in the last couple of years these words from the Lord's Prayer have become the title for a worldwide ten days of prayer from Ascension Day (10th May) to Pentecost (Whitsun). We will be joining in once again with prayer leaflets and special opportunities for prayer – including a special 'Filling Station' meeting in Marsh Baldon. Thy Kingdom Come will start with a special Ascension Day Eucharist at the top of the Wittenham Clumps with Bishop Colin at 7.30pm – meet at Little Wittenham Church at 7pm to walk to the top. For non-walkers the same service will take place in Little Wittenham Church.

and Pentecost Pilgrimage Plus

A pilgrimage – whether short or long is a great opportunity to walk and pray – alone or in company. On Whitsun afternoon the Abbey hopes to welcome people who have marked the end of Thy Kingdom Come by journeying locally or from further afield. You may want to walk part of the traditional Birinus Pilgrimage from Churn Knob (contact Parish Office for details) or part of the Thames Pilgrim Way (www.thamespilgrimway.org.uk) which follows the Thames footpath – or simply set off from your own village. Wherever you come from we look forward to welcoming you at the Abbey any time from 4pm for a cup of tea, family activities and a special service at 5pm.

SERVICES FOR APRIL 2018

29 th April	10.30am	Team Service	Long Wittenham
6 th May	9.30pm	Holy Communion	Toot Baldon
Thursday 10 th May	7.30pm	Ascension Day Holy Communion Launch of 2018 'Thy Kingdom Come' with Bishop Colin	jointly at Wittenham Clumps and Little Wittenham Church
10 th to 20 th May	various	Archbishops call for 'great wave of prayer, Thy Kingdom Come' Ascension Day to Pentecost	various (see separate notices)
13 th May	6.00pm	Evening Worship	Toot Baldon
20 th May	9.30am	Holy Communion for Pentecost	Marsh Baldon
	5.0pm	Pentecost Celebration	Dorchester Abbey
27 th May	8.30am	Said Holy Communion	Marsh Baldon
	9.30am	Family Worship	Marsh Baldon
3 rd June	9.30am	Family Communion	Toot Baldon

SIDESDUTY

	Marsh Baldon	Toot Baldon
6 th May		9.30am Graham Hobbins
8 th April		6.00pm Jenny van Dijk
15 th April	9.30am John Mason	
22 nd April	9.30am Natasha Eliot	

FLOWERS

	Marsh Baldon	Toot Baldon
29 th April & 6 th May	A Lyall	J Brook
13 th & 20 th May	V Sandilands	M Trinder
27 th May & 3 rd June	F Ardern	V Bowler