

# *The Four Parishes News Magazine*

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



The BIG potato Weigh-In, Horton-cum-Studley, October 2024

*November 2024*

## The editor writes



As usual, I am sitting down to write this introduction with absolutely no idea of what I plan to say! 2024 seems to be rushing past with ever increasing speed and I can hardly believe that the magazine is full of dates, advertisements, and notifications of events that are all to do with celebrating Christmas.

Please don't think that I am complaining! Once again, it is clear that we are part of a vibrant and active community and we have plenty of things to look forward to. Some of the events and activities listed here have become traditional over the years, but others are new.

We are also delighted to welcome another new advertiser this month, while others have renewed their bookings into next year, which is something to celebrate.

As well as information about events, there is the usual mix of interesting short articles, including a fascinating glimpse of what life was like at Beckley School in the mid 1890s (see page 14). As always, I am extremely grateful to all our contributors, including the co-ordinators for the 'Village pages' and the people who provide them with material.

I hope everyone will find something to enjoy in this month's magazine.

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 taken by Jenna Zan from Horton-cum-Studley. See page 29 for the results of the BIG Weigh-In on 6 October 2024!*

**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)**

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

Vicar: Reverend Anthea Beresford

[anthea@fourparishes.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.fourparishes.org.uk/magazine).*

**The closing date for the Dec 2024/Jan 2025 issue is 15 November 2024**

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

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

**Beckley** Judith Rawlinson [judithrawlinson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:judithrawlinson@hotmail.co.uk)

**Forest Hill** Stephanie Kitchen 07966 045144  
[stephanie.kitchen@btopenworld.com](mailto:stephanie.kitchen@btopenworld.com)

**Horton-cum-Studley** Carol Welch 01865 358122 [carol\\_welch20@hotmail.com](mailto:carol_welch20@hotmail.com)

**Stanton St John** Sue Baker 01865 351449 [susanjbaker24@gmail.com](mailto:susanjbaker24@gmail.com)

## 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.

### Ministry Team

#### *Vicar*

**Reverend Anthea Beresford**

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

Tel: 01865 351839    Mob: 07876 527514

#### *Associate Priests*

**Reverend Hugh Lee**

[hugh.lee@btinternet.com](mailto:hugh.lee@btinternet.com)    Tel: 01865 316245

**Reverend Stephanie Bullock**

[stephaniebullock9@gmail.com](mailto:stephaniebullock9@gmail.com)

#### *Licensed Lay Ministers*

**Betty Dye**

[betty.dye10@gmail.com](mailto:betty.dye10@gmail.com)

**Canon Prof. Nicholas Orme**

[n.i.orme@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:n.i.orme@exeter.ac.uk)

### Churchwardens

#### **Beckley**

Georgina Robson

Tel: 01865 351637

[ginarobson5@gmail.com](mailto:ginarobson5@gmail.com)

#### **Forest Hill**

Jane Walker

Tel: 01865 872399

[lyttleton@btinternet.com](mailto:lyttleton@btinternet.com)

Pat Fraser

Tel: 01865 875679

[triciaann49@gmail.com](mailto:triciaann49@gmail.com)

#### **Horton-cum-Studley**

Andrew Payne    Tel: 01865 351018    [stbarnabas.churchwardenpayne@gmail.com](mailto:stbarnabas.churchwardenpayne@gmail.com)

Julia Slingo    Tel: 07766 659524    [stbarnabas.churchwardenslingo@gmail.com](mailto:stbarnabas.churchwardenslingo@gmail.com)

#### **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, November 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
<b>3 November</b> <i>All Saints' Day</i>	<b>11am</b> Holy Communion	<b>9.30am</b> Holy Communion	<b>9.30am</b> Holy Communion	<b>11am</b> Morning Prayer
	<b>4pm</b> Children's Church at St Nicolas, Forest Hill			
	<b>6pm</b> Church Without Walls at Stanton St John Village Hall			
	<b>6pm</b> All Souls Service at Stanton St John Church			
<i>All Souls</i>				
<b>10 November</b> <i>Remembrance Sunday</i>	<b>10.45am</b> at War Memorial followed by Morning Prayer	<b>10.45am</b> at War Memorial with Morning Prayer	<b>10.45am</b> Remembrance Service of Holy Communion	<b>10.45am</b> Remembrance Service of Morning Prayer
	<b>4pm</b> Crafty Church at Stanton St John Village Hall			
<b>17 November</b> <i>2nd Sunday before Advent</i>	<b>11am</b> BCP Morning Prayer	<b>9.30am</b> Holy Communion		<b>11am</b> Holy Communion
	<b>6pm</b> Iona Service at Beckley			
<b>24 November</b> <i>Christ the King Sunday Next before Advent</i>	<b>10am</b> Benefice Service of Holy Communion at Forest Hill			
	<b>3pm</b> Family Church does Forest Church at Bernwood Forest, Horton-cum-Studley			
	<b>6pm</b> Taizé Service on Zoom			

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

Further information about activities for children and families in the Four Parishes can be found at <https://www.fourparishes.org.uk/children-and-families>.

## A letter from Anthea

Hi everyone,



This morning the Vicarage feels odd! I have a friend staying for a few days, and as I am working, they are at a loose end, so, as they are a great dog lover, and love the outdoors, they have taken Bertie for a walk. That may sound insignificant, but it feels odd being here in the Vicarage on my own, knowing that Bertie is not either behind me in his bed or in his place on the sofa, or lying at my feet, under the desk. Of course, I know

he will be home soon, and I know he will be having a ball, running around the fields, splashing in the puddles, getting covered in mud, perhaps meeting old and new friends, without a care in the world. But I can feel his absence! I cannot hear his gentle breathing. Or his not so gentle breathing! There is no sound of his flapping ears as he has a shake. There is no warmth of his body as he lies on my feet.



I am fortunate, as I know this absence will soon pass. I know that he will soon come bounding home. Probably caked in mud, tired, but delighted to see me, and me him. But this brief absence has triggered in my mind the pain of loss of loved ones. I think I have made this connection subconsciously as I have on my mind a funeral I went to last week, a funeral I am involved in arranging, and as I think ahead into this month, a month full of 'remembering'.

The loss of loved ones is on my mind, and Bertie's absence, brief as it is, brought into my mind the feeling of emptiness, the feeling of loss, and some of those little things we miss – the unconscious knowledge of the loved one's presence, the gentle sound of their breathing, together of course, with the big things, as we lose those we love. We miss the ever-constant knowledge of their presence, whether they are in the room with us, whether they have popped out to do something, or whether they live far away, and we see them only rarely. We have comfort, knowing that they are there, somewhere. And it seems a reminder to me to cherish our times together.

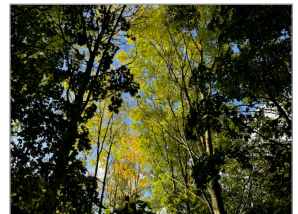
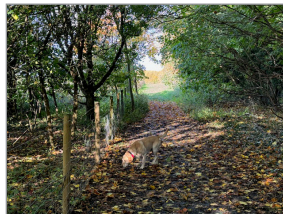
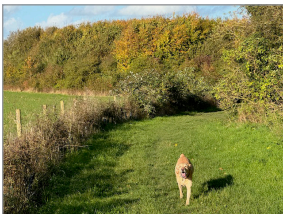
Losing our loved ones is painful and long lasting. It is nothing like them popping out for a while – my reference to Bertie on his walk simply sparked the thoughts in my mind. I am delighted he is back home, wagging his tail, covered in mud and delighted to see me, just as I imagined. When a loved one dies, we no longer have that ‘happy ending’ to their absence to look forward to. We spend the rest of our lives adjusting to their absence. Hopefully, the raw pain begins to diminish, but this can take time, even years. Hopefully, we can begin to get through the deep, deep sadness and loss, and begin to remember the good times shared. Hopefully, over time, we can begin to adjust our lives to bear the weight of loss – never forgetting, always having a ‘that person shaped hole’ in our lives, but not being so borne down by the sheer pain of loss.

On 3 November we have service at 6pm in Stanton St John Church where we have an opportunity to remember our loved ones who we see no longer. This is a special time when we remember them by name, when we light a candle in their memory, and perhaps when we begin to dare to speak their name, amidst the pain of our loss. For more information about this, please see page 8. All are welcome, whether your loss is recent or long ago. May this provide a special place for remembering.

As we continue our ‘remembering’, we also have our Remembrance Sunday services around the Four Parishes (see page 5 for more details), and the ‘Far from Home’ concert in Forest Hill (see page 25 for more details).

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.

### All Souls': Stanton Church, Sunday 3 November at 6pm

All Souls' is the time in the Church calendar when we remember and give thanks to God for loved ones no longer with us. There will be a short reflective service, when loved ones can be remembered by name, or in the silence of your hearts. There will be refreshments afterwards, and a chance for a chat if you would like to.

Many of us have lost loved ones recently who we would like remembered. Others have lost loved ones some time ago, and still their loss is painful to bear. This is an opportunity to remember before God, by name, loved ones we have loved, but no longer see, whether that is recently or longer ago. Please do think about joining us.

If you are able to attend in person, that is wonderful, but if you would like someone remembered, and cannot attend, please do not worry, they can still be remembered on the day, and a candle lit in their memory. Whether or not you can attend, would you please let Anthea know the names of loved ones you would like remembered, and their names will be read out during the service. Anthea's contact details are on pages 4 and 11.

### Celebrating Harvest across the Four Parishes

Thank you to all those involved in decorating the Churches across the Four Parishes for the harvest services, making them look especially beautiful and festive. Thank you also to all those who donated harvest gifts which went to food banks or a soup kitchen.

Beckley School celebrated harvest in Beckley Church while it was still beautifully decorated. It was lovely to have the whole school together, and to have parents and grandparents there as well. The children brought harvest gifts which were added to those already collected in Church. These were all given to Kidlington Food Bank where they were gratefully received.

Tufted Ducks (Reception Class) sang a favourite harvest song they had learnt, Little Egrets (years 1 and 2) read an acrostic poem for harvest,



Lapwing (years 3 and 4) showed some harvest art they had done, and Hobby (years 5 and 6) read harvest poems they had written. The whole school had learnt two harvest songs which they sang beautifully. The Acting the Bible team acted out the story of Ruth and involved the children as usual. The service finished with prayers and a blessing, and everyone joined in singing a well-loved traditional hymn ('We plough the fields and scatter'), accompanied by the church organ. This was a delightful occasion.

### Advent challenge and beyond

I hope you are still journeying with me, as we really are nearly there now. We are doing really well. Please do not give up now!

For November, for the Old Testament, we need to finish Jeremiah, read the whole of Lamentations (only five chapters!), and up to chapter 39 of Ezekiel. For the New Testament we need to finish Titus, read Philemon (one chapter only!), the whole of Hebrews, James, and 1 Peter, and up to chapter 2 of 2 Peter.

As I have said before, whilst I appreciate this probably sounds rather daunting, it is no harder than any other month we have already conquered. Let's keep going and continue to encourage one another. We can do this! Only one month to go after this! Please do let me know how you get on.

### Ongoing midweek activities on Zoom

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

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

### Book Group

We will be starting a new book in November, so this may be a good time to join us if you have been thinking about doing so. At the time of going to print we had not decided what we will be reading, but if anyone would like to join us, please do get in touch with me. All are welcome.

## 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 please contact Annie Payne by email at [anniefpayne@gmail.com](mailto:anniefpayne@gmail.com).

## Dates for diary for children and family church activities

The activities listed below are open to everyone from our four villages and beyond, and will particularly appeal to families with children of primary school age or even younger.

For more information about the individual activities, see <https://www.fourparishes.org.uk/children-and-families>.

Date	Activity	Location
Sunday 1 November 4-4.30pm	Children's Church	St Nicolas Church, Forest Hill
Friday 8 November 3.30-4.30pm	Children's Craft Workshop	Beckley Church
Sunday 10 November 4-5pm	Crafty Church	Stanton St John Village Hall
Sunday 24 November 3-4pm	Family Church does Forest Church	Bernwood Forest, Horton-cum-Studley
Sunday 1 December 4-5pm	Children's Christingle and St Nicolas Day Celebration	St Nicolas Church, Forest Hill
Sunday 8 December 4-5pm	Christmas Party	Stanton St John Village Hall

## Children's Craft Workshop, Friday 8 November, 3.30-4.30pm

The Children's Craft Workshops are held in **Beckley Church**. They are aimed at primary school children and are run by the 'Acting the Bible' and 'Crafty Church' teams – but you do not need to have attended either of those to come and join in the fun. There is no need to book, but children must be accompanied by an adult please. There will be light refreshments.

Please do come along to the **Remembrance Workshop on Friday 8 November**. All are welcome. Bring a friend!

## Prayers for Peace

As the war continues in Ukraine, with the awful situation in the Middle East, 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 November across the Four Parishes as follows:

<b>Beckley</b>	<b>6 and 16</b>
<b>Forest Hill</b>	<b>9 and 27</b>
<b>Horton-cum-Studley</b>	<b>13 and 23</b>
<b>Stanton</b>	<b>2, 20 and 30</b>

## Private devotion during Advent

Advent does not begin until 1 December, but the December Magazine is rather late to advertise in time for this. There are many different books that are designed for use during Advent. I have two suggestions this year, but you may have a favourite you go to, or one that has been sitting on your bookshelf begging to be read for some time.

My Advent Challenge for this year will be reading the Gospel of Luke, as that is the Gospel for the coming year (more of that in the December magazine). So, alongside the reading of the Gospel of Luke, you may like to read: *Advent for Everyone: A Journey Through Luke* by Tom Wright. The other is *An Advent of Days: Meeting the Characters of Christmas* by Gregory K Cameron. If you would like me to get either of these books for you, please do let me know in good time so you have it for the start of Advent on 1 December. They cost in the region of £5 and £10 respectively.

**For more information about any of the items on pages 8 - 11 of the magazine, please contact me, Anthea Beresford.**

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

Telephone: 01865 351839

Mobile: 07876 527514



## ‘Crossing the Red Sea’ at Beckley School

It’s 8.30 on a Thursday morning and the 5 members of the ‘Acting the Bible’ team, led by Betty Dye, are arriving to set up in the hall at Beckley School. The children who come to Breakfast Club are sitting at a table eating or playing games and the team has a quick discussion about the stage layout for this week’s performance. The ‘Crossing of the Red Sea’ is an epic story on a very wide canvas, which we haven’t dared attempt before, but we have put a lot of thought into writing and reviewing the script, and we trust that the children’s imagination will supply the rest.

Adults will play the parts of the Narrator, Moses, Aaron and Miriam. God will be read by an older pupil who has acted with us before. There are small parts for up to 8 Israelites, and a seated Chorus, all of which are written for pupils. We manage to recruit some children from the Breakfast Club, including one from the youngest class, who is given a non speaking part. Betty has brought two pieces of blue/grey cloth for the Red Sea and enough costumes for everyone except the Chorus, most of whom will arrive on the school bus with minutes to spare.

The scripts are handed around and Betty gathers everyone together for a short prayer. Then we start the first run-through. We only have one person in the Chorus so far and there is a lot of moving around for everyone else. ‘Aaron’ and ‘Miriam’ need to convey to the watching children that they are being pursued by a mighty and terrifying enemy and now they are trapped between the soldiers and a huge sheet of water. As potential Chorus members gradually arrive, they are handed a script and asked to join in with their lines at the right place “Trapped, trapped etc...!”. The parts in the scripts are colour coded, which helps a bit, but it is still quite a tall order. We still only have 4 ‘Israelites’ so they will have to say 2 lines each. There are also some complicated logistics to sort out, involving Flash Cards to trigger wind noises from the children and ‘God’ parting the Red Sea at exactly the right moment!

We are part way through the third run-through when the ‘audience’ starts to arrive. Everyone retires to their starting places and gets ready to immerse themselves in the story. The children watch with rapt attention and we are reminded yet again why we put ourselves through this.

For more information see <https://www.fourparishes.org.uk/atb>.

# GENERAL

## Christmas Trees for Sale

All profits to Friends of Beckley School



The Friends of Beckley School are delighted to be selling Christmas trees again this year in order to raise money for our school. The trees are sourced from a sustainable plantation in Scotland and are premium quality Nordmann Fir (non-drop) trees.

If you would like to purchase a tree please use the order form enclosed with this magazine to place your order **before 5pm on Wednesday 27 November**. Alternatively, email Jenny Goad at [BeckleyFOBS@gmail.com](mailto:BeckleyFOBS@gmail.com) with your tree size, name, email, phone number and how you will be paying for your tree. You will receive a confirmation email or phone call once your order has been received.

Collection will be from Millennium Hall, Horton-cum-Studley on **Saturday 7 December (9.30am-1pm)**.

All the monies raised from sales will be used for resources and activities to enrich the learning of children at Beckley School. Many thanks for your support.  
*Kate, Jenny and the FOBS committee*

## ARTWEEKS Christmas Sale

Paintings, prints, textiles, woodwork,  
ceramics, cards, art kits & more  
all by local artists

Friday 6th December 6 - 9pm  
Saturday 7th December 11am - 4pm

Stanton St John village hall



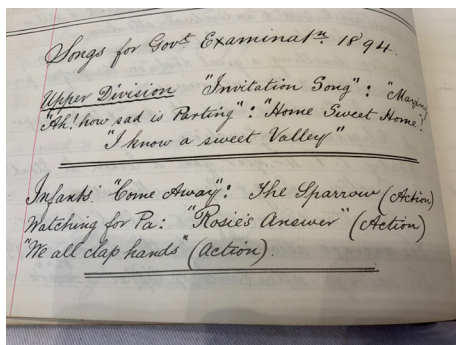
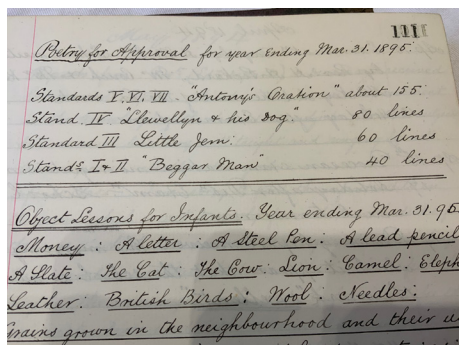
## Beckley Village School's Recent Historical Discoveries by Helen Weinstein with photos showing the Headteacher, Rick Houston, and Teaching Assistant, Kate White, holding up Victorian school records.

Local historian Helen Weinstein has been doing detective work to help Beckley Village School uncover their history, and has found school log books at the school plus a wealth of accompanying old photographs and plans in the Oxfordshire History Centre at Cowley.



The log books about Beckley Village School are written by the Headteachers and are fascinating. They show that the teachers and children were often inspected and examined and they were obsessed with attendance, with 96 children enrolled for the school year 1894 to 1895 but the Headteacher was upset if pupils were absent because of bad colds, or wet weather prevented pupils from walking distances, or school attendance was bad at harvesting time as this meant many children were helping in the fields instead of coming to school.

What is wonderful to see in the beautiful handwriting of Mr Tossell, the Headteacher in 1894/95 is how broad the curriculum actually was, with arithmetic and grammar lessons enriched with songs and poetry chosen every term for each class, plus "Object lessons" for children to learn about nature like "British Birds" and the "Grains Grown" locally but also "Mountains and Volcanoes of the World" and even "Rivers of Russia".



It was really touching to read about the preparations for when the new school was being built with a special day of celebration when the Bishop of Oxford came to lay the foundation stone for the “new” school on 18 April 1895. The children processed from their old school building to the new one and “each laid one brick at the east end on each side of the foundation stone”.



It is lovely to see the stone now at the front of the school hall and know that the children of 129 years ago were involved in the building of their new school room!

### **Dame Elizabeth Holford’s Charity: Applications for Bursaries Welcomed**

The Charity grants educational bursaries for 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.

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 trustees are meeting next on Monday 25 November.**

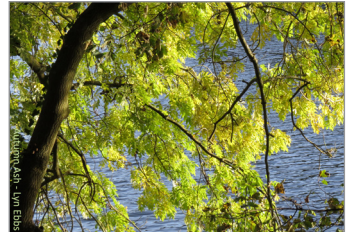
# The Many Colours of Autumn

by Lyn Ebbs

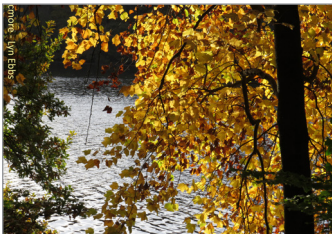
The autumn colour of our deciduous trees is one of the compensations of the transition from summer to winter, but why does it happen? Because the leaves are dying is an over-simplification and doesn't explain why the leaves go from green to yellow and red. And why do trees need to drop their leaves at all?

The fall in sunlight and the drop in night temperatures is what triggers autumn colour to develop. And trees have more complicated lives than you might imagine. Like other plants, they use photosynthesis: the conversion of energy from the sun's rays into food by making sugars from carbon dioxide and water. As days shorten, the amount of sugar generated by photosynthesis drops off, and hormones in the plant trigger the leaf sealing and shedding process.

A green leaf is green because of the presence of the pigment, chlorophyll, which enables photosynthesis to take place by absorbing light from the opposite, red end of the spectrum. There is a continuous turnover of chlorophyll during the growing season, so its level stays high, the leaves stay green and its abundance masks the colours of any other pigments present. In environments where resources like sunlight, water, and nutrients are plentiful, building lots of thin leaves which can collect large amounts of solar energy is a good strategy. In these conditions, deciduous trees thrive and only need to shed their leaves once the growing season ends.



As summer comes to an end, the leaves are less of an asset to other parts of the tree and become a liability. Another leaf function is to draw water from the roots to the top of the canopy, but as temperatures fall, low water is wanted in twigs and branches to reduce the risk of wet tissues freezing. Many tree species start lowering their moisture content as early as July. Though shedding leaves every year seems costly both in loss of carbon and nutrients, by discarding leaves trees also avoid





the damaging force of winter storms.

As well as this traditional belief that trees shed their leaves in autumn because the costs of keeping them outweigh the benefits from photosynthesis, there are newer theories for why they switch colour before they fall. In autumn, as the days shorten and temperatures fall, chlorophyll is replaced at a slower rate. This reveals other pigments, that were hidden by the presence of the dominant green chlorophyll, to show through. These include yellow flavonols and orange carotenoids.

However, there is another group of pigments called anthocyanins, which are actively made at the end of the season, and are red and purple in colour. The theories are that these pigments have beneficial effects. Among them is that light is more damaging in the fluctuating temperatures of autumn and these pigments absorb damaging blue and ultra-violet wave-lengths. Another is that they protect against overwintering aphids and act as a warning signal to the insects – a common function of red colouration. Another signal theory is as an attractant – a message to birds that the tree has nutritious berries.



Other, hormonal, changes are taking place in autumn. During the active growing season, production rates of a hormone, auxin, are spread throughout the tree. But with shorter, cooler days, auxin production in leaves starts to decrease. This in turn produces changes in the layer of cells where the leaf stalk joins the stem. A steady level of auxin keeps the leaf attached to the stem, but its loss creates fractures in this layer allowing the leaf to break away from the plant.



A combination of factors dictates how showy autumn colour will be. Warm and dry with colder nights is the best combination. In a mild, wet autumn, the whole process is much slower, so leaves are often completely brown before they fall and individual trees, even single leaves, change colour at different times, reducing the whole spectacle.

*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.*

## Oxford Bus Company: Bus 108

This submission is from the 108 Bus Support Group in The Four Parishes made to Oxfordshire County Council regarding the tendering for the new contract to run the 108.

Firstly, the group would like to express their delight and thanks that we have been fortunate enough to have this new service in our area.

All local reports indicate that this route is extremely popular and well used. This is also borne out by the figures of passenger numbers. From the four villages we have traditionally represented, the numbers showed a steady increase in use by 458 passengers (with 1,351 passengers for the whole route) in the month of June. (In fact, we know that this may be an understatement because at times the card reading machine does not work properly, possibly due to a weak signal, and so some counts may be missed). With proposed changes to traffic access in Oxford this take up is likely to increase.

We hope that this local support for the 108 stands us in good stead.

There are a few points we would like to raise that we hope will be taken into consideration in decision making.

- Concerns have been raised at the size of the bus, both in terms of the number of passengers that can be catered for (the bus is fairly often full), but also about the cramped nature of the bus which makes it extremely difficult, as a large number of passengers are elderly with shopping trolleys in hand and there is no storage on a small, compact bus. It is difficult for a less able person to access the current small bus because there is not a step to help them get up into the bus, and this also makes exiting the bus particularly difficult. Since the current 108 is such a lifeline for many older people it is a shame that some struggle to use the bus. A larger bus (which we understand might be a possibility) would solve all of the above problems and would be very much welcomed.
- There is also a bit of a gap in the middle of the day meaning that people from these villages do not have the option of a later more 'middle of the day' trip into Oxford that would be quite popular with those less able to make an early start or be away from other duties for a longer

time. Anything to help in this respect would be very welcome - maybe the 11.20 from Bicester could visit other villages as well as Horton-cum-Studley, and possibly the 15.50 from Oxford could stop in Horton-cum-Studley.

- Apparently, the bus company would prefer not to have to go into Stanton St John village, but rather use the bus stop on the B4027. Passengers in Stanton St John have said that if the bus no longer picked them up at the village shop, they would not use it because this would necessitate them having to walk up the hill and cross a busy road. More passengers have said they would continue to use the bus from its current pick up and drop off point at the village shop. Surprisingly, the bus currently uses Cox Lane to leave the village and get onto the B4027 - this involves a very tight turn into a narrow lane, and is avoided by most motorists!! The usual road to use is Pound Lane which is much simpler and safer and joins the B4027 at Rectory Farm corner. This would be a far easier route and would accommodate a larger bus if available.
- Speed, on occasion, has been a problem (usually due to the bus getting behind its schedule, often due to the traffic in Oxford) but we feel passenger safety is the most important factor here.

Any help with these issues will be greatly appreciated.

However, mostly our thanks are for supporting this popular and useful bus and we very much hope to see it becoming even more well used.

*108 Bus Support Group: Anne Purse, Sue Cox (Beckley), David Polgreen, Dee Hazell (Stanton St John), Jill Meyjes and Kate MacFarlane (Horton-cum-Studley), Prue Leeding on behalf of Malcolm Leeding (Forest Hill)*

### Bus Stops for the 108:

1. **Horton-cum-Studley:** bus shelters on the Brill Road near The Forge and at the bottom of Horton Hill.
2. **Beckley:** bus stop at the Abingdon Arms pub on the High Street.
3. **Stanton St John:** bus stop at the village shop on Middle Road.
4. **Forest Hill:** bus stop in Powell Close and on the Stanton Road (B4027) near Mickle Way

For full timetable see <https://www.oxfordbus.co.uk/services/OXBC/108>

## Land north of Bayswater Brook (LnBB): Planning Committee Decision

All the local Parish Councils/Meeting and communities - Elsfield, SSJ, Barton and Wick Farm attended and spoke at the SODC Planning Committee meeting on 9 October.

The 3 LnBB applications were on the agenda – Outline - for whole site; Full - for roads and bridges; Listed Buildings - for Wick Farm. The meeting went on for 3 hours and only the first, outline application was considered.

We had previously gone through the Planning Officer's Report (320) pages and sent him and the Planning Committee a number of serious errors and omissions, but the report had not been corrected.

At the meeting the Planning Officer reported that a letter had been received from the Environment Agency who objects to the application, and it contained 2 conditions which could be used as a Grampian condition for the foul water problem, which SODC intended to amalgamate. (Thames Water does not have sufficient capacity to treat any more sewage until 2031, even if it has the finance to build it.) This condition stated that the development can be built but not occupied or connected to the sewage system until there is assured capacity. SODC had added that alternatively sewage could be stored temporarily and then taken away, but no stipulation of how or any standards. The letter was not circulated to the committee and only part of it was shown at Tim Bearder's insistence. It, in fact, contained 10 conditions, 8 of which the committee were not told about. As well as going through our objections we also reminded the committee that the Lib Dems and Greens had promised to scrap or change the current Local Plan when elected, but had not felt able to do so. They could do so now.

Despite this and with objections from Tim Bearder and Ed Salter (Lib Dem - Chinnor) the Chairman David Bretherton and Vice Chairman Peter Dragonetti said they had to approve the planning application as it was a strategic development site, not only in the current Local Plan, but also in the emerging Joint Local Plan which they had agreed. They did not have to approve it. It was passed by 5 votes to 2 (Tim and Ed) and the 2 Greens abstained. We were all shocked about the way this was done and the outcome for local residents.

There will be another planning meeting to decide on the roads and bridges and Wick Farm, applications, date as yet unknown. We will be writing to Rt Hon Angela Rayner, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government asking her to overturn the decision and have made the Environment Agency aware of the conduct of the Officers and Committee. We will keep on fighting to get the other applications rejected.

*Ginette Camps-Walsh, Beckley*

*PS Some good news – the Inspectors threw out Oxford City Council's Emerging Local Plan, which would have demanded that surrounding districts take more of their 'unmet' housing need. It was rejected on the grounds that they did not use the 'standard' [Government approved] method to calculate housing need and lack of co-operation with surrounding districts apart from Cherwell.*



13 Middle Road, Stanton St. John  
01865 351532 / 07795415819  
stantonvillageshop@gmail.com

Monday to Friday 9am-2pm, Saturday 9am-1pm & Sunday 9-11am

Your friendly village shop welcomes you for bakery bread, newspapers, fresh produce, take-away coffees/pastries, decent wines....and bicycle repairs! Or enjoy our FREE twice weekly delivery within the four parishes for milk and any other items we stock!

**SOME CUSTOMER COMMENTS:**

“shopping here for basics means I last ages between supermarket shops”  
“better price and more flexible than my last glass-bottled milk delivery”

**STANTON HOUSE**

REST RESTORATION RENEWAL

**Stanton House Christmas Tea**

Hot drinks, mulled wine, mince pies, carols,  
activities for children, light trail through the gardens

**Saturday 14 December, 4 - 5.30pm**

Stanton House, Pound Lane, Stanton St John.

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

Tel: 01865 358807 Email: [office@stantonhouse.org.uk](mailto:office@stantonhouse.org.uk)



**SATURDAY 2ND  
NOVEMBER**

**BECKLEY  
FIREWORKS  
DISPLAY**

**BONFIRE  
6pm**

**FABULOUS FIREWORKS  
6.30pm**

BAR  
MULLED WINE

**GATES OPEN 5.30pm**

**BECKLEY PLAYING FIELDS**

£5  
(Children 5 and under free)

HOG ROAST  
CAKES

PARKING

**“Follow the Stars”, Christ Church Cathedral, Friday 6 December**

The annual “Follow the Stars” Christmas Carol Concert in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support is not only a huge fundraising event but also a celebration of world class talent. The star-studded cast of celebrities this year will include Toby Jones, Shaun Evans, Jason Isaacs and Gugu Mbatha-Raw, with music from the Oxford Bach Soloists, conducted by Stephen Grahl.

Book your tickets now at [www.ticketsoxford.com](http://www.ticketsoxford.com) or in person at The Oxford Playhouse. The Concert will also be live-streamed and free to view online via our JustGiving fundraising page – [justgiving.com/fundraising/follow-the-stars](http://justgiving.com/fundraising/follow-the-stars).



**★ GET INTO THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT AT ★**

**CHRISTMAS ON THE FARM**

**FRIDAY DECEMBER 6TH: 3PM - 8PM**  
**SATURDAY DECEMBER 7TH: 10AM - 5PM**

**A TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS FAIR WITH A COLLECTION OF LOCAL ARTISANS AND PRODUCERS FROM THE COMMUNITY**

- FREE ENTRY • SHOPPING AND UNIQUE GIFTS • MUSIC • FOOD AND DRINK
- KIDS ACTIVITIES • CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITY

**MORE INFORMATION AT: [WWW.BERNWOODPOTTERY.COM](http://WWW.BERNWOODPOTTERY.COM)**

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## BECKLEY

### Beckley Church

Details of all church services and general church news can be found on pages 5 - 12. Any changes to the published schedule of services will be on our website [www.fourparishes.org.uk](http://www.fourparishes.org.uk).

### Clean up day, 5 October

Grateful thanks to all who came so enthusiastically to help tidy up the church and churchyard, and to Ted Cox for bringing the trailer, without which the clear up could not happen!

The elder and much of the ivy has been vanquished, the 'moat' looks wonderfully clear, and in the church we can now see the beautiful porch rafters and the windows free of cobwebs, and the memorials clean and looking much brighter. The floors have been swept, and the windowsills and ledges in the chancel brushed and cleared of bat droppings.

Everyone worked amazingly hard, but it was a beautiful sunny day, and we had fun too – it turned out to be another happy village event!

### Beckley & Stowood Parish Council

The next monthly meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Monday 11 November at 7pm in Beckley Village Hall**. Meeting dates, agendas and minutes can be found on the village 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).

For information on Beckley Village Hall please see [www.beckleyvillagehall.org](http://www.beckleyvillagehall.org) and to enquire about a booking, please contact the Booking Secretary, Mel Green, at [booking@beckleyvillagehall.org](mailto:booking@beckleyvillagehall.org).

**Saturday 2 November – Beckley Bonfire and Firework Night at the Village Hall and Playing Field.** Gates open 5.30pm. Fireworks 6.30pm. Entry £5.

**Fix My Street** - Find and report road and street problems at <https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/>.

## Beckley and Area Community Benefit Society Ltd (BACBS)

**The annual BACBS Members' meeting will take place on Wednesday 27 November at 7.30pm in Beckley Village Hall, Woodperry Road, Beckley, Oxford, OX3 9UZ.** All shareholders are very welcome – we want to hear your views!

Shareholders are now entitled to 10% off food and drink at the pub (*terms and conditions apply: email [theabingdonarms@gmail.com](mailto:theabingdonarms@gmail.com)*). Our share offer is still open - more information from [www.bacbs.org/openshareoffer](http://www.bacbs.org/openshareoffer).

### 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, 7.30pm.** Table bookings advisable - or you can just turn up and join an existing team.

### Community walks

**3rd Sunday of every month, 2pm start.** Come for a gentle stroll for a couple of hours and meet your neighbours.

### Sunday evening talks

**Last Sunday of the month, 6.30pm.** 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! For more information email [info@bacbs.org](mailto:info@bacbs.org).

**On Sunday 24 November,** Beckley's **Aris Karastergiou**, professor of astrophysics at the University of Oxford, will give a talk on **The astrophysics of pulsars, nature's precision clocks.**

There will be no talk in December, but instead from **3.30 – 5.30pm on Friday 6 December we will reprise our very successful free Christmas Crafts: Christmas decorations for children, and wreath making for adults.**

On **Sunday 26 January 2025** Charles Hunterpease, ex-Chair and now an Honorary Vice-President of the RNLI, will talk on **The RNLI: 200 years and counting.**

On **Sunday 23 February** local author Amanda Roberts will talk about her books and creative writing.



## FOREST HILL

### News from St Nicolas

Details of all church services and general church news can be found on pages 5 - 12. Any changes to the published schedule of services will be on our website [www.fourparishes.org.uk](http://www.fourparishes.org.uk).

### Sunday 10 November - Remembrance Sunday

**10.45am - Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial** in the Cemetery followed by a service of Morning Prayer in Church.

**6pm - Free concert in the Church** (see below)

### Christmas Dates for your Diary

See next page or [www.stnicolasforesthill.org/](http://www.stnicolasforesthill.org/) for more details.

**Sunday 1 December, 4pm** - St Nicolas Day Celebration with Christingle

**Sunday 8 December, 6pm** - Advent Carols with the St Nicolas Choir

**Tuesday 17 December, 7pm** - 'Nine Lessons and Carols'

**Thursday 19 December, 6pm** - Carol Singing in and around the Village Hall

### Jubilee Trefoil Guild

The Jubilee Trefoil Guild would like to invite anyone interested to come and hear a **talk by a representative of Age UK on 'Watching Out for Scammers and How to Deal with Them'** at Jubilee House, Horton Road, Stanton St John OX33 1AQ on **Tuesday 12 November at 1.30pm**. There will be a collection for Age UK. More details from Pat Fraser, email: [triciaann49@gmail.com](mailto:triciaann49@gmail.com).

## 'Far from Home'

**Concert in St Nicolas Church, Sunday 10 November, 6pm**



Music and readings by members of our village community reflecting on the impact of war throughout the ages

For more information contact Julia Stutfield  
07766 103427

[julia.stutfield@gmail.com](mailto:julia.stutfield@gmail.com)

Retiring collection in aid of war-related charities



## The Maple Tree at Forest Hill, Thursdays 10.30am-12pm

The Thursday morning 'stay and play' sessions for babies and toddlers in Forest Hill Village Hall continue to run every week throughout the year. If you have a new baby or are expecting one soon, why not drop in to introduce yourself to us or you can find out more by getting in touch with Julia Stutfield 07766 103427 or [julia.stutfield@gmail.com](mailto:julia.stutfield@gmail.com).



See [www.mapletree.org.uk](http://www.mapletree.org.uk) for a full list of activities run by The Maple Tree Children's Centre in Wheatley.

## Forest Hill with Shotover Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Thursday 5 December at 7pm in Forest Hill Village Hall**. Dates of future meetings can be found on the Forest Hill website: [www.parish-council.com/foresthillwithshotover](http://www.parish-council.com/foresthillwithshotover) and on the Village Hall noticeboard. Current agendas and minutes are posted on the noticeboard outside the Village Hall and the website. Archived agendas and minutes can be found on the website. You can contact the Clerk by email at: [theclerk@foresthillwithshotover-pc.org.uk](mailto:theclerk@foresthillwithshotover-pc.org.uk) or telephone 0844 884 3328, between 9am and 5pm.

## Forest Hill Village Hall

To hire the village hall, email Stephen Robinson: [spr500@gmail.com](mailto:spr500@gmail.com).



### Jazz on the Hill at Forest Hill Village Hall Tuesday 12 November, 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.

## Christingle Workshop for Children

Forest Hill Village Hall

Sunday 1 December 3.15pm



**Come and make a Christingle (and learn a new song about it) then join a procession, with candles, to St Nicolas Church at 4pm for a short service with stories and songs, and a St Nicolas tradition - a chocolate coin in your shoe!**

**All children must be accompanied by an adult.**

**For more information, please contact Julia Stutfield  
07766 103427 or [julia.stutfield@gmail.com](mailto:julia.stutfield@gmail.com).**

## Children's Choir for St Nicolas Day Celebration

Sunday 1 December, 4-5pm

**Children from Forest Hill and the other villages in our Four Parishes are invited to learn the songs for our annual St Nicolas Day Celebration with Christingle** this year so that they can help to lead the singing alongside adult members of the St Nicolas Choir. Rehearsals will take place in Forest Village Hall during the last two weeks of November and recordings of the songs will be available online to listen to and/or download beforehand.

This invitation is aimed at children aged 5 - 10 but older (and younger) children are also welcome. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information, please contact Julia Stutfield [julia.stutfield@gmail.com](mailto:julia.stutfield@gmail.com).

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

Saturday 23 November, 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](mailto:julia.stutfield@gmail.com)



## HORTON-cum-STUDLEY

### News from St Barnabas

Details of all church services and general church news can be found on pages 5 - 12. Any changes to the published schedule of services will be on our website [www.fourparishes.org.uk](http://www.fourparishes.org.uk).

### Dates for your diary at St Barnabas in November

#### **Pop-Up Pub and Social at the 'Dog and Collar' [in St Barnabas Church]! Friday 1 November, 6-8.30pm**

Families are welcome. Come and meet up with fellow villagers for a beer, wine or soft drink.

#### **Coffee and Chat - Saturday 9 November, 10 -12 am**

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

#### **Sunday 10 November - Remembrance Sunday Service**

The service will start at 10.45am in St Barnabas churchyard to lay the crosses for our local soldiers who gave their lives in war.

#### **Tuesday 24 December - Christmas Eve Crib Service**

As usual, Lyn Whitaker would love to hear from anyone with children wanting to help out with this family friendly afternoon service. Please contact her on 07795 550851 or email [lyndawhitaker@btinternet.com](mailto:lyndawhitaker@btinternet.com).

### Michaelmas Fayre



The sun shone for the St Barnabas Michaelmas Fayre on 6 October, which was held at Manor Farm and kindly hosted by Colin and Caroline Badger. Children had fun with “Splat the Rat”, hooking the duck and the Teddy Bear Tombola. The stalls offered plants, cakes, Bric-à-Brac, toys, books and friendship bracelets from Alila. The café served homemade soup and hot dogs. The event culminated with a grand raffle and vote of thanks to our generous hosts. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Fayre - which

raised over £850 and of course, a big thanks to all who came to enjoy the Fayre – it would not be here without you! *Julia Slingo Churchwarden*

## Another Big Win for Rachel!

On Sunday 6 October we gathered in St Barnabas Churchyard to weigh and measure potatoes, pumpkins and sunflowers.



The result this year shows there is no substitute for a lifetime in farming; 1st Rachel Hawes (3421g), 2nd Janice Read (3198g) and 3rd Alan Read (3102g). A total of over 48kg of Kerr's Pink potatoes were grown by the 46 entrants. We hope you have enjoyed eating them as that is what it is all about, beautiful floury Irish spuds!

2024 wasn't a good year for pumpkins with only 4 entries. Bronwyn van Zijl won the POTY Trophy for the 5th time with the smallest winning pumpkin yet, 8kg exactly.

The sunflower competition had 14 entries and was won by Pete Saunders (285cm plant), Lewis Campbell second (275cm) with Alison Barnes a close second (274cm).

Thanks to everyone for their help on the day, measuring and recording, refreshments and to all those who helped to clear up afterwards. A special mention to Alan, without whom the weigh in may have taken three times as long. Thanks also to everyone for taking part, your generosity raised £231.30 which has been split between Parkinson's' UK and St Barnabas Church. We plan to be back in 2025. There will be a more comprehensive report in the next Horton Village Magazine.

*Cathy Jenkins*

## Horton-cum-Studley ROMEOS (Retired Old Men Eating Out)

Thursday 5 September saw the end of an era when the last two 'active' members of the group, Adrian Wood (80) and John Diamond (90) visited the Abingdon Arms in Beckley for lunch and decided to call it a day.

This signals the end of a village group which has been meeting on the 1st Thursday of every month for many years and at one time would see up to 16 members sit down to lunch. Sadly, time has taken its toll on the membership and Adrian's notice in the village newsletter produced no response so we are seeing the ending of another long standing village function.

*John Diamond*

## A Letter to Humans by Layla Whitaker

Read at St Barnabas Animal Welfare and Blessing Service on 13 October

*If we could speak, would you listen?  
To the tales of nature that often remain hidden.  
We are the creatures who walk the Earth by your side,  
In forest, in oceans and fields far and wide.*

*We may not speak your words, but our hearts feel the same  
With love, with fear, with joy and with pain.  
From the cow in the meadow, to the dog at your feet  
We all share this World; its air and its beat.*



*We're not so different, you and we  
We feel, we think and we wish to be free.  
From the tiniest bug, to the longest whale.  
We all have a place; we all have a tale.*

*If we could speak, would our voices still be unheard?  
Or would you let kindness extend beyond your word.  
For when you choose love; when you choose to care  
You help create an Earth we all can share.*

*If we could speak your words, we'd ask for your grace  
Because you have the power, to make this world a kinder place  
A World where all beings, no matter how big or small  
Are valued, are loved and cherished by all.*

*We know you can change, just open your heart  
Embracing every creature, you all play a part  
In a World hungry for compassion, it's never too late  
To show kindness and love and to have peace on your plate.*

## Millennium Village Hall

When leaving the Hall's site, please stop to close the gate behind you - some years ago we had episodes of joy riding on the field, then a few months ago an attempted break in, and an open gate is an easily avoidable invitation.

In the same vein, the back door access to changing rooms/toilets is frequently (i.e. almost weekly) left ajar - kindly read and follow the simple closing instructions pinned up inside, then this security issue will also be avoided.

Contact details: Treasurer – [treasurerhcsmvh@gmail.com](mailto:treasurerhcsmvh@gmail.com) Bookings – [hcsallbookings@gmail.com](mailto:hcsallbookings@gmail.com) Stuart MacFarlane – [s.macfarlane799@btinternet.com](mailto:s.macfarlane799@btinternet.com)

## Christmas on the Farm

**Bernwood Pottery at Old Arngrove Farm, Horton-cum-Studley**  
**Friday 6 December, 3-8pm Saturday 7 December, 10am-5pm**

There is a new holiday experience in Horton-cum-Studley this year. After hosting a successful exhibition for Oxfordshire Art Weeks, Bernwood Pottery is opening its gates again to create a bit of Christmas magic within the community.

Christmas on the Farm is a free to attend event that aims to create an authentic local, community based Christmas fair celebrating local artisans, producers and small businesses. It is a special opportunity to meet with people who are passionate about what they do and have a chance to buy their unique products.

Set in the grounds of our charming farmyard, the two 19th century barns will hold a variety of stallholders appealing to a wide range of tastes while the central courtyard will provide a space for engagement and festive entertainment with food and drink. We will have live music on Friday evening and Saturday afternoon as well as activities for children. We hope to bring the community together to create an intimate holiday fair, encouraging everyone to come together and shop locally.

More information and daily updates at [www.bernwoodpottery.com](http://www.bernwoodpottery.com).

# STANTON ST JOHN

## Stanton Church

Details of all church services and general church news can be found on pages 5 - 12. Any changes to the published schedule of services will be on our website [www.fourparishes.org.uk](http://www.fourparishes.org.uk).

## Monthly Coffee Morning in Stanton Village Hall, 10.30am-12pm

### Wednesday 20 November

Come for tea, coffee and cake! Everyone is welcome.

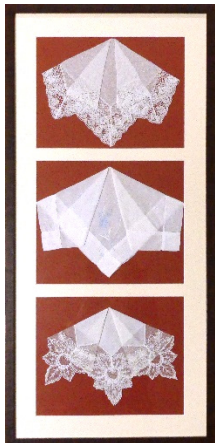
For further details, please contact Sue Baker 01865 351449.

## Stanton St John WI

Stanton St John WI had a busy week in October with a talk by Liz Harris: **“Following the Clues”** followed by our **Craft and**



**Coffee** morning, featuring George the Giant Courgette. Very many thanks to all who supported us and, in case you missed the result, George weighed 9.35kg (or 20lb 6oz).



Our next meeting, **Memories** by **Jane Fletcher**, has ideas and inspirations on what to do with treasured possessions and is on **Tuesday 12 November at 7.30pm** in Stanton St John Village Hall.

So, this is a reminder to WI members and an invitation to prospective members to join us. (WI members free, guests £4).

## Shotover Singers Concert in Stanton Church

### Saturday 23 November at 7.15pm

#### Please note change of date and time!

Ashley Goodall and the Shotover Singers return to Stanton Church with a well chosen selection of advent carols and songs to help us get into the Christmas spirit.

Admission to the concert is free but donations to church restoration funds will be gratefully received.





**Please come to join in the lighting of the tree**

**Saturday 30 November at 6pm**

**Stanton St John Millennium Green**

**Hot Dogs-Mulled Cider-Christmas Carols-Raffle**

This Photo by Heloise

**and continue the evening at The Talkhouse Christmas Crafts Sale**

## Stanton Community Choir

By popular request, there will be a Stanton Community Choir at the 'Christmas Lights' event on 30 November, led by David Willcock and Sue Baker. All singers, whatever age, are welcome! Rehearsals will be in Stanton Village Hall:

**Sunday 3 November, 4.45–5.45pm**

**Sunday 17 November, 5.45–6.45pm**

**Sunday 24 November, 6.45–7.45pm**

Any questions, email Sue Baker on [susanjbaker24@gmail.com](mailto:susanjbaker24@gmail.com).

STANTON HOUSE

— REST RESTORATION RENEWAL

## Stanton House Christmas Tea

Hot drinks, mulled wine, mince pies, carols,  
activities for children, light trail through the gardens

**Saturday 14 December, 4 - 5.30pm**

Stanton House, Pound Lane, Stanton St John.

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

Tel: 01865 358807 Email: [office@stantonhouse.org.uk](mailto:office@stantonhouse.org.uk)

Film Night in Stanton St John Village Hall  
Saturday 2 November at 7.45pm



The Stanton St John Film Club presents a movie for autumn:



*“The story of Sir Nicholas ‘Nicky’ Winton, a young London broker who, in the months leading up to World War II, rescued over 600 children from Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia.”*

The doors will be open at 7pm so you can get delicious cakes and hot drinks before the film, and the bar will be serving wines.

Please reserve your seat beforehand (only 60 available) either in the Village Shop or with Sue Baker ([susanjbaker24@gmail.com](mailto:susanjbaker24@gmail.com))

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

### Stanton St John Parish Council

**The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place in the Village Hall at 7:30 pm on Monday, 18 November.** All parishioners are welcome to attend.

New councillors Justin Worrall and David Polgreen have signed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office and are ready to contribute to village matters.

At the September meeting, the Parish Council discussed concerns raised about a blocked footpath. After a lively discussion, it was agreed to contact Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) to check if the footpath is still officially registered. The council remains committed to maintaining accessibility for

all village residents.

The council continues to engage with OCC about the future of the 108 bus service, the contract for which is set to expire in March 2025. See also page 18-19 for details of a submission to OCC from the 108 Bus Support Group in The Four Parishes.

To stay informed about these and other village matters, residents can visit the Parish Council's website at [stantonstjohnparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://stantonstjohnparishcouncil.gov.uk), where news, events, meeting agendas, minutes, and council documents are regularly published.

The Parish Council hopes to increase engagement with the community through the website, ensuring it becomes a key communication channel.



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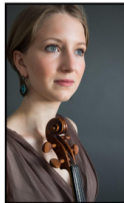
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# Remembrance Sunday 10 November 2024



## Services and Events in the Four Parishes



Time	Place	Description of Event
<b>3.30pm</b> <b>Friday</b> <b>8 Nov</b>	Beckley Church	Children's Craft Workshop (see page 10)
<b>10.45am</b> Sunday 10 Nov	Stanton St John	Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial, followed by a service of Morning Prayer.
<b>10.45am</b> Sunday 10 Nov	Beckley Churchyard	Act of Remembrance in the Churchyard, followed by a service of Holy Communion.
<b>10.45am</b> Sunday 10 Nov	Horton-cum-Studley Churchyard	Act of Remembrance in the Churchyard, followed by a service of Morning Prayer.
<b>10.45am</b> Sunday 10 Nov	Forest Hill War Memorial	Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial in the Cemetery, followed by a service of Morning Prayer in Church.
<b>6pm</b> Sunday 10 Nov	Forest Hill Church	'Far from Home' Concert (see page 25): Music and readings reflecting on the impact of war throughout the ages.

