

# The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter

June 2019



## For your diary:

**Sun June 2nd: 11:00** – Parish Communion followed by AGM, St Paul's

**Sun June 9th: 16:00** - Messy Church, St Paul's

**Mon June 10th: 19:30** - Parish Council Meeting, Culham School

**Sun June 16th: 09:30** – Parish Communion, St Paul's

**Sat June 22nd: 10:30** – Culham Festival, Culham Village Green

**Sun June 30th: 10:30** – Team Service, St Paul's

## **Church service times**

### **Culham**

Sun June 2nd 11:00 Parish Communion  
Sun June 9th 16:00 Messy Church  
Sun June 16th 09:30 Parish Communion  
Sun June 30<sup>th</sup> 10:30 Team Service

### **Clifton Hampden and Burcot**

Sun June 2nd 08:00 BCP Communion  
Sun June 9th 10:30 Parish Communion  
Sun June 16<sup>th</sup> 10:30 Parish Communion  
Sun June 23rd 11:00 Messy Church (child-friendly, children's activities at 10:30)

### **Long Wittenham and Little Wittenham**

Sun June 2nd Long W 09:30 Family Service, crafts and breakfast  
Sun June 9th Long W 09:30 Parish Communion  
Sun June 16th Little W 08:30 BCP Holy Communion  
Sun June 23rd Long W 09:30 Parish Communion

## **Events in the Abbey**

*Mon 3rd June 6.30pm Friends of the Abbey AGM*

*Sat 15th June 7.30pm Benson Choral Society Summer Concert*

Our Summer Concert brings together Andrew Carter's tuneful Benedicite, in which we will be joined by the Children's Choir of St Mary's, Wallingford, and Stanford's nautical Songs of the Fleet, along with the exciting Overture and Polovtsian Dances from Borodin's opera Prince Igor. We will be accompanied, as always, by The Elgar Orchestra, with baritone soloist Michael Bundy. Tickets from [www.bensonchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.bensonchoralsociety.org.uk)

*Mon 17th to Fri 21st June – Festival of Voices*

## **Team Events**

*Wed 12th 7.30pm Filling Station at Marsh Baldon Village Hall*

*30th June 10.30am Team Service at Culham with Revd Michael Lakey*

## Talking Point by Revd Michael Lakey

On Sunday 9th June we celebrate the feast of Pentecost (Whitsun). In our church year Pentecost completes the season of Easter. I like to see it as a part of a journey that begins with Ash Wednesday and continues through Lent and Holy Week and into Eastertide. All together it is a journey of about 100 days and one that begins with ashes and ends with fire. The fire of Pentecost is the stuff and breath of life; it is life inspiring; life giving and sends the church out in the world to proclaim boldly.

The Pentecost story is very vivid and can be found in Acts 2. It is a well-known biblical passage, but it is important to read afresh each year. Jesus' friends are depressed, frightened, closed in, praying, alone. The spirit strikes suddenly, frighteningly—like a mighty wind—and blows them out of their depression into the world.

The reading is very dramatic, yet the spirit isn't always mighty wind. God's Holy Spirit can equally be present in less dramatic ways. The Spirit is at work through the quiet visit of a friend, through the gift of a cake left on the doorstep, and through the gentle word to someone facing an ordeal we can't share but want them to know we care about them.

The biblical story of Pentecost happened in the open air, and I like to think that this reminds us that the place of the church is not behind closed doors, but it is called to be out in the world, amongst people; speaking truth boldly to power, loving the stranger, sharing faith. Pentecost is not a feast about safety and security but of risk and growth.

Our call as people of faith is to find the right words and acts to be Jesus to our own community. What works is using our own gifts, time and energy to take God's mighty wind and quiet whisper out the doors, so that everyone might have opportunity to experience the dramatic wind of the Spirit and that quiet whisper of encouragement. It can be tricky to hold together but I continue to believe that God's Spirit can be both power and gentleness.

Looking back at my life I would have to say that my personal experiences of the nudges of the spirit have always been more of gentleness than power. I have never experienced a powerful moment of conversion or a dramatic experience of the presence of God's Holy Spirit. I would be a fool to suggest that God never came in that way or that God only ever came in power and drama.

Whenever God's Spirit comes, we will recognize it by its fruits. It will break down barriers, it will welcome outsiders, reconciles the separated, and energizes our own spirits. If it drives us further apart it is not of the Spirit. Through the gift of Pentecost God offers inspiration and eternal life to all, and always in a language we can understand.

# Village News

Village website: [www.culhamvillage.org.uk](http://www.culhamvillage.org.uk)

## Culham Parish Council (CPC) – May 2019

This month's meeting was held primarily to complete the Annual Meeting of the CPC paperwork, consequently the items were largely administrative.

Sam Casey-Rerhaye was proposed, and seconded, as Chair of the CPC. She accepted the role and signed the Declaration of Acceptance.

John Thomas and Gordon Gibbs both stood down as CPC councillors with effect from Monday 13 May 2019. After many years of service to CPC, John was presented with a gardening voucher and received a round of applause from the room. CPC would like to extend their thanks to both John and Gordon for their contributions over the years.

Philip Owen accepted a co-opted post on the council. The CPC is now quorate but still two councillors short of full capacity.

The remainder of the meeting was used to complete the various admin aspects of the meeting.

The council will meet early on the evening of Monday 10 June 2019 to review the council assets.

### Next meeting

Monday 10th June 2019 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.

The CPC website address:

<https://www.culham-pc.gov.uk/>

## Green Recycling Bins - The Railway Inn



Green Recycling bins are situated at the end of The Railway Inn Car Park. This is to raise funds for Children's Air Ambulance. There is also a green bin for media. All items should be bagged.



## **Update from Save Culham Green Belt: A Green Party District Councillor for Culham!**

Congratulations to Sam Casey-Rerhaye who is now the District Councillor for the ward that includes Culham: 'Sandford and the Wittenhams'. Not only is Sam also on Culham's Parish Council and on its campaign committee, Save Culham Green Belt, she also lives in the village.

The recent local elections, in which Sam won her seat, resulted in dramatic changes to South Oxfordshire District Council. Previously Conservative-led with a huge majority (the opposition being just two Liberal Democrats, 1 Labour and one councillor from Henley Residents Group), the Leader was able to 'whip' the leading group and vote through the potentially disastrous Local Plan. The council's formation is now dramatically different: 12 Lib. Dem., 10 Con., 3 Lab., 3 HRG and five Green councillors. The council will now be led by a coalition between the Liberal Democrats and the Greens, with Sue Cooper as Leader. Our neighbouring council, the Vale of White Horse, which shares planning officers with SODC has similarly had its Conservative majority stripped (it has now 31 Lib. Dem., 6 Con. and 1 Green).

CPRE, the Campaign to Protect Rural England, is already urging the new leaders to scrap the controversial housing plans, including SODC's Local Plan which was submitted to the Secretary of State at the end of March and is now being reviewed by two independent Inspectors. The Plan involves six strategic sites on Green Belt, including 3,500 houses in Culham.

Save Culham Green Belt is working with Sam and the Green councillors particularly, whose manifesto promised to protect the Green Belt, to see if the Local Plan can be halted. Importantly there is a process to do this. Part of the problem, however, is that the submission of the Local Plan was linked to a 'Growth Deal' agreed with Government by the five Oxfordshire councils and the Local Enterprise Partnership (OXLEP) to provide 100,000 houses in return for £215 million. No constituents voted for this tremendous growth to the county, however, and, whilst we recognise that housing is needed, the numbers of houses and the location of sites are highly controversial. They are not in line with natural growth and migration and will put enormous strain on infrastructure and will destroy natural resources and habitats, agricultural land, and flood plain.

There is now a chance to Save Culham Green Belt. We will let you know what help we need from our supporters.

### **Volunteer for Advertising Role Needed – The Mouthpiece**

Sarah Carter who currently manages the advertising in the Mouthpiece is leaving the village, and therefore also leaving the Mouthpiece.

This means we are now looking for a new volunteer to manage the mouthpiece advertising.

If you are interested, please contact [generalmouthpiece@gmail.com](mailto:generalmouthpiece@gmail.com)





# **CULHAM FESTIVAL**

**22nd JUNE 2019**

**CULHAM VILLAGE GREEN**

**10:30AM-LATE**

**KIDS FUN FAIR**

**GIANT INFLATABLE BOUNCY CASTLES**

**FANTASTIC LIVE BANDS**

**CRAFT ALE, CIDER & WINE TENT**

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**£2 SUGGESTED DONATION ENTRY (£1 FOR KIDS)**

FUND RAISING FOR CULHAM SCHOOLS AND ST.PAULS CHURCH, CULHAM

## **Report to Parish Councils from District Councillor Sam Casey-Rerhaye**

Excitingly, the control of the council has passed to a Lib Dem/Green partnership. One Independent (Peter Dragonetti) has joined the Green group, and another Independent (Leigh Rawlins) has joined the Lib Dem Group, so that together the 19 councillors in this partnership form a majority of the total number of councillors of 36. Sue Cooper (Libdem) will be Leader and David Turner (Libdem) the Deputy Leader with finance portfolio, with Sue Roberts (Green) being a deputy with the Cabinet post of Climate and Ecological Crisis Response. There are two other Green Party councillors on the Cabinet and 4 other Libdems. This new partnership wishes to work cooperatively with the other parties, including the Conservatives, to achieve the best outcome for residents.

I will be part of a cross-party Working Group being established to look at the Emerging Local Plan and decide the best course of action in the light of the message given to the Council from the people of South Oxfordshire to reject the version currently sitting with the Inspector.

There was a strong rejection of the Local Plan, both from the successful Lib Dems and Greens but also some Conservatives in the last Council. Many other Conservative controlled councils in the south east have changed control, with similar issues about Local Plans and excessive development perhaps being the catalyst for the change.

And, encouragingly, one of the last motions passed by the outgoing Council was that of a climate emergency.

My email address as councillor is: Sam.casey-rerhaye@southoxon.gov.uk Please get in touch if you have anything to ask, or would like help or information on, or if you have an issue with any of the District Council services.

### **Friends of St Paul's AGM and BBQ Lunch**

The AGM will be held in the church on Sunday 2nd June at midday, following the morning service. Everyone is welcome to attend, whether a member or not.

This gives anyone the opportunity of becoming a committee member, for those willing to give a small amount of their time to supporting fund raising activities.

Following the meeting, there will be a BBQ at 1 pm at 6 The Green, opposite the rear of the Church. Adults £5, children £3.50.

Please pay in cash or make cheques payable to 'Friends of St Paul's Culham' or pay through

<https://wonderful.org/charity/thefriendsofstpaulsculham>

If making payment online please email [pandj@btinternet.com](mailto:pandj@btinternet.com) once the payment has been made.

## Upcoming Events at St Pauls

### *June*

*Sunday 2nd 11am Parish Eucharist*

*Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> 4pm Messy Church*

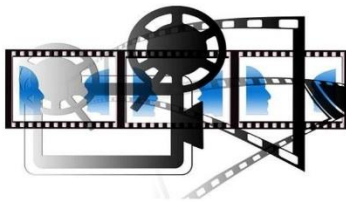
*Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> 11am Parish Eucharist*

*Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Dorchester Team  
Service & Parish Eucharist. ALL WELCOME*

### *July*



*OXFORD HARMONY  
7.30pm Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July  
Tickets £10*



*Children's Cinema Club  
4pm Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July*



*stpaulsandculhamvillage*

*stpaulsandculhamvillage@gmail.com*



# Oxford Harmony



**St Pauls: Culham Green**

**5<sup>th</sup> July 2019: 7.30pm. Bar opens 6.30pm**

**Tickets £10**

**From [stpaulsandculhamvillage@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsandculhamvillage@gmail.com)**



**stpaulsandculhamvillage**

# Other News

## Sutton Courtenay WI

On Saturday 18th May the Sutton Courtenay WI supported the Village Community Showcase by running the bottle stall. With thanks to our members and the villagers for their generosity, we made £283! This will go towards all the good causes in the village. We also had our WI stall which highlighted some of the crafty things we get up to! Hopefully some of the ladies we met on the day will pop along to one of our forthcoming meetings. You will be made very welcome.

Here are some dates for your diary:

18th June – Summer trip TBA

16th July – Ken Jacks from Broadway Butchers

20th August – Garden Party

We meet in Sutton Courtenay Village Hall every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm. If you would like more info please call Val on 01235 847612

## Family Fun Day - Appleford 15<sup>th</sup> June

On June 15th Appleford village will host a country fair to celebrate the opening of the railway to Oxford 175 years ago. This is part of special events at all stations between Didcot and Oxford.

The Appleford 175 fete will appeal to all members of the family. The steam theme will feature steam trains passing the fair ground (courtesy of GWR) and steam traction engines on the field, and railway history displays. There will be food stalls for all tastes, cream teas, local beers, curries and barbeques. Children's stalls, rides, shows and competitions. For pet lovers there is Abingdon Dog Training Club display, and an animal sanctuary corner. There will be stalls for bargain hunters, for toys, books, confectionary, cakes, plants and much else. Exhibition displays of local activity groups and businesses. Special interest displays, vintage tractors and cars are in planning. Village sideshows provide traditional events, tombola, raffles, bottle stall, coconuts shy and more.

GWR is supporting all events by running special trains and buses. Event buses will run between Didcot (Railway Centre), Long Wittenham (Pendon Model Railway), Appleford and Culham. The fair is free to enter and will run from 12:00 noon on 15th June to early evening on the recreation field in the centre of Appleford. This is alongside the railway line and 4 minutes' walk from Appleford Station. This will be a very popular event so make sure you don't miss it!

For real rail enthusiasts the day will start with the Flying Scotsman steam engine passing through the station around 8:40 am, Great for photographers! Go on line to [Culhamstation.co.uk](http://Culhamstation.co.uk) and click on "175th Anniversary celebrations" for a full programme of day events at all stations Didcot, Appleford, Culham, Radley and Oxford. Special one-day tickets are available for travel between the stations and for events.

In the months before, special competitions, photographic, adults and children's paintings and artwork on railway themes are being run. Prizes and work will be on display on the day. For further information on Appleford 175 fete, and if you wish to make contact or have a stall you wish to bring, e-mail [Appleford175@gmail.com](mailto:Appleford175@gmail.com) or ring 01235 848336 (Chris & Mary) or 07768490277(Greg) and leave your details.

## Help endangered stag beetles this summer - People's Trust for Endangered Species



Wildlife charity People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) has been recording stag beetle sightings for two decades. You can report any stag beetle sightings to PTES at [www.ptes.org/gsh](http://www.ptes.org/gsh). Now, this May, PTES is calling for anyone who lives in a known stag beetle area to carry out a more in depth survey as part of an ongoing study - the European Stag Beetle Monitoring Network – to build on the 21 years of records PTES has already collected for this species.

Taking part in this European study couldn't be easier – all volunteers need to do is walk 500 meters, on six occasions between June and July on warm, summer evenings, recording any stag beetles they see. Families, individuals, or groups of friends can all help - whether you're on your evening dog walk or walking to your local pub! To find out more, visit: [www.stagbeetlemonitoring.org](http://www.stagbeetlemonitoring.org)

The European Stag Beetle Monitoring Network is co-funded by PTES, and was set up by the Research Institute for Nature and Forest in 2008. It comprises partner institutes and universities from 14 European countries including the UK, Spain, France and Germany. The network aims to assess population levels across Europe, monitoring the stag beetle's full range.

Laura Bower, Conservation Officer at PTES explains: "We have been running the Great Stag Hunt, and other conservation initiatives for stag beetles, for over 20 years. Thanks to the thousands of people who have recorded their stag beetle sightings over the years, we now have a really good idea of where stag beetles live, but what we don't yet know is whether their numbers are going up or down. Now, we want people to go one step further and take part in this European study too, so we can understand how stag beetles are faring on a wider scale."

Stag beetles are the UK's largest land beetle: males can each up to 8cm in length! Despite their appearance, with their large antler-like jaws, they are harmless, with adults only living for a few weeks during the summer to find a mate. The life cycle of a stag beetle lasts for several years, but their numbers are declining due to the lack of rotting (or dead) wood, which is needed for adults to lay their eggs near and for their young to feed on.

To combat this habitat loss, PTES is also keen for those with gardens to help by making simple, stag beetle friendly changes, making gardens across the UK stag beetle havens. These actions could include:

- Building a log pile: All you need is an outdoor space, some wood and PTES' FREE instruction sheet, which you can download from here.

- Leave dead wood: If you have old tree stumps or deadwood in your garden, leave them alone if you can, as these are ideal habitats for stag beetles.
- Protect them from dangers: Stag beetles like warm surfaces, such as tarmac roads and pavements, which make them vulnerable to being squashed by humans and vehicles. So be wary where you walk and look out for magpies and cats, who can also predate on stag beetles.
- If you find a stag beetle: It's usually best to leave them alone. If you dig up stag beetle larvae whilst gardening, return it to where you found it and replace the soil and rotting wood.
- Record your sightings: If you are lucky enough to see a stag beetle, please record your sighting (with a photo, if possible!) via the Great Stag Hunt: [www.ptes.org/gsh](http://www.ptes.org/gsh) There are instructions on how to identify adults and their larvae on PTES' website too.

Stag beetles are found throughout Western Europe and are relatively widespread in southern England, particularly along the Thames Valley and parts of Essex, Suffolk, Hampshire and West Sussex. There are also known populations in the Severn Valley, but elsewhere in Britain they are very rare or possibly even extinct. Areas with chalky soils, such as the South Downs, or areas where the average air temperature is low and rainfall is high, such as the north of England, are unlikely to be home to stag beetles.

Visit [www.ptes.org/stagbeetles](http://www.ptes.org/stagbeetles) to find out more, including how to build a log pile or pyramid, ID guides so you know a stag when you see one, and to record your sightings. Visit [www.stagbeetlemonitoring.org](http://www.stagbeetlemonitoring.org) to take part in the European Stag Beetle Monitoring Network survey.

## **The Fatal Four - Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service**

Do you know that 95% of collisions are due to human error? Distraction, speeding, not wearing a seatbelt and driving under the influence of drink or drugs are the big fatal four on our county's roads.

Could you?

- put your phone in your glove compartment or set your phone to do not disturb before you start your journey
- adjust your speed and make sure you have time to react to the unexpected
- make sure everyone is wearing their seatbelt before you set off
- get a taxi, the bus or be the designated driver on a night out
- make sure you're safe to drive the morning after, you could still be over the drink drive limit, even if you feel fine

Oxfordshire County Council Fire and Rescue Service have put together top tips to help you avoid the fatal four, and have created a handy 'don't get caught out the morning after' guide [www.365alive.co.uk/fatalfour](http://www.365alive.co.uk/fatalfour).



## Music at The Unicorn



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### FANTASTIC LIVE MUSIC IN THE BEAUTIFUL UNICORN THEATRE

On Saturday 1st June the Abbey Gardens will fill up with rides, face painting, live music and dance, great food and drink, bouncy things (of course!), competitions and lots more!

Fun In The Park will be from 11am to 3pm and is a free to enter.

Music At The Unicorn will have a stall at the event and will be running a fantastic, fun competition for the children, all about music. Great competition, great prizes!

The prizes will be drawn at 2.30pm by our guest celebrity!

We'll be there all day so come and meet us.



Music At The Unicorn's next concert at the beautiful Unicorn theatre in Abingdon-on-Thames is on Thursday 13th June and stars the master performer KEVIN DEMPSEY.

Kevin Dempsey is a master performer and whether in an intimate acoustic environment, or at a large festival, Kevin fills the air with spellbinding music. Kevin has played and recorded with some of the most famous names in the business, but his only visit to the Unicorn was with Dave Swarbrick's Lazarus, which also included the late Martin Allcock.

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

**Tickets:** £15 – MOSTLY BOOKS, 36 Stert Street, Abingdon OX14 3JP (Cash only) or

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

**Burglary:** Due to recent tool thefts, the neighbourhood team held free tool marking sessions in Wallingford and Didcot. This was also a great opportunity to advise the public on security and give out crime reduction advice leaflets. These events were very popular and we will be organising more soon! Please follow us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/tvpsouthandvale](http://www.facebook.com/tvpsouthandvale) where we often advertise these events.

Please visit [www.thamesvalley.police.uk/police-forces/thames-valley-police/areas/advice/homesecurity-guide/](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/police-forces/thames-valley-police/areas/advice/homesecurity-guide/) to download our security guide which contains a range of physical and digital security measures to protect your home. There is also advice on how to avoid invalidating your home insurance through poor security and a handy checklist when going away. You can also click on a link to sign up to Thames Valley Alerts to receive local crime updates from us.

**Witness appeal:** On the 3rd May, the Co-op, Lowstock Place, Didcot was burgled. Offenders stole the cash machine. If you have any information that could assist us with ongoing enquiries, please call 101 (or report online at [www.thamesvalley.police.uk/report-a-crime](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/report-a-crime)), quoting reference: 43190132543.

**County Drug Lines:** County Drugs Lines is the name given to a type of drug dealing by organised crime groups (OCGs) who create a network between a city and a smaller town. On 13th May a 21 year-old man from London was arrested in Didcot on suspicion of drug supply. He has been bailed with conditions not to enter Didcot #TVPStonghold.

### **A message from Didcot TRAIN, 118 The Broadway**

Didcot TRAIN are a registered charity working in Didcot, Oxfordshire, to seek out, engage and empower young people, with an aim of developing their skills and utilising their talents to identify and pursue opportunity. We have delivered outreach and mentoring activity to young people aged 11 to 18 since 2002.

Over the 2018/19 financial year, we worked with 461 young people, several schools and dozens of community agencies in order to broker positive opportunities and make real differences to young people's lives. Through supporting young people to overcome barriers, we work to prevent any challenges limiting their future potential. We aim to achieve this through delivering a range of activities and services which include: detached youth work, outreach, group and one to one mentoring, social action projects, youth involvement and leadership programmes.

Our Explore More Programme is a particularly exciting event in our calendar in which we take a number of young people on a week-long residential to France. Through exposing the young people to numerous new challenges, the trip aims to encourage them to gather new perspectives on themselves and how they interact with others, leading them to pursue positive personal goals on returning. For regular updates on what we are getting up to, do take a look at our @DidcotTRAIN Facebook and Twitter pages and if you have any questions in relation to our work please give us a call on 01235 519315 or email [info@didcottrain.org.uk](mailto:info@didcottrain.org.uk).

## 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.

Please send contributions for the July issue of the Mouthpiece by June 15<sup>th</sup> to:

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Rob Gibbs	c/o 32 High Street, Culham	

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01235 464904



## LOCAL SERVICES DIRECTORY

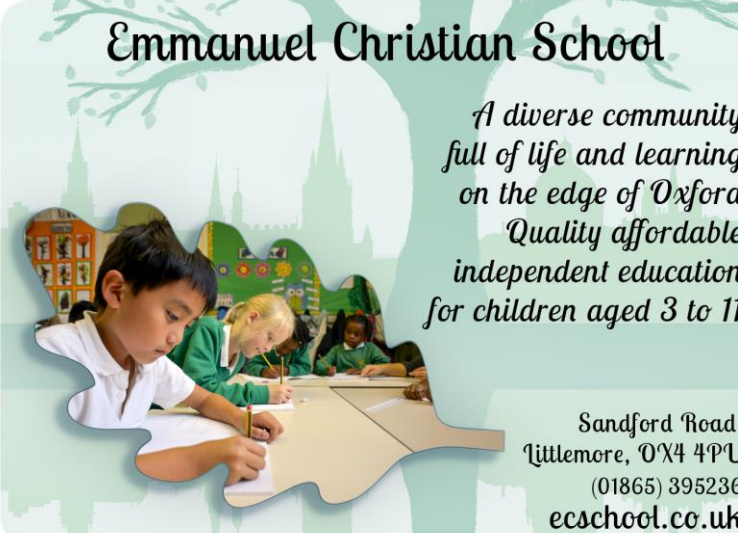
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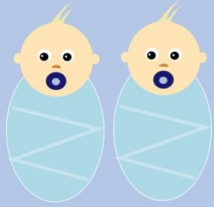
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# WHO IS WHO IN CULHAM?

<b>CULHAM PARISH COUNCIL</b>			
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Adrian Morris	a.morris@culham-pc.gov.uk	5, Manor Farm Barns, Culham	
Philip Owen		6 The Green, Culham	
<b>CLERK TO PARISH COUNCIL</b>			
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<b>DISTRICT COUNCILLOR</b>			
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<b>COUNTY COUNCILLOR</b>			
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<b>ST PAUL'S CHURCH</b>			
Associate Team Vicar:	Revd. Michael Lakey		07586 323325
Ordained Local Minister	Revd. David Haylett	familyhaylett@yahoo.com	01865 407382
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Churchwarden:	Roy Epps	14 The Glebe, Culham	01235 537525
Hon. Secretary:	Charles Reichardt	Fair Green, Henley Rd, Culham	01235 520534
<b>FRIENDS OF ST PAUL'S CHURCH</b>			
Chairman:	Philip Owen	6 The Green, Culham	01235 555223
<b>CULHAM PAROCHIAL SCHOOL (Thames Bridge C of E Federation)</b>			
Head Teacher:	Mrs Lisa Horton	The School, High Street, Culham	01235 521766
Chair of Governors:	Debbie Croft	c/o Clifton Hampden School	01865 407700
<b>ST PAUL'S &amp; CULHAM VILLAGE RE-ORDERING COMMITTEE</b>			
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<b>LADIES OF CULHAM (LOC)</b>			
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