

# *The Four Parishes News Magazine*

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



Autumn colour in Stanton St John

*December 2024/January 2025*

## The editor writes



Anyone who looks at page 3 of this magazine (and, given how often I am asked what the next deadline is, it's pretty clear that most people don't!) might notice that there is a list of 'village reps' at the bottom of the page. Their role is to collect and assemble the regular contributions from village societies and organisations and they are an invaluable part of the editorial team.

They are also an initial point of contact for anyone with comments or suggestions. This month, we received the following question:

*"Why isn't the 4 parishes newsletter online? Would seem to me an awful lot simpler, no printing costs, a lot of time saved in terms of distributions, could be "real time" instead of once a month. I know plenty will say "but some people aren't on the Internet" but it's 2024 now not 1995."*

Our correspondent thought he would be more likely to read the magazine if he could do it while waiting at the supermarket checkout and he was duly amazed to hear that current and past issues (stretching back to 2018) are already available online at <https://www.fourparishes.org.uk/magazine>. However, the question does raise important issues about effective communication in a world of ever increasing information overload.

My own feeling is that there is still some value in the relative stability of print media in our volatile world, so I hope you will enjoy reading our final issue of 2024, however you decide to do it!

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 Anneli Nilsson in October 2024. Anneli wrote*

*"I have just enjoyed glorious autumnal colours while walking through the Stanton St John allotments with my lurcher Ludo."*

**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)

<b>LIST OF CONTENTS</b>	
<b>Church Services in the Four Parishes</b>	<b>Page 5-7</b>
<b>Letter from Anthea</b>	<b>Pages 8-9</b>
<b>Church Matters</b>	<b>Page 10-14</b>
<b>General Articles and Information</b>	<b>Page 15-21</b>
<b>Village pages: Beckley</b>	<b>Page 22-24</b>
<b>Village pages: Forest Hill</b>	<b>Page 25-26</b>
<b>Village pages: Horton-cum-Studley</b>	<b>Page 27-30</b>
<b>Village pages: Stanton St John</b>	<b>Page 31-34</b>
<b>Classified</b>	<b>Page 35-43</b>

*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 February 2025 issue is 15 JANUARY 2025**

**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, December 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>1 December</b> <i>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent</i>	11am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Holy Communion	11am Morning Prayer
	4pm Children's Christingle at St Nicolas, Forest Hill			
	6pm Church Without Walls at Stanton St John Village Hall			
<b>8 December</b> <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</i>		9.30am Morning Prayer	9.30am Morning Prayer	11am Holy Communion
	6pm Advent Carol Service with the St Nicolas Choir at Forest Hill			
<b>11 December</b> <i>(Wednesday)</i>	7pm Looking for the Light at St Nicolas, Forest Hill			
<b>15 December</b> <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</i>	11am Holy Communion			
		6pm Carol Service	6pm Carols & Claret	3pm Carol Service
<b>17 December</b> <i>(Tuesday)</i>	7pm Traditional Nine Lessons & Carols			
<b>22 December</b> <i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</i>	10am Four Parishes Service of Holy Communion at Beckley			
<b>24 December</b> <i>Christmas Eve</i>	4pm Crib Service	4pm Crib Service	4pm Crib Service	4pm Crib Service
	11pm Holy Communion at Stanton St John		11pm Holy Communion at Beckley	
<b>25 December</b> <i>Christmas Day</i>	10am Holy Communion at Forest Hill		10am Holy Communion at Horton-cum-Studley	
<b>29 December</b> <i>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas</i>	10am Four Parishes Service of Holy Communion at Horton-cum-Studley			

## Church Services in the Four Parishes, January 2025

	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>5 January</b> <i>The Epiphany</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>12 January</b> <i>The Baptism of Christ</i> <i>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Epiphany</i>		<b>9.30am</b> Morning Prayer	<b>9.30am</b> Morning Prayer	<b>11am</b> Holy Communion
	<b>4pm</b> Crafty Church at Stanton St John Village Hall			
	<b>6pm</b> Epiphany Carol Service with the St Nicolas Choir at Forest Hill			
<b>19 January</b> <i>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany</i>	<b>11am</b> BCP Morning Prayer	<b>9.30am</b> Holy Communion		<b>11am</b> Morning Prayer
	<b>6pm</b> Iona Service at Beckley			
<b>26 January</b> <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany</i>	<b>10am</b> Four Parishes 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 via 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>. See also next page.

## Activities for Children and Families in 2025

Families with children are always welcome to join in worship at any of our four village churches, but we do have some regular activities which are particularly suitable for younger children.

Each activity is different, and you might be more drawn to one than another, but they compliment each other, so please do think about trying them all. Whatever you decide on, a warm and friendly welcome awaits you. With all the activities, parents, or another adult, must accompany the children, please. Regular activities on offer are as follows:

### **1st Sunday of the month: Children's Church**

4-4.30pm, St Nicolas Church, Forest Hill

*Children's Church features a Bible story, followed by a drama of it in 'Acting the Bible' style, songs led by members of the St Nicolas Choir, and prayers. Children and adults all join in acting out the drama, and this short, but structured, service is suitable for even the very youngest children.*

### **2nd Sunday of the month: Crafty Church**

4-5pm, Stanton St John Village Hall

*Crafty Church follows the same basic format as Children's Church, but includes a related craft activity during which we chat and have drinks and cakes.*

### **4th Sunday of the month: Family Church does Forest Church**

3-4pm (winter), 4-5pm (summer), Horton-cum-Studley

*Family Church meets in Bernwood Forest as 'Forest Church'. Worship, including a short Bible reading and prayers, is intermingled with outdoor play, woodcraft, conversation, a walk, and an opportunity for appreciation of the natural world. Our relaxed get togethers always end with refreshments of cake and fruit. Attendees can bring their dogs along.*

Betty Dye and her team of helpers also run **Children's Craft Workshops**, which take place approximately once a month in Beckley Church, usually on a Friday afternoon from 3.30 - 4.30pm.

For more information about the individual activities, see <https://www.fourparishes.org.uk/children-and-families> or contact Anthea (details on page 4).

## A letter from Anthea

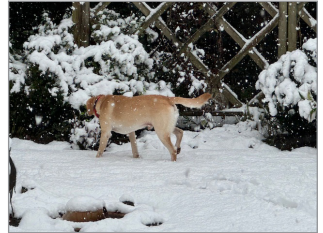
Hi everyone,



I am a 'big kid' at heart!! So, imagine my absolute delight when I opened my bedroom curtains to see a good covering of snow on the ground, and the trees and bushes glistening white. And it was only 19 November! It was still dark but looked so bright! And it was quiet – something I love about when it snows – it seems to dampen down the surrounding noise. Probably because there is much less traffic once there

is snow around.

It was not much after daybreak when I became aware of the wonderful sound of the voices of excited children breaking the silence. It was lovely listening to the fun they were having – I did not have to look out to see what they were up to, simply listening brought a smile to my face and a feeling of warmth inside! Momentarily the



reality of me having to get up, dressed and in my car to get home broke the enjoyment, but I soon put that aside to dwell in the moment!!

I am not that big a kid that I was tempted to go and join in with the children playing – keeping nice and warm was more important! Bertie however loved zooming around the garden in the virgin snow. What I would give to know what he was thinking in that moment! He exuded the joy I could hear from the children without a sound though!

In the lead up to Christmas there is often talk about whether or not we will have a white Christmas, and here we are still in November with lots of snow around – which made me think about Christmas. I need to start thinking about it quite early on as we plan what is going on around the Four Parishes – but with family birthdays in November and early December, over the years, I have always tried to get those over before thinking too much about it. That has however often led to a rather frantic Christmas Eve over the years!

As a child, Christmas Eve was when the decorations went up, so I am astonished to have spoken to someone in November to hear their



decorations were already up! Is it any surprise children are so excited by the time it comes! Before you wonder, I am no 'bah humbug'! I love Christmas decorations (although I confess, I have always hated putting them up! I think it is because I am not very artistic or creative.)

I love it that people are starting to think about Christmas already. Advent is a difficult season to hold as the time of 'preparation' for Christmas, but I do have some ideas to help us with that for those who would like to spend some time 'preparing' (see page 11).

The true meaning of Christmas can also get lost as the clamour to buy bigger and better presents can overtake. Christmas does not have to be an expensive time – we should not be paying off the cost of Christmas for the rest of the year.

Christmas can also be a difficult time for many – those who have recently lost a loved one and are facing the first Christmas without them, those who have broken relationships, those on their own, and, sadly, I could go on. Please remember that if you need someone to talk to, I am always around.

We have a lot going on around the Four Parishes throughout December, within our churches and our communities, so please do have a careful read of the magazine to make sure you do not miss out.

I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas, and very best wishes for the New Year ahead, remembering that whatever we are each facing in our lives, we are never alone.

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

## Church opening and services

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

## Remembrance Sunday

Acts of Remembrance and Remembrance Sunday Services took place on Sunday 10 November around the Four Parishes, as they did in cities, towns and villages up and down the country, and further afield. The individual fallen soldiers from our parishes were each remembered by name, and crosses and wreaths were laid in their memories. I find it striking to hear the long list of names for such small villages – young men lost, never to return home. Thanks to all those who read the names, led the services, played the organ, piano, recorder, trumpet and bugle, and for those who decorated the churches so beautifully, and made sure the churchyards looked their best for the day.

The day was once again rounded off with a concert in Forest Hill, titled 'Far from Home', which featured local musicians, singing, storytelling, poetry reading, and audience participation in singing well know wartime songs. Thank you to all those who made the evening possible.

## Advent challenge and beyond

**Finishing the 'beyond' challenge from Advent 2023:** I hope you are still journeying with me as we start our final leg. For the Old Testament, we need to finish Ezekiel and read the whole of Daniel and the 12 minor prophets: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi. For the New Testament we need to finish 2 Peter and read the whole of John 1, John 2, John 3, Jude and Revelation.

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. I hope you manage this and feel a sense of achievement at the end. Please do let me know how you get on. If you have got to the end you have done amazingly well, and I hope it has been a fruitful challenge for you.

**Advent challenge 2024:** 1 December marks the beginning of Advent this

year. As mentioned in the November magazine, I thought for the Advent Challenge I would suggest we read the Gospel of Luke, as it is the Gospel for the coming year, so having it fresh in our minds, especially as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the light of the world, the Word made flesh, Emmanuel, God with us, on Christmas Day, would be an especially good thing. The Gospel of Luke works especially well for this as there are 24 chapters! I look forward to hearing how you get on!

**The ‘beyond’ challenge for Advent 2024:** As our ‘beyond’ part of the challenge this year I thought you might like to join me in reading the New Testament in a year, starting in January. This is a less onerous daily challenge than last year and might give us a bit more time to reflect on the readings, rather than having a feeling of having to rush through them to ‘get them done’. There are many different reasons for reading the Bible. Sometimes to simply familiarise ourselves with the various books, sometimes more devotional, etc. I think in this challenge we will have more time to think, reflect and meditate on what we are reading. I hope some of you will join me in this. The important thing remains not to get dispirited if you get a little behind, but to get going again. I hope we can encourage each other. So, in January we will aim to read the Gospel of Matthew up to chapter 22: 22. I look forward to hearing how you get on. Please do let me know.

### Private devotion during Advent

In the November magazine I suggested a couple of books you might consider reading during advent to help your private devotions in the season. Here are some other books you may wish to delve into. I would love to hear how you get on if you choose any of the books I have highlighted, or if you read something else, I would love to hear about that too.

*Women of the Nativity: A Christmas Journey in Nine Stories* by Paula Gooder;

*Rediscovering the Magic of Christmas: An Advent Adventure from Genesis to Revelation* by John Hayward;

*A Radiant Birth: Advent Readings for a Bright Season* edited by Leslie Leyland Fields and Paul J Willis;

*\*Mary’s Voice: Advent Reflections to Contemplate the Coming of Christ* by Dr Amy Orr-Ewing;

*Do not be afraid* by Rachel Mann;

*\*\*Preparing for Christmas: Daily Meditations for Advent* by Richard Rohr ;  
*Journey to the Manger: Exploring the Birth of Jesus* by Paula Gooder;  
*Walking Backwards to Christmas* by Stephen Cottrell.

\* If you want to read this with others, you might like to think about joining the Home Group Study with Annie Payne on Monday afternoons at 2.30pm in Horton-cum-Studley. See page 14 for more information.

\*\* If you want to read this with others, you might like to think about joining the Four Parishes Book Group on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm on Zoom. See page 13 for more information.

### Looking for the Light: Wednesday 11 December at 7pm: Forest Hill

This service is an opportunity for quiet reflection in the lead up to Christmas. There are four short Bible readings and reflections, a short time of silence between each for us to gather our thoughts, two carols and some short prayers. It is aimed at everyone, but especially for those for whom Christmas might be a difficult time, or those seeking a time for peaceful reflection.

Generally, Christmas is seen as a season of joy, celebration and happiness. But thinking about my own experiences, and through talking to others over the years, Christmas can be a time of pain and of darkness. Some may be facing Christmas alone as the result of a broken relationship, which Christmas brings to the fore. Some may be facing Christmas for the first time without a loved one who has died in the year, and there is a special person shaped hole which is even bigger than we have previously noticed, and we dread the empty chair at the dinner table. Or we may be facing Christmas for the umpteenth time without a loved one we lost some years ago, or because we have no-one to share Christmas with as usual. So, at this time especially, we are looking for light in the darkness of our situation or our personal pain, or simply enjoying the luxury of a time of quiet amongst the busyness of the season. The service lasts around 35-40 minutes. All are welcome.

### Children's craft workshops

Betty Dye, who leads these workshops, has once again been asked by the Abingdon Arms to help with a team for the Christmas Workshop in the

pub after school. Our team of helpers is therefore supporting the venture in the Abingdon Arms. All are welcome. We will let you know in the new year about the next season of workshops in Beckley Church and look forward to seeing regulars and newcomers. In the meantime, do join us in the **Abingdon Arms on 6 December at 3.30pm**. We look forward to seeing you.

### Carol Services, Christmas Services and activities around the Four Parishes

Please do look carefully at the rota pages, the individual village pages, and the summary on the back cover, for details and timings of the various activities going on in our four churches and village halls. It would be lovely to see you at any you can get to. Please do get in touch if you have any questions.

### 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	

Please note that there will be a break over the Christmas/New Year period after Morning Prayer on 20 December. Everything will start again on 7 January 2025.

### Book Group

We are beginning our book for Advent on **5 December** and are reading *Preparing for Christmas: Daily Meditations for Advent* by Richard Rohr. New members are always welcome, and this might be a good time to join us if you have not done so before. We will finish our reading of *Body: Biblical Spirituality for the Whole Person* by Paula Gooder in the New Year. **We meet virtually by Zoom on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm for an hour.**

Please do get in touch with me if you would like to come along virtually. All are welcome.

## Home Group Advent Study on 'Mary's Voice: Advent Reflections to Contemplate the Coming of Christ' by Dr Amy Orr-Ewing

Having finished their detailed reading of the Gospel of John, for Advent, the home study group is reading *Mary's Voice: Advent Reflections to Contemplate the Coming of Christ* by Dr Amy Orr-Ewing. The group meets on **Monday afternoons at 2.30pm at Studley Farm House**, Horton-cum-Studley. New members are always welcome, and anyone from around the Four Parishes is welcome to join in. If you are interested in being involved, please contact Annie Payne by email at [anniefpayne@gmail.com](mailto:anniefpayne@gmail.com).

### 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 December and January across the Four Parishes as follows:

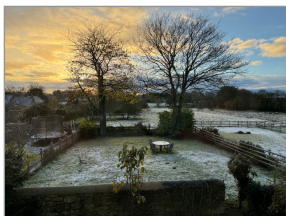
	December	January
<b>Beckley</b>	4 and 14	8 and 18
<b>Forest Hill</b>	7 and 28	11 and 29
<b>Horton-cum-Studley</b>	11 and 21	15 and 25
<b>Stanton St John</b>	18	4 and 22

For more information about any of the items on pages 10 - 14 of the magazine, please contact me, Anthea Beresford.

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

Telephone: 01865 351839

Mobile: 07876 527514



## GENERAL

### Charity Commission Notice

**Charity: DAME ELIZABETH HOLFORD'S CHARITY – 309576**

The Commission proposes to make a Scheme (a legal document) for this charity. The Scheme will amend the charity's objects and include a power of sale allowing the charity to sell its property. The proceeds of any such sale will be investment in permanent endowment, meaning the income from the investment will be used to further the charity's object.

The charity's property is: The residential house and garden known as School House, Wheatley Road, Stanton St. John, Oxford OX33 1ET and the Old School Nursery buildings, car park, playground and adjacent woodland also known as the Holford Centre, Wheatley Road, Stanton St. John, Oxford OX33 1ET, collectively owned under Title number ON316412.

A copy of the Scheme can be seen at [www.charitycommission.gov.uk/our-regulatory-work/how-to-comment-on-a-scheme/schemes-and-orders/](http://www.charitycommission.gov.uk/our-regulatory-work/how-to-comment-on-a-scheme/schemes-and-orders/) (If you cannot access this please call our contact centre on 0300 066 9197.)

Comments or representations on these proposals can be made to the Commission within one month from 31 December 2024 by completing the form on the website above.

Please quote C-114204-M4S5



**Here's a bright idea...**

**Leave a light on!**

As the nights draw in is your home secure?

- Close and lock all your doors and windows when going out or to bed
- Keep valuables out of sight
- Don't advertise that you're out invest in a light timer switch
- Register your valuables with [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com)
- For crime updates sign up to [www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk](http://www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk)

**THAMES VALLEY POLICE**

[www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk)

## To Sleep, Perchance to Dream

by Lyn Ebbs

As we head towards the Winter Solstice, some of us look with envy on the animals who deal with winter by sleeping through it, just waking up in the spring. Another option, if you can't face winter, is to relocate to somewhere warmer, maybe with more hours of daylight. When the question is: "Should I stay, or should I go", what drives the decision? If you are a mammal, size matters – if you're big and mobile, migration is relatively easy. As natural food sources become scarcer with seasonal changes, it's a simple solution for an animal the size of a red deer to migrate down from high ground and, if necessary, take shelter in woodlands. On the other hand, if you are small and territorial, staying put in the place you call home is the better option, and try to conserve energy through the winter.



Though we often call it 'sleep', the brain cycles that hibernating animals go through are very different from sleep patterns – it's more of an extreme slowing down. To use as little energy as possible, their heart rate drops, as does their breathing, a lower body temperature enables them to reduce the amount of energy their body uses, and they enter a state where their metabolism slows down to less than 5% of their normal rate. There is a similar state called 'torpor'; the difference between them being that hibernation appears to be a voluntary state, whereas torpor is usually for shorter time periods and appears to be involuntary.

Hedgehogs are one of the few mammals that are true hibernators, usually from November through to March. To do this, they need to ensure that they've fattened up enough during summer. While in hibernation their fuel supply comes from these fat stores. They do occasionally awake from hibernation during periods of milder weather to forage for food. They also might not remain in the same nest all winter; research has shown that individual hedgehogs are likely to move at least once during this period, so they can sometimes be seen out





and about. And during mild winters hedgehogs can remain active well into November and December.

Unlike hedgehogs, badgers don't go into hibernation during the winter in the UK. But they do go into a period called 'winter lethargy', where they slow down so much that they can happily go into a torpid state for days or even weeks during times of harsh weather. Like hedgehogs, badgers build up reserves of fat during the autumn when there is plenty of food to eat. With enough body fats, badgers are able to go to sleep for weeks at a time. They can also lower their body temperature by a few degrees when they go into torpor. Unlike hedgehogs, they will be in family groups, deep underground in their sett, which provides shelter from rain and cold conditions. Additionally, in the weeks leading up to winter, they have collected insulating bedding materials such as dry grass and fallen leaves.



When it comes to deciding whether to hibernate or migrate, bats seem



able to do both. Most enter hibernation in November and aren't fully active until mid-May. Their winter roosts are mature or veteran trees, hollow from natural decay or that have had cavities bored into them by other species, like woodpeckers. Caves and old mine shafts can also provide good conditions for bats to winter in, if they have a constant temperature

and are free from damp and frost. Pipistrelles are our most common bats, but we don't know where they all go in winter. Not enough hibernation roosts have been found to account for the numbers seen in summer months. However, we know that one species, *Nathusius' pipistrelle*, undertakes long-distance migration, including sea crossings, and is a winter migrant into Britain from Northern Europe. So it may be that our resident breeding species are not as sedentary as we had assumed.

*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.*



## Marion Weinstein's "Friendship Bench" is unveiled by teachers and children, family and friends, celebrating the memory of Marion Weinstein's role as a governor and friend to Beckley Village School

On 7 November 2024, Headteacher Rick Houston hosted a heart-warming celebration to commemorate Marion Weinstein, involved in volunteering at School whilst living in the village of Beckley for 40 years.



Rick Houston, Headteacher said "Our special event at school was to mark Marion's important role in Beckley with the unveiling of a new "Friendship Bench" for the school playing field, donated by the family and friends of Marion Weinstein in memory of her over 20 years as a Governor and Friend to Beckley Village School. It is wonderful to celebrate Marion's friendship with the next generation of school teachers and children."

The children gathered together for conversation and cake, meeting Marion's husband Bill Weinstein, and Marion's daughter Helen Weinstein, who both sat on the bench surrounded by the children and teachers, joined also by many of Marion's friends from the village of Beckley.



The children learnt about Marion Weinstein's role at Beckley Village School where she had been so active for over 20 Years as a Governor and Friend, coming into school frequently to support teachers and children by listening to students read books for literacy lessons, and volunteering enthusiastically for craft activities with many youngsters in the Beckley area having fond memories of making artworks with Marion and her bringing in materials for them to make colourful gifts like special cards for Easter and presents for Christmas.



Helen Weinstein spoke to the school gathering about how Marion took her role as Governor very seriously, and was very honoured that she kept on being asked to continue on for another term as Governor, proud to be useful to her local

community. But Helen also underlined that her Mum just loved joining in the activities and did not take everything seriously, sometimes enjoying the activities too much, like the time she was allegedly asked to leave the Pilates class in the School Hall because she was giggling too much and distracting the children with her antics!

Beckley School is proud to have their own bench in memory of Marion Weinstein because as Kate White remarked: “We know that Marion was responsible for fundraising for 4 new benches for Beckley to mark the Millenium, and she realized that the village was such a special place, and that sometimes villagers and visitors just need a seat to sit and think and rest and enjoy the view. My favourite location of these benches is the one just before you reach the Orchard, with wonderful views across the edge of Otmoor. Now we are going to have our own bench to put on the school field by the play equipment, with not only another fantastic view, but to be a special place to foster friendship, so that a child who needs a friend to play with can come to the bench and find someone, which is a very apt way to remember Marion and her wonderful friendship to our school.”

As a Governor Marion was remembered for always putting the children’s happiness first, caring about their health and welfare. An important memory from a fellow Governor, Katie Kelly: “Marion was a special person. We got to know one another properly when I joined the Governing Body of Beckley Primary School. I did not know what the role would entail but sitting with Marion made everything okay: she was wise, funny, pragmatic and always kind. She saw past the wretched bureaucracy that sometimes threatened to swamp us, and always pushed for what she knew would be best for the school and everyone in it. She volunteered at the school for so many years, and along the way made good things happen for scores of local children and their families. Her warmth, kindness and real community spirit were lovely and we will never forget them. Nor will we forget her fantastic sense of humour, her slightly naughty conspiratorial sense she gave children of sharing a joke with a ‘proper’ grown-up!”

## Dame Elizabeth Holford's Charity News of recent Bursaries

The message below is from Hannah Betts who lives in Beckley.

*In May earlier this year the trust very kindly granted me money for new trainers and a running vest. I have used these religiously over the last 6 months and they have been brilliant! I realised I never updated you on how I got on – we finished the marathon in 3 hours 53 minutes! Everyone had warned me running a marathon is “always harder than you think it’ll be”, and despite knowing this I still found it harder than expected. Nonetheless, I was very proud to have finished it particularly in sub 4 hours.*

*If you remember, I was running the Edinburgh marathon for charity Clarissa's Campaign [see <https://www.gofundme.com/f/clarissas-campaign>]. Over the last 8 months or so, along with my friends and Clarissa's family we managed to raise over £55,000, funding almost 8 days of ECG screenings at Cambridge Uni. The first 2 of these days excitingly took place on Tuesday and Wednesday last week where over 200 students were screened. It was covered by the local radio and went really well, and the dates for further screenings in January are currently being finalised.*

*I have some more running events in the diary, including the recent Cambridge 10k, another charity run in December in London, and the Cambridge half marathon in March. I just wanted to reiterate how grateful I am for your support in allowing me to clock in the miles with some great shoes to prevent me getting injured!*



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”

# Is your child 3 or 4 years old?

## Primary school place – you must apply now

If your child was born on or between **1 September 2020** and **31 August 2021**, you need to apply for a primary school place now.

You must still apply even if your child already attends a nursery attached to the school.

Deadline for applications is **15 January 2025**.

## Apply online at

[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions)

– it's quick, easy and secure.

You can get free access to the internet at many of our libraries and children's centres – ask for details at your local facility.



## For help and information:

Web: [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions)

Email: [admissions.schools@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:admissions.schools@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

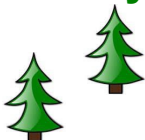
Tel: **0345 241 2487**



## Christmas Tree Recycling Folly Farm, Common Road, Beckley

Return your old tree here by  
**Sunday 19 January 2025**

Trees left after this date will not be accepted  
Trees larger than 6 ft must be cut down in size



Working  
together

## BECKLEY

### Beckley Church

Details of all church services and general church news can be found on pages 5 - 14. Any changes to the published schedule of services will be on our website [www.fourparishes.org.uk](http://www.fourparishes.org.uk).

### Lorne Bradley

It was very sad to hear of Lorne Bradley's death at the age of 91 on 27 October. She and her husband Professor David Bradley lived for many years at Ffawyddog House in the High Street until 2018 when they moved into Oxford. They were great supporters of the village and the church, and David was on the PCC. We still miss their wisdom, kindness and generosity, and our thoughts and deep sympathy are with David and their family.

### 'Carols and Claret' in Beckley Church

'Carols and Claret' this year will be on **Sunday 15 December at 6pm**. We are looking forward to this lovely celebration of Christmas by candlelight, with readings that tell of the birth of Jesus, carols for all to sing, and time afterwards to enjoy each other's company, with mulled wine and mince pies!

The church can be chilly, so do wrap up well, and in some parts of the building it can be difficult to see to read the carol sheets, so do bring a torch if you wish.

### Beckley & Stowood Parish Council

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on **Monday 9 December 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).

Christmas Tree Recycling will take place at Folly Farm, Common Road, Beckley again this year. Please bring your tree by 19 January 2025.

## OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### (BECKLEY AND STOWOOD PARISH) (SPEED LIMITS) ORDER 20\*\*

NOTICE is given that Oxfordshire County Council proposes to make the above order under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and all other enabling powers. The effect of the order – in order to help improve road safety on local roads – is to introduce a **20mph speed limit** in Beckley, replacing the majority of the existing 30mph speed limit in the process, leading out to the following points:

1. Common Road – a point 50 metres west of New Inn Road,
2. New Inn Road – a point 35 metres south of Common Road,
3. Otmoor Lane – a point 405 metres north of High Street,
4. Woodperry Road – a point 150 metres northwest of its junction with Woodperry Hill/Horton Road.

The existing 30mph speed limit will remain on that part of New Inn Road between Common Road & the B4027, with Officers having taken the current road environment into account.

The Oxfordshire County Council (Restricted Roads) (Beckley and Stowood Parish) Order 1999 will be revoked/replaced as necessary.

Documents giving more details of the proposals are available for public inspection online by visiting: <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/>. Hard copies may be made available on request.

Objections to the proposals and other representations specifying the grounds on which they are made may be sent in writing to the address below by the end of **06 December 2024**. The Council will consider objections and representations received in response to this Notice. They may be disseminated widely for these purposes and made available to the public.

Traffic Regulation Order & Schemes (Ref: CM/12.6.123) for the Director of Environment & Highways, Oxfordshire County Council, County Hall, New Road, Oxford, OX1 1ND. (Email: [christian.mauz@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:christian.mauz@oxfordshire.gov.uk), Telephone: 0345 310 1111).

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

### Open share offer

The share offer to support the future of The Abingdon Arms is still open. Shareholders are now entitled to 10% off food and drink at the pub: for further information email [theabingdonarms@gmail.com](mailto:theabingdonarms@gmail.com).

### 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, except for the first quiz of 2025 which will be on 8 January at 7.30pm - with pizza!** Table bookings advisable - or you can just turn up and join an existing team.

### Community walks

Suspended during winter – watch this space for when they resume in Spring!

### Christmas Crafts

On **Friday 6 December 3.30 – 5.30pm**, we will reprise our very successful free **Christmas Crafts**:

*Christmas decorations for children, wreath making for adults!*

*Mulled wine, hot chocolate, mince pies, and wood-fired pizza available to buy.*

*Booking recommended: email [info@bacbs.org](mailto:info@bacbs.org)*

### Sunday evening talks

Last Sunday of the month, 6.30 pm in the pub. There will be no talk in December, but 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 **23 February** local author **Amanda Roberts**, who has written a historical whodunnit novel based in Islip, will give us a talk entitled **Plots & Protagonists - a novelist's ideas and inspirations**.

And on **30 March**, Chris Pugh from Horton-cum-Studley will tell us all about **Bell Ringing in churches**.



## FOREST HILL

### News from St Nicolas

Details of all church services and general church news can be found on pages 5 - 14. Any changes to the published schedule of services will be on our website [www.fourparishes.org.uk](http://www.fourparishes.org.uk).

### Christmas Services at St Nicolas

**Children's Christingle & St Nicolas Day Service, Sunday 1 December, 4pm**  
(Meet in the village hall at 3.15pm to make the Christingles beforehand)

**Advent Carol Service, Sunday 8 December, 6pm**

Carols, hymns and readings for the season of Advent, with St Nicolas Choir.

**Traditional Nine Lessons & Carols, Tuesday 17 December, 7pm**

Readings from the King James Bible and well-known carols for all to sing.

**Christmas Eve 'Crib Service', Tuesday 24 December, 4pm**

A short service with songs and activities suitable for young children.

**Christmas Day Holy Communion, Wednesday 25 December, 10am**

(see page 5 for details of 'Midnight' services on Christmas Eve)

**Epiphany Carol Service, Sunday 12 January 2025, 6pm**

Carols, hymns and readings for the Feast of the Epiphany, with St Nicolas Choir.

Please join us at Forest Hill Village Hall  
on Sunday 22 December from 4–6pm for a

### **“Bring & Share Family Festive Tea”**

Celebrate Christmas and the festive season with delicious treats, seasonal stories from around the world, warming drinks including mulled wine and relaxing live music to get us the holiday mood. Everyone is welcome!

If you'd like to lend a hand with decorations or catering, please get in touch with Susann: [susanh@gmx.net](mailto:susanfh@gmx.net).

## 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 Jams at Forest Hill Village Hall

**Tuesday 10 December 2024, 7.30pm**

**Tuesday 14 January 2025, 7.30pm**

## Village Carol Singing, Thursday 19 December, 6pm

Meet at the Village Hall to sing some carols, then progress around the village, ending up outside the pub. Bring torches and wrap up well!

## Pop-Up Coffee Shop at Forest Hill Village Hall

The monthly Pop-Up Coffee Shop has been running since October 2023, since when it has raised £392 for local charities, as well as providing much-needed funding for the Baby & Toddler Group (aka The Maple Tree at Forest Hill). I couldn't have done it without my loyal helpers who set up tables and chairs, wash up, bake cakes, take money and encourage others to come. There is no date planned for 2025 but if anyone would like to become part of a team who take it in turns to run something similar on a rota basis, please let me know.

*Julia Stutfield (07766 103427 or [julia.stutfield@gmail.com](mailto:julia.stutfield@gmail.com))*

## 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, apart from Boxing Day on 26 December. 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.

## HORTON-cum-STUDLEY

### News from St Barnabas

Details of all church services and general church news can be found on pages 5 - 14. Any changes to the published schedule of services will be on our website [www.fourparishes.org.uk](http://www.fourparishes.org.uk).

### Christmas Services at St Barnabas

#### **Carol Service, Sunday 15 December, 3pm**

Mulled wine and mince pies will be served after the service.

#### **Crib Service, Tuesday 24 December 4pm**

This is a wonderful start to Christmas, a family friendly short service whereby the Children are involved in building the Crib, with Prayers and short readings. I'm again asking children to help us out, to either bring up a figure, or to assist in a reading or Prayers, which you will receive prior to the event.

If you wish to be involved, please contact me, and don't forget to bring your torches. Lynn Whitaker - 07795 550851

#### **Christmas Day Holy Communion, Wednesday 25 December, 10am**

(see page 5 for details of 'Midnight' services on Christmas Eve)

### Other events

#### **Popup Pub and Social at the 'Dog and Collar' [in St Barnabas Church]!**

##### **Friday 6 December, 6-8.30pm**

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

#### **Please note: No Popup Pub in January 2025.**

#### **Coffee and Chat**

##### **Saturday 14 December**

##### **Saturday 11 January**

Everyone is welcome to pop in to St Barnabas Church between **10am and 12pm** to spend some time with neighbours for coffee and cake on the above dates. No charge but donations welcome.

## Joan Diamond



On 5 November, after a long illness, Joan gave up the struggle and died peacefully at her home of 44 years in Horton-cum-Studley, with her husband John and daughter Karen at her side.

Joan was a keen gardener and member of the village garden club. She also loved Waterperry Gardens, and was a founder member, together with her husband, of the Friends of Waterperry Gardens and served as

Treasurer for some years.

She was also a keen walker, and spent many happy hours with her husband exploring the footpaths on and around Otmoor and the surrounding countryside.

Joan was also involved with the Otmoor Challenge, and for many years helped Julie Ogden book the walkers in and out, and before that as a member of the W.I. helped in the old refreshment marquee which was used before the new village hall was built.

She will be laid to rest at St Barnabas Church Horton-cum-Studley on Wednesday 4 December, following a service in the church starting at 11am.

*John Diamond*

## Horton-cum-Studley Parish Council News

### **Speedwatch**

Councillor Payne and a group of volunteers continue to operate our Speedwatch checks in the village. More than 180 vehicles have been reported to Thames Valley Police (TVP) and recent appreciative feedback from TVP included follow-up prosecution for vehicles without insurance cover. We are still able to operate only the one location at the bottom of Horton Hill, but will try to vary this with TVP agreement.

If you would like to be part of this success, please contact [hcsppayne@gmail.com](mailto:hcsppayne@gmail.com).

## New Parish Council website

We have a fresh, new design for the website which now focusses on what we are obliged to publish as a Parish Council, but still a wide range of information for all in the village. This can be found at: <http://www.horton-cum-studley.org.uk/parish-council/>

## Parish Council Meetings

Parish Council meetings, open to all in the village, are normally held on the second Thursday of each month, 7.30pm in the Millennium Village Hall, although an August meeting is not usually held.



**Community Help and Information Point**

**Join us as a CHIP Volunteer**

We are looking for friendly, dedicated people who have 2 or more hours per week to spare and would like to help others within their community

**What are CHIPs?**

Community Help and Information Points (CHIPs) are the front door to our services, providing face-to-face support in community locations.

**What will you do?**

- Support clients
- Provide information
- Refer for assistance

**Make a real impact in your community!**

Interested?  
Email: [recruitment@cawnac.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@cawnac.org.uk)

**citizens advice** West Northants & Cherwell

## Horton-cum-Studley Gardening Club

The new season of evening talks kicked off in October with an extremely well-received presentation by Rachel Hammond, from EDGE, who spoke about sustainable, edible planting, specifically perennial vegetables, shrubs and trees. Rachel is a Landscape Architect who promotes the planting of vegetables in public settings (such as Florence Park in Oxford).

On 19 November Sue Burge shared her vast knowledge of snowdrops and their folklore connections, alongside educating us about mixed planting.

Our **AGM at the Millennium Hall on 21 January 2025** will be the traditional mix of 'business', followed by mulled wine, mince pies and a quiz. There will be plants for sale, as at every meeting when members are kind enough to bring along their own produce.

Autumn has taken its time this year, with many trees holding on to their blaze of colour later than usual - a blessing, given the notable lack of sunshine.

This is a good time of year to plant new hedging, with bare root stock available in several local nurseries. I have been thinking about my own garden and trying to decide whether to bite the bullet and buy more expensive but larger specimens in order to see them mature in my lifetime! Another option might be to go for faster growing varieties, trying to strike a balance to ensure a mix of year-round colour, texture and usefulness (e.g thornier evergreens on boundary edges, and perhaps a couple of fruit trees). I'll aim for native planting as much as possible, and varieties offering shelter and food for wildlife.

We're in the process of creating the programme of events for 2025, including a visit to Magdalen College to see the fritillaries in May, as well as a trip to Rousham Park in June. Talks are likely to include something on the Chelsea Flower Show and a speaker from Waterperry House, among other interesting offerings: more details will be confirmed in due course. Come and join us any time: for more information please contact me or our Club Secretary, Lyn.

Season's Greetings, one and all!

*Melanie Jones (Chair): [mjcbt2013@gmail.com](mailto:mjcbt2013@gmail.com)*

*Lyn Senior (Secretary): [lynsenior@hotmail.com](mailto:lynsenior@hotmail.com)*

# STANTON ST JOHN

## Stanton Church

Details of all church services and general church news can be found on pages 5 - 14. 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 11 December**

**Monday 6 January 2025**

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

For further details, please contact Sue Baker 01865 351449.

## Sheila Pullen Memorial Bursary



Stanton St John Women's Institute has been looking for a way to recognise the late Sheila Pullen's contribution over many years. She was an ever-willing volunteer in all our activities, often involving crafts – particularly knitting – or catering. Her cake-making was exemplary; there was always a rush for her lemon drizzle cake at a WI cake stall. She represented the WI on the Village Hall Management Committee for many years and was stalwart in standing up for the WI's interests.

One of the WI activities that she particularly promoted was the annual visit by the charity, Bishop Creighton House (now the Creighton Centre). These day-long visits by disabled and disadvantaged young people from Fulham involved a full meal and other refreshments, along with other activities, such as strawberry-picking, and would not have been the success they were without Sheila's major contribution.

We have decided that the most appropriate memorial is one that continues to support WI activities, so we are funding an annual bursary award. This will be available to two of the SSJ WI members via a draw of names, and will be used, in broad terms, for educational purposes. The first awards will be made at our next meeting, and we look forward to seeing how the successful recipients of the awards plan to make use of their bursaries.

Film Night in Stanton St John Village Hall  
Stanton St John Film Club presents two movies for  
Christmas and New Year:



Saturday 14 December 2024 at 7.45pm



*“At a New England boys’ boarding school in 1970 a widely-disliked, misanthropic classics teacher has to stay on site over the Christmas holidays to supervise the children who can’t go home, most problematically smart, sardonic teenager, Angus. Also stuck there is grieving canteen manager, Mary. Forced into uncomfortable proximity, the three slowly eke out an understanding in a witty and bittersweet story.”*

Saturday 11 January 2025 at 7.45pm



*“The setting is 2016, in a village community still affected by the coalmine closures of the 80s. Pub landlord, TJ, and newly-arrived Syrian refugee, Yara, together with aid worker, Laura, devise a plan to bring two traumatised communities together in Ken Loach’s forthright, hopeful film.”*



Doors 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.

### A Date for 2025

**Ninebarrow, the Dorset folk duo, return to Stanton St John Church on Saturday 15 March 2025 at 7pm.** Tickets (£17) are now on sale at [www.ninebarrow.co.uk/gigs](http://www.ninebarrow.co.uk/gigs) or directly from Julian Money (tel: 01865 351829 or email: [julianmoney@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:julianmoney@hotmail.co.uk)).

### Stanton St John WI

We celebrated Stanton St John WI's birthday in November, so we are now 102 years old – I know, we don't look it. Jane Fletcher's talk, Memories, at our November meeting, gave us some inspiring ideas on preserving and creating treasures to keep or pass on, which we're already putting into practice.



We are still young enough to enjoy anticipating Christmas, so we're looking forward to our meeting on **Tuesday 10 December** and finding out what the Victorians did for us when it came to everyday objects. The talk by **Stuart Cummins** is **Ingenuity in the Victorian Household**. It will be accompanied by some Victorian-themed refreshments (not gruel, we promise) which may even be handed round by Victorian-styled hostesses.



On **Tuesday 14 January 2025**, with the jolly festivities behind us, our own **Lyn Ebbs** will be talking about another kind of riotous behaviour in a talk on the **Otmoor Riots**. Was the Otmoor community especially lawless? Did Beckley residents deserve their reputation as informants? Find out these facts and also some links to the WI that may surprise you.

So, this is a reminder to WI members, and an invitation to other visitors, to please come along. (WI members free, guests £4).

## 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, 16 December.** All parishioners are welcome to attend.

In October's meeting, the Parish Council discussed flood prevention measures for Mill Street, where recent drainage issues contributed to significant flooding. The Council agreed to contact Oxfordshire County Council to seek assistance with improving drainage systems in the area. Additionally, the Clerk will investigate adding flood response measures to the Village Emergency Plan.

The Council is also exploring options for community defibrillator training. Quotes were received for a group training session, which could accommodate up to 24 participants. The Clerk will ask District Councillor, Tim Bearder if there is any possibility of support for this from the Councillor Priority Fund.

The Council confirmed that Oxfordshire County Council will be collecting old Christmas trees for recycling from a designated area in the village car park. Collection dates will be confirmed closer to the holiday season.

For regular updates on council initiatives, meeting minutes, and upcoming events, visit the Parish Council's website at [stantonstjohnparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://stantonstjohnparishcouncil.gov.uk).



**STANTON HOUSE  
CHRISTMAS TEA**

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December  
4pm – 5.30pm**

**HOT DRINKS, MULLED WINE,  
MINCE PIES, CAROLS,  
ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN,  
AND A LIGHT TRAIL  
THROUGH THE GARDENS**

RSVPs will help us  
with catering

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)

The poster features a festive background with a large red mug of hot drink, a red and white checkered ribbon, and a sprig of holly with red berries. The text is in various colors and fonts, with the main title in red and the date and time in blue. The event details are in red, and the location and contact information are in white on a black background at the bottom.

## 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



## ★ 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)

BERNWOOD POTTERY • OLD ARNGROVE FARM • HORTON-CUM-STUDLEY • OX33 1DG



# CHRISTMAS AT RECTORY FARM

CHRISTMAS TREES | FREE RANGE TURKEYS | CHRISTMAS LUNCHES  
SANTA'S GROTTO | CREATIVE WORKSHOPS

SHOP & CAFÉ OPEN TUESDAYS - SUNDAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS EVE

LOOKING FOR BESPOKE FITTED FURNITURE?  
ALL OUR WORK IS HAND MADE TO MEET YOUR STYLE, NEEDS & BUDGET.

FITTED WARDROBES

ALCOVE SHELVING & TV UNITS

BOOKCASES & LOTS MORE

CALL TODAY FOR A QUICK ESTIMATE

WE LIVE & WORK IN HORTON-CUM-STUDLEY

"We absolutely love the bespoke media wall Chris made for us. Everything in our living room now has its own dedicated place, which makes keeping things tidy and organised so much easier." - George.T

EXPERIENCED CARPENTER OFFERING A WIDE VARIETY OF CUSTOM BUILT SOLUTIONS

07759 284740 | [Chris@BuiltInOxford.co.uk](mailto:Chris@BuiltInOxford.co.uk) | [www.BuiltInOxford.co.uk](http://www.BuiltInOxford.co.uk)

Portrait and event photography with a relaxed, fun and family friendly approach. No limited number of photos, no hidden extras, no project too big or small. All your photos delivered quickly online. Call me for an informal chat about your ideas.



 07710 577 099  [louflanagan@gmail.com](mailto:louflanagan@gmail.com)  [louiseflanaganphotography.com](http://louiseflanaganphotography.com)

**CREATIVE SKIES** | 

Oxfordshire based professional drone operator, providing high quality, fully insured, aerial imagery services at affordable rates. Contact us today for a free quotation!

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY & FILMING **01865 306639**  
BUILDING & ROOF INSPECTIONS [www.creativeskies.co.uk](http://www.creativeskies.co.uk)  
PHOTO & VIDEO EDITING [info@creativeskies.co.uk](mailto:info@creativeskies.co.uk)



*"Let's Write a Will that Really Works..."*

**By putting a great Will in place it's possible to protect your property and money from future:**



- **Inheritance Tax Bills**
- **Care Home Costs**
- **Legal Claims**

*Video meetings can be arranged, or I can take instructions by phone*



**Sam Francis, AffSWW**

**01865 600267  
07809 213874**

[assuredwillsoxford.co.uk](http://assuredwillsoxford.co.uk)

Oxfordshire Raw Pet Supplies, Furze Farm, Brill Road, Horton-cum-Studley, Oxfordshire, OX33 1DG



**Raw Food**  
**Natural Treats**  
**Toys**  
**Accessories**



**OXFORDSHIRE  
RAW  
PET SUPPLIES**

**Small Business  
Discount Card  
Personal Service  
Help and Advice**

[www.oxfordrawpetsupplies.co.uk](http://www.oxfordrawpetsupplies.co.uk) | 07456 486193  
[enquiries@oxfordrawpetsupplies.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@oxfordrawpetsupplies.co.uk)



**Body Rebalance**  
Strength - Health - Movement

**Aches and Pains  
getting you down?**

**David Emsden is a musculoskeletal rehabilitation and corrective exercise specialist based in Horton-cum-Studley**

- **Sports Massage**
- **Injury Rehabilitation**
- **Golf Biomechanic**
- **Nutrition and Lifestyle Coach**

Complimentary 30-minute consultation

**07814 886218**

**[bodyrebalance.co.uk](http://bodyrebalance.co.uk)**

**Airport transfers**

- Door to door
- Modern Executive Cars
- Fully licenced local drivers
- Professional and reliable
- Free in car Wi-Fi
- Pre-bookings only

**CCB CARS**  
Oxford  
Est. 1981

Email: [bookings@ccbcars.com](mailto:bookings@ccbcars.com)  
 Online: [www.ccbcars.com](http://www.ccbcars.com)  
 01865 876699  
 07585 699908

# JARROTT WATCHES

Watch repair and restoration in the Oxfordshire area.

We are pleased to offer a range of services, including:

- Battery Replacements
- Watch Restoration
- Strap & Bracelet Repairs & Changes
- Cleaning & Polishing
- Servicing & Maintenance
- Custom Watch Builds
- Watch Sourcing
- Second Hand Watch Sales

Contact us now to discuss your requirements and get a free quotation!

**WWW.JARROTT.WATCH 01865 362 794 HELLO@JARROTT.WATCH**

**WINDOW**



**WIZARD**

**DOUBLE GLAZING REPAIRS**

**M: 07534 296950**

E: [info@windowwizardrepairs.com](mailto:info@windowwizardrepairs.com)

[www.windowwizardrepairs.com](http://www.windowwizardrepairs.com)

- **Blown - Replacement Sealed Units**
- **Faulty - Broken Window Hinges**
- **Replacement Window Locks**
- **Fire Hinges - Child Restrictor Hinges**
- **Cat Flaps fitted into Door Panels or Glass**
- **Replacement Door Barrels**
- **No Callout Fee - Free Quotations**

Covering Oxford, Aylesbury & Surrounding Area



# Forest Hill Massage & Beauty

Relaxation or Deep Tissue Massage.

Great for runners/golfers/tendonitis etc.

£30 for 30 mins or £50 for 1hr

Pedicure including hard skin & cuticle removal, foot soak, file & polish £25

Semi permanent eyebrows & eyeliner £130 per session

Email: [mariaask@hotmail.com](mailto:mariaask@hotmail.com)

Tel: 07786 364505

## FunFit for 55+ Exercise at your own pace

STRENGTH

FITNESS

FUN



BALANCE

MOBILITY

VARIETY

Islip Village hall, Weds, 12-1pm (£10, 1st session free)

Can't make the above times? Why not join us online?

Mon - Fri, 8.50-9.20am via Zoom, £35 per month

01865 920460 | [support@livinginfitness.co.uk](mailto:support@livinginfitness.co.uk) | [www.livinginfitness.co.uk](http://www.livinginfitness.co.uk)



## ***ACHEY BACK? CREAKY JOINTS? TOO MUCH SCREEN TIME?***

Come and get "ironed out" at PILATES with PAULINE a fully qualified and experienced instructor.

Safe, gentle exercise to help re-align the body, improve posture and tone muscles.

Monday 10.30 - 11.30am

Wednesday 10.30 - 11.30am, 7 - 7.55pm, 8.05 - 9pm

Small groups so booking essential!

**For more information or to make a booking please contact Pauline on 07710 588367 [pauline@plcfitness.co.uk](mailto:pauline@plcfitness.co.uk)**



Heating Plumbing Gas  
Building Services  
Email: office@hpgsolutions.co.uk



www.hpgsolutions.co.uk  
07876 10 50 10

Oxford

# Steve Washington

Plumbing, Heating, Leadwork Specialist  
Free Estimates Given



Home: 01865 873577  
Mobile: 07759 781794

Email: washingtonsltd@gmail.com



**Moss Removal & Roof Cleaning**  
**Brickwork & Render Cleaning**  
**Patio & Driveway Cleaning**  
**Gutter Clearing**  
**Solar Panel & Skylight Cleaning**  
**Installation of Bird Protection & Chimney Cows**

Enhance the appearance of your property with  
our quality assured, friendly service

01865 362797 - info@mossinator.co.uk







# ABC Gas and Plumbing Limited

Your local gas safe registered engineer

Boiler installations \* Power flushing \* Leaks \*  
Servicing \* Domestic plumbing \* Gas safety  
checks \* Renewables \* Taps \* Radiators

24 hour  
emergency  
call out

Mobile: 07894466025 or 07849116805

Email: [ABCGasandPM@gmail.com](mailto:ABCGasandPM@gmail.com)

Website: [www.ABCGasandPlumbing.co.uk](http://www.ABCGasandPlumbing.co.uk)

Landline: 01865 368731



## MSM Electrical

- Full Rewires
- Extensions
- Extra Sockets & Lights
- Garden Lighting & Power
- Electrical Vehicle Charging Points
- Small Jobs Welcome



REGISTERED PART P  
LANDLORDS CERTIFICATES

Contact Martin Shaw: 07860 795 605 / 01865 872681  
[msmelectrical61@gmail.com](mailto:msmelectrical61@gmail.com)

## QUALITY KITCHENS NOT COSTLY SHOWROOMS

### LIQUID SPACE DESIGN LTD

We are based in Horton-cum-Studley

### VERY HIGH QUALITY KITCHENS

Over 1200 kitchens installed in the last 18 years

Over 40 years experience in kitchen industry

Please view our work at

[www.liquidspacedesign.co.uk](http://www.liquidspacedesign.co.uk)

Tel: 07786 938640 [enquiries@liquidspacedesign.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@liquidspacedesign.co.uk)



**Minibuild, specialising In refurbishment works in Oxford and the surrounding villages**

Visit our website [www.minibuild.org.uk](http://www.minibuild.org.uk) or simply send an email or call

Email: [minibuildoxford@gmail.com](mailto:minibuildoxford@gmail.com)

Phone: 07717 128949

For references and more information visit [Checkatrade.com](http://Checkatrade.com) then click on 'look up member by name' (Minibuild)

**Windmill Windows** Est 1999

A local family run business supplying and installing a large range of products in all materials

*Windows, Doors, Bi-folds & Patio Sliders,  
Conservatories, Facia/Soffit & Guttering, Glazing*

Please call us or visit our website for information. All quotations are free of charge or obligation.

Unit 1, Walnut Farm, 68 Worminghall Road, Oakley, Bucks HP18 9QY  
01844 237070 [www.windmillwindows.com](http://www.windmillwindows.com)

**OWEN HANDYMAN SERVICES**

All your jobs taken care of - one phone call - very good rates  
Been in the business for 44 years - no job too big or too small  
Work guaranteed, references on request

Mobile: 07780 676521

Email: [owenbennett@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:owenbennett@hotmail.co.uk)





الشامي  
مطعم لبناني

**AL SHAMI**  
**LEBANESE RESTAURANT**

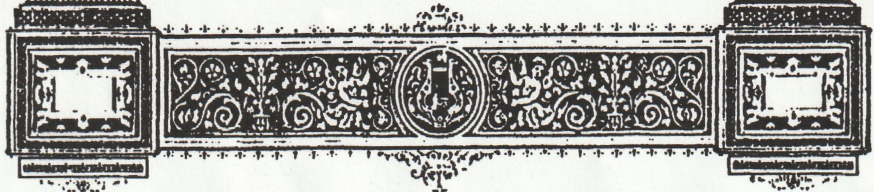
25 Walton Crescent, Oxford Telephone 310066

**OPEN MIDDAY TO MIDNIGHT**

*For those who appreciate good food*

**[www.al-shami.co.uk](http://www.al-shami.co.uk)**

We cater for:

- \*Special Occasions
  - \*Cocktail & Dinner Parties
  - \*Take aways of fine quality
- 



## Christmas Services and Events in the Four Parishes



Please refer to lists of church services and individual village pages for further details

Date	Location	Event
1 December, 4pm	Forest Hill Church	Children's Christingle Service
8 December, 6pm	Forest Hill Church	Advent Carol Service with St Nicolas Choir
11 December, 7pm	Forest Hill Church	'Looking for the Light' Service
14 December, 4pm	Stanton House	Christmas Tea
15 December, 3pm	Horton Church	Christmas Carol Service
15 December, 6pm	Beckley Church	'Carols & Claret'
15 December, 6pm	Stanton Church	Christmas Carol Service
17 December, 7pm	Forest Hill Church	'Nine Lessons & Carols'
24 December, 4pm	All village churches	Christmas Crib Services in all churches
24 December, 11pm	Beckley Church, Stanton Church	Christmas Eve Holy Communion Service
25 December, 10am	Forest Hill Church, Horton Church	Christmas Day Holy Communion Service
12 January 2025, 6pm	Forest Hill Church	Epiphany Carol Service with St Nicolas Choir

