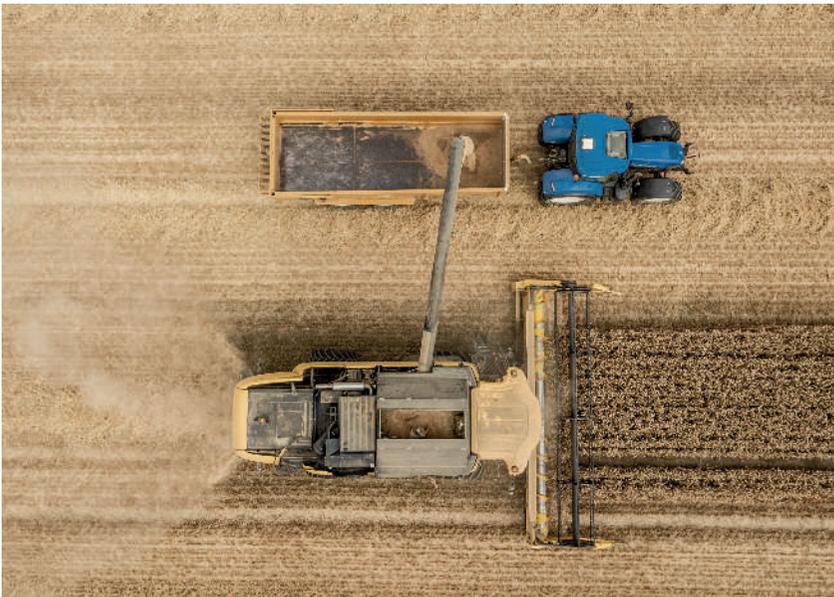


# *The Four Parishes News Magazine*

BECKLEY  
FOREST HILL  
HORTON-cum-STUDLEY  
STANTON St JOHN



Harvest of Below Spinney, Manor Farm, Forest Hill

*September 2020*

## The editor writes:



I hope you have all managed to enjoy the summer, however different it may have been from what we might have 'normally' expected! Mid-August has come round all too quickly, but it was good to have a bit of a break.

I am very excited to be able to announce that we have a new website [www.fourparishes.org.uk](http://www.fourparishes.org.uk) which includes, among other things, a consolidated events calendar. This will eventually include all of the village events that are notified to this magazine.

Please check out the calendar at [www.fourparishes.org.uk/events](http://www.fourparishes.org.uk/events), especially if you are planning an event and want to avoid unnecessary clashes.

This edition of the magazine is a bumper issue, with plenty of food for thought, even though many of our regular village events are still 'on hold'. We also have a record number of businesses advertising with us this month, so please support them as much as possible.

*Julia Stutfield*

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 taken by Nick Dempsey <https://nickdempsey.com/>:

This photo was taken with a drone during a photoshoot commissioned by Rectory Farm, Stanton St John. More of Nick's photos appear on pages 20 - 21

**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](mailto:4parishesnewsletter@gmail.com)**

We welcome contributions or notices for future issues.

Please send them to:

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**The closing date for the Oct 2020 issue is 15 Sep 2020**

The Four Parishes News Magazine is produced under the auspices of our four village churches for the benefit of the whole community. 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. If you are interested in getting involved, please email Julia at [4parishesnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:4parishesnewsletter@gmail.com)

Recent issues of the magazine are available to view online at [www.stnicolasforesthill.org/four-parishes](http://www.stnicolasforesthill.org/four-parishes)

**Editor: Julia Stutfield**

**Assistant Editor: Jonathan Barker**

The Four Parishes News Magazine has 10 issues per year and is distributed free of charge to approximately 850 addresses in Forest Hill, Horton-cum-Studley, Stanton St John and Beckley.

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

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

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## Church Services in the Four Parishes, September 2020

	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
<b>6 Sep</b>	11am Parish Communion	9.30am Parish Communion	9.30am Parish Communion	11am Morning Prayer
	4pm Family Church via Zoom			
<b>13 Sep</b>		9.30am Family Service	9.30am Morning Prayer	11am Parish Communion <b>HARVEST</b>
	6pm Evening Prayer Book of Common Prayer			
<b>20 Sep</b>	11am Morning Prayer (Book of Common Prayer)	9.30am Parish Communion <b>HARVEST</b>	9.30am Parish Communion	11am Morning Prayer
	4pm Family Church via Zoom			
<b>27-Sep</b>		9.30am Morning Prayer (said)		
	11am Joint Benefice Service via Zoom			

The government made the wearing of face masks mandatory in places of worship from 8 August. We are observing social distancing and recommended hygiene precautions, and Covid-19 Risk Assessments have been completed for each of our churches. If you would like to attend a service and have any questions or concerns, please contact Anthea Beresford (details opposite). Keep an eye on our website [www.fourparishes.org.uk](http://www.fourparishes.org.uk) for any changes due to the current circumstances.

**All are welcome to join our 'Zoom' online services.** Simply get in touch with Anthea to request an invitation. If you are unsure about whether you would enjoy coming to church or just curious about what we do when we meet together for worship, this is a wonderful 'no pressure' opportunity to find out more about it.

## CHURCH NOTICE BOARD

### Annual Parochial Church Meetings and Church Electoral Roll

The **Annual Parochial Church Meetings** (APCMs) for each church will be held separately again this year. See the individual village sections for details of dates and times, and please refer to the October magazine or our new website [www.fourparishes.org.uk](http://www.fourparishes.org.uk) for the location, nearer the time.

The **Electoral Roll** is used to determine eligibility for participation in the APCM and for election to the Parochial Church Council (PCC), which is responsible for the financial affairs of the church, and the care and maintenance of the church building and its contents. If you are already on the roll for one of the churches in our four parishes, you do NOT need to complete a new form this year. If you would like your name to be added to the roll, you will need to complete a simple application form, which is available from the contacts specified in the individual village sections. To qualify for membership, you must be over sixteen, and a resident of the parish or a regular worshipper at the church concerned.

### Church Services for Children and Families

Covid-19 lockdown has presented particular challenges for children and families and, although Laura Mermet-Burnet (initially with support from Jo Allen) has managed to ensure that some families can still meet fortnightly for Family Church via Zoom, we have completely missed out on our monthly Family Services at Beckley or Stanton St John.

At last, having completed all the necessary risk assessments, we are able to meet up again as families in church. Our first Family Service is on 13 September at 9.30am in Stanton St John Church and, if it is warm and dry enough, we will hold the service outside in the churchyard. Bring a mini picnic and a rug to sit on; grown-ups should also bring a face covering in case we have to move inside.

For more information about Family Church or Family Services, please contact Rev'd Anthea Beresford:

Tel: 01865 351839

Email: [anthea@fourparishes.org.uk](mailto:anthea@fourparishes.org.uk)

## A letter from Anthea

Hi everyone,



Here we have my first Four Parishes Benefice magazine letter written in my study in the Vicarage! It is amazing to think I have been here nearly two months! It has whizzed by in a flash. But some things never change. I got absolutely soaked walking back across the fields with Bertie today, and was nearly blown away by the strong winds. I am just grateful I am not away camping as some of my friends are this weekend! They must be mad!

This is a strange time to be starting my new role! But together I think we have made a really good go of things. On the day of my arrival I was brought a box of goodies, apparently to see me through the moving-in day. Seeing the picture, I am sure you will be pleased to know it did more than that, especially as there were many other goodies that did not fit in the box! I can testify we have some great cooks amongst us! What a shame my licencing service was online with no party afterwards (although I was overwhelmed by the support!). It was probably good for our waistlines at the time, but I look forward to us celebrating when it is safe to do so.



I have had the most tremendous welcome and met many people, but I am aware there are still many to meet. Some are still shielding to keep safe. Some I have managed to see in gardens at a safe distance, which has been great. I have encountered many people and had some great conversations while out walking Bertie. We have been getting to know the local footpaths, seeing the beautiful countryside and some magnificent sunsets. We have walked to three of the four churches so far, so ought to crack the last before this time next month. There is a challenge for us!

*(continued over)*

Re-opening the churches for services on 12 July was a special day for us, despite not being allowed to worship as we would normally, especially with no singing. But people's safety is paramount and being together has been important despite the restrictions. My thanks go to all who have helped make that possible, especially with developing the required risk assessments. These are helping to ensure we are doing things safely, in accordance with guidance that is ever changing and we are gradually expanding the range of what we are doing.

I hope you have managed to enjoy some of the beautiful weather over the summer which has brought joy to many in the current difficulties.

I look forward to continuing to get to know you and for us to continue our journeys of faith together. As we do that, let us all keep safe, respecting different views as to the dangers we face, and acknowledging that each of us needs to deal with the ongoing situation in their own way.

God bless.

***Anthea***

### Four Parishes 'Virtual Choir'

Anthea's licensing service on 1 July was held via 'Zoom', with about 150 people attending. We were determined to welcome Anthea with some 'home-grown' music, so singers from the Four Parishes were invited to record themselves singing two hymns/songs (one traditional and one modern) at home, and Julia Stutfield mixed the individual voices together to sound like a choir. Derek Jewell and Peter Stutfield also recorded some music on the church organs at Beckley and Forest Hill respectively.

The age range of our 'virtual choir' was about 7 to well over 70. Everyone who did a recording claimed that it wouldn't be good enough to be included but they were always wrong and all of the singers were included in the final mix. We were so pleased with the result, that we have continued to create our own recorded music for the new monthly 'Zoom' Benefice Service.

If you enjoy singing and would like to be involved, please contact Julia Stutfield on 07766 103427 for more information.

## GENERAL

### Wheatley Library

We do not yet have a date for Wheatley library to re-open. Library users will be welcomed with pleasure to any of the libraries that are open. Headington, Thame, Oxford County (Westgate) and Cowley are probably the nearest or most convenient options.

For up to date information about library opening and the latest Covid-19 safety measures, see <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/leisure-and-culture/libraries/reopening-libraries>

### Dame Elizabeth Holford's Charity: Applications for Bursaries welcomed

The Charity was set up in 1720 when Dame Elizabeth Holford left £500 to establish a school for the children of Stanton St John and Forest Hill. The Charity came into being in 1988, following the closure of the school at what is now the Holford Centre, in Stanton St John. There were to be two Trustees appointed by Stanton St John Parish Council and two appointed by Forest Hill Village Council and the Charity invited applications for grants from school aged children and young people up to the age of 25 who are or who have parents resident in either village, for help in their educational needs.

Dame Elizabeth Holford's Charity has now been able to extend its area of benefit to include Stanton St John, Forest Hill with Shotover and now also Beckley, Horton-cum Studley and the ecclesiastical Parish of Elsfield. The Trustees hope to reach more young people from school age to under the age of 25 who might benefit from the Charity.

In the past bursaries have been granted for computer software, sporting equipment, residential courses, text books, laptops and other electronic equipment, college courses not funded by Student Finance, and music lessons. 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](mailto:Holfordtrustchair@gmail.com). You can also apply in writing to Alison Finch, 14 Mickle Way, Forest Hill, Oxford, OX33 1DX.

The next meeting of the Trustees is **Monday 21 September 2020**.

## Letter to John Howell MP from Ann A Henman, Beckley

Dear John,

*Thank you for your article in the Four Parishes News Magazine July/August of this year. As editor of our four times a year Beckley and Stowood Newsletter, I fully appreciate both the effort involved - and the need for - reporting and conversation with our representatives in government.*

*Following through with information I found in your article, I went to your website to understand more about your history and current stands. As an American now residing in England (with dual citizenship) there is always much to learn about British history and politics. I might also mention, that having reached the age of 82, I fully understand the need to represent all in your constituency, and the fact that sometimes choices have to be made using all the relevant information you can gather.*

*The issues that I spend my time and energy working on are:*

- 1) Opposing any form of the Oxford/Cambridge Expressway.*
- 2) Inclusion of land in the southern part of our Parish now in the Greenbelt - included in South Oxford Local Plan 2034 that is about to go before the inspector.*

*I have written letters, and even spoken, before the “authorities” on both issues - but people far better informed than me have also written and spoken, and the concern of so many has all too often been brushed off, buried, and with terse brevity, been labeled “nimbyism” - which for most of the public has come to mean “not in my back yard”.*

*It is not nimbyism to know that plans for new roads and expressways will increase pollution and damage needed flood plains and special areas of archeological and ecological resource. It is not nimbyism to know that just building more houses will not automatically produce housing for those who need it - in the right place - and at the right price. It is not nimbyism to recognise that if everything is left to private business (or, to colleges that now claim their reason for being is to raise the highest amount of money from sale and use of their property) - decisions based on a desire for the public good will not be made.*

*You are in my thoughts and prayers, Please let me know if there is anything I can do to continue with conversation and communication.*

## Reply from John Howell OBE MP

Dear Ann



*Thank you for your recent letter concerning planning issues.*

*Let me start with the Green Belt. You may know that I have long been a keen defender of the Green Belt. I have made my concerns on the issues within the emerging Local Plan in relation to this clear to successive administrations at SODC. However in the end it is for those proposing development on Green Belt sites to demonstrate that there are exceptional circumstances why this should be permitted. This would need to be in line with National Planning Policy as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework. I think it is right that this goes to the independent Planning Inspector for an objective view of the issues and am content to trust their judgement on the matter.*

*On the proposed Oxford-Cambridge Expressway. This was always about connectivity in the East West links in the economic programme under the umbrella of England's Economic Heartland. The reality is that the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway was only a problem at the Oxfordshire end. At the other end it formed part of much needed improvements to existing road systems which are either already underway or are coming forward in short term planning. The objections at the Oxfordshire end have been heard loud and clear and indeed the studies showed that finding a route at this end was problematic due to environmental and landscape considerations. Hence planning at this end has stopped as it has been realised that it cannot go ahead. There will be a need to look at connectivity, but greater emphasis has now been put on the rail links and the needs around existing roads such as the A34. Although I have been continually pushing for the announcement of cancellation, the net result is the same even if we have not heard that magic word. I struggle to understand why some local politicians are still going on about this, other than for their own ends.*

*I note your comments on nimbyism and this is precisely why we need a current Local Plan in place. Only with this will we have an overall strategy for housing, infrastructure, protection of green spaces and all the other strategic planning issues. Without it we are at the mercy of developers and we are already seeing that happen.*

## SODC Local Plan – Examination in Public

All the local parishes have been working very hard together to oppose the SODC Local Plan with 6 of its 7 strategic development sites in the Green Belt including Land north of Bayswater Brook (LnBB). This site spans the parishes of Elsfield, Beckley, Stanton St John and Forest Hill and abuts Sandhills and Barton. It is proposed to build 1,100 houses on two sites - Lower Elsfield and Wick Farm combined, owned by Christ Church, and Bayswater Farm owned by the Buswells and Aubrey Fletchers. This will particularly affect many parishioners who live in or next to LnBB who will have views across Green Belt fields replaced by dense housing development. All local parishioners will be affected by this development. The site is next to the important and fragile SSSI Sydlings Copse and College Pond, and it also contains important archaeology. It is supposed to include new transport infrastructure to alleviate severe traffic congestion on the ring road and Headington roundabout, either reconfiguration of the Headington roundabout or a 'Link Road/Headington roundabout bypass' running from the Elsfield/Marston junction with the ring road through the site to the A40 between Sandhills and Forest Hill. This prompted Lincoln and New Colleges to put in a proposal to 'safeguard' for future development all the land along this route with 4,500 homes proposed, destroying more Green Belt.

The Examination in Public started on Tuesday 14 July using Microsoft Teams and was streamed on the SODC YouTube channel. The Inspector, Mr Bore, also examined Oxford City's Local Plan. Members of our Group with the help of a planning consultant prepared 'Hearing Statements' on many of the 'Matters and Issues' the inspector highlighted. We also spoke at a number of hearings including LnBB. Between us we worked very well together and covered all the points.

On the morning of Friday 7 August Mr Bore gave his summing up. Although it may not be his final recommendation, he is going ahead with the whole Plan with very few modifications.

He was not going to reduce the housing numbers despite these being inflated by 5-8,000, as we need more houses. All the strategic sites are to go ahead, even though legislation to protect the Green Belt was strengthened last year. CPRE, who gave evidence said 'exceptional circumstances' for developing in

the Green Belt are becoming the norm. The Inspector was convinced that all the sites in the Green Belt around Oxford were needed to meet Oxford's 'unmet' housing need, even though this is where the Green Belt is most precious and important.

For LnBB Oxfordshire County Council and SODC had not reached any decision about the transport infrastructure to alleviate gridlock on the ring road and Headington roundabout. OCC suggested a third option to assume success of Connecting Oxford with cycle, bus and walking reducing cars with no traffic alleviation. The Inspector grabbed this idea and said it was 'the go to' option, a sustainable transport solution for LnBB. This idea has not been assessed at all and will not work. The developer was very enthusiastic as the transport infrastructure costs were so high the site was probably not viable. Current congestion at peak times has queues half way up the Bayswater Road to the Headington Roundabout and on the Elsfield Road backing up from New Marston nearly to the village and similarly for the Woodeaton Road. It is likely that local roads will become rat runs. For local residents this is the worst possible scenario.

We are investigating what action we can take against adoption of this Local Plan, since it has no democratic mandate and the current SODC administration want to revise it completely. We would ask you to sign the petition and pass this onto others - 'Stop Green Belt Destruction in Oxfordshire' <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/stop-green-belt-destruction-in-oxfordshire>

We will get some legal advice when the Inspector's report is published.

We would like to thank the Parish Councils of Beckley, Elsfield, Forest Hill, Sandhills, Stanton St John, Horton-cum-Studley and the Gresswell Environment Trust for funding our planning consultant. More information is available on the Beckley and Sandhills PC websites and the 'We love Forest Hill and Stanton Stanton St John' Facebook page.

Our Group is John Walsh, Ginette Camps-Walsh (Beckley); Lisa Buchan, Oliver de Soissons (Elsfield); Andrew Waite Brown (Forest Hill); David Adams (Sandhills); Andrew Clark (Stanton St John); Nicola Mallows (Gresswell Environmental Trust and SSJ); Angela Dickinson and others (Barton).

*Ginette Camps-Walsh*

## Oxford-Cambridge Expressway Update **NO EXPRESSWAY** Ox-Cam Arc post Covid-19 **noexpressway.org**

In July, England's Economic Heartland (EEH) launched for public consultation its Draft Transport Strategy, with responses due by 6 October 2020. Its key aims are net zero carbon transport emissions by 2050, an inclusive transport system, emphasising sustainable and active transport, and support for the regional economy by connecting people, businesses, markets and opportunities. The Oxford-Cambridge Arc remains central to these ambitions, with both new roads and railways across the region. The zero carbon aim of both these new developments, and all the already existing transport links, relies heavily on the electrification of both rail and road connections.

Kris Krasnowski, Deputy Director of the Ox-Cam Arc Unit of the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), wrote personal letters in July to the Leaders of every Local Authority across the Arc, asking them to support the delivery of the infrastructure needed "to boost connectivity and the homes of the right type in the right places ... in the Arc over the coming decades". Working with so many different Local Authorities, each of which is already delivering a Local Plan for more houses, is a far cry from what major developers have asked for across the Arc - a Ministerial-level appointment to determine, co-ordinate and direct all Arc activities.

In June, the RSPB, Wildlife and Woodland Trusts launched a much-criticised '100 Miles Wilder' campaign, offering to work with developers across the Ox-Cam Arc to save and extend wild places. "Without proper assessment", the announcement said, "government cannot know whether the area could support the current proposals and stay within environmental limits for nature, carbon and water." Unfortunately, the Wildlife Trusts themselves did not give such assessments, so it appeared that they were prepared to green-wash the Ox-Cam Arc proposals in full. There was much negative feedback from Trust members, and each website changed rather dramatically as a result!

Finally the Government's Planning White Paper in August, open for consultation until the 29 October, promises to tear up 70 years of planning legislation by introducing a three tier zoning system for land; for growth, renewal or protection, with automatic outline planning approval in designated growth areas. The implications go far beyond the Ox-Cam Arc.

*For the latest news, updates and details of upcoming events please visit [noexpressway.org](https://noexpressway.org)*

## The Maple Tree, Littleworth Road, Wheatley

*The Maple Tree is a community charity (registration no. 1174117) based in Wheatley. We serve families from Wheatley and surrounding villages, including Stanton St John, Forest Hill, Horton -cum-Studley and Beckley & Stowood. We also oversee the Forest Hill Baby & Toddler Group.*



Although The Maple Tree still remains closed, we are hoping to reopen very soon to run a limited programme.

In the meantime we continue to operate remotely. Our Facebook page and website continue to be active and there are lots of fabulous ideas to do at home with your children as well as useful links to other trusted agencies. You will find cooking videos, gardening videos and much more - <https://www.facebook.com/TheMapleTreeWheatley/>

If you or anybody else that you know has given birth during the pandemic, you are welcome to join one of our new virtual baby groups on a Wednesday morning for babies born in Oxfordshire since the 1 March 2020. These groups are very popular and we try to group parents with other parents from the same area - we already have over 90 new parents subscribed. If you would like to join us for the 10am session, email [hayley@mapletree.org.uk](mailto:hayley@mapletree.org.uk) and we will send you a zoom invite. We have also run one off courses such as Baby Sleep and Introducing Solids as well as Common Childhood Illnesses.

### Appeal for new Trustees

We are looking for more members from our local area to join our committed and friendly group of charity trustees. We are keen to recruit volunteers with a background/expertise in finance and accountancy, premises management and ICT/data collection. However, we would also welcome trustees from other backgrounds who are able to help us. If you would like more information about the Maple Tree, or a chat about what is involved in becoming a trustee, please contact Jane Lightfoot at [jane@mapletree.org.uk](mailto:jane@mapletree.org.uk). Do have a look at our website for more information: [www.mapletree.org.uk](http://www.mapletree.org.uk). Please spread the word if you know anyone who might be interested in finding out more.

If you need any kind of support, do contact us either through our Facebook page, by emailing Hayley or through our web-site.

*Hayley Hayle (Coordinator)*

## Spotlight on Local Government

*Editors' Note: councillors from all political parties have been invited to contribute to this new feature. This month we hear from **Conservative County Councillor Dan Sames**, who represents the Otmoor ward, which includes Horton-cum-Studley.*

### From Cllr Dan Sames



Since becoming the County Councillor for the Otmoor Division back in 2017 this is my first foray into the Four Parishes Magazine. The Otmoor Division covers most of the parishes surrounding Otmoor but only Horton-cum-Studley falls within the 'Four Parishes' so readers will hopefully forgive the focus on Horton-cum-Studley.

We are living in strange times at present with the ever-looming threat of Covid-19 hanging over us all. As councillors we've all had to adapt to new ways of carrying out our roles in representing the community. The biggest change has come through switching from face to face County Council and Parish Council meetings to virtual meetings. In some cases, this has made meetings much more efficient and accessible although I do miss actually talking to residents face to face. Regularly attending Parish Council meetings is an Important part of my role and if you have issues that you would like to raise, then I'm only too happy to deal with them.

Much of my work as a County Councillor involves dealing with the plethora of issues regarding our roads. Over the past 3 years I have worked closely with the Parish Council to push for road repairs and maintenance throughout the village. Together, we have ensured that Horton Hill and the Straight Mile have undergone resurfacing work. It is now time to turn our sights on the Brill Road and the Oakley Road which are both in need of fixing. Unfortunately, with better roads there are often incidents of excessive speeds from users passing through our villages. To combat this, I have used some of my Councillor Priority Fund to put towards projects to reduce incidents of speeding. Hopefully, once the impact of Covid-19 is reduced we can take action to reduce speeding.

Talking of the Priority Fund, I was really pleased that the fund was extended for another year. The fund gives councillors the opportunity to allocate funds to local projects that otherwise might not get a look in. Over the previous two years, I've been able to contribute towards many schemes within the Otmoor parishes including Horton-cum-Studley. I've also been able to contribute to wider Oxfordshire projects such as the Invicta Summer Schools and Cherwell Larder amongst other. Going forward, I hope that this fund can continue but with growing financial pressures on local government arising out of Covid and other factors it might not be sustainable.

Times are certainly going to be challenging for local authorities going forward. There is talk about reorganisation which could have significant impacts for people in Oxfordshire and financial pressures given the current economic climate could grow. I think tough decisions might need to be made by all parties at County Hall to ensure that the Council are still able to protect the most vulnerable.

All in all, though, I will continue to represent everyone and work hard for the community while I am still in office. Even though meetings are virtual, rest assured that I still make sure that I visit the parish to pick up any issues for myself. If anyone does have a specific issue that they want to raise then please do e-mail me at [Dan.Sames@Oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Dan.Sames@Oxfordshire.gov.uk).

\* \* \* \* \*

### “Knowing our Neighbours” (page 20)

This month we are, once again, celebrating one of the remarkable people living in our Four Parishes. Our aim is to focus on each village in turn, and the second article in this series is about Rowan Reavley, who runs the shop in Stanton St John. Robert Macfarlane from Horton-cum-Studley, who submitted the article to us, had the idea of writing it while helping out with local deliveries during the Covid-19 lockdown.

We do have more pieces in the pipeline, but if you have ideas about someone we should feature - in businesses, the arts, academia, healthcare or any other area - please contact Jonathan Barker: [4parishesnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:4parishesnewsletter@gmail.com).

## “Knowing our Neighbours”: Rowan Reavley

Rowan Reavley has run the village shop in Stanton St John for just over 4 years and during that time, has become a familiar face to many throughout Otmoor.

Before moving to Stanton Rowan's work was centred around law, having worked as a solicitor for a number of years. However, during this time she was having thoughts about other career options.

'I did care work and thought I wanted to become a nurse, then I decided that probably wasn't a good idea as I didn't like wounds of any sort. I came back to law but I knew I was really just doing it for the money'.

Moving to Stanton St. John for Rowan was as much about a change of career, as it was about finding an ideal place to live. 'Stanton was exactly where we wanted to live, plus there was this really nice shop!'.



It was on her many early school runs to Ickford, that she first became familiar with the Stanton St John and Otmoor area. Having lived in Risinghurst for many years prior, Rowan has long been an Oxfordshire resident. She also lived in Bicester before that but decided the distance from Oxford city centre was too inconvenient for her family's needs.

Living close to Oxford was important for Richard, Rowan's partner, who runs a bicycle sales business with an established local customer base. He also offers repairs.

Recently, they have combined their businesses so they both operate out of the Stanton village shop. 'I was doing most of Richard's accounts anyway', she explains.

Above all, Rowan values the informal and relaxed nature of running a village shop. 'I like the fact that I don't have to be very serious', she says. 'In my previous job you were expected to be serious and naturally I'm quite silly, so I was having to be this other person most of my waking hours whereas now I genuinely am me'.

She also takes great satisfaction from being able to supply people with things they regularly need. This includes daily newspapers, freshly made pastries and large varieties of essential foodstuffs. Though this can be a type of double-edged sword, as Rowan sometimes feels the pressure that comes with a high demand for her products. 'I didn't realise that actually it is quite stressful if you run out of beans if you've got somebody standing in front of you who really wants those beans and they have beans every Wednesday'.

While running the shop is a task that occupies Rowan seven days a week, the spare time she does have is largely taken up being a mother to her 8 year old daughter Hazel and her 6 month old puppy called Wilson. It's unclear which is the more demanding of the two, although Rowan says she finds Wilson can at least be well entertained by cardboard boxes and other packaging.

Otherwise, Rowan likes to relax by going on walks around the local area, usually with Wilson, and reading. The family also have a 7 year old rescue cat called Tilly.

Rowan's plans for the future of the shop include the return of indoor seating, as well as the continued expansion of the shop's range of fresh fruit and vegetables.



Additionally, Rowan is keen to keep offering a delivery service for high risk and/or cautious shoppers, which is available throughout the four parishes. The Stanton shop operated solely as a delivery service for the 2 months of lockdown between March and May.

'The beauty of this shop is that, while I have a few people for help, other than that it is just me. I wouldn't say that it was always my dream to run a village shop but I do think that I'm very lucky to be doing something where I can genuinely be me all day.'

*Robert Macfarlane, Horton-cum-Studley*

## “Notes on the Rural Landscape”: Bringing in the Harvest

Over the last few weeks I am sure many of you have either heard the low hum of the Combines, seen them driving slowly to the fields or even caught the distinctive smell of cut grain.

Our Combine is a New Holland, (yellow and blue) 350hp, with a cutter (the knife) 25 feet or 7.640 metres wide, and it can cut 50 acres in a day so we can complete harvest in days rather than weeks. Before Combines it would take a man a day to scythe an acre of wheat. Our 1950's Combine was a Ransome with an 8ft cutter, no cab, no air conditioning, no computers and no radio.

So why is it called a combine harvester and what does it do? It combines the processes of reaping (cutting) winnowing (separating the grain from the stem) and threshing



(removing the seed from the husks). The early machines started appearing in the late 19th C, but before then the corn was cut by hand with scythes, as Aidan Turner did in *Poldark*, and then it was gathered into stooks by everyone in the village to dry before being taken back to the barns to be threshed. Later the manual cutting was taken over by horse drawn cutters, but it still needed to be stoked before tractors appeared. Steam driven

Photo by Nick Dempsey



threshing machines appeared earlier, and would travel from farm to farm. Thomas Hardy features threshing machines in several of his novels as threats to rural life and the industrialisation of agriculture. However, threshing was not a job to be missed by many, as it was hard, dusty, repetitive, physically demanding work that went on until the Spring.

In 1793, when there was fire in Stanton St John, one of the reasons cited for the destruction of 21 homes and 5 barns was that everyone in the village was out in the fields helping with the harvest. Nowadays it takes one person to drive the combine, one person on corn cart (tractor and 14 tonnes trailer),

taking everything back to the barns, and someone to push up the grain in the barn. These people all still live in the village; we also enlist the help of our farming neighbours to help with the baling, as they have invested in the specialist machinery to do the job.



We have a route around the farm for harvesting, depending on the soil. We start in the field "Stanton Road", which is next to the B4027, between Stanton St John and Forest Hill, because this has the lightest soil. Its old recorded name has always been The Stone Field but now it has the old school, two houses, a car park and the recreation ground on it, we call the Forest Hill side "Stanton Road" and the field overlooked by the Talkhouse car park "Talkhouse".

The last fields to be cut are the two at the bottom of the village beyond Stanton Great Wood, where the land is very heavy. These used to be made up of several smaller fields until the demands of modern farming led to bigger fields. One is called, logically enough, Menmarsh and the other Chandlers Bottom, now shortened to just Chandlers. Tom Chandler was a farmer who lived at Mill Farm where he kept dairy cows providing milk to the village and had some of the fields "down the bottom there." When he retired and gave up his tenancy, his fields became part of Rectory Farm and the new field was called Chandlers Bottom.

We often used to start harvest in the middle of July but over the last thirty years it has got earlier. Traditionally harvest should finish on Lammas Day (1 August) and bread would be made from the new corn which was blessed and divided into quarters, each left in a corner of the barn to ward off evil spirits and protect the grain. Sometimes the last sheaf was left standing and later hung up in the church for similar reasons. These traditions have now evolved into the making of corn dollies and Harvest Festival, which is widely celebrated in churches and schools every Autumn.



*Carla Stanley, Rectory Farm*

## Memories [or How parishioners aided an organ transplant]

Recently I found a small notebook which contained 40 year old records of the building by parishioners of the organ now in St Barnabas, Horton.

By the late 1970s the old organ in Horton was showing its age. It was built around 1880 for a private house in Eastbourne by the firm of Bryceson Bros & Ellis and moved to Horton sometime before 1918. Some of this history is preserved in the present organ where the original address label can be found on one of the large wooden pipes at the back of the instrument and inside where the maker's plate is stored. Although suitable for a private house, it was never ideal for a church since the requirements for accompanying worship are totally different to those for a domestic music room. Moreover, its situation in what was designed as a vestry (*see photo*), did not allow the sound to reach the congregation. Of immediate concern was the wear and tear of the years which resulted in very noisy action. The cost of a new instrument was prohibitive so an alternative had to be found. About this time I attended a recital on the reconstructed organ at St Mary's Kidlington which had been built by the organist, Richard Vendome,



and Paul Hale with help from parishioners. This seemed a way forward and, when a redundant organ was offered by the church at Nettlebed, Richard and I went to see it. They had just bought an electronic instrument and wanted the old organ gone - quickly! For £200 and a promise to remove it within a week we became possessors of the instrument. There followed a frantic effort to move the organ, complicated by its situation in a gallery and the need to get two very heavy windchests lowered to the ground using only a mountaineering rope and a ladder. In mid-February 1980 all the pipes and other parts were transported to Horton in a hired van and stored in the church.

After approval by the Diocesan Organs Advisor, Simon Preston, the work began. The involvement of over 50 people is recorded in the notebook. Not all were from the parish and many have gone to their rest or left the area. Less than ten remain as residents. The work, confined mostly to evenings, continued over many years as it was necessary to leave the church clear for worship on Sundays. Some high spots will be remembered by those who gave unstintingly of their time and talents. My own particular favourites are of Richard balancing on a ladder and steadying a windchest as it swayed precariously on its descent from the gallery, and the late John Morrow, the village postmaster and a giant Ulsterman, standing in the middle of the building frame and supporting the same chest on his back whilst adjustments were made to the supports. These were heady days when volunteers helped in many ways including ladies who sat patiently sorting screws into sizes for reuse. The work became more technical as it progressed and the tonal finishing was done entirely by Richard. Once 'finished' the organ was opened by the late James Dalton, organist of The Queen's College, and received a good notice in the Oxford Mail. Later work has enhanced the appearance by the provision of carved panels by John Bye. There remains the need to replace the temporary shutters below the metal case pipes with a matching carved panel (*see photo for how this might appear*).



Photo: Richard Vendome

We were very fortunate to have the services of Richard Vendome who masterminded all the technical detail doing most of the work himself and providing contacts with professional organ builders who also gave freely of their advice. Inevitably, as time wore on and the pile of wood and metal in the church seemed to grow rather than diminish, we wondered if we could complete the task which we had set ourselves. However, the support of the Vicar, Fr Anthony de Vere, and Churchwardens, with the regular congregation and not a few prayers, got us through the hard times and a project involving over 50 volunteers, mostly from the parish, produced for around £2000 a worthwhile instrument which is only now requiring some work after 40 year's service.

*Gordon Curtis*

# HORTON-cum-STUDLEY

## St Barnabas

### Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) - see page 6

The APCM will take place on Wednesday 7 October. New applications to join the Electoral Roll should be received by 22 September. Contact Colin Jenkins, Electoral Roll Officer, 3 Mill Lane, Horton-cum-Studley, OX33 1DH, email [colinljenkins@freeuk.com](mailto:colinljenkins@freeuk.com), for more information and enrolment forms.

## News from St Barnabas

We are pleased to have resumed public services at St Barnabas, with Morning Prayers each Sunday at 11am throughout August, except when a virtual Benefice service was held on the fourth Sunday. Those entering the church will need to read the notices on social distancing which from 8th August included the mandatory use of face coverings.

There will be significant remedial building work at the church for a period of six weeks commencing 14 September, to replace rainwater goods and clear/replace roof tiles. Access will be limited to the church interior (not to the churchyard) only on a Sunday subject to work progressing safely.

The PCC would like to apologise for any inconvenience to parishioners, particularly those living in/near Church Lane, as there will be additional traffic and vehicles parked outside the church. If you have any concerns regarding the building work, please contact David Slings on 07850 004700 or email [stbarnabaspccchcs@gmail.com](mailto:stbarnabaspccchcs@gmail.com)

**Ride and Stride** for Churches and Chapels in Oxfordshire will be taking place on Saturday 12 September. Walk or Cycle your way round



as many churches as you can. If you would like a sponsor form or more information then please contact Lynn Whitaker 01865 358838. Funds raised help to preserve Churches by raising funds for the Oxfordshire Historic Church Trust. 50% of monies raised go to OHCT and 50% to a Church or Chapel of your choice.

It is unlikely at this stage that the **Michaelmas Fayre** will take place this year.

## Horton-cum-Studley Parish Council

The Parish Council, continues to meet remotely on the second Thursday of each month, if you would like to attend please email the Parish Clerk at [hortoncumstudleyparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:hortoncumstudleyparishcouncil@gmail.com)

The PC has recently received complaints regarding bonfires. There is no law to prevent garden bonfires, but you should always be courteous to neighbours and ensure the bonfire is not left unattended and does not get out of control. You may be fined if you allow bonfire smoke to drift across a road.

The PC has also received questions regarding the future of Magnolia Park Golf Course; Magnolia Park is up for sale. The PC has been in touch with both Cherwell and Bucks/Aylesbury Vale councillors on this topic, but currently there have been no official planning requests for the land.

The Consultation of the Cherwell District Council Local plan has commenced and ends on 14 Sept. Consultation is being undertaken to inform a review of the adopted Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031. The Council has produced a Community Involvement Paper which is subject to a six-week period of public consultation. The Paper and related documents are published at the link below and comments are invited.

At this early stage the Paper does not contain any proposals or policy options but highlights needs and issues to stimulate discussion and debate and to invite your contributions. This stage marks the commencement of a three-year process with further stages of consultation to follow where we will review the policies in the existing adopted Local Plan, the relationship to the emerging Oxfordshire Plan 2050 and the replacement of the remaining saved policies of the 1996 Local Plan.

<https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/info/83/local-plans/729/local-plan-review-2040---planning-for-cherwell-to-2040>

Parishioners can submit an individual response or send a response to the PC prior to the meeting on 10 Sept for discussion at that PC meeting prior to submission of our response.

This is your chance to be involved in shaping the future of the District.

## Transport Scheme to Islip

The Transport Scheme to take villagers to the Islip Surgery and local Hospitals (one way only) will be starting again in the near future. For further details, please contact, Jill Meyjes 01865 351496

## Horton-cum-Studley Gardening Club

More heat but I do hope we will have some productive thunder storms before the garden is dry as a crisp. Our trees (and those of our neighbours) have been laden with sweet greengages. I have stoned bags of fruit which I will use to make Nigel Slater's excellent plum cake. There must have been an amazing orchard around Brill Road. Our apples are ripening too - the handsome James Grieve apples are already dropping off the tree. These large juicy apples have a refreshing acid kick- just the thing in this heat.

Autumn has come early - the maple leaves are changing colour, Japanese anemones and even Michaelmas daisies are in flower and it is going to be an excellent year for colourful pyracantha berries. Leaf-cutter bees have been busy - look for little semicircles cut out of the leaves of your roses. The bees will have used these discs to construct their nest cells, gluing them together with saliva. I am happy to share my roses with the little bee.



I am not sure how much of our autumn programme will go ahead. Please see our website for up to date information: [www.horton-cum-studley.org.uk/community/clubs/](http://www.horton-cum-studley.org.uk/community/clubs/)

If you would like to know more about the Gardening Club, please contact the chairman, Susan Burge 01865 351310.

## Horton-cum-Studley WI News

We are still unable to anticipate when we may be able to re-start meetings and continue to follow Government and Federation guidance. We hope it won't be too long and hope that everyone is keeping well and safe in the meantime.

Please contact the committee via our Secretary, Jane Pennington (01865 358800) or President, Barbara Raleigh (01865 358955) for news or support.

## Millennium Village Hall

The hall remains closed. We will advertise a date as soon as we are allowed to use the hall again. If there are matters that anyone wishes to raise, please let me know so that I can add to the agenda for the AGM in September. The positions of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer are held for one year only and so further elections will have to be made. Current occupants are allowed to be re-elected for another year provided they are willing to stand but other nominations, together with a seconder, will be welcome. Please let me know [derek.jewell@ndm.ox.ac.uk](mailto:derek.jewell@ndm.ox.ac.uk).

*D P Jewell Chairman Millennium Hall Committee*

## Respecting our Countryside

As more people enjoy our beautiful countryside you may be aware of reports of litter and fly tipping; farm animals being chased by loose dogs, and fires, caused by campfires and BBQs, damaging the landscape. CPRE Oxfordshire and the National Farmers' Union (NFU) are encouraging everyone to follow the **Countryside Code** when getting outdoors. Details of the code, including a short 'Covid-19' version to download and print, are available on <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-countryside-code>.



Photo: Julian Money

## FOREST HILL

### Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) - see page 6

The APCM will take place on Tuesday 6 October at 7.30pm. New applications to join the Electoral Roll should be received by 21 September. Contact Pat Fraser on 01865 875879 for more information and enrolment forms.

### News from St Nicolas

St Nicolas Church continues to be open for private prayer on Wednesdays and Sundays from 11am to 6pm. On 12 July we held our first Sunday service since lockdown, observing social distancing and sanitising hands. Contact details are taken for NHS Test and Trace and during the service face coverings must be worn. The **September services are listed on page 5**, or visit our website at [www.stnicolasforesthill.org](http://www.stnicolasforesthill.org)

### Ride and Stride, Saturday 12 September

**A message from Pat Fraser, Churchwarden, St Nicolas:** *For some years I have taken part in Ride and Stride, a fundraiser for Oxfordshire Historic Church's Trust, and for St Nicolas Church, the money I raise being divided between the two. Due to Covid-19, we are not completely sure if the event will go ahead this year but, if it does not, I will still ride for St Nicolas, as we have missed out on a lot of our fundraising this year. I plan to put a sponsor form on the church porch notice board. If you would like to make a donation, add your name, and I will then contact you as to how you can pay.*

Anyone else who wishes to take part can obtain entry forms and more information from Jane Walker 01865 872399, [lyttleton@btinternet.com](mailto:lyttleton@btinternet.com)

**Harvest Festival 4 October**, more information in the October Newsletter.

**Cream Teas** have not taken place this summer but put Sunday 27 September in your diary for the possibility of the last event of the season, 3 - 5pm. Look out for posters in the village or check the St Nicolas website [www.stnicolasforesthill.org](http://www.stnicolasforesthill.org)

**Our Produce Stall** continues outside Lyttleton, Main Street, Saturdays 9am - 5pm. until the end of October, raising funds for the upkeep of St. Nicolas Church.

## Forest Hill with Shotover Parish Council

The South Oxfordshire Local Plan has now completed the four-week inspector's consultation. The parish council made statements at the virtual hearing of Strat 13, Land North of Bayswater Brook (LnBB). The Parish Council continues to work with neighbouring parishes to object to the destruction of our local Green Belt. More details can be found on the two-page update within this Newsletter.

The council are pleased that as we move slowly out of lockdown, our public facilities start to open up again. We want to remind all those using the rec to follow the current social distancing guidelines. We would particularly like to draw attention to the children's play area, which is a high contact area. We ask all parents/guardians to ensure that the guidelines at the entrances for this area are followed. These guidelines help us to mitigate the risk that the virus still presents and ensures the safety of all those that use the equipment. Failure to follow the guidelines could result in the play area being closed again. The Parish Council would like to thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

The Parish Council has continued to conduct council business remotely during the lockdown. Residents are welcome to join the meetings. If you would like to attend a meeting via Zoom or have issues you would like raised on your behalf please contact the clerk.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 24 September, at 7pm. Agendas, with planning application details and minutes will be posted on the website [www.parish-council.com/foresthillwithshotover](http://www.parish-council.com/foresthillwithshotover) and on the main notice board outside the Village Hall.

You can contact Helen Cross, the Parish Council Clerk, tel: 0844 884 3328, (9am-5pm ) or email: [theclerk@foresthillwithshotover-pc.org.uk](mailto:theclerk@foresthillwithshotover-pc.org.uk)

## Maple Tree Baby and Toddler Group at Forest Hill

The baby and toddler group in Forest Hill village hall remains closed, but meanwhile The Maple Tree are doing as much as possible to support parents and carers of young children with online activities and advice (see page 15 for more details). If you would like to be kept informed about any plans for reopening, please contact Julia Stutfield on 07766 103427.

## BECKLEY

### Beckley Church

Please see page 5 for details of all church services during September, or visit our new website [www.fourparishes.org.uk](http://www.fourparishes.org.uk).

### Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) - see page 6

The APCM will take place on Wednesday 14 October at 7.30pm. New applications to join the Electoral Roll should be received by 29 September. Contact John Baker (Secretary Beckley PCC) tel. 01865 351514, email [johnbaker245@btinternet.com](mailto:johnbaker245@btinternet.com) for more information and enrolment forms.

### Ride and Stride, Saturday 12 September



This annual sponsored event is the main source of funding for Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust, which gives grants for repairs and improvements to churches and chapels of all denominations in the county. Beckley church received a generous grant in 2010 for stonework repairs. 50% of the money you raise can be passed on to a church of your choice, and the remainder is kept by the Trust to enable it to continue to give grants where needed. Do give it a try! It's not too late to find sponsors and join in. For more information, go to [www.ohct.org.uk/ride-stride](http://www.ohct.org.uk/ride-stride), or contact Gina Robson 01865 351637

### Beckley Village Hall

The Covid-19 crisis resulted in the closure of our Hall following Government legislation requiring us to do so. We have worked closely with Community First, the Oxfordshire arm of the national charity ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) to develop what is considered to be a sensible basis for re-opening, following evolving Government guidelines. This has involved the Hall Committee carrying out our own risk assessment; putting in place the associated measures ourselves; providing an addendum to our hire terms to require hirers to take additional measure in relation to the nature of their own planned activities and ensuring that none of this breaches our insurance terms. We have run pilot hires with trusted hirers to test the procedures and, as a result, we are opening the Hall for general hire from 1 September.

We are all going through a learning process in how to deal with this virus and we will continue to adapt our procedures and potentially our hire terms in the light of further experience and of any changes to Government regulations. These measures have increased our costs and dictated a one-hour time gap between paid hires in order to allow for cleaning and to avoid overlap between departing and arriving hirers. However, we have for the moment decided to keep our hire charges unchanged. We would encourage potential hirers to take advantage of what remains a very attractive and award-winning Hall in the knowledge that the Trust has taken great care to seek to ensure a Covid free environment. To book the hall contact booking secretary [booking@beckleyvillagehall.org](mailto:booking@beckleyvillagehall.org).

*Geoff Mills, Chair*

## Beckley and Stowood Parish Council

**The September PC** meeting will be held on Thursday 3 September at 8pm at Beckley Village Hall. Parish Council information, including agendas, minutes and planning applications are available on the website [www.beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk](http://www.beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk). The Clerk's email address is [clerk@beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@beckley-and-stowood-pc.gov.uk) if you wish to contact the Parish Council.

**Tennis Court and Playground** – The children's playground, green spaces and tennis court are all open for use. Please follow government guidance on social distancing and if the open spaces are busy, you should not use them. Please take your litter home.

**The Otmoor Flyer** – The bus service has resumed on Tuesdays and Fridays in Beckley. Please see notices on the High Street and Village Hall noticeboards and on the Beckley website. Tickets available from the Abingdon Arms. Seats must be booked in advance.

**Fix My Street:** find and report road or street problems at [www.fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk)

**Reminder from the Parish Council:** Please clean up after your dog and dispose of bagged waste in the dual-waste litter bin on the playing field.

**Beckley Bonfire and Firework Night**, planned for Saturday 7 November has been CANCELLED for this year due to Covid-19 restrictions on events.

## Beckley & Area Community Benefit Society

The Abingdon Arms is open again, serving meals and drinks every day, with necessary distancing and hygiene measures in place. Takeaways are available lunchtimes and evenings, and a wood-fired pizza oven is being installed!

### Good Neighbour Scheme

The BACBS Good Neighbour Scheme (GNS) is still up and running! Now that the Covid lockdown is easing and people are able to get about more, it is likely that lifts will be needed again to Islip Surgery, Headington roundabout etc. We can also deliver take-aways from The Abingdon Arms, prescriptions from Islip surgery, and items from the Stanton Shop if required. The BACBS GNS serves residents of Beckley, Elsfield, Stanton St John and Forest Hill.

To request a lift either ring 07514 791910 (if there is no reply, please leave a message with your number and one of the drivers will call you back), or email [BACBSgoodneighbour@gmail.com](mailto:BACBSgoodneighbour@gmail.com). Passengers are asked to pay a mileage charge (45p per mile, rounded to nearest 50p) to cover fuel expenses. If there are concerns about social distancing, then the driver will wear a mask and car windows will be opened - unless there are medical reasons not to, we'd be grateful if passengers would wear masks too.

### Even More than a Pub programme - see <https://bacbs.org/events>

Sun 13 Sep, 6.30-7.30pm. Talk: *'Does sleep really "knit up the raveled sleeve of care"?' - Sleep and its disorders'* - John Stradling, Emeritus Professor of Respiratory Medicine, University of Oxford

Sun 20 Sep, 2.30pm: *'A walk to inspire...'* - A walk around Beckley, taking in points of historical, literary and social significance to inspire conversation and, perhaps, poetry.

Sun 27 Sep, 6.30-7.30pm. Poetry reading: *""Going wonderways" - In the steps of John Keats: poems about walking'* - Next Step poetry group, Oxford. Participants are invited to read their own poem or a favourite poem by another poet on the broad theme of 'walking'.

### Local walk routes

To complement our small folding map, BACBS has produced a booklet of walks in the area which combines outline maps, route notes and points of interest. For sale at The Abingdon Arms and Stanton St John, Rectory Farm, Field View Farm and Islip shops.

## STANTON ST JOHN

### Stanton Church

Services resumed after lockdown with Said Evening Prayer on 14 July at St John's. During July we continued with this pattern on Tuesday evenings, to coincide with the open gardens at College House. It was wonderful to link in with Nikki Mallows generous hospitality to the village.

We resumed Sunday services on 2 August with Said Morning Prayer, as singing is not yet allowed in Church, and we celebrated Communion together on 16 August. It has been wonderful worshipping together again, despite the social distancing and face coverings required. All requisite risk assessments were carried out before services resumed.

We look forward to re-starting Family Services in September. We plan to hold our first Family Service at Stanton outside in the churchyard (see page 6 for more details). Less agile people may like to bring a deck chair if the weather is fine, although there are limited numbers of chairs at church that will be available for those unable to bring their own. We are pleased to be resuming this important part of our church life, especially welcoming young families. Please note the mini picnics will not be shared due to current Covid-19 restrictions, but will be used as an illustration during the service.

### Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) - see page 6

The APCM will take place on Thursday 15 October at 8pm. New applications to join the Electoral Roll should be received by 30 September. Contact Sue Baker on [susanjbaker24@gmail.com](mailto:susanjbaker24@gmail.com) for more information and enrolment forms.

### Ride and Stride, Saturday 12 September



This is an annual event, taking place this year on 12 September. St John's will be taking part in this, but the Church will not be open as there is a wedding on. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, there will also be no refreshments this year.

## Stanton St John Parish Council

This summer progresses with a strange mixture of heatwave, storms and of course our ever present concerns with Covid-19. Therefore, let us try to be considerate to each other and to the environment in as many ways as possible.

### Dog fouling

The village is very fortunate to be surrounded by some very beautiful countryside and views. However, it can be difficult to enjoy the scenery when looking out for dog faeces much of the time. The vast majority of dog owners are careful and considerate enough to clear up after their pet. We ask every dog owner to have the same respect and consideration for fellow residents and visitors. Dog fouling is not only unpleasant it is against the law. Please visit the following website for more information on dog fouling and the law:

<https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/faqs/advice/dog-fouling-and-law>

### Garden bonfires

Please be considerate and careful if you choose to set a bonfire, remember that smoke and odours travel well beyond physical boundaries and may be causing discomfort and distress to those with breathing issues. Remember too those having a sunny day spoiled because they have to stay indoors to avoid the smoke and smell. Garden waste can be composted and does not have to be burned. For more information on the legal guidelines regarding garden bonfires please visit this website: <https://www.gov.uk/garden-bonfires-rules> There are of course more serious legal considerations concerning the burning of commercial waste especially if toxic smoke is generated as a consequence

### Village Hall Car Park and Playground

The village hall car park and playground are both now open. Please observe the notice on the entrance to the playground and follow the guidance given. Also note that width restriction bollards have been installed at the entrance to the village hall car park: just be a little careful when entering and exiting.

### Building work

Summer is the time when much building work takes place. We ask those carrying out such work to be considerate to others likely to be affected by their activities. Reproduced below is SODC's current guidance on the subject:

*Businesses and construction sites can be the source of noise problems for residents, but we recognise that certain activities will generate noise and that there are often no other reasonable alternatives*

*Construction workers should follow a code of practice that details measures to help keep noise to a minimum. Noisy construction activities should only be carried out during reasonable hours, which we broadly define as:*

*07:30 to 18:00 from Monday to Friday*

*08:00 to 13:00 on Saturdays*

*no noisy works on Sundays and Bank Holidays.*

It is important to note that construction work is usually only temporary, and it will eventually stop. However, in some cases the council can impose restrictions on the way which work is carried out, including controlling hours on site and setting noise limits.

## Coffee Morning / Women's Supper Group / WI

Unfortunately, it is still not possible to predict when we might be able to restart the above get-togethers in Stanton St John. We await further Government guidance for "group" activities, especially indoors - but let's hope we can get together again soon. Fingers crossed for further safe lifting of restrictions. Stay well everyone!

\* \* \* \* \*

**Oxford Farmhouse**  **Apple pressing**

We would love to press your unwanted apples and pears to make award-winning juice again this year. Due to Covid, please call to arrange a time, or if you have any questions.

 **Andrew & Mandy Myatt**  
07941 072071  
[www.oxfordfarmhouse.org](http://www.oxfordfarmhouse.org)





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Map created by Ginette Camps Walsh showing 'Land north of Bayswater Brook' site boundary, the link roads and the proposed Lincoln and New College extension (see p. 10)

**SCHEMATIC MAP OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT LAND NORTH OF BAYSWATER BROOK**

