

The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter

September 2022



Dates for your Diary

| | | | |
|--------------|--------|--|----------------------------------|
| Sun 4 Sept | 11am | Family Holy Communion | St Paul's Church |
| Wed 7 Sept | | End of Culham Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Period | See notice inside The Mouthpiece |
| Sun 11 Sept | 11am | Family Holy Communion | St Paul's Church |
| Tues 13 Sept | 7.30pm | Parish Council Meeting | St Paul's Church |
| Sun 18 Sept | 11am | Messy Church | St Paul's Church |

Talking point by Paul Wignall and the Dorchester Team Clergy

Someone once said that the Church essentially reinvents itself about every 150 years. It seems a strange thing to say but, give or take a few decades, it does have the ring of truth as we look back over its history. 150 years is long enough for most generations to have a sense of stability and changelessness, but is that just an illusion? The past and the future are two ends of a see-saw, balanced on the tipping point of today. The world is constantly changing as today slides over into tomorrow. As a TV gameshow reminds us: there are some tipping points after which nothing is ever the same again, for good or bad.



Perhaps the last great moment when the church changed was the mid-nineteenth century when industrialization, the drift from country to town, the rise of nation states and global empires, forced new ways of thinking and doing, not just in society but in our churches. Of course, some of that was change dressed up as a refusal to change (church buildings were reordered to be apparently more medieval; in fact they just had more inequality built in – village bands replaced by organists and robed choirs, controlled by clergy rather than churchwardens, for example). Fascinating to look at our church buildings and practices with those eyes, seeing where the continuities and the changes appear.

We are at another tipping point. A moment when a huge chunk of past assumptions is about to slide off the back of the see-saw allowing it to lift something new into the free air. We've talked about climate change and the climate crisis. In recent weeks we have seen what it's going to look like. We can't avoid any longer the universal impact it will have – on climate, inequality, hunger, employment, wars, trade – you name it, the old so-called certainties have gone and a new world is breaking through. The world is changing and the church is changing with it. But how? Some of the old stuff is going to the recycling centre as we take stock: what will we take with us when we move on, what do we leave behind?

These aren't easy or comfortable questions, and there aren't easy or comfortable answers. We don't know the answers yet – we can hardly articulate the questions. But there is one thing we do know, this new world we must make out of the shreds and tatters of the old as well as our precious keepsakes, will still be part of God's creation, with its underlying value of life in all its fullness found even in the midst of death, decay, anxiety - and hope. The value of life in all its wonder is what remains as the world swings into a new era. And so the Church has to ask itself, are we being called to be part of these new challenges of how to live, not as consumers of the quickly vanishing world's goods, but by rediscovering stewardship and care for creation, taking our place in making the new times that are coming? Past or future, we have to choose. Stay put or change, we have to choose. A world with humanity extinct, or a new world in which humans share, we have to choose. But is there really a choice?

Team Services

Sunday 25th September 10.30am at St Peter's, Little Wittenham.

Team Events

Sat 10th Sept Ride and Stride - Ride+Stride is an annual sponsored event to raise money for your home church & Oxford Historic Churches Trust. Ride + Stride is a **FUN**draising day out! Further information is available on Oxford Historic Churches Trust website, <https://ohct.org.uk/>, including a list of participating churches, sponsorship forms and instructions for taking part.

Events in the Abbey

Sat 10th Sept 6pm OSJ perform Tales from the Wilderness Prokofiev Peter and the Wolf, Saint-Saens Carnival of the Animals, Canteloube Songs of the Auvergne and Rachmaninov Vocalise. Tickets £15 to £25, family concession from www.osj.org.uk

Village News

Village website: www.culhamvillage.org.uk

ST PAUL'S CULHAM: GOING FORWARD - A COMMUNITY HUB FOR CULHAM VILLAGE

Villagers will probably remember that before the lockdowns and other events of the last couple of years, the PCC of St Paul's were beginning to explore the idea of turning the church building into a community hub as well as a place of worship. Briefly, we would like to re-order the interior of the church to provide a large "village hall" like space, along with meeting rooms, a bigger kitchen, and lavatories, while keeping the east end dedicated for our weekly worship and other quiet events.

A reordering committee has been meeting again in the last few weeks and we are now in a position to start talking again to our architect with a view to applying for permissions and funding for the work. It will be a big project but we hope it will help meet the needs of the village for many years to come, as a gathering place, a space for events of all kinds, and for meetings large and small. We will update you all just as soon as we have further news.

Paul Wignall
Team Vicar



**The consultation runs from
27 July until 7 September 2022**

**View the documents and find out more
at southoxon.gov.uk/culham-np**

**Scan the QR code on the right to go
straight to the online comment form**

**Please help spread the word to others
who may wish to take part**

For any queries, please call 01235 422600 or
email planning.policy@southandvale.gov.uk
and we will be happy to help



Stephen Gray, Artist: new paintings - 1 September - 1 October
ronapainting gallery 34 Walton Street Jericho Oxford OX2 6AA.
Tuesday - Saturday 11am - 6pm.



Stephen has lived in Culham for over thirty years and this new series of paintings takes as its theme a circular riverside walk between Culham and Sutton Courtenay, offering observations and impressions of the landscape. Rather than a literal interpretation, the paintings explore the sense of space around and along the river, presenting a response to what it feels like to be part of the changing seasons.

Stephen has been a member of Oxford Art Society for seventeen years and has exhibited throughout galleries in Oxfordshire and twice as part of 'Art of Culham' at the village church.

Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride



Members of the Churchill Stone family will be taking part in Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust's (OHCT) Ride and Stride on 10 September to raise money for OHCT and St Paul's Church. Will hope to visit 25 churches in the Dorchester, Didcot and Abingdon areas, by bicycle. If you would like to sponsor us please contact Andrew or Anne at 21 High St or on churchillstone27@gmail.com.

Wheelie Bins!

To avoid obstruction and hazard to others villagers are asked to retrieve their wheely bins once emptied.



Help Culham's Swifts

Earlier this summer I went on a 'swift walk' around Abingdon organised by Abnats (Abingdon Naturalists).



Swifts are fleeting summer visitors to the UK, black birds that fly high in the sky, with anvil shaped wings, who eat, mate and even sleep in flight and only land to nest. They normally arrive here in May and are gone by mid-August, flying back to South Africa. They are sociable birds who have a characteristic 'screaming' call, which for some people is the sound of summer. They are different (but similar) to swallows and house martins who are often spotted swooping low over the Green or river or resting on the telegraph wires.

I've noticed less and less swifts around over the years (that goes for swallows and house martins too) and during the walk I learnt that the swift population is dramatically declining, and from this year they have been categorised as being on British Trust for Ornithology's 'red list'. Ornithologists think that there could be two main reasons for this, declining numbers of insects and lack of nesting sites in buildings.

The walk convinced me that swifts need our help! I learnt that as individuals we can help in small ways. If we have gardens, we can stop using pesticides and weedkillers, plant more varieties of flowering plants, trees and shrubs, or leave an area of our lawns or verges to grow longer and wilder to encourage more insects which are swifts' only food source.

Swifts nest in holes or crevices that they find in buildings but with modern building methods these tend to get sealed up to better insulate the building. We can help by installing swift boxes or if renovating by installing 'swift bricks' high in the eaves on North or East facing sides. Maybe the new housing developers for the site identified in Culham will install some?

The swifts have now left to fly home for another year. This summer you may have noticed that you have swifts nesting nearby or may want to encourage them back next year. We plan to install 3 nest boxes on the house over Autumn. All our small actions might help them out and there are local groups who have experience with helping swifts. If you are interested in helping swifts in Culham please get in touch.

Nicky Harrison
16 High Street.

County Councillor's Report August 2022– Robin Bennett

Robin.bennett@Oxfordshire.gov.uk

Oxford's Broad Street transformation

Last year, the western part of Broad Street was transformed into 'Broad Meadow'- which contained wildflower meadows, lawns and seating - during the pandemic. The meadow enjoyed more than 100,000 visitors between July and October. Around 90 per cent of people responding to a city council consultation on Broad Meadow said they would like to see this happen again. The wealth of positive feedback has helped to inspire a new, longer trial of 18 months, covering a larger area of Broad Street. While there will be traffic restrictions, buses and cycles will have access, and the scheme will include several disabled parking bays.

New park and ride joint ticketing

Oxford's Park and ride services are to trial a new combined parking and bus ticket. Working together, Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire County Council, Oxford Bus Company and Stagecoach, have developed a set of proposals to make the park and ride services more attractive. People will be able to purchase a combined ticket which covers both parking and return bus travel at a rate of £4 for a car with only one driver and £5 for a car with two or more people. Currently, other than a combined £6.80 family ticket, drivers pay separately for parking and bus travel. It is expected that the combined ticket trial will take place from 30 September 2022 to 31 March 2023.

Confirmation of £12.7 million of government funding for buses in Oxfordshire

Earlier this year, Oxfordshire County Council was one of 31 successful applicants out of 79 to receive an 'indicative allocation' for its Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP). It followed the council's [bid for £56m](#) from the government's National Bus Strategy fund.

This £12.7m has now been confirmed by the Department for Transport and will support measures over the next three years, including cheaper fares for under-19s, new rural services, bus priority improvements across the county and proposed traffic filters to reduce journey times and support the introduction of new zero emission electric buses (which are to be funded by a separate government fund).

Oxfordshire bucks national trends on adult social care

Statistics released by the Association for Directors of Adult Social Care (ADASS) show a deteriorating picture across the nation. However, in Oxfordshire there has been a 40 per cent decrease in the total number of people on waiting lists, with people also having to wait less time overall to be seen – times have decreased by 43 per cent, with a linked improvement in outcomes for people in receipt of care.

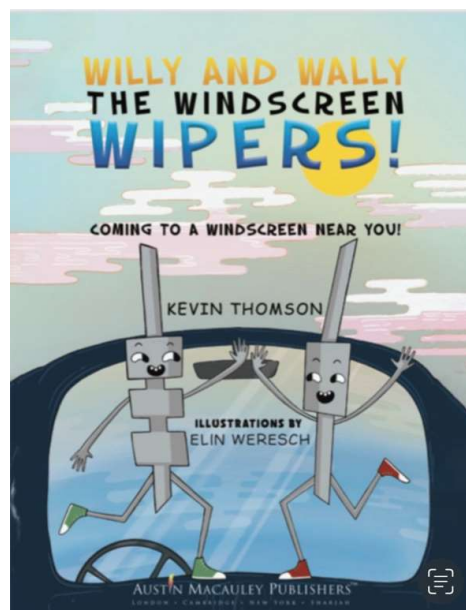
Oxfordshire is also to join a small group of local authorities in England to pilot adult social care charging reforms that introduce a new lifetime cap on personal care, testing key aspects of the reforms to improve understanding of how it will work in practice.

The reforms include a 'care cap' limiting the amount that individuals will have to pay for the cost of their care to £86,000. Oxfordshire residents will be able to start metering for their care from January 2023, ten months earlier than previously planned.

Other News

Abingdon Heritage Group Open Days

Abingdon's Heritage Open Days are always a highlight of the town's late summer events calendar. This year the main events are on **Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 September**, but our "Engines, Drains and Nuisances" Exhibition will be open in St Ethelwolds on the Thursday and Friday as well and we kick off with a talk in the Unicorn Theatre on Wednesday 14th. This year's theme is "Astounding Inventions and Innovations" - very appropriate for this area - and we will have the usual mix of exhibitions, open historic buildings, walks, talks and trails. You can find the full programme at <https://www.abingdonheritage.org.uk/festivalprogramme>



New children's book by Abingdon's own Kevin Thomson and Elin Weresch released on 30th June 2022.

Willy and Wally are windscreen wipers. They're what now? They are windscreen wipers, you know those things that keep car windscreens clear when it rains and snows. But they're very special windscreen wipers. These windscreen wipers come to life when people (that's you and me) are not looking.

Kevin Thomson's new book Willy and Wally the Windscreen Wipers was published at the end of June 2022 and is aimed at young children and their parents to share and enjoy. This is the first of what Kevin hopes is many more Willy and Wally stories. "I wrote the beginnings of Willy and Wally many years ago but it is when I became a grandfather for the first time that gave me the kick to finish the book. I'm sure everybody will enjoy reading this to their small children as much as I enjoyed writing it".

Available through all good book shops and online.

<https://www.austinmacauley.com/book/willy-and-wally-windscreen-wipers>

Woodstock wonderland of cultural discovery for families this Summer

Visiting Woodstock opens the mind and excites the senses in a myriad of different ways. Visit us to experience new cultures, historic sites, fine food and magnificent architecture.

Step into real dinosaur footprints or embark an I-spy or crazy trails, craft or family drop-in holiday fun day.



Get close to nature and hunt down fairies in a Woodland or Secret Garden or stay in a 13th century coaching inn where the creaking floorboards and winding hallways are evocative of hundreds of years of visitors, some very notable!



Picnic in the Pleasure Gardens, long afternoons by the lakes, a baffling maze and hide and seek in the grounds of a magnificent palace:



Woodstock is packed with inspiring child friendly activities. If you think learning just takes place in a classroom, think again. Us adults can also learn something new, every day is a school day!



Discover the secrets of the Georgian and Victorian eras, marvel at Roman remains and hear stories of adventure, courage, conflict and peace.

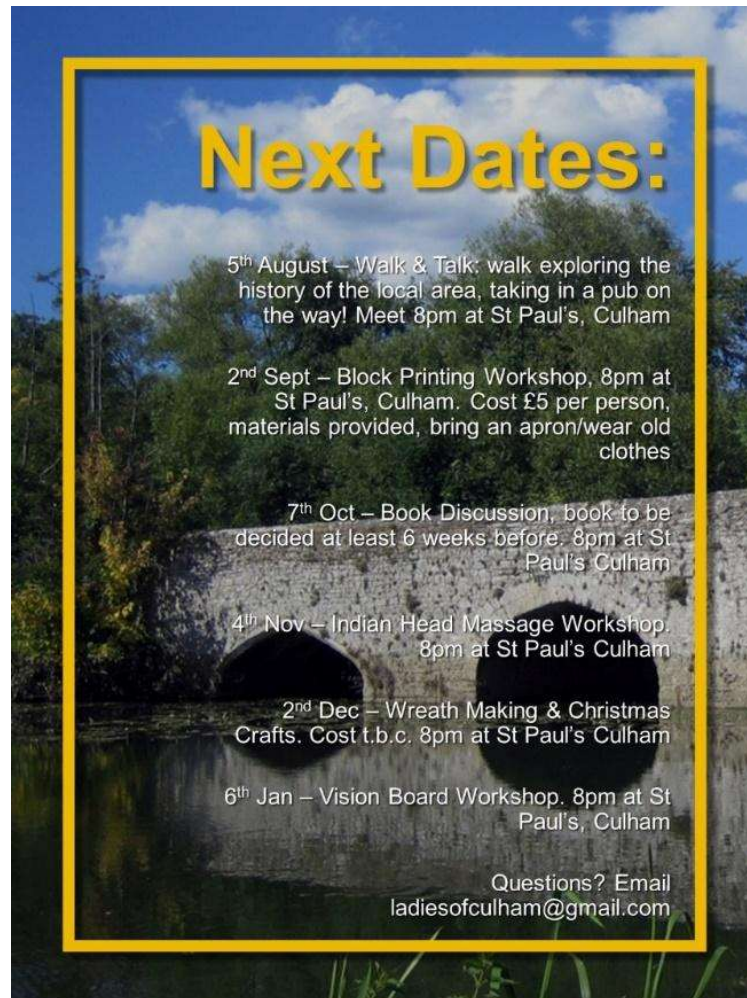
And if that's still not enough to entertain your little ones, Woodstock also has three play parks to choose from too.

When it's time to recharge the batteries, you will find a multitude of child-friendly places to eat and drink dotted around town to complete your day out with the kids in whimsical Woodstock.



Discover Woodstock at www.wutw.co.uk

LADIES of CULHAM



Next Dates:

5th August – Walk & Talk: walk exploring the history of the local area, taking in a pub on the way! Meet 8pm at St Paul's, Culham

2nd Sept – Block Printing Workshop, 8pm at St Paul's, Culham. Cost £5 per person, materials provided, bring an apron/wear old clothes

7th Oct – Book Discussion, book to be decided at least 6 weeks before. 8pm at St Paul's Culham

4th Nov – Indian Head Massage Workshop, 8pm at St Paul's Culham

2nd Dec – Wreath Making & Christmas Crafts. Cost t.b.c. 8pm at St Paul's Culham

6th Jan – Vision Board Workshop. 8pm at St Paul's, Culham

Questions? Email ladiesofculham@gmail.com



NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

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Bookings: www.chbtc.co.uk



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Family membership £40 with unlimited guests £55

Single membership £30 with unlimited guests £45

The season runs from 1 May to 30 April. To join now & access the Club's court, complete the form on www.chbtc.co.uk



Preventing Burglary.

- Look at your house as a burglar would- if you were locked out how would you get back in? This will help you identify any weak spots where you will need to improve your home security.
- Keep external doors locked even when you are at home.
- If you open a window always close and lock when you go out or leave the room.
- Keep all keys out of sight and reach of letter boxes, cat flaps, and downstairs doors and windows. Never leave a key hidden outside!!
- Make your home look occupied once darkness falls by using a time switch that turns on a light, so it looks as though someone is in.
- If you have an alarm system use it.
- Mark your property so it could be identified There are various options :a UV permanent pen use you postcode ex HP17 5DL 5 or SmartWater which is a traceable liquid. Register your property for free at www.immobilise.com.

Preventing Vehicle Crime - Quick Tips.

- Before you get out of your vehicle check your door pockets that you have not left anything lying around, the dash, the console and wipe away any round sticky marks on window as that may show you have a holder for mobiles or sat nav.
- Check you have closed windows and locked doors. If your car has automatic locking system still check that they are locked. Criminals nearby can use jamming devices to block the remote signal especially if you forget to lock your car.
- It is important when you are parking your car especially if you will be away for the day and not return until the evening. Make sure you park in a secure parking area where there are lights and possibly use of cameras or a security firm in attendance.

Preventing Personal Robbery.

- Plan ahead before you go out. Know exactly where you are going. and how you will get there and back. Inform family or a friend. to say where you are going with approximate time of return. Be prepared for a change of plan.
- Keep your purse and wallet close and secure. Only take out essential items you need.
- When you are out always keep to well lit streets and never take shortcuts.
- Be aware of your surroundings and do not use your mobile phone to text or listen to music. as this will distract you and advertises to the criminals that you have a mobile phone.
- If you do not feel safe, then change your route.
- If going out with friends, try to stay together on route home. Try avoid walking home alone at night.

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 **October 2022 issue** of The Mouthpiece by **September 15th** to:
generalmouthpiece@gmail.com

| | |
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| Gordon & Joan Gibbs <i>Editing Jun, Sep, Nov, Feb, Apr issues</i> | 32 High Street, Culham |

Printed (at a discounted rate) by Culham Publication Services, Culham Science Centre, OX14 3DB



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stuart.morris@ukaea.uk 01235 464904

Local Services Directory

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>Larkmead VETS</p>  <p><i>Caring for Pets, Horses & Farm Animal throughout South Oxfordshire</i></p> <p>Didcot & Sutton Courtenay 01235 814991 Cholsey & Benson 01491 651379 Horses & Farm Animals 01491 651379</p> <p>www.larkmead.co.uk</p>  | <p>Excellent operating facilities, including orthopaedic surgery.</p> <p>Extended surgeries, and regular Cat Only clinics available.</p> <p>Appointments available Saturday and Sunday.</p> <p>24-hr emergency care, 365 days a year.</p> <p>Larkmead Vets cover all emergencies; we do not use outside agencies.</p> |  |
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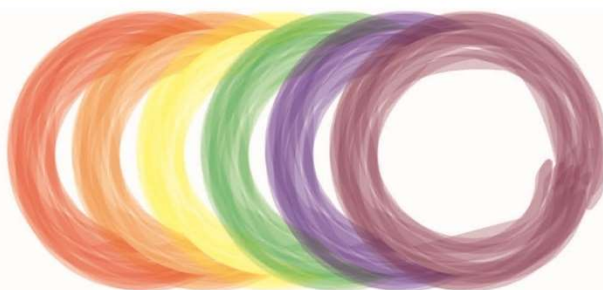
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| Siobhan Sargeant | | 3, High Street, Culham | 07414 219803 |
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