

The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter

December 2017/January 2018



For your diary:

Sun December 3rd: 16:00 - Parish Communion, St Paul's

Sat December 9th: 14:00 – Seniors' Christmas Party, The Railway Inn

Sun December 10th: 16:00 - Messy Church, St Paul's

Mon December 11th: 19.30 - Parish Council Meeting, Culham School

Sun December 17th: 11:00 - Parish Communion, St Paul's

Sun December 17th: 18:00 - Carol Service, St Paul's

Mon December 25th: 10:00 - Christmas Day Communion, St Paul's

Talking Point by Revd Michael Lakey

As a child of the 1970s and 1980s, one thing I remember vividly was Saturday morning, watching repeats of golden-age television on a black-and-white TV set which had one large on/off button and four channel-select buttons. My preferred viewing included repeats of Champion the Wonder Horse, Flash Gordon, and of course cartoons. I loved cartoons; I still do. My absolute favourites were Tom and Jerry, Daffy Duck, and Bugs Bunny (not the recent versions, but the ones from the 1940s and 1950s).

However, one cartoon that sticks in my mind is a short animation by Hugh Harman, entitled Peace on Earth. It is a story told by a community of small animals, living on the other side of an apocalyptic war in which humanity has wiped itself out. Finding a Bible in a ruined cathedral, the animals dedicate themselves to its teachings and resolve to 'turn swords into ploughshares'. So they set about rebuilding the world one bit at a time. They live in beautifully repainted soldier's helmets, and they care for one another very well, so well, in fact, that you can see why they think human behaviour marks humans out as just the strangest 'critters' of all.

Of course, one way of reading the cartoon is as a parable for the bleak period last century in which World War II was just on the horizon. That the story comes on the lips of animals reminds us that noone else is left to tell the tale, and warns us to avoid this fate. But the animals also evoke one of the most prominent themes in animation of this era, namely the 'little guy'. This is a tale in which, quite literally, 'the Meek inherit the Earth'—at least what is left of it. And so, alongside warning, the cartoon shows us homes, hearths, maternal squirrels, and baby mice, comforting us with the knowledge that simple, uncomplicated blessings will continue, whatever the power-brokers of the world may do. As a story, it both comforts and unsettles.

In only a short while it will be Christmas, and the Church celebrates a different story, also both comforting and unsettling. That God came as one of us, and not just one of us but a newborn, is for Him to raise the most basic and simple human things of life to a height we couldn't imagine. What does it mean for God to become the 'littlest guy', if not that being simply human is a gift of staggering significance and potential beauty, however insignificant we might feel. But the Christmas story is also disconcerting. God visited us as a newborn child to grow for us, to become a man for us, to teach for us, and finally to die for us, and even for those who did him harm. And what does that tell us, if not that we are loved, indeed more than we can say, and that our response to that love is perhaps a question we could spend a life answering.

I pray this Advent and Christmas seasons that we all hear the Bethlehem story anew. God bless you!

Team Events:

Wed 13th Dec 7.30pm - Filling Station

Come and join us for a Christmas celebration at the Seven Stars. If you'd like to join us for the meal, you need to reserve a place, choose your dishes from the menu and pay in advance (£20.95/£25.95 per person, for two/three courses). You can see the menu at http://www.sevenstarsonthegreen.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Christmas-Menu-2017.pdf Alternatively, just pop in for a drink.

RSVP by 30th November (or asap thereafter):

Tom Hunnings: <u>info@penntreeservices.co.uk</u> or Catherine Mason: <u>catherinevmason@gmail.com</u> or Liam McCormick: <u>liamandchris1@me.com</u>

Events in Dorchester Abbey

Sat 9th Dec 7.30pm - OSJ Concert

Handel's Messiah in its original scoring Tickets available from www.osj.org.uk £12 - £24

Sun 10th Dec - PACT Carol Concert

Light refreshments will be served from 4pm-5pm with some fun activities for children. This will be followed by the carol concert at 5pm-6:30pm with performances from the Abbey Choir, Benson

Military Wives Choir and professional soprano Erin Hughes, as well as lots of opportunities for the congregation to join in for classic Christmas carols.

The carol concert is free to attend but there will be a retiring collection to raise funds for PACT's award-winning therapeutic support services for adopted children.

We look forward to seeing you there and encourage you to bring friends and the whole family to join in the festivities and support PACT's vital work.

Tickets are free but must be booked in advance via PACT's website: www.pactcharity.org/carols

Wed 13th Dec 7.30pm - OSJ Concert

Christmas Carols Plus' with The Ex Swingle Singers, conducted by John Lubbock and Guest appearance by the Shillingford & Warborough community choir, conducted by Christine Cairns. Tickets available from www.osj.org.uk £8 - £16

Fri 15th 7pm - Reducing the Risk of Domestic Abuse Celebratory Concert

A concert celebrating the achievements of local domestic abuse services. Tickets £5 - £12.50 available from: www.list.co.uk/event/862571-reducing-the-risk-celebratory-concert/ or 01865 305305

Here's a bit more about Reducing the Risk of Domestic Abuse:

We are a small local charity founded in 2007 to promote the safety and wellbeing of adults and children affected by abuse. We have an Independent Domestic Violence Service which supports victims and their children at high risk.

We have trained 1,100 Domestic Abuse Champions across Oxfordshire. Champions are front-line staff from a wide range of organisations, who work together to tackle abuse both within schools and their own agencies, encouraging victims to seek help early. The Champions initiative has won regional and national awards. Our website is www.reducingtherisk.org.uk

Sun 31st Dec 7.00pm - OSJ Concert

Wonderful waltzes and polkas mostly by Johann Strauss Junior. Plus well-known tunes from Strauss and Lehar. Tickets available from www.osj.org.uk £8 - £12

Until 6th January 2018 Realms of Glory: A Celebration of Angels Exhibition in the Abbey Open daily 9.00am to 4.30pm (excluding services)

Sat 6th Jan – ANGELOS - An event to celebrate the end of the Realms of Glory Exhibition and to remember Rebecca Slingsby, Church Warden Teacher Friend

Enjoy the atmosphere of the Abbey, enjoy good conversation, a drink and take a last chance to savour the Angels exhibition. The Abbey will be fully candlelit for this evening, and the time will be interspersed with performances from the Dorchester Abbey Choir, Holly Papaphilippopoulos (Slingsby) and Brian Catling, Meditations on Rebecca's Nativity scene led by Canon Sue Booys and others and an interactive Art installation in which everyone is invited to participate......

Sun 7th Jan – 10.30am Morning Service

Our speakers will be Val Jourdan and Alison Driscoll from ABCD (Action around Bethlehem Children with Disability), who have a long connection with the Abbey. They will tell us about the charity, and explore the true meaning of "The 12 days of Christmas".

Church service times

Culham

Sun December 3rd 16:00 Parish Communion

Sun December 10th 16:00 Messy Church (Family Service, crafts and cake)

Sun December 17th 11:00 Parish Communion | 18:00 Carol Service

Mon December 25th 10:00 Christmas Day Communion

Sun January 7th 16:00 Parish Communion

Sun January 14th 16:00 Messy Church (Family Service, crafts and cake)

Sun January 21st 11:00 Parish Communion

Clifton Hampden and Burcot

Sun December 3rd 08:00 BCP Communion Sun December 10th 11:00 Parish Communion

Sun December 17th 11:00 Parish Communion | 18:00 Carol Service

Sun December 24th 23:30 Midnight Mass

Sun January 7th 08:00 BCP Communion Sun January 14th 11:00 Parish Communion Sun January 21st 11:00 Parish Communion Sun January 28th 10:30 Parish Communion

Long Wittenham and Little Wittenham:

Sun December 3rd Long W 09:30 Family Service, crafts and breakfast

Sun December 10th Long W 09:30 Parish Communion Sun December 17th Little W 08:30 BCP Communion

Sun December 24th Long W 16:30 Carols Sun December 24th Little W 18:00 Carols

Mon December 25th Long W 09:30 Parish Communion

Sun January 7th Long W 09:30 Family Service, crafts and breakfast

Sun January 14th Long W 09:30 Parish Communion Sun January 21st Little W 08:30 BCP Communion Sun January 28th Long W 09:30 Parish Communion

Village News

Village website: www.culhamvillage.org.uk

Update on the funding of the Mouthpiece

We are most grateful to the Parish Council for agreeing to contribute financially to the printing of the Mouthpiece.

In addition, several households have offered to contribute a small sum every month by standing order to help which is wonderful! If this is something you think you would be willing to do as well please contact Anne Churchill Stone (01235533011 or churchillstone27@gmail.com) for details. Thank you to all who have responded for your support of this valuable village service. It seems that we will be able to continue printing a copy for each household!



Culham Parish Council (CPC) – November 2017

It was agreed that CPC will respond to the SODC local plan consultation which is due by 29th November.

A scoping report request by Project Swift to SODC will be challenged by CPC along with a complaint about the misleading email that was initially sent out with the consultation document.

The Housing Needs Assessment consultation questionnaire from Government has been responded to by CPC.

A request for a final season cut to the village grass areas has been made and a request for the siding out of the footpath along the Burycroft will also be made.

The temporary plastic dog-waste bin on the corner of the hedge on the footpath to the Cut will be replaced with a permanent installation by SODC and will be emptied along with the other bins around the village.

Quotes for the repair of the woodwork in the recreation ground shed and the internal electrics will be sought.

'Professional' volunteer groups will be sought to help clear the large pond of unwanted vegetation, with help from the village to stack the material site once it is out of the water.

The village green Christmas tree will be delivered on 27th November. The decorative lights will be powered by electricity supplied by the Church and CPC will make a donation to the Church for its use.

A grant to set up a dedicated CPC website is being sought.

The application by Hills for the quarry at Clifton Hampden is ongoing but there are several strong arguments in favour of it being rejected, including the increase in traffic on the A415.

AND FINALLY

There is a Casual Vacancy post available on the Culham Parish Council. If you are interested in becoming a local councillor, please apply to the Clerk (details on the back of the Mouthpiece) at least one week before the next CPC meeting.

Next meeting: Monday 11th December 2017 at 19:30 at the school.

As ever all villagers are welcome to attend - please come along even if you have no specific items to present/discuss.

County Councillor's Report - Lorraine Lindsay-Gale

The Race is on for Driverless Cars

News that ground-breaking transport technology being pioneered in Oxfordshire has won a share of a £51million government prize has been welcomed by two council leaders. Oxfordshire is home to Science Vale UK and some world leading science and technology companies who are blazing a trail towards more energy efficient and road safety. Organisations based in the Science Vale are working on pioneering projects such as autonomous cars and smart traffic management systems needed to support people travelling around the county. Remote Applications in Challenging Environments (RACE), which is based at Culham Science Centre in Oxfordshire, is to receive £6.9m from the Department of Transport towards their £10million project to set up a range of different test areas mimicking increasingly realistic city driving environments, where automated vehicles can be tested before being taken onto public roads. They are one of a number of companies that Oxfordshire County Council and South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils works with to drive progress on future transport technology.

Apply Online for Primary School Places

Applications for children due to start primary school in September 2018 can now be made online. Families with children born between 1 September 2013 and 31 August 2014 are urged to visit the primary school admissions pages on the county council's website to find out how to apply for places for next year. The council still accepts postal applications but recommends families apply online where possible, as this helps speed up the applications process. It also means families receive an automatic response confirming their application has been received and can be quickly notified if further information is needed. Those who apply online will also receive an email on allocation day, 16 April 2018, informing them of the outcome of their application. Postal application forms are available from all Oxfordshire schools and from reception at County Hall in Oxford.

Help Someone get Online – Be a Digital Helper at your Local Library

Oxfordshire County Council recently launched a campaign to recruit 'digital helpers' in libraries to boost the confidence and skills of those who need extra help to get online. Volunteers able to give up just a few

hours a week are being sought at branches across the county to provide one-to-one support for people with little or no experience of using computers or the internet. The aim of the campaign is to help people:

- access services online including council services
- access employment or training opportunities
- become more independent and reduce isolation

To find out more visit: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/digitalhelper



Oxford's New Westgate Centre Opens

Traders welcomed a bumper weekend at Oxford's new Westgate as thousands of people packed the shopping centre on its first weekend in operation. Shops and restaurant chains said interest from customers had exceeded expectations, with business more brisk than at any other opening they had experienced. Some 60 out of 125 shops and restaurants at the £440m shopping centre opened on Tuesday 24th October, with others opening since, and thousands of people took advantage of their first opportunity to have a look around. Councils, transport operators and Westgate have been working closely on a coordinating travel plans aimed at making it as easy as possible to visit the Westgate and minimising journey times into the heart of Oxford. The best way to travel into the city centre is to use the park and

rides or public transport wherever possible. New variable message signs have been installed on the outskirts of Oxfordshire to update people on space availability on the park and ride sites nearby and to direct them there. There are also temporary signs within the ring road which give directions, for those who have chosen not to use the park and rides, to city centre and Westgate. There's more information on travelling to the Westgate at: https://westgateoxford.co.uk/your-visit/getting-here

Oxford to Cambridge Expressway

The Action Group making the case for the Expressway to go to the West and North of Oxford has expanded to 21 Parish Councils and has embarked on an aggressive media campaign that was covered by local newspapers and the BBC. The National Infrastructure Commission led by Lord Adonis is going to announce their preferred route next week (beginning 6th November). However, their opinion is only advisory, and it will be up to Highways England to make the final decision by the Summer 2018. They are proposing to do this without a period for public consultation which I and many others find totally unacceptable. I have the opportunity to lobby my Leader and colleagues at the County Council stressing that "west is best" and do so at every opportunity. But again, OCC's position currently is neutral, and is only that of a consultee once the decision by Highways England on which route has been taken.

Harvest Celebration – Thank You!

Some villagers have expressed their thanks and appreciation to the school for the gifts given them after the Harvest celebration in October - Thank you children!

Art of Culham

contact: artofculham@gmail.com



The ART of CULHAM are looking for artists who live or work in Culham to be involved at the art exhibition to be held April 27th/28th 2018. Please contact via the email supplied above.

For more information like us on St Pauls & Culham Village



Other News

Wallingford Sector neighbourhood update - PCSO Marie Davenport

Your Neighbourhood Policing Team consists of Inspector Mark Harling, Sergeant Fraser Weller, PC Simone O'Dell, PCSO Sue Harris, PCSO Marie Davenport, PCSO Sarah Jones & PCSO Clare Beale.

Anti-social behaviour (ASB)

Dog owners have a duty of care to ensure that they clean up any mess their dogs leave. Several places especially Cholsey are looking at cracking down on this with the Parish Councils working with South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) to start issuing fines for dog fouling. These can be issued retrospectively so please do not think that just because you haven't been caught today that you have got away with it. If you witness anyone not cleaning up their dog mess please get in touch with your local council.

Crime prevention advice

As the days are getting colder and your cars are likely to be frosted in the morning please remember that it is an offence to leave a vehicle unattended with the engine running. It also leaves you vulnerable to an opportunist stealing your car and as you have left the keys in the ignition you will likely not be covered by your insurance company. This is something that can and does happen. We had several reports last year of vehicles being stolen on drives or on the roadside. Please ensure that you keep your property safe and secure at all times.

Be Winter Ready – UK Power Networks

In recent years the chances of unscheduled problems with electricity and gas supply have dropped dramatically. Since 1990, network companies have invested £80bn in improving the reliability of local energy networks in the UK. As a result, on average, electricity customers have a power cut just once every two years and gas distribution customers will have their gas supply interrupted without advance notice just once every 40 years.

Whilst the UK's gas and electricity supply is very reliable, bad winter weather can cause damage and disruption.

Steps you can take to 'Be Winter Ready':

- Know your free emergency numbers: In a power cut dial 105 or, for a gas emergency, dial 0800 111999.
- Prepare your home: Keep a torch handy and get your appliances serviced by a Gas Safe registered engineer to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Register as a vulnerable customer: Vulnerable households can get extra support by signing up to the Priority Services Register.
- Keep your eyes open: Keep an eye on the weather forecast and, if you have a power cut or a gas emergency, check on your neighbours.

Great Christmas gifts for anyone wild about wildlife - People's Trust for Endangered Species

People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES), a UK conservation charity, has released its annual Christmas gift catalogue. The creative and quirky range of gift ideas will help the most endangered wildlife across Britain and throughout the world, with 100% of profits going directly to help wildlife in need.

There are gifts to suit all interests varying from improving your own habitat with beautifully designed tea towels and cushions, to supporting conservation projects by giving snow leopards a safe place to roam. There are also gifts for all budgets from wooden keyrings for £4.50 to original watercolour wildlife illustrations for £45. New items this year range from eco-friendly seedballs to original wildlife themed artwork exclusive to PTES so whether you want to save the bees or protect the pine martens, there is something for everyone.

The full range of wildlife gifts, ideal for anyone wild about wildlife, can be viewed and purchased online at www.ptes.org/shop.

Gifts of Nature (prices range from £10 - £50)

PTES has some unique gift ideas in their Gifts of Nature range. 100% of the money raised will help save endangered species worldwide. Gift options include:

- Honeymoon hamper: providing newly released dormice with food until they can fend for themselves in the wild
- Gardener's friend: encouraging the public to create hedgehog holes and connect their gardens to form Hedgehog Highways
- Fighting for survival: educating more people in the conservation of stag beetles
- Winter wonderland: supporting coppicing practices in ancient woodland to help species such as red squirrels and hazel dormice through winter and spring
- Location, location, re-location: relocating the rare pine marten from Scotland to a new lush woodland home in Wales
- Tails of the riverbank: helping save water voles in the UK and boost their numbers by improving their riverbank homes
- Passage to India: working with villagers in India to plan agricultural work around elephant migratory routes & promoting alternative forms of livelihood
- Save orangutan forest: training forest managers in Indonesia to help protect the Bornean orang-utan from extinction
- Snow leopard patrol: creating new patrol zones across Mongolia so more snow leopards can roam free
- Funky gibbon: training forest rangers to monitor and report illegal poaching of western hoolock gibbons and educating communities to respect this species

At the Unicorn Theatre

Hannah Sanders & Ben Savage

Our final concert for 2017, is on Thursday 7th December and features the spellbinding Hannah Sanders & Ben Savage.

Both **Hannah** and **Ben** hail from folk singing families in the flatlands of East Anglia.

A chance meeting at their local Black Fen Folk Club in Cambridge uncovered Hannah and Ben's shared musical passions and sympathies. Over time this has developed into a unique and intimate show of American roots and English folk music.

Hannah spent most of her formative years touring Europe with her family band in a converted school bus, singing folk songs a cappella in the street.

However a sea change and relocation to the US saw her soak up the influences from the American North East and take up playing the dulcimer.

Meanwhile Ben was writing and touring with celebrated UK folk band The Willows. He went on to produce Hannah's solo debut Charms Against Sorrow, released in early 2015 to critical acclaim.

Fleetingly, they may evoke a memory of **Gram & Emmylou**, **Shirley & Davey**, or **Gillian & David** but their warm distilling of influences from both sides of the Atlantic produces a refined sound that is decidedly their own.

For more information: www.hannahbenmusic.com

SUPPORT: Jake & Sarah

Doors: 7pm | Music: 7:15pm | Main act: 8pm

Tickets: £14 - REMADE GUITARS, Stratton Way, Abingdon or www.musicattheunicorn.org.uk

Aladdin

By Joe Graham | Directed by Susi Dalton

Evenings: Friday 12th, Saturday 13th, Thursday 18th, Friday

19th, Saturday 20th

January | 7:30pm

Matinees: Saturday 13th, Sunday 14th, Saturday 20th

January | 2:30pm

Lose yourself in old, mysterious China at the old and mysterious Unicorn Theatre in Abingdon! Emperor Ming (Richard Wilson) is determined to marry his daughter, the Princess Baldroubador (Alex Jenkins) to the richest suitor he can find – but she has other ideas.

The princess would like to travel and see the Seven Wonders of The World and luckily Aladdin (Rachel Tranter) - son of the local laundry owner, Widow Twanky (Duncan Blagrove) - have the same idea. They meet and it is love at first sight but the evil Abanaza (John Hawkins), who poses as Aladdin's Uncle, needs

Aladdin to retrieve the magic lamp from a cave. This traditional story has all the fun, music and audience participation of a great pantomime and is not to be missed! Aladdin was written by local boy Joe Graham.

Tickets: £10, £8 concessions (60+, Under 12s, Students, ADC members)

Group Bookings: Groups of 10 and over - All tickets £8 (£8.55 when booked online - Just select the concession rate ticket and choose the number you require). Please get in touch if there are any problems with your booking.

Tickets will be available from: The Bookstore, The Abingdon Precinct (15 Bury St), Abingdon.

Email: tickets@unicornboxoffice.org.uk | Telephone: 0845 4636638

www.abingdon-drama-club.com enquiries@abingdon-drama-club.com

What's on at The Earth Trust



Wreath Making - Friday 1st and Friday 8th December, 1pm and 2pm each day

Make a beautiful festive wreath for your home or to give as a gift. All materials are provided but feel free to bring along any additional foliage or decorations you would like include. If children would like to take part please book on to Wreath Making for Families at 3.45pm. Price includes a hot drink and a mince pie! £20 per wreath; booking essential: book online (incurs a fee) or call 01865 407792 during office hours.

Wreath Making for Families - Friday 1st and Friday 8th December, 3.45pm

Make a beautiful festive wreath for your home or to give as a gift. All materials are provided but feel free to bring along any additional foliage or decorations you would like include. Adult only workshops are at 1pm and 2pm. Price includes a hot drink and a mince pie each! £20 per wreath; booking essential: book online (incurs a fee) or call 01865 407792 during office hours.

More information can be found on our website www.earthtrust.org.uk. All events take place at the Earth Trust, Little Wittenham, OX14 4QZ unless otherwise stated.

Christmas Party at the Railway Inn - Pauline Davidson

I would like to invite senior citizens of Culham, aged 65+, to The Railway Inn on **Saturday 9th December 2017** for a Christmas Party, from **2 to 6pm**. This offer is limited to 30 people who must be Culham residents. It will include:

- Free 4 Course Turkey Meal and refreshments.
- Entertainment, Bingo and Raffle

If you want to come, please fill in and return the tear-off reply slip below. Please note that we need to know if you have any special requirements, such as:-

do you need to be picked up? will you be in a wheelchair? are you on a special diet?

Tο	Pauline Davidson.	The Railway Inn.	Culham.	OX14 3BT (tel. 528046)	

I would like to come to the Senior	Citizens'	Christmas	Party at	The Railway	Inn on	Saturday	9th
December 2017							

Name
Address
Telephone number
Special needs – please CROSS OUT if NOT needed
Please could someone give me a lift? I will be in a wheelchair.
l am on a special diet – i e

The Mouthpiece

Please note that any opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the editors. We accept contributions and advertisements in good faith and cannot be responsible for errors therein.

Contributions to the February issue of the Mouthpiece by January 15th, please, to: generalmouthpiece@gmail.com

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WHO IS WHO IN CULHAM?

CULHAM PARISH COUNC	IL		
Gordon Gibbs (Chair)	grgibbs@btinternet.com	32 High Street, Culham	01235 523679
April Jones	apriljunejones@icloud.com	The Granary, The Barns, Culham	01235 530073
Andrew Steele		27 High Street, Culham	01235 534910
John Thomas		40 High Street, Culham	01235 521678
Sam Casey-Rerhaye		3 The Burycroft, Culham	01235 799489
CLERK TO PARISH COUNC	CIL		
Lucy Dalby	culhampc@googlemail.com	76 Evenlode Drive, Didcot OX11 7XQ	01235 817464
DISTRICT COUNCILLOR			
Sue Lawson	sue.lawson@southoxon.gov.uk		07899 963236
COUNTY COUNCILLOR			
Lorraine Lindsay-Gale	lorraine.lindsay- gale@oxfordshire.gov.uk	Nut Tree Cottage, The Green South, Warborough OX10 7DR	01865 858976
ST PAUL'S CHURCH			
Associate Team Vicar:	Revd. Michael Lakey		07586 323325
Ordained Local Minister	Revd. David Haylett	familyhaylett@yahoo.com	01865 407382
Hon. Treasurer:	Andrew Churchill Stone	18 High Street, Culham	01235 533011
	a.churchill.stone@mybroadbandn	nail.com	
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