The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter

July/August 2019



For your diary:

Fri July 5th: 18:30 - bar open, 19:30 Oxford Harmony concert, St Paul's

Sun July 7th: 11:00 - Parish Communion, St Paul's

Sum July 7th: 16:00 - Children's Cinema Club - "Moana", St Paul's

Mon July 8th: 19.30 - Parish Council Meeting, Culham School

Sun July 14th: 16:00 - Messy Church, St Paul's

Sun July 21st: 16:00 - Parish Communion, St Paul's

Sun August 4th: 11:00 - Parish Communion, St Paul's

Sun August 11th: 16:00 - Messy Church, St Paul's

Sun August 18th: 16:00 - Parish Communion, St Paul's

Church service times

Culham

Sun Jul 7th/ Aug 4th 11:00 Parish Communion Sun Jul 14th/ Aug 11th 16:00 Messy Church Sun Jul 21st/ Aug 18th 09:30 Easter service



Clifton Hampden and Burcot

Sun Jul 7th/ Aug 4th 08:00 BCP Communion Sun Jul 14th/ Aug 11th 10:30 Parish Communion Sun Jul 28th/ Aug 25th 11:00 Messy Church (child-friendly, children's activities at 10:30)

Long Wittenham and Little Wittenham

Sun Jul 7th/ Aug 4th Long W 09:30 Family Service, crafts and breakfast Sun Jul 14th/ Aug 11th Long W 09:30 Parish Communion Sun Jul 21st/ Aug 18th Little W 08:30 BCP Holy Communion Sun Jul 28th/ Aug 25th Long W 09:30 Parish Communion

Talking Point by Rev Michael Lakey and the Dorchester Team Clergy

"Give me a child....."

In early June three television programmes aired on ITV with the title 63UP. This is the ninth in a series of programmes made every seven years since a cohort of seven year olds was first filmed for 7UP which aired in 1964. I first came across 35UP when I was 35 and have watched since! The key idea behind these films is the Jesuit principle 'give me a child until he is seven and I'll give you the man'. The programme makers selected a group of children from different backgrounds interviewed them, individually and in groups, and set out to tell their stories. There was no apparent critical logic behind the selection of the children and two extreme groups predominate; East End and privately educated along with two children from a children's home and one from a remote farm. 63 UP finds the participants in reflective mode – many have lost parents, several have faced life threatening or life limiting illness of some kind and in the past 7 years one has died. Statistically unsurprising! What has surprised me is the intensity of the relationship between Michael Apted, the producer (a 22 year old researcher at the time of the first programme) and his subjects. On any number of occasions the subject has looked to camera and said 'You know me, Michael' and several times one of the subjects has taken him to task for his assumptions. Although they have only reconnected at intervals it seems to me that part of the programme's appeal is that relationship that springs from the combination of honesty and empathy with which it has been made.

Asked the question, almost all those interviewed replied that they could see their 63-year-old selves in the films of the seven-year-old children they had been. Is the Jesuit premise correct? Well yes, sometimes, and always a bit! More than this - what the programme does seem to prove is that whatever your background and career when you come to look back on your life the things that people really treasure are the relationships they have with friends and family and the memories of events that have built those relationships.

Holiday times – whether at home or away - are often the times when we store up those memories and so, as this holiday time begins, I pray that you will be building memories and relationships to see you through joyful

times and sad ones – and to remind you that I and my colleagues in the Team Churches are here for you at those times as well.

Comings and Goings...

In the Dorchester Team. I am delighted to report that we have appointed a new Team Vicar who will work mostly in Berinsfield, Drayton St Leonard and the Baldons. The Reverend Teresa Stewart-Sykes is currently working in the 'other' Dorchester Team and we look forward to her joining us in the Autumn. Sadly, Michael Lakey will leave the Bridge Group of parishes for Chalgrove – a great move for him and the family – we wish them well! Jon Roberts and Jennifer Morton have completed their curacies – this means that Jon now has to look for a move to a non-Curate role and Jennifer was Licensed to serve in the Dorchester Team on Wednesday 12th June.

Team Events:

Sun 28th July 6.30pm Music for a Sunday evening Vocal and Instrumental music (Adrian Boorman) St.

John the Baptist, Stadhampton Free entry, donations welcome to support St. John's.

Events in the Abbey:

Fri 12th **July 7.30pm** Oxford County Music Service Concert **Sat 13**th **July 7.00pm** Oxford County Music Service Concert

Tue 23rd July 6.00pm St Birinus Primary School Recital - Do please support our Summer Concert in the Abbey. Performers may well be known to you, we are all staff and parents, past and present, of this Dorchester village school. Many of us are bravely leaving our comfort zones! Performances will include classical, jazz and popular music, Indian dance and poetry reading. There will also be refreshments. Proceeds will support music within school.

Wednesday 10th July 7.30pm Marsh Baldon Village Hall OX44 9LL

The South Oxfordshire Filling Station is one of a network of Filling Stations nationwide (www.thefillingstation.org.uk) where Christians gather in friendship to build faith and meet with God. It is not a new church denomination; anyone of any denomination, any faith or no faith is welcome.

Coffee/tea and cake from 7.30pm, worship at 7.50pm, a talk starting at 8.15pm, finish 9.30pm. You are welcome to come and go at any point in the evening.

No Filling Station meeting in August.

If you are interested contact Catherine Mason (01865 343503 or 07879 626828) or Tom Hunnings (07778 104806).

Village News

Village website: www.culhamvillage.org.uk

"Culham's Chevalier"

If you happen to see an elderly man slowly walking around the green one sunny afternoon please take the time to stop and say hello; you may be in the presence of a Hero of France. If indeed you are, then the man who you are speaking to will probably be Mr Colin Franklin. Colin has this spring been created a *Chevalier* in the *Ordre national de la Legion d'Honneur*, a French order of merit with membership awarded by the President of the French Republic. The irony is that of the many truly great and remarkable things Colin has done over the course of his life, and whilst he is deeply humbled by the gift of this award, he regards the reasons for being granted this distinction as amongst the least of his accomplishments.



To understand the reason for the gift we need to travel back in time 75 years. In 1944 Europe was at war; the Allies were at last turning the tide and taking the fight to the Enemy. In June of that year along the north coast of France, British, American and Commonwealth forces as well as the Free French had mounted the greatest seaborne invasion the world had ever seen on the beaches of Normandy. Along the Mediterranean coast of France in August in the South a smaller but no less momentous invasion was taking place to create a southern flank and to allow much needed materiel to be transported into Europe. In the armada of ships that stood off the French coast was HMS Kimberley a K-class British destroyer and on board that ship was a junior officer, 20-year-old Colin Franklin, who was witnessing the liberation of France. Fortunately, he came through the experience unhurt and after the war entered his profession of publishing and subsequently becoming one of the world's leading book antiquarians. 75 years later France has chosen to honour Colin's service and his part in rescuing Europe. However much he may downplay his contribution, I honour him for the sacrifice he made and for the sacrifices made by all those other young men and women during those years which now gives us the liberty to argue about trivialities compared with the threat to life and freedom they faced during the Second World War.

Philip Owen

Culham Parish Council (CPC) – June 2019

There was no report from OCC Coouncillor Lorraine Lindsay-Gale. Our District Councillor (Sam Casey-Rerhaye) confirmed that Sue Cooper is now leader of SODC with David Turner and Sue Roberts as assistant leaders. The SODC local plan is under review and may be withdrawn from the inspector.

The new fence across the playing field will now proceed after the contractor liaises with the owners of the adjacent field.

Two quotes for new play equipment have been received an will be circulated amongst the Councillors for discussion.

A meeting will be held at Radley College on July 18th by the No Expressway Alliance to give an update on the expressway status.

Due to BACHPORT highlighting several errors and inconsistencies in the latest application, the quarry planning application will now be heard on July 15th, at the earliest.

Next meeting

Monday 8th July 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/

District Councillor's Report June/July 2019 - Sam Casey-Rerhaye

Local Plan

The Council's first priority, as I outlined in my last report, is to take a long, hard look at the emerging Local Plan (2011-2034), currently sitting with the government inspectors, and assess what we can do to turn it into something acceptable to our communities. As a result, we have already set in motion a major information-gathering exercise, which included a full Council briefing by SODC Officers on Monday 3rd June and we will be forming a working group to research and review all options at our disposal. Full Council will be discussing and voting on options on 18th July. This is not a trivial undertaking, given the huge amount of work that has already gone into the development of the LP2034, but we are committed to doing everything in our power to reduce the impact of new housing on the environment and on our Green Belt. We are also determined to provide more truly affordable housing in our District and we need to be creative about new ways to do this.

We want to make it very clear that this review has no bearing on the validity or enforceability of the existing Neighbourhood Development Plans, or those currently under development, like in Sandford, Long Wittenham, Clifton Hampden etc. John Howell himself recently published a statement to this effect on his blog: http://www.johnhowellmp.com/news/. In summary, he says "it is wrong to say that if the Local Plan is withdrawn, all the Neighbourhood Plans are no longer valid."

I am on the Scrutiny Committee and we will be meeting on 19th June to scrutinise the options the Cabinet have been presented with and it is likely that we will need to meet on at least one more occasion before further Cabinet meetings and Full Council.

Finances

We also urgently need to return SODC finances to better health, seeking innovative ways to increase revenue and manage all costs effectively and efficiently without continuing to dip into SODC reserves to prop up the operating budget. This is not easy in the current circumstances where central government are being slow with their 'Fair Funding Review' on local government funding which makes it challenging to make short- and medium-term financial plans. And, of course we will be seeking ways to put our money where our mouth is by examining ways in which SODC itself can operate in a more environmentally-friendly way. This will include how we specify and build the new South and Vale Council offices in Crowmarsh.

Cooperation with Vale of the White Horse Council

As you know, SODC and Vale share a team of officers and facilities, so we were also delighted that Vale transferred to Liberal Democrat control following the elections, giving us an excellent basis for an on-going partnership. Sue Cooper and Emily Smith (the new Vale Leader) have already had a number of meetings to discuss how such collaboration will work in future and have agreed shared priorities for the coming year and beyond.

New SODC Website on its way

Andrea Powell's Cabinet position covers Corporate Services and Communication, and during the first portfolio briefing, she was given a sneak preview of the new SODC website, which is long overdue and a vast improvement on the current one. It is much more modern in its look and feel and takes into account the key "user journeys", or reasons why people come to the SODC website and what they want to do when they get there. The actual timetable for go-live is not yet known but I will let you know as soon as I hear.

Recycling

South Oxfordshire was recently ranked in a DEFRA survey as the top recycling district in the South East of England, and third nationally, recycling 63% of its waste. Well done to all our residents who diligently separate their waste and use the facilities provided to ensure we minimise the rubbish we send to landfill. Keep up the good work!

If residents do experience any problems with their bins not being collected by Biffa, to whom the Council outsources rubbish collection, they need to report this online by visiting southoxon.gov.uk/missed bins before midnight on the next working day after the collection was due, or by calling 03000 610610 before 5pm on the next working day.



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.

The Mouthpiece Still Needs You!!

A volunteer is still needed to manage The Mouthpiece advertising. Access to email essential, any skills relating to publishing an added bonus! You would be contacting advertisers to invoice them (usually annually) and dealing with any enquiries relating to the advertising. It is not a heavy workload!

If you are interested, please contact generalmouthpiece@gmail.com or call/text Anne on 07826 360402.

175th Anniversary of Didcot to Oxford – GWR

On 15th/16th June the old ticket office at Culham opened its doors to the public to celebrate 175 years of the Didcot to Oxford line. Many visitors came to look and to see steam trains coming through Culham Station – "Clun Castle" came through twice and the iconic "The Flying Scotsman" rushed through in the early evening.





The Flying Scotsman



Culham Station 1904 copyright Leach's Printers of Abingdon

Visitors dressed for the occasion!

Upcoming Events at St Pauls





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Consultation into the future of Primary Education Provision serving Clifton Hampden and Culham

10 June 2019 - 22 July 2019

Clifton Hampden Church of England Primary School and Culham Parochial Church of England Primary School are both part of the Thames Bridge Church of England Federation. Although two separate schools, they have a shared headteacher and governing body. Together, they aim to provide the best possible education for local children.

The Thames Bridge Church of England Federation and Oxfordshire County Council are consulting on the future of how primary education should be provided in this area. We are considering whether the two schools should now be fully merged. The legal process to merge two schools is the closure of one school, with expansion of pupil numbers at the remaining school.

Based on current pupil numbers and Ofsted ratings, we are exploring whether Culham Parochial Church of England Primary School should be closed, and pupil numbers at Clifton Hampden Church of England Primary School be increased.

This consultation is to gather the information that would be necessary if it is decided to propose formal closure of Culham Parochial School. This includes:

- Whether closure would support or harm educational standards in this area.
- How pupils will be accommodated, should Culham Parochial Church of England Primary School be closed.
- What alterations would be needed to the accommodation at Clifton Hampden, should Culham Parochial close.
- What impact closure would have on the local community, and what can be done to mitigate any adverse impact.
- Transport implications likely to result from the closure of the school.
- Are there viable alternatives to the closure of the school?



This consultation is about gathering information to inform any future proposal. At this stage, we don't have all the answers, but as more information becomes available it will be added to the consultation website at https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/culhamconsultation2019/consultationHome

It is important to stress at this stage that no decisions have been taken. Everyone with an interest in the provision of good quality education for children in the local area is encouraged to take part in the consultation, to inform future decisions.

About Clifton Hampden Church of England Primary School and Culham Parochial Church of England Primary School

Clifton Hampden Church of England Primary School and Culham Parochial Church of England Primary School are both voluntary controlled schools, run by the Thames Bridge Church of England Federation.

Clifton Hampden Church of England Primary School is a smaller than average school, with an intake of 10 pupils per year group. It currently has around 80 pupils on roll. At its last Ofsted inspection (February 2016) it was judged as "Good". Pupil attainment data over the last three years show that pupils have higher scores in reading, writing and maths than the county or England average.

Culham Parochial Church of England Primary School is now the smallest primary school in Oxfordshire, with pupil numbers falling to around 30 primary pupils on roll. When Ofsted inspected it in March 2017 it was judged as "Requires Improvement"; the school was re-inspected in May 2019 but the report is not yet available. Pupil attainment data over the last three years show that pupils have lower scores in reading, writing and maths than the county or England average, and in general made below average progress.

Because of Culham Parochial's small size, it is more difficult for the school to provide a broad and balanced curriculum, and to balance its budget. To maintain the educational opportunities for pupils, some activities are carried out jointly by the two schools.

Both schools currently admit the majority of their pupils from outside their designated ("catchment") areas. Pupils mostly travel from Abingdon, Sutton Courtenay and Berinsfield. School places are available in these areas.

While the draft SODC Local Plan proposes large-scale housing developments in the surrounding area this is not yet confirmed and there is no timescale for significant local housing growth.

Why is closure being considered?

We are exploring whether the merger of Culham Parochial and Clifton Hampden primary schools would improve educational opportunities and standards for children living in this area. The merged school would still be smaller than average, but the Thames Bridge Church of England Federation would be able to concentrate resources in one school rather than spread them across the two separate schools.

Government guidance is that a school can be closed if:

- There are surplus places elsewhere in the local area which can accommodate displaced pupils, and there is no predicted demand for the school in the medium or long term.
 - o Because the birth rate has fallen in recent years, there would be sufficient school places in this area should Culham Parochial be closed. There is currently no evidence that the local pupil population will grow, at least in the short-medium term.
- It is no longer considered viable.
 - o The school's pupil numbers are too low to generate sufficient funding to cover the costs of staffing and maintaining the building. The school has a significant budget deficit.
- It is to be 'amalgamated' with another school.
 - o If Culham Parochial is closed, it would be to amalgamate it with Clifton Hampden Primary School.

There is a presumption against the closure of rural schools. This does not mean that a rural school will never close, but the case for closure should be strong and a proposal must be clearly in the best interests of educational provision in the area.

Any proposal to close a rural school needs to consider:

- the proportion of pupils attending the school from within the local community i.e. is the school being used by the local community;
- the size of the school and whether it puts the children at an educational disadvantage e.g. in terms of breadth of curriculum or resources available;
- educational standards at the school and the overall quality of alternative places in the local area:
- wider school organisation and capacity of good schools in the area to accommodate displaced pupils;
- the overall and long-term impact on local people and the community of the closure of the village school and of the loss of the building as a community facility;
- whether the school is now surplus to requirements (e.g. because there are surplus places elsewhere in the local area which can accommodate displaced pupils, and there is no predicted demand for the school in the medium or long term);
- transport implications i.e. the availability and likely cost of transport to other schools and sustainability issues such as any increase in the use of motor vehicles which is likely to result from the closure of the school, and the likely effects of any such increase;
- any alternatives to the closure of the school, including: federation with another local school; conversion to academy status and joining a multi-academy trust; the scope for an extended school to provide local community services and facilities e.g. child care facilities, family and adult learning, healthcare, community internet access etc.

What happens next?

10 June - 22 July 2019

Public consultation to gather information and views.

Summer 2019

The county council and Thames Bridge Church of England Federation will consider the results of the consultation, and decide whether to proceed to publishing a closure proposal for Culham Parochial Primary School.

September 2019

If it is decided to publish a closure proposal, this is expected to happen in September. This would include detailed information about the closure plan, including the timescale and transfer arrangements for current pupils at the school. Those details will be shaped by this consultation.

September/October 2019

Four weeks' formal consultation into closure. During this period, representations (objections) can be made to Oxfordshire County Council. It is important to respond to this stage, even if you have already responded to this consultation.

November/December 2019

The decision on whether to close Culham Parochial Primary School would be made at a public meeting of Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet. This means that parents choosing a primary school for September 2020 will know whether Culham Parochial is to close before they need to submit their applications by January 2020.

Have your say

More details, and an online questionnaire, are available at: https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/culhamconsultation2019/consultationHome

Further information will be added to this site as it becomes available, including answers to frequently asked questions.

If you would like a printed version of the information instead, please email **school.planning@oxfordshire.gov.uk** or call **0345 241 2487**.

To respond to this consultation you can:

- Fill in the online questionnaire at https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/culhamconsultation2019/consultationHome
- Email your comments to school.planning@oxfordshire.gov.uk; include CULHAM CONSULTATION in the subject header.
- Hand in a written response at the reception office of either Clifton Hampden Church of England Primary School or Culham Parochial Church of England Primary School.
- Post a written response to:

Joanne Booker, Access to Learning,
Oxfordshire County Council, County Hall, New Road, Oxford OX1 1ND,
marking your envelope CULHAM CONSULTATION



The sun shone brightly for the latest Culham Festival and plenty of people came along to enjoy the fun and activities;

Dog Show, Inflatables, Food, drink, fun & games, Steam-powered engines, Classic Cars, Crafts, Beer and so much more!

A happy and enjoyable occasion to celebrate our village and all its friends.

Thank you to all the volunteers who work so hard to plan and organise the event, both during the year and on the day.

Neighbourhood Policing

Wallingford Neighbourhood Policing Team Newsletter

Tool marking

The team have done a couple of tool marking events both in Wallingford and Didcot which were well received and we are planning to do some in the future. These will be well publicised so if you do want your tools marking then keep an eye on our social media (details at the bottom of the page) and posters in and around both Didcot and Wallingford. Crime prevention advice

There has been a spate of shed breaks in the Didcot area, mainly in Hagbourne. In one report the garden was entered but nothing stolen. This shed had good security and alarm fitted which activated. This is a good reminder that shed security is important and will deter and stop thieves.

Beware of Doorstep Scammers

Rogue doorstep traders often take advantage of the warmer weather to offer home improvement services including gardening, window cleaning and gutter clearing. They will repeatedly offer their services at attractive rates and use persuasive and persistent sales techniques to encourage people into making rushed decisions. Scammers may conduct surveys just to get your personal details or as a cover to sell you goods or services you don't want or need.

- If someone knocks at your front door claiming to be from a company, first check their ID. If you're not happy, don't let them in.
- Never call the phone number on their ID card to check them out. Ask the salesperson to wait outside, shut the door and find the company number on the internet. If they're genuine, they'll understand.
- · Never disclose your bank details.

Please get in touch by emailing:

E-mail: Didcot&WallingfordNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

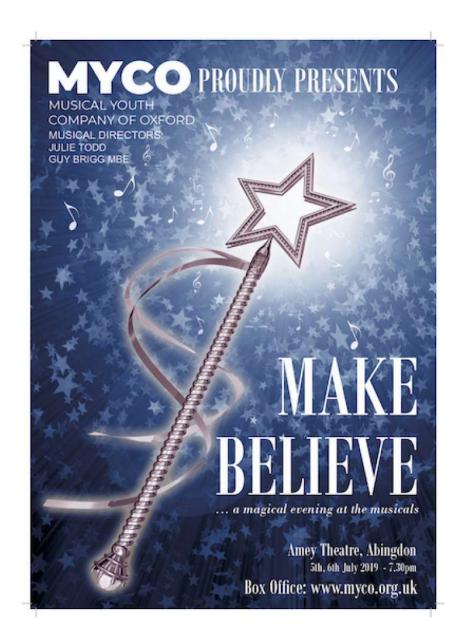
Twitter: @tvpsouthandvale

Facebook: www.facebook.com/tvpsouthandvale

Phone: 101

Always phone 999 in an emergency

Other News/Events



At the Abbey Cinema



<u>LATE NIGHT - Comedy Movie Starring Emma Thompson</u> From Friday, 28th June to Monday, 8th July, 4:30pm-4:30pm

The Abbey Cinema

Address:

Guildhall, Abbey Close

entrance

Abingdon-on-Thames OX14 3JD

Venue email:

boxoffice@theabbey.ac

Website:

https://theabbey.ac

ticket prices £6 to £11 see website for breakdown or phone 07957384158

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 June issue of the Mouthpiece by August 15th to: generalmouthpiece@gmail.com

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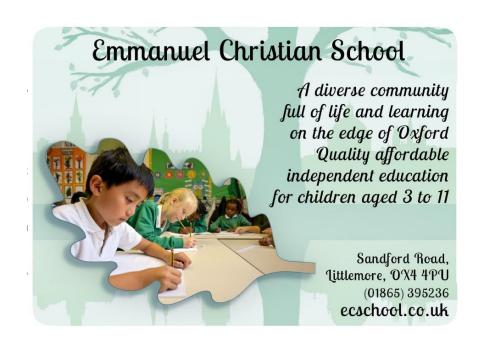
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I am trustworthy, reliable and responsible.
I am looking for work in Culham.

Email:tburchall@icloud.com Phone:7551 733087

WHO IS WHO IN CULHAM?

CULHAM PARISH COUNCIL	-		
Sam Casey-Rerhaye	(Chair)	3 The Burycroft, Culham	01235 799489
And re w Steele		27 High Street, Culham	01235 534910
John Thomas		40 High Street, Culham	01235 521678
Gordon Gibbs		32 High Street, Culham	01235 523679
Adri an Morris		5, Manor Farm Barns, Culham	
CLERK TO PARISH COUNCI	L		
Lucy Dalby	culhampc@googlemail.com	76 Evenlode Drive, Didcot OX11 7XQ	01235 817464
DISTRICT COUNCILLOR			
Sam Casey-Rerhaye	Sa m.Ca sey-Rerhaye@southoxon.gov.	uk	
COUNTY COUNCILLOR	N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N N		
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 to end July 2019		07586 323325
Ordained Local Minister	Re vd . Da vid Haylett	fa mi lyhaylett@yahoo.com	01865 407382
Hon. Treasurer:	Andrew Churchill Stone	churchillstone27@gmail.com 21 High Street, Culham	01235 533011
Churchwarden:	RoyEpps	14 The Glebe, Culham	01235 537525
Hon. Secretary:	Charles Reichardt	Fair Green, Henley Rd , Culham	01235 520534
FRIENDS OF ST PAUL'S CH	URCH		
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CULHAM PAROCHIAL SCH	OOL (Thames Bridge C of E Federation)	,	
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