

The Four Parishes News Magazine

BECKLEY
FOREST HILL with SHOTOVER
HORTON-cum-STUDLEY
STANTON St JOHN



#SBS Award Winner, Horton-cum-Studley

May 2024

The editor writes



As I write this little introduction, I am thinking of John Baker, my predecessor as Editor of this magazine, whose funeral is taking place in Beckley Church today. John cheerfully served his local community in many different capacities over the years. He was also a member of the Studley Singers, who gave many wonderful concerts in Horton-cum-Studley, and he sang for a very short while with the St Nicolas Choir in Forest Hill.

This feels like a good opportunity to once again thank everyone who is involved in producing and distributing this magazine. I am delighted that we now have a full team of 'content co-ordinators' (one for each village), to remind regular contributors about the deadline each month and to field enquiries from people who are interested in writing for the magazine. I am also very lucky to have two Assistant Editors, who provide advice and ideas, as well as proof reading and sense-checking before we go to print. Once the magazines have been collected from the printers in Oxford, I divide them up into four boxes and pass a box to the main distributor for each village, each of whom has a number of regular helpers who hand-deliver the magazines to your door. I am particularly grateful to all the distributors, without whom there would be no point in producing the magazine at all, but the whole team has a vital contribution to make and, of course, every single one of us is a volunteer.

Julia

All contributions to this magazine are the sole responsibility of the author and do not imply or represent any official editorial view or endorsement.

Our cover photo

was sent to us by Sarah Woodward from Horton-cum-Studley.

See page 11 for the story behind this photo.

If you have taken a photo which you think might be suitable for the cover of the next magazine, please email it to

4parishesnewsletter@gmail.com

Benefice of Beckley, Forest Hill with Shotover, Horton-cum-Studley and Stanton St John

Vicar: Reverend Anthea Beresford

anthea@fourparishes.org.uk

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We welcome contributions for future issues, but please get in touch with the editorial team beforehand at 4parishesnewsletter@gmail.com to discuss any piece you'd like to write. Contributors typically live in the Four Parishes, or have a strong personal connection to the area. The editors reserve the right to reject any submitted content at any stage of the editorial process.

*Recent issues of the magazine are available to view online at
www.fourparishes.org.uk/magazine.*

The closing date for the June 2024 issue is 15 May 2024

**To advertise in the magazine please email [JULIA
adverts.4parishesnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:JULIA.adverts.4parishesnewsletter@gmail.com)**

News or notices for the individual 'Village pages' should be sent to:

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Benefice of Beckley, Forest Hill with Shotover, Horton-cum-Studley and Stanton St John

The Reverend Anthea Beresford is Vicar of the Church of The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Beckley, St Nicolas Church in Forest Hill, St Barnabas Church in Horton-cum-Studley, and St John the Baptist Church in Stanton St John. Anthea is supported by a team of voluntary clergy, lay ministers and churchwardens, whose details are listed below.

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Stanton St John

Vacant at present

The Four Parishes News Magazine has 10 issues per year and is distributed free of charge to approximately 850 addresses in Beckley, Forest Hill, Horton-cum-Studley and Stanton St John. It is funded by advertising revenue, which is used to cover the printing costs. We are dependent on volunteers to assemble the content, book and invoice the advertisers, compile and edit the magazine, collect it from the printers and distribute it throughout the four parishes.

Editor: Julia Stutfield

Assistant Editors: Jonathan Barker, Anthea Beresford

Church Services in the Four Parishes, May 2024

	St Nicolas, Forest Hill with Shotover	St John the Baptist, Stanton St John	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Beckley	St Barnabas, Horton-cum- Studley
5 May <i>6th Sunday of Easter</i>	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	11am Morning Prayer
	4pm Children's Church at St Nicolas, Forest Hill			
	6pm Church Without Walls at Stanton St John Village Hall			
9 May <i>Ascension Day</i>	7am Benefice Service of Holy Communion at Studley Farm House, Horton-cum-Studley			
12 May <i>Sunday after Ascension Day</i>		9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Prayer	11am Holy Communion
	4pm Messy Church at Stanton St John Village Hall			
	6pm BCP Choral Evensong at St Nicolas, Forest Hill			
19 May <i>Pentecost</i>	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	11am Holy Communion
	6pm Iona Service at Beckley			
26 May <i>Trinity Sunday</i>	10am Benefice Service of Holy Communion at Horton-cum-Studley			
	4pm Family Church does Forest Church at Bernwood Forest, Horton-cum-Studley			
	6pm Taizé Service on Zoom			

See page 8 for more information about the 7am Ascension Day Service.

Please check the website www.fourparishes.org.uk for any updates. If you would like to be on the mailing list, please email Anthea: anthea@fourparishes.org.uk.

A letter from Anthea

Hi everyone,



Alleluia Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, alleluia!

When I last wrote to you, we were entering Holy Week, that sombre time in the Christian calendar before the wonderful celebrations of Easter Day, and yet, the magazine covered the period once that difficult journey, and all the celebrations, were over.

It was a weird time to be writing, with Easter Day being the very last day of March. I cannot therefore

let this opportunity pass without thanking everyone involved in services, music, and activities through the week, and in making our churches look so beautiful for the Easter Day celebrations, after the sombreness of Lent. It was wonderful to travel that journey with you once again, a journey so central to the Christian faith.

I also want to take this opportunity to comment on a couple of highlights



that were new for this year: we were blessed with glorious weather for the Passion Play in Beckley, which was a powerful experience for all who took part and who watched on, as we followed the gospel narratives of the Easter story, moving through the village to bring the action alive. Seeing

it, being part of it, brought a new depth of experience. Thank you to Tim King for the idea of resurrecting an old village tradition, and for setting up the crosses, which added such visual poignancy to the action. Thank you also to Judith Bushrod and Paul Newton who allowed us to use their gardens for scenes. I look forward to doing this again. (For more on this see page 19).

The sun also shone for the fabulous Easter Egg Hunt and Tea and Cake sale in Stanton that Lily Fuller masterminded and baked like mad for. This was a great time for the village community and families to gather, and have fun together. Alongside the fun, Lily raised funds for the Church too. A huge thank you to Lily for the idea, and for all the work she did to make the event so good for everyone. The idea behind it was that she wanted to emulate what her mother had done for her, her siblings, and children

of the village when she was a youngster. A much-appreciated gift to the community!

Finally on the subject of Easter, I did not forget to turn my clock forward – well the truth is, my phone does it for itself! – so I was not late for the Easter Day services, and I did not notice anyone else trying to creep in a hour late! I thought I would feed back on that after my comment last month!!

This month is busy with festivals in the Church calendar, as we look forward to celebrating Ascension Day and Pentecost. I hope you will think about joining us for these. Ascension Day is on 9 May, and we celebrate with an early morning service. For more information see page 8. Since I have been here, it has definitely been worth the early start, and we hope for good weather! We will be celebrating Pentecost in all our village churches on 19 May, and I hope you will join us for this joyful celebration.

As always, May gifts us with two Bank Holidays which are often opportunities to meet up with family and friends as we have that extra day for two weekends. I appreciate some will still have to work, and some may not be able to meet up with family and friends, but hopefully we can all do something a little different and have a restful and enjoyable time at some stage. I have just been fortunate enough to have had a holiday and have been grateful for a change of scenery and a change of pace. Bertie celebrated by wading into a dung heap!! Bless him! He was quite aromatic for some time afterwards and was seemingly oblivious to his aroma! I do not recommend that as an activity for the Bank Holiday weekends!

Please do get in touch if you need someone to talk to. Take great care and God bless you and your loved ones.

Anthea



The Reverend Anthea Beresford is Vicar of the Church of The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Beckley, St Nicolas Church in Forest Hill, St Barnabas Church in Horton-cum-Studley, and St John the Baptist Church in Stanton St John.

CHURCH MATTERS

All the churches in the benefice are open daily. Beckley and Forest Hill: 10am-6pm; Horton-cum-Studley and Stanton St John: 10am-4pm.

Ascension Day Service: 9 May at 7am at Annie and Andrew Payne's, Studley Farm House, Brill Road, Horton-cum-Studley

This service is the time when we commemorate the story from the first chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, where Jesus had been talking with his friends on the Mount of Olives, when suddenly he was 'lifted up' and a cloud took him out of their sight, and they were left gazing up towards heaven.

Once again, Annie and Andrew Payne have invited us to their garden for this wonderful service. They are again offering a generous invitation to coffee, bacon rolls or croissants afterwards, to entice us to the early service. This enticement has worked wonders in the past! All are welcome to the service and refreshments afterwards. There is plenty of parking on site.

Advent challenge and beyond

I wonder how your reading is coming along. I confess I am still slightly behind, but I am getting there! As soon as I catch up something happens and I slip behind again. But as before, I am still in touch so keeping going and determined. So, if you too are a little behind, don't worry, just keep going.

For May, for the Old Testament, we need to finish 1 Kings, read the whole of 2 Kings and 1 Chronicles, and up to chapter 14 of 2 Chronicles. For the New Testament we need to finish the Gospel of Luke and up to chapter 11 of the Gospel of John. It would be a great achievement if we can manage to do this, so let's have a go and encourage one another. Let's chat about the challenges of this. We can do this! Please do let me know how you get on.

Book Group

We are continuing to read *Kingdom of Fools: The Unlikely Rise of the Early Church* by Nick Page. If anyone would like to join us, please do get in touch with Anthea. All are welcome.

Ongoing midweek activities on Zoom

We are continuing Morning and Evening Prayer and the Benefice Book Group on Zoom as detailed. Please do get in touch with Anthea for invitations if you wish to be included.

	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Morning prayer at 9am		Y		Y
Evening Prayer at 6pm	Y		Y	
Benefice Book Group at 7.30pm			Y	

Children's craft workshops in Beckley Church

The next two Children's craft workshops for 2024 being held in Beckley Church are now planned. The first is on **Friday 10 May from 3.30-4.30pm**. We will be looking at The Coming of the Holy Spirit where we will be thinking about the Feast of Pentecost which is celebrated on 19 May this year. We are planning to make rockets or volcanoes! The second session is planned for **Friday 21 June from 3.30-4.30pm** and will be looking at Jesus on the lake, where we will be making boats, hoping to get them to float! So there is lots of fun planned. The workshops are aimed at primary school children and are run by the 'Acting thte Bible' and 'Messy Church' teams, and other helpers – but you don't need to have attended either of those to come and join in the fun. Children must be accompanied by an adult please. There will be light refreshments. Please do book by emailing me beforehand at betty.dye10@gmail.com. Thank you. *Betty Dye*

Annual Meetings of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church Meetings

It is that time of year again! The Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCM) have to be completed by 31 May this year, and so dates have been set for these. The related Annual Meeting of Parishioners is on the same day, immediately before the APCM.

Here is advanced notice of the meetings:

Beckley:	29 May at 7.30pm in Church
Forest Hill:	28 May at 7pm in Forest Hill Village Hall
Horton-cum-Studley:	Occurred in April
Stanton St John:	8 May at 7pm in Stanton Village Hall

Home Group Study on the Gospel of John

The study group is continuing its look at the Gospel of John on a Monday afternoon at 2.30pm at Studley Farm House, Horton-cum-Studley. Anyone from around the Four Parishes is welcome to join in. If you are interested in being involved, please contact Annie Payne by email at anniefpayne@gmail.com. All are welcome.

Prayers for Peace

As the war continues in Ukraine, with the awful situation in the Middle East, trouble in the Red Sea and surrounding areas, and as God's peace is not present throughout the world, we continue to pray for peace. We will meet for 15 minutes at 12pm on Wednesdays and Saturdays in May across the Four Parishes as follows:

Beckley	4 and 22
Forest Hill	15 and 25
Horton-cum-Studley	1, 11 and 29
Stanton	8 and 18

* * * * *



13 Middle Road, Stanton St John
01865 351532 / 07795 415819
stantonvillageshop@gmail.com



We're open Monday to Saturday 9am-1pm & Sunday 9-11am, provide friendly service, deliver FREE across our 4 parishes on Tuesday, Thursday & Friday afternoons AND do bicycle repairs.

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"Such a good range, I don't need to go to Waitrose so often."
"With two young children, we love our twice-weekly milk delivery."

To our valued customers, THANK YOU! We LOVE that you shop local!

GENERAL

Cover Story



Sarah Woodward, who grew up in Beckley, wrote to us at the end of March to share the news that her small business in Horton-cum-Studley had won a weekly competition to join #SBS, Theo Paphitis’s exclusive (and very supportive) community.

Theo Paphitis is best known for appearing on the BBC’s *Dragons’ Den*. He is Chairman of Ryman, Boux Avenue, Robert Dyas and the latest acquisition London Graphic Centre. Small Business Sunday, shortened to the hashtag #SBS on social media, was created by him in October 2010 and is one of the leading small business networks in the UK with over 4,000 active members. Each week, Theo welcomes 6 small businesses who tweet, comment, or post an image to [@TheoPaphitis](https://twitter.com/TheoPaphitis) describing their businesses to the #SBS community. Sarah’s pitch was chosen and reshared by Theo giving Sarah recognition for her hard work to his half a million followers on social media.

Sarah wrote “To be chosen out the thousands of small businesses that enter each week is a huge boost and I’m incredibly grateful. As a small business owner it can be hard to get seen, it’s been tough! Having Theo recognise the passion and hard work I’m putting into my business along with the support from his SBS community is going to open up so many opportunities, I’ve already been contacted by a company within the community about a collaboration. I work out of my little office in the village, I honestly never thought I would be seen or heard by such a well known name!”

Sarah will be heading off to meet Theo Paphitis in person to collect her official certificate after attending his exclusive small business annual event next year.



Invisible Birds and How to Find Them

by Lyn Ebbs

As a term to describe people who interact with birds, I find ‘bird-watcher’ too restrictive. At this time of year, I’m more of a ‘bird-listener’. In early April I was able to take part in one of my favourite surveys on RSPB Otmoor in which hearing the bird is key.

The bird whose presence we were trying to record is the Water Rail. An



attractive relative of moorhens and coots, it’s notable for its ability to hide in dense reeds, so bird-watching wasn’t going to achieve our aim. As a rule, playing a recording of a bird’s song or call to lure it out can be harmful as it may stress the bird, and isn’t allowed on Otmoor. But we have a licence to use recordings once a year to carry out this survey. The call is certainly not a tuneful song – it sounds more like an annoyed piglet, squealing and grunting at high volume. We call and the Water Rails call back.

The rails are more likely to perform in the early morning, so we aimed to be up with the larks but on this bright and breezy day, the Skylarks had already taken to the air. We splashed our way through puddles along a path taking us into the conservation area. Although Skylarks’ preferred meadowland habitat, and behaviour is the very opposite of Water Rails’ they can be just as difficult to see. They are light brown in colour, with a paler streaky breast and a small crest on the crown. Though they will sing from a perch, typically they sing in flight, climbing higher and higher until they are almost impossible to spot. At the end of the song flight, the bird descends while still singing but falls silent for the final few metres until it reaches the ground. Though a fairly nondescript bird to look at, the incessant outpouring of song from dawn to dusk has made it beloved of poets and musicians.



By this time playing our recording was picking up responses from Water Rails hidden deep in the reed beds but it also seemed to trigger a totally different bird to reply. Another ‘little brown job’, the Cetti’s Warbler is

described as a compact warbler with a tendency to cock its tail. As they like to keep concealed in dense vegetation, usually near water, this is not that helpful in identifying them. Though seeing them is a real challenge, they helpfully announce their name in a loud explosive call: 'Listen! What's my name? Cetti, Cetti, Cetti! That's it'. They are comparative newcomers to Otmoor, first noted in 2002. Following two hard winters, they disappeared temporarily in 2012 but since then, their numbers have steadily increased.



Our course had now taken us deep into the reserve, alongside the original course of the River Ray, north of the two reed beds that act as deep-water reservoirs and are favoured by another hidden bird. Superb camouflage, stealthy movements and the ability to remain motionless make the Bittern a challenging bird to see. This stocky brown heron was also first recorded on Otmoor in 2002 but it wasn't until 2013 that a male was first heard making its characteristic low-frequency call. It's a far-carrying, foghorn-like noise, known as booming, which the polygamous males use to attract females. They call from the parts of the reserve with the densest stretches of reed bed to entice in the females to nest. The first nest was in 2016 and there have been at least three nests per year since 2021. The same male probably services all three nests but then leaves the females to rear the chicks.



There are not just these four birds to hear on Otmoor and with a few places left on the Dawn Chorus Walks on 4 or 11 May at 5.30am, you can immerse yourself in the full avian symphony. Contact Otmoor.admin@rspb.org.uk to book.

Lyn Ebbs has lived in Stanton St John for 36 years and has been volunteering at the RSPB Otmoor Reserve at Otmoor Lane, Beckley, since 2009.

Oxfordshire Artweeks



From 4 to 27 May, over a thousand artists, makers and designers will exhibit and demonstrate in artists' studios, pop-up galleries, glorious gardens, ancient churches, Oxford Colleges and hundreds of other interesting venues.

Each week of the festival focuses on a different part of Oxfordshire, with events in Oxford City taking place from 11 to 19 May. Here is some information about events that are happening within our own Four Parishes.

Oxfordshire Art Weeks – Venue 2

4 – 12 May 2024, daily from 10am – 5pm

CLAY COLLECTIVE

Ceramic exhibition of 7 Oxfordshire artists



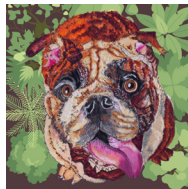
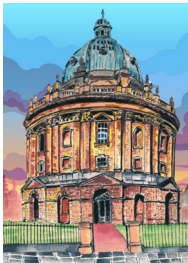
The Art Barn at Bernwood Pottery
Old Arngrave Farm, Brill Road
Horton-cum-Studley
Oxford
OX33 1DG

www.bernwoodpottery.com for more information



Rangan Goldsmith

The first of my two venues for Artweeks is a window display in Stanton St John Village Shop. I'll be decorating this beautiful shop window with 3d paper art, kids sweatshirts and t shirts with my designs printed on them, embroidered jewellery and some prints.



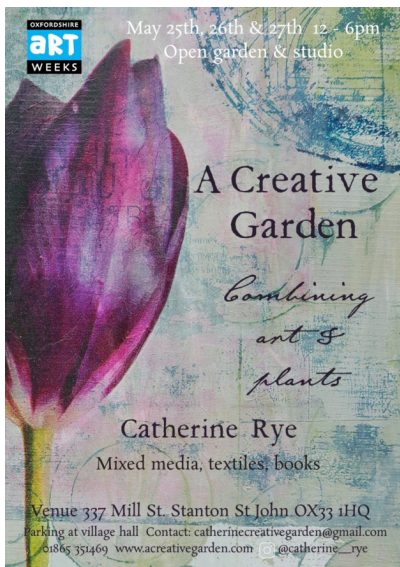
Telephone: 01865 351532

Email: rangangupta2001@gmail.com

Catherine Rye from Stanton St John has written to tell us about two projects that she is involved in:

"The first is that I'm taking part in Oxfordshire Artweeks. My house and garden in Mill Street, Stanton St John OX33 1HQ will be open on 25, 26 and 27 May from 12 to 6pm and there should be lots of colour and flowers to see. You can access my portfolio here: <https://www.artweeks.org/p/catherine-rye>.

I have also been fortunate to have a design selected for <https://oxtrail2024.co.uk> a public art trail fundraiser for Sobell House. For the last few weeks I have been painting a large fibre glass ox in my garage. I am not allowed to reveal the result in full until the trail goes live in July, when my ox, plus 29 others and a herd of mini oxen, will be in prominent sites throughout Oxford.



I can share now though the very exciting news that all the oxen are going to have their spray finish applied on the MINI PRODUCTION LINE (!) so look out for coverage of that in the media and I hope you'll support this wonderful campaign.

I will be producing bouquets this year but not properly until the summer as I'm having quite a busy spring. I do have flowers though, so if you have a request I can usually rustle something up especially for my 'regulars'."

Catherine Rye
smallspaceflowers@gmail.com

Full details of all Oxfordshire Artweeks events can be found at <https://www.artweeks.org/festival>.

Land North of Bayswater Brook [LnBB] Update

Please sign our petition:

STOP Development of Land North of Bayswater Brook, north of Oxford - <https://www.change.org/STOP-LNBB-NOW>



The Environment Agency has objected to the LnBB planning application on two grounds –

1. That Thames Water does not have the capacity to process the sewage from LnBB (or any other large development)
2. The Local Plan STRAT 13 states that the LnBB development must only be built on Flood Zone 1 (land least likely to flood) and not on Flood Zones 2 and 3. The plans submitted do not comply with this.

English Nature and BBOWT have also objected. This is an opportunity to appeal to SODC to refuse planning permission.

It has been reported that Thames Water was due to upgrade its Oxford Sewage treatment works by 2025, but this has been delayed until 2030. Thames Water was apparently “finalising plans” for the £130 million upgrade works. However, since then their parent company have withdrawn investment and failed to pay interest on loans.

It is very likely that Christ Church and Dorchester Residential - the developers of LnBB, will appeal to the Secretary of State to try to gain planning permission despite EA’s and others’ objections, so we need to make our objections clear to SODC.

Other news

The planning application for the eastern part of the LnBB site, Bayswater Farm, owned by Cillardara Group (Headington) Ltd, has been rejected by SODC. This application is referred to on p16 of the March Four Parishes Magazine, where you will also find a map.

The main reason for refusal is that the proposed access from local roads is unachievable. There was also concern about development of the Green Belt and protection of wildlife. However, the developers may appeal.

Ginette Camps-Walsh, Beckley

Oxford Traffic Filters

Starting in November 2024, Oxford City Council will be trying a new way to reduce traffic congestion in and around Oxford.

Traffic filters are part of the central Oxfordshire travel plan and Oxfordshire's local transport and connectivity plan. They are designed to work together with other measures to:

- reduce traffic
- make bus journeys faster
- allow for new and improved bus routes
- make walking and cycling safer
- reduce local air pollution
- improve the health and wellbeing of our communities

What are traffic filters?

A traffic filter limits through-traffic along a small section of a road when travelling by certain modes of transport. Oxford traffic filters will be camera-enforced points on six roads in Oxford and will only apply to private cars.

There will be no physical barriers, and everywhere in Oxford will be accessible. If you drive a private car, you may need to take a different route or change how you travel if you don't have a permit to drive through the filter.

Locations

The traffic filters will be placed on the following roads:

- St Cross Road, central Oxford
- Thames Street, central Oxford
- Hythe Bridge Street, central Oxford
- St Clement's Street, east Oxford
- Marston Ferry Road, Marston
- Hollow Way, Cowley

A detailed map of filter locations, together with more information about how the filters will work, their operating days, and who is eligible for a free permit, is available on the Oxford City Council website [oxfordshire.gov.uk](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk) (type 'traffic filters' into the search).

Dame Elizabeth Holford's Charity News of Recent Bursaries

The Trustees have invited some of the young people who have received bursaries from the Charity to write a paragraph for inclusion in this magazine. This month's report is from Eliza Soanes who lives in Beckley.

"As part of my university degree in Animal Behaviour at Aberystwyth University, I volunteered at Lilongwe Wildlife Centre in Malawi for 7

months. I worked with a team of people to help rehabilitate injured, orphaned, and confiscated wildlife throughout Malawi. I helped with feeding primates, hyenas, servals, owls, parrots, bushbabies, duikers, and genets. I was also able to attend clinics that neutered cats and dogs for free to prevent overpopulation. I spent



some time volunteering at Liwonde National Park, using telemetry to track and monitor various species of wildlife for a Biodiversity Monitoring project. Throughout my journey, I met so many amazing people, volunteers, staff and locals with friendships and memories that will last a lifetime.

This experience was the most incredible opportunity I have ever had in my life. Without the help of The Dame Elizabeth Holford's Charity, it would not have been possible. This has inspired me to go back to Africa to help the animals and make a difference."

Dame Elizabeth Holford's Charity invites applications for grants from school aged children and young people up to the age of 25 who are, or who have parents, resident in Stanton St John, Forest Hill with Shotover, Beckley, Horton-cum-Studley and the ecclesiastical Parish of Elsfield. Applications are not means tested and funding is granted on a case-by-case basis.

The Trustees welcome applications for bursaries addressed to the Chair of Dame Elizabeth Holford's Charity, Alison Finch. The email address is HolfordtrustChair@gmail.com where you can obtain an application form. You can also apply in writing to Alison Finch, 14 Mickle Way, Forest Hill, Oxford, OX33 1DX

BECKLEY

Beckley Church

Details of all church services and general church news can be found on pages 5 - 10. Any changes to the published schedule of services will be on our website www.fourparishes.org.uk.

The Beckley Passion Play

The Beckley Passion Play has been revived! It was written by Tim King, as a 'play reading with actions', with the script taken completely from the four Gospels, and was last performed about 20 years ago. So, on 30 March, Holy Saturday, a group of people from Beckley and Horton-cum-Studley, Hugh Lee, and Anthea Beresford as narrator, acted out the play, moving around the village for the different scenes, joined by a number of people who came to watch. It was a powerful way of marking Easter, and, although it was deeply profound, there was also laughter and much enjoyment. Come and join us next year as we re-establish the tradition!



Beckley & Stowood Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Monday 13 May at 7pm in Beckley Village Hall**. The **Annual Parish Open Meeting will be held on Monday 20 May at 7pm and followed by the Beckley Village Hall AGM**. Any changes to the published meeting dates will be on the website www.beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk.

The Clerk's email address is clerk@beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk, if you would like to get in touch with the Parish Council. Information about the Parish Council can be found on the website www.beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk.

For information on Beckley Village Hall please see www.beckleyvillagehall.org and to enquire about a booking please contact the Booking Secretary, Mel Green, at booking@beckleyvillagehall.org.

Help needed for our Beckley Village Open Day
Sunday 23 June

**Open Gardens - Teas in the School Hall - Plant Stall - Cake Stall
Home-made Ice Creams - Art Show in the Church - Raffle**

Plans are underway and we need your help!

Nearer to the time we will need plants for the plant stall.

On the day we will need cakes for the cake stall and the teas in the school hall.

We also need Raffle Prizes with a few substantial top prizes.

On the day we will also need a rota of volunteers, including people to **help with teas and the car park, and putting up signs.**

If you will be available (both beforehand and during the afternoon) and would be able to help in anyway or have any questions, **please let us know.**

Gina Robson ginarobson5@gmail.com tel: 01865 351637

Susy Jepson susy.jepson@gmail.com tel: 07920 758484

New 'Content Co-ordinator' for Beckley

As many of you will know, the Four Parishes Magazine has been without a 'Content Co-ordinator' for Beckley, following the retirement of John Baker, who was also Editor of the magazine from 2003-2017.

The role of the 'Content Co-ordinator' is to remind regular contributors about the deadline each month and to field enquiries from people who are interested in contributing to the magazine.

I am delighted to say that Judith Rawlinson has volunteered for this role and I look forward to working with her over the coming months. Judith's contact details appear on page 3, along with those for the other three villages.

Julia Stutfield (Editor)

Beckley and Area Community Benefit Society Ltd

More than a Pub programme <https://bacbs.org/events>

BACBS continues its popular events at our community-owned pub The Abingdon Arms, Beckley, to which all are welcome. Do come, enjoy, and support your local pub.

Pub quiz

1st Wednesday of every month: the next quiz will be on **8 May at 7.30pm** – with pizza! Table bookings advisable - or you can just turn up and join an existing team. Thanks to The Abingdon Arms, there's a free round of drinks for the winning team.

Community walks

Come for a gentle stroll for a couple of hours and meet your neighbours. Our next walk will be on **19 May, 2pm start**.

Sunday evening talks

Last Sunday of the month, 6.30pm in the pub. Talks are usually from local experts and cover a wide range of topics. Do join us in the pub for a drink and a stimulating evening!

On **Sunday 19 May** (exceptionally not the last Sunday of the month, to avoid the bank holiday), **Professor Peter Heather of Horton-cum-Studley** will be talking about his book *Why empires fall*.

On Sunday 30 June, some of the **Beckley Community Orchard Trustees** will give a presentation about the history of the orchard, the variety of trees, and how people can get involved. They are ready to accompany those who wish on a walk down to the orchard after the talk as it will still be light.

BACBS Good Neighbour Scheme

The Good Neighbour Scheme gives lifts to those with no other transport – for example, to the doctors and village shop in Stanton as well as lifts to the Barton/Green Road roundabout, where there are regular buses into Headington and central Oxford. The scheme serves Beckley, Elsfield, Stanton, Forest Hill, and Woodeaton.

To request a lift, ring either 07514 791910 (if no answer, leave a message) or email BACBSgoodneighbour@gmail.com.

FOREST HILL

News from St Nicolas

Details of all church services and general church news can be found on pages 5 - 10. Any changes to the published schedule of services will be on our website www.fourparishes.org.uk.

The Plant and Produce Stall outside Lyttleton in Main Street, will start again on Saturday 4 May (9am - 5pm).

St Nicolas Organ – Open Morning – Saturday 18 May

Anybody interested in hearing, playing or learning about our 1883 Pipe Organ is welcome to drop in any time between 10am and 12 noon, when St Nicolas organist, Peter Stutfield, will be happy to demonstrate. All ages are welcome, but children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Ring Peter on 01865 876848, or use the contact form at <https://www.stnicolasforesthill.org/contact> for more details or to book a time slot.

Cream Teas and Summer Music at St Nicolas

The dates for Cream Teas and Summer Music at St Nicolas in 2024 are:

Saturday 22 June

Sunday 28 July

Sunday 25 August (includes 5.15pm concert by Witney Baroque)

Saturday 21 September

Local musicians of all ages and abilities are invited to perform in the garden during the afternoon, or to take part in the early evening concert in the church on June, July or September. Please contact Julia Stutfield (07766 103427 or julia.stutfield@gmail.com) for more information.

'Pop-Up Coffee Shop' in Forest Hill Village Hall

Friday 24 May, 10.30am -12.30pm

Tea, coffee and cake

All profits to local charities

More information from Julia Stutfield

07766 103427 or julia.stutfield@gmail.com



Forest Hill with Shotover Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Thursday 23 May at 7pm in Forest Hill Village Hall**. This will be the Annual Parish Meeting. Dates of future meetings can be found on the Forest Hill website www.parish-council.com/foresthillwithshotover and on the Village Hall noticeboard. Current agendas and minutes are posted on the noticeboard outside the Village Hall. Archived agendas and minutes can be found on the website.

Mickle Way and parking on the white lines - reminder to residents that the junctions are to remain clear at all times, as per the Highway Code, so residents can enter and leave the junctions safely.

Fix My Street - please report any road or street problems, with a photograph, via the Oxfordshire County Council website (fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk) or the Fix My Street App.

You can contact the Clerk by email at theclerk@foresthillwithshotover-pc.org.uk or telephone 0844 884 3328, between 9am and 5pm.

Sue Cox

Clerk to the Forest Hill with Shotover Parish Council

Forest Hill Village Hall

A reminder that Forest Hill Village Hall is available for hire at a very reasonable rate. Email Dawn Dunbar on dunbardawn@ymail.com for more information.



Jazz on the Hill at Forest Hill Village Hall



Tuesday 14 May, 7.30-9.30pm

Join Julie, Will and their musician friends to celebrate jazz with plenty of opportunity for instrumentalists and vocalists to make music with a house band, and to take the seat in the rhythm section as well if wished. Or just come to listen and soak up the atmosphere! All welcome. No need to book, just turn up on the night.

Soft drinks available, bring your own alcohol if desired. Suggested donation by card or cash £5. Parking available in the village streets. Wheelchair accessible.

The Maple Tree at Forest Hill, Thursdays 11am-12pm

The Thursday morning 'stay and play' sessions in Forest Hill Village Hall are a wonderful way for parents, grandparents and carers of small children to meet and chat in a friendly and supportive environment. Through our affiliation with The Maple Tree Children's Centre in Wheatley, we also have access to all sorts of support and advice.

If you have a new baby or are expecting one soon, why not drop in to introduce yourself to us or get in touch with Julia Stutfield 07766 103427 or julia.stutfield@gmail.com.

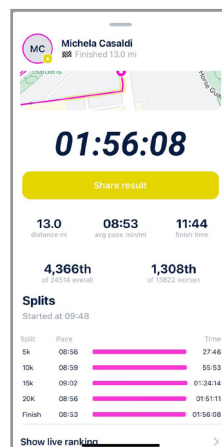
Sessions normally run throughout the year, including half term and school holidays. **Please note: there will be no session on Thursday 2 May, because the village hall will be in use as a Polling Station for local elections.**

The London Landmark Half Marathon A message from Michaela Casaldi

"I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who donated personally to my fund raising project for the National Autistic Society, as well as to the village for donating proceeds from the Pop-Up Coffee Shop in March. They are both very much appreciated.

I ran the London Half Marathon yesterday (7 April) and we all really enjoyed the event and the atmosphere!.

I attach a few pictures from the day."



HORTON-cum-STUDLEY

News from St Barnabas

Details of all church services and general church news can be found on pages 5 - 10. Any changes to the published schedule of services will be on our website www.fourparishes.org.uk.

Pop-Up Pub & Social at the 'Dog and Collar'

This continues to be well supported and an opportunity for villagers to meet up socially and meet neighbours. We look forward to seeing you on the first Friday of each month. Forthcoming dates for your diary are: **Friday 3 May and Friday 6 June.**

Coffee and Chat, Saturday 11 May, 10am-12pm

Everyone is welcome to pop in to spend some time with neighbours. No charge but donations welcome. Dogs welcome.

Flower arrangers needed

Is there anyone who enjoys arranging flowers who would like to help decorate the Church? We take on one month each through the year. If anyone would like a go please be in touch with Annie Payne: anniefpayne@gmail.com.

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Sunflower, and Pumpkin Competition 2024

A reminder that you can collect your pumpkin and sunflower plants from late May/early June. Plants will be left outside 3 Mill Lane. If you have any questions please contact Cathy Jenkins: 07941 245726.

Horton-cum-Studley Gardening Club

There are some lovely events in prospect for our Summer programme, following Spring talks by Jo Milton on composting and vermiculture, and Katharine Shock on the Turrell Sculpture Garden in Summertown.

On **28 May at 2.30pm, a visit to Upton Wold in Moreton-in-Marsh** has been organised for members and guests. As well as the Pond Garden, wildflower meadow and Hidden Garden, there is also a small arbored vegetable garden, a gravel garden, woodland garden and labyrinth leading to the medieval village of Upton. In addition, we will be treated to a special tea following the garden tour. Tickets are £25 (50% discount of regular price).

We are also planning an **informal evening visit to Bernwood Forest in early summer** to see the beautiful wildflower meadow when in full bloom. This is a free event – just an opportunity to enjoy the place along with friends, for an hour or so at around 6pm. We will let everyone know when this is going to happen via Facebook and postings in local locations.

25 July at 2.30pm is another date for the diary - a trip to Kingsbridge Farm near Steeple Claydon. Over thirty years, the owners have created a beautiful garden in a Buckinghamshire field and have opened their 6-acre site to visitors for the last ten years. Winding paths pass through herbaceous borders, topiary, a rose arbour and cross a ha-ha to the countryside beyond. A natural stream is home to bog plants and nesting kingfishers. The cost for this event is just £14.50, including tea and cake.

We very much hope you can come along – guests are welcome to come along to all visits on a one-off basis: no need to join the Club (although we hope you will be tempted, obviously!).

For information on visits and other Club events, do call or email.

Melanie Jones Chair
mjcbt2013@gmail.com 07766 706303

Horton-cum-Studley Parish Council News

Photo ID for election

Local elections are due to be held on Thursday 2 May 2024, with voting at the Millennium Hall. A reminder that ID is now required to vote in person. Details can be found at: <https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/info/11/elections/1041/voter-id>.

Whilst there are no Parish Council elections this year, the following elections are of relevance to us:

- Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley Police Area
- District Councillor for the Launton and Otmoor Ward

Annual Parish Meeting

All parishioners are invited to the **Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 9 May at 8pm in the Millennium Village Hall**. Nibbles and wine will be available. More information will be presented on the village Speed Watch group which has now received from Thames Valley Police the equipment needed to operate in the village. Several volunteers have already been trained, but if you are interested in joining the group, there will be opportunity to do so at the meeting.

Temporary Traffic Regulation Order – Brill Road

Brill Road will be affected whilst essential new electricity connection works are carried out near the Old Nursery. From Monday 20 May for up to seven days, it will:

- Temporarily prohibit through traffic in the whole length of Brill Road.
- Exempt emergency services, vehicles for the works and for access to premises which are only accessible from the closed section of road.
- Divert traffic via Brill Road, Oakley Road, Stanton St John Road, Honeyburge, Studley Road and Vice Versa.

Information about the Parish Council, including dates of meetings, agendas, minutes and policies can be found on the village website: <http://www.horton-cum-studley.org.uk/>. Current agendas and minutes are also posted on noticeboards at both village bus stops. If you use email and would like to join the village email circulation list, please contact Alexia Lewis, Parish Clerk at hortoncumstudleyparishcouncil@gmail.com.



Registration is open for both the traditional half marathon race and our **new 10k race**. All information on these races (including a GPX course download) can be found on our **brand new website** www.otmoorchallenge.com. Pre-entry is offered at a reduced rate compared to the on-day cost. Prices for event are: 10k = £20/22 UKA/non-UKA or £25 on day, Half = £25/27 UKA/non-UKA or £30 on the day.

For those who enjoy a more relaxed pace, we will **continue to provide the walks**. There is no pre-registration for the walks; on the day entry only. All details can be found on our website.

We're always looking for volunteers on the day to help with the water stations and field marshalls. If this is something you could commit to then please reach out to us using the "get involved" section of the website or contact us directly. A big thanks to the WI who have again stepped up to serve cakes, tea and coffee on the day. All cake donations on the day would be very welcome too.

We're looking forward to another great event and hope to see you all there either running, walking or cheering friends across the finish line.

With your support, we hope to make the Otmoor Challenge event a success for many years to come.

Nick Tribble, Chairman, Otmoor Challenge Association
ntribbs@hotmail.com

STANTON ST JOHN

Stanton Church

Details of all church services and general church news can be found on pages 5 - 10. Any changes to the published schedule of services will be on our website www.fourparishes.org.uk.

Monthly Coffee Mornings in Stanton Village Hall

Come for tea, coffee and cake **10.30am-12pm** on **Wednesday 15 May** and **Wednesday 5 June**.

Everyone is welcome. For further details, please contact Sue Baker 01865 351449.

Save the date Oxybaroxy concert, Sunday 14 July (evening)

This talented Oxfordshire music service baroque ensemble is performing in Stanton church again. Time to be confirmed.

Stanton St John WI

Stanton St John WI's next meeting is an open event on a topic that is very much in the news.



Tuesday 14 May at 7.30pm in Stanton St John Village Hall

“The River Thames and the Struggle for Recovery” by Doug Kennedy



Photographer, ecologist and environmental campaigner, Doug Kennedy's illustrated talk will be a short exploration of the Thames Valley and its wildlife, with some detail about the sources of pollution.

WI members free, guests £4. All welcome.

For more information email stantonstjohnwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

Film Night in Stanton St John Village Hall

Saturday 1 June, 7.45pm

The Stanton St John Film Club presents the last movie of the season:



Wicked Little Letters

Tempest-in-a-teapot news story from 1918-1920, with Jessie Buckley and Olivia Coleman expressing “hilarious profanities” (IMBD) aka strong language!

The doors will be open at 7pm and before the film and in the interval delicious cakes and drinks will be available whilst the bar will serve wines.

Since only 60 seats are available in the Village Hall, please reserve your seats for the screenings as soon as possible via Sue Baker (susanjbaker24@gmail.com) or in the Village Shop.

Tickets at £5 (cash only) will be sold at the door. Any profits raised will be used to enhance the Village Hall for future screenings.

Stanton St John Parish Council

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on **Monday 20 May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**

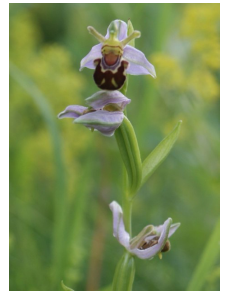
#NoMowMAY Stanton St John Churchyard



Last year Stanton Church decided to join the #NoMowMay movement. This national campaign run by Plantlife encourages the flowering of wildflowers in gardens and green spaces by not mowing during the month of May. The flowers provide a feast for pollinators and the

churchyard came alive with butterflies and other insects.

We were not sure what would appear in our churchyard but to our delight amongst the lady's bedstraw, red clover, birds foot trefoil, oxeye daisies and scabious appeared some pyramidal orchids and several bee orchids.



This year we will make sure they are clearly marked so everyone can go and find them and hope that they will spread further across the churchyard. Lots of butterflies can be seen in the churchyard and Butterfly Conservation's Big Butterfly Count takes place in July and you can easily download the app and take part <https://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org/>.



Maybe you could stop mowing a patch of lawn for May and see what happens?

More information can be found at <https://www.plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/nomowmay/>.

Stanton St John Parochial Church Council

College House Garden - Open Afternoons

College House Garden will be open on the **afternoon of Wednesday 5 June** in aid of the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE).

Other dates:

Sunday 7 July in aid of Stanton Church (Repair Fund)

Sunday 14 July to coincide with the Oxybaroxy concert in Stanton Church.

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Registration is open for both the traditional half marathon race and our **new 10k race**. All information on these races (including a GPX course download) can be found on our **brand new website** www.otmoorchallenge.com. Pre-entry is offered at a reduced rate compared to the on-day cost. Prices for event are: 10k = £20/22 UKA/non-UKA or £25 on day, Half = £25/27 UKA/non-UKA or £30 on the day.

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With your support, we hope to make the Otmoor Challenge event a success for many years to come.

Nick Tribble, Chairman, Otmoor Challenge Association

ntribbs@hotmail.com

