The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter October 2023



Dates for your Diary

Sun 1 Oct	11am	Family Holy Communion	St Paul's Church	
Fri 6 Oct	8pm	Ladies of Culham- Book Club	St Paul's Church – check WhatsApp group for details	
Sun 8 Oct	11am	Holy Communion	St Paul's Church	
Wed 11 Oct	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	St Paul's Church	
Sun 22 Oct	10am	Team Service	Marsh Baldon St Peter	
Sat 28 Oct	3pm	Lego Club 🧰	St Paul's/The Green	
Sun 29 Oct	10.30am	Bridge Group Cluster Service	St Paul's Church	
Tues 31 Oct	Dusk onwards	Hallowe'en Trick or (Tr)Eat	Around the Village	



Welcome to the Autumn! Here's a challenge – see how many different coloured leaves you can count on the trees – can you colour in the picture with all those colours?!



Can you craft something with some of these leaves?





If you're carving a pumpkin this Halloween – why not try using the insides of it for a tasty pumpkin soup, and roasting the pumpkin seeds for a yummy treat.



Important dates – Lego Club – Sat 28th Oct & Trick or Treating Tues 31st Oct. Have fun colouring this page! See you next month!

Talking point by Revd Jane Willis

We plough the fields and scatter...

We plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the ground…' we sing lustily every at every Harvest Festival. Though to be honest, for the most part, we don't. When our children were little, we had some good friends, Jonathan and Alex. Jonathan had always wanted to be a farmer, but had somehow ended up an

insurance broker. So, to make up for the lack, they had three allotments. They were a bit of an inspiration to me. One day – the nearest I would ever get to the image of an earth-mother, I made bread with our girls (this was in the days before bread-makers!) – and felt rather pleased with myself. Later that day I told Alex at the school gate- she smiled and said 'Ah yes, we're growing wheat on our allotment.' It was clear I was never going to keep up...

For most of us the nearest we get to food production is a vegetable patch – we've been rescuing at least part of the vegetable patch in the Rectory garden and are also enjoying having a greenhouse for the first time. But with fresh produce readily available in our supermarkets now apparently independent of season or the elements – we generally find ourselves somewhat removed from its source – and hence to any sense of dependence on God for all that he gives us. Some years ago, I was ministering in a number of deeply rural North Devon communities. One of my congregations was made up entirely of farmers and their families, two of my churches were in farmyards. Suddenly all the metaphors of harvest that had featured in my preaching in previous years were these people's real lives – and I was very much a lay person. I will never forget passing the peace shaking farmers' strong hands, or placing the communion bread in hands rough and stained from farm work. These people's relationship with land and place was like nothing I had ever known – and yes, farmers are always talking about the weather: asking me to pray for rain, or for it to stop raining (in North Devon it was usually the latter!). Here these people's livelihoods were deeply dependant on the elements – and on the grace of God. Churches were packed at Harvest – and the other agricultural festivals of Rogation and Plough Sunday.

So, this harvest may we remember our farming community, pray for them and give thanks for them. May we tend our gardens and vegetable plots with love and care and encounter God in the goodness of his creation. And wherever we earn our living – in business or academia, in schools or in healthcare, in retirement or wherever – may we indeed know that 'all good gifts around us are sent from heaven above' – and 'thank the Lord, yes thank the Lord, for all his love'.

But may it not end there – true gratitude overflows into generosity – to care for those who are in need, and to care for our world and its fragile eco-systems – entrusted to us by God, and on which all our lives depend.

Every blessing Jane

Events in the Abbey

Thu 12th Oct TWO CONCERTS 6pm – 7.15pm and 8.30pm- 9.45pm London Film Music Orchestra – Best of Hans Zimmer & John Williams Illuminated 1 hour and 15 minutes jam packed with cinema's most iconic music, beautifully performed by a live chamber orchestra, including: E.T, Jurassic Park, Jaws, Harry Potter, Man of Steel, Star Wars and many more. Tickets from £32.00 (plus booking fee) https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tribute-to-hans-zimmer-john-williams-illuminated-dorchester-early-tickets-660486461787



Sat 14th Oct 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm OSJ- Russian Masters From magical forests and rustic fairs to triumphal revolution and sweeping romance, tonight's concert will transport you to lands far away. Rupert Egerton-Smith and the orchestra will bring to life music from four Russian greats, each one a master of musical storytelling. Free tickets available for NHS workers and for the disabled. Please email admin@osj.org.uk. Tickets £5 to £30 from www.osj.org.uk

ABBEY CONCERT MANAGERS REQUIRED- ARE YOU INTERESTED?

The demand for Events to be held in the Abbey has been steadily increasing this year and we need to increase the number of volunteer Concert Managers who play a vital part in helping to make the events run smoothly. This is an opportunity to find out more about what goes on behind the scenes, meeting interesting artists, hearing lovely music and being the welcoming face of the Abbey to the audience.

Training will be given. For further details please contact the Events Administrator, Dorchester Abbey, Samantha Turner; admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk and 01865 340007 (Mon, Wed and Fri mornings)

TEAM EVENTS

K&K Link News:

From the 11th to the 14th of October, members of the Diocese of Kimberley & Kuruman and Diocese of Oxford are invited to join our 2nd link Summit, coming together in shared prayer, study, learning and conversation. The theme is "Encourage one another and build each other up" (1 Thess. 5:11), which is also the Diocese of Kimberley and Kuruman's theme for 2023. Encouragement and mutual support are part of our calling as members of the Body of Christ - whether we are together or far apart, we can help each other to serve Christ faithfully.

Our 2017 summit was held face-to-face only: this time we will have a hybrid meeting, with some people meeting face-to-face and others meeting online.

The opening and closing worship, daily Bible studies, evening prayer, and keynote addresses will be live streamed for anyone in both dioceses to attend.

In addition, UK link parishes will meet in Thame on the 11th, where an online hub will connect them with Kimberley to share in the opening worship and presentations. Link parishes on both sides will also have opportunities to share with each other in Bible study and in other discussions throughout the summit. Youth hubs, for young people between the ages of 18 and 25, will be formed on both sides and will share in online discussions on the 13th and 14th.

We encourage ANYONE in the Dorchester team to join in! If you'd like to attend the in-person meeting in Thame (11 October), where you can meet up with other parishes who also have links in the K&K Diocese, please RSVP to Amy Herlihy (see below) as we need a head count for catering.

What are the topics that will be discussed at the Summit? We will be hearing about each other's contexts through presentations and conversations; sharing daily Bible studies, evening prayer, and two eucharists; learning about key missional areas such as tackling gender-based violence and working for climate justice; and reflecting on how we can faithfully serve Christ in our own contexts and as partners in the Gospel.

We will soon have an Eventbrite page to register your interest for attending the sessions.

For more information, please contact Amy Herlihy (<u>a.herlihy@btinternet.com</u>)

Services

Most parishes are sending a weekly email with service information; if you want to receive this email – and for up to date information about services - please call the Team Office on 01865 340007 or email <u>admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk</u>

Village News

Village website: www.culhamvillage.org.uk



Helping at Hallowe'en

24th Abingdon (Dry Sandford) Cubs are coming to Culham to join our trick or treating for Halloween. As I am one of the Leaders and Monty and Nancy are Cubs from the group, we wanted to combine our two communities on an evening that's special to us.

But we'll be doing It with a difference – The Cubs are doing Trick or Eat – and will be coming round in small groups to trick or treat (we'll stagger where they come throughout the village) and also to do a **collection for Abingdon Food Bank**. They'll be giving generously, as part of their world challenge badge, and we hope you can spare something too. They're going to be creating posters in the coming weeks which you'll see around the village and on WhatsApp groups.

Thanks, Laura Cooper.



Nancy & Monty – 24th Abingdon (Dry Sandford) Cubs

St Paul's Church News



We are pleased to announce the appointment of

Revd Joanne Allen

as the next Culham and Bridge Group Vicar

I'm excited to meet you all. I'm a 36-year-old 'pioneer' minister someone trained to help people explore their faith in creative ways, focusing on those outside the current church community. I'm a mother of three and married to Luke who is a public health doctor. I grew up in Kent and have lived, studied, and worked in Worcester, Bristol, Sri Lanka, Truro, Boston (USA) and rural Oxfordshire. The rural church story is also a story of life and hope. So, for fun I love spending time with my family, walking our rather large dog, playing football, kayaking, jumping in the river, and competing for gaming time with my boys.

Notes from Culham Parish Council meeting 13 September 2023

Chair – Chris Pritchard.

Public Participation: 7 members of the public were present.

Summary of discussions:

- Andrew Steele was thanked for his 23 years as a Parish Councillor. Andrew retired from the role in May 2023.
- £50,000 award to organisations who wish to carry out projects to enhance our wildlife and encourage public
 access to green areas. In a new partnership with Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE), the money will be
 given as grants through TOE's Local Environment Fund to help boost local nature recovery efforts and reduce
 the impacts of climate change. Community groups, town and parish councils, charities and non-profit
 organisations are invited to apply to TOE for funds to help look after South Oxfordshire's green places.

Grants ranging between £1,000 and £15,000 can be used for tree and hedgerow planting or restoring community orchards, ponds, and nature-rich meadows. Grants could also be used to improve access to nature for the public to enjoy and learn from, for example replacing stiles with gates for better accessibility and/or improving pathways.

The new fund uses money from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) paid by developer contributions. Early applications are encouraged, so any South Oxfordshire based group involved in protecting and restoring their local environment should contact TOE to find out more. www.trustforoxfordshire.org.uk/local-environment-fund. The first deadline application deadline is 2 October 2023, then 8 January 2024. Submissions close at midday.

- Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plans (LCWIP) –The LCWIP is one area of the South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils DGTDP, a plan to help improve the lives of residents living in and around Didcot Garden Town. It will support applications for government funding when it becomes available. Feedback closes w/c 18th September 2023.
- The District Councillor explained that an area of greenbelt within Culham will remain and no further use of greenbelt would be permitted for speculative development.
- Grass Cutting members of the public were concerned about grass cutting and longer grass in certain areas. An area of the Green had not been cut to create an area of wildflower meadow. This had caused some concern due to dog walkers not picking up dog mess in the long grass. Councillors discussed and agreed an updated schedule of grass cutting.
- Aggregate for potholes the Clerk would seek further quotations.
- Dog waste bins relocation of certain bins was discussed and to ensure that the bins were emptied on a regular basis.
- Fishermen had been using the track over the bridge and driving without due care. John Taylor would write to the Sutton Courtenay Fishing Club to complain.
- Waggon and Horses planning application close to being approved with the provision of an orchard with new access.
- Flooding to Tollgate Road John Taylor would follow up and perhaps a possible drainage issue and would require the installation of a horizontal drain.
- Spoil Heaps a planning application was being submitted for the heaps to remain and this would be reviewed by the PC who would comment when received.
- The Clerk to follow up which party responsible for the grass cutting within the graveyard.
- Tollgate Road it was agreed to ascertain who was responsible for the hedge cutting. It is necessary to widen the path as a safety precaution which would result in the need to cut back the hedge or possible removal and replant.
- The Chair was following up agreeing the location of the defibrillator, with installation at Culham Lock.

Next meeting

Wednesday 11th October 2023 at 7.30pm.

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

Village website address:

https://www.culhamvillage.org.uk/

please see Parish Council website for full minutes https://www.culham-pc.gov.uk/

REPORT RE PROJECT SWIFT HEARING 2 August 2023 & subsequent dismissal

Application P20/S1988/FUL Culham Hill, OX14 3DT for change of use of land from agricultural land to farm park and outdoor activity centre and associated buildings and structures, vehicle access, carparking, engineering, drainage works and landscaping.

Having been refused twice by SODC, in 2019 and 2022, the applicants, Mr & Mrs Allen made an appeal to the Secretary of State. The hearing was held by an inspector, Jonathan Edwards BSc(Hons) DipTP MRTPI, at Abbey House, Abingdon from 10am-5.45pm on 2nd August, with an extensive site visit the following morning. The hearing assessed the three elements of the proposal: 1) the erection of new buildings 2) the change of use of the site to farm park and outdoor activity centre and 3) engineering operations such as the creation of the access drive and car park area as well as bike trails, paths and tractor route, all of which lie in designated Green Belt. The inspector considered:

- ~whether the proposal would include inappropriate development in Green Belt
- ~the effect on character and appearance of the land
- ~the location of the development

~the benefits of the development

The decision, to dismiss the appeal, was made very quickly, 10 August 2023.

The decision report says that:

~ the play barn, animal shelters and admission office would not preserve openness and would cause a moderate level of harm to the openness of Green Belt.

~The size of the parking areas would also cause a moderate level of harm.

~ the development would change the character of the site, most notably through an increase in visitors and vehicular movement and light source, and that the proposed enhancements would not override the detriment to the rural qualities of the site.

~ he found that the proposal would represent agricultural diversification which is supported by SODC policies.

~ he was satisfied the development would not harm the SSSI.

~ the net biodiversity gain and the suggested educational benefits attracted only moderate weight in support of the scheme.

~ the economic benefits of the scheme (jobs and expenditure on local services) attracted significant weight in support of the scheme.

~ the opportunities for outdoor sport and recreation also afforded significant weight.

He concluded that: "Paragraph 148 of the National Planning Policy Framework says that for very special circumstances to exist, the potential harm caused by the proposal must be clearly outweighed by other considerations. It follows that in a finely balanced case such as this, very special circumstances do not exist. As such, paragraph 147 of the Framework dictates that planning permission should not be approved. [...] I have found the proposal would be contrary to development plan policies when read as a whole. The benefits of the scheme and other considerations provide insufficient justification to grant planning permission contrary to the development plan. Accordingly, I conclude the appeal should be dismissed."

District Councillor Report September 2023 - Cllr Sam Casey-Rerhaye

Annual housing build-out measure in South Oxfordshire

I am very disappointed, but not altogether surprised, that our annual 5-year housing land supply figure had just been published and is 4.2 years.

The government says all District councils must show they have enough houses being built to cover the next 5 years, as measured against the new house supply trajectory in their local plan, shown as a measure in years. As you are all very aware, the housing supply targets in our current local plan are very high, so it will be of little surprise to most of you that in a time of higher costs for materials and labour and decreasing house prices, the number of houses being built in our District has slowed down. This has been exacerbated by the fact that the site south of Grenoble Road has not yet started to be developed, despite the original timetable set out by the developers, because the landowners have not yet finalised an agreement (Oxford City council, Magdalen College and Thames Water).

We may now have more large speculative planning applications – that is, planning applications for sites outside of those allocated in the local plan. This is very concerning especially for those areas which are outside of greenbelt and AONB, which have extra regulations to prevent speculative applications. However, there is some hope. Recent planning appeals on two large applications have not been allowed despite the lower than 5-year measure, as the inspector thought the local plan was recent enough not to be ignored.

Nearly everyone agrees this is a bad test that doesn't help accelerate house building but only helps developers' game the system, and last year the government indicated they would abolish this test, but we are still waiting for them to do so.

New grant fund for nature

We have set aside £50,000 to award to organisations who wish to carry out projects to enhance our wildlife and encourage public access to green areas.

In a new partnership with Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE), the money will be given as grants through TOE's Local Environment Fund to help boost local nature recovery efforts and reduce the impacts of climate change. Community groups, town and parish councils, charities and non-profit organisations are invited to apply to TOE for funds to help look after South Oxfordshire's green places.

Grants ranging between £1,000 and £15,000 can be used for tree and hedgerow planting or restoring community orchards, ponds, and nature-rich meadows. Grants could also be used to improve access to nature for the public to enjoy and learn from, for example replacing stiles with gates for better accessibility and/or improving pathways.

The new fund uses money from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) paid by developer contributions. Early applications are encouraged, so any South Oxfordshire based group involved in protecting and restoring their local environment should contact TOE to find out more.

<u>www.trustforoxfordshire.org.uk/local-environment-fund</u>. The first application deadline is 2 October 2023, then 8 January 2024. Submissions close at midday.

To check that your project idea meets TOE's funding criteria, contact Rachel Sanderson, Local Environment Fund grant administrator <u>admin@trustforoxfordshire.org,uk</u> and 01865 407003

Award nomination for Building Control

The councils' Building Control team has been nominated for Local Authority Building Control (LABC) Team of the Year in the LABC Building Excellence Awards 2023. The team were nominated by one of its customers, which shows the quality service they are providing. The final takes place in January and I'll update you on the team's result.

Some reminders of item in my last report but still relevant:

Councillor community grants funding open

The new round of funding from the Councillor Community Grant scheme has now opened. Organisations, including Town and Parish Councils, can now apply for grants from me as your local ward councillor from £250 up to a maximum of £5,000.

If you are thinking of applying, please get in touch with me first to discuss the project and then visit the South Oxfordshire Councillor Community Grants webpage for further details on eligibility. Applications are made online and are open until midday on Friday 20 October 2023.

For more information, contact the Community Enablement team at grants@southandvale.gov.uk

Improving energy efficiency online events

The climate and biodiversity team held an online event in July for town and parish councils and community groups on "Improving Energy Efficiency in Community Buildings". Recordings and copies of the presentations are available on our website South Oxfordshire The team is planning a similar webinar on Tuesday 10 October. For that event the focus will be on how town and parish councils (and other community groups) can enable more retrofitting of residential properties in their areas. Keep an eye out for more information coming soon.

River Thames water quality updates

Anyone planning to use the River Thames at Wallingford and Henley for swimming, boating or fishing this summer will be pleased to know that the environmental charity Thames21 is doing regular water quality sampling as part of its campaign to improve water quality and gain bathing water status in those areas. The charity is publishing its water quality updates on its website. The Thames 21 website has details for Wallingford and for Henley.

Cornerstone Arts Centre events and activities

Fun for babies and toddlers

And for the autumn season, there will be classes and workshops just for those early years and their parents and/or guardians. The fun starts in September with weekly classes Baby Boppers and Story Time With Laura. These classes focus on providing tots with fantastic sensory play experiences and socialising opportunities. Parents and/or guardians can also book children aged up to 7 on their workshop Riddle and Rhyme Time on Thursday 26 October. Join acclaimed children's poet James Carter in an interactive session with soothing music, rhymes, and the opportunity to write a poem with the special guest at the end.

Contact me at Sam.casey-rerhaye@southoxon.gov.uk 01235 635566

County Councillor Report September 2023 - Cllr Robin Bennett

Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme

The Secretary of State has confirmed the CPO public inquiry for the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme will begin on 14 November 2023 at 10am. It will be held at The Kings Centre, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES. We expect the inquiry to last for around 3 weeks. It is open to the public and all are welcome to attend in person. The inspector will decide who may actively participate. Please check the Environment Agency website for further details and updates:

https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/thames/ofas-updates/

A pre-inquiry meeting was held virtually on Thursday 21 September. This was an opportunity to consider how the public inquiry will be run, to ensure it is conducted as efficiently as possible. Anyone who has objected to the CPO was invited to attend. A CPO public inquiry is standard procedure when objections are received. It may take several months before the decision is known.

HIF1 planning application:

The Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has set a timetable for the decision process – the hearing will commence on the 5th of December. If you made comments to Oxfordshire County Council as Local Planning Authority at the application stage they will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. If you wish to make further written comments you must submit **3 copies** of them to Leanne Palmer at the Planning Inspectorate by **4th October 2023**. If you wish to make further comments please write to Leanne Palmer, The Planning Inspectorate 3rd Floor, Temple Quay House 2 The Square, Bristol BS1 6PN Or email LEANNE.PALMER@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

The application documents are available to view at County Hall in New Road, Oxford during office hours or on the County Council's Planning Applications website http://myeplanning.oxfordshire.gov.uk, using reference number R3.0138/21.

Councillor priority fund.

A reminder that this is now live, and the application details can be found here: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/councillorpriorityfund

I have agreed to provide over £4,800 funding towards the Berry Youth Centre's holiday support programme, 'Berry Camps', aiming to raise the aspiration levels of young people within the Berinsfield and surrounding communities and contribute positively to their health and wellbeing, running in school holidays and half terms up to August 2024.

Robin.bennett@Oxfordshire.gov.uk

Other News



SUTTON COURTENAY WI



We meet every third Tuesday monthly in the River Room,

All Saints Church, Sutton Courtenay

At 7.30pm

Contact us at or Tel 01869 331081

17th October

A guest speaker - The Thames from its source

21st November

A guest speaker – History of Hairdressing

If you would like to come along to a meeting for a visit you will receive a very warm welcome.





Presents



Tues 24 – Sat 28 October 2023 at 7.30pm Matinee performance Sat 28 October at 2.30pm Amey Theatre, Abingdon School, OX14 1DE <u>www.abingdonoperatic.co.uk</u> Telephone Booking 0333 666 3366

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 November 2023 issue of the Mouthpiece by **October 15th** to: <u>generalmouthpiece@gmail.com</u>

Can you help? We need you!

There is still a vacancy at The Mouthpiece for someone to look after our advertising!

The role is not arduous – it primarily involves keeping an eye on emails to <u>advermouthpiece@gmail.com</u> and sending invoices to our Advertisers once a year. Please contact Anne or Gordon if you can help (see Who's Who on back page for details).



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WHO IS WHO IN CULHAM?

CULHAM PARISH COUNCIL				
Chris Pritchard (Chair)	c.pritchard@culham-pc.gov.uk			
Caroline Baird	c.baird@culham-pc.gov.uk			
Sam Casey-Rerhaye			3 The Burycroft, Culham	01235 635566
Nacho Gimenez			-	
Mike Richmond-Cooper				
Siobhan Sargeant			(Yes – the email is misspelled!)	
CLERK TO PARISH COUNC				
Denise Corney	clerk@culham-pc.gov.uk			
DISTRICT COUNCILLOR				
Sam Casey-Rerhaye Sam.Casey- Rerhaye@southoxon.gov.uk 3 The B		3 The Bu	rrycroft, Culham	01235 635566
COUNTY COUNCILLOR				
Robin Bennett	in Bennett robin.bennett@oxfordshire.gov.uk		4 Meadside, Dorchester-on- Thames	07979 646815
ST PAUL'S CHURCH				
Associate Team Vicar:	Revd. Joanne Allen		bridgegroupvicar@gmail.com Dorchester Office: 01865 340007	
Ordained Local Minister	Revd. David Haylett		familyhaylett@yahoo.com	01865 407382
Hon. Treasurer:	Andrew Churchill Stone		churchillstone27@gmail.com 21 High Street, Culham	01235 533011
Churchwarden:	vacancy		stpaulsculham@gmail.com	
Hon. Secretary:	Ruth Ward		stpaulsculham@gmail.com 5 Thame Lane, Culham	
FRIENDS OF ST PAUL'S CH	URCH		· · ·	
Chairman:	Philip Owen		6 The Green, Culham	01235 555223
ST PAUL'S & CULHAM VILL	AGE RE-ORDERING COMMTTEE		1	
Philip Owen stpaulsandculhamvillage@gmail.com		<u>n</u>	6 The Green, Culham	01235 555223
LADIES OF CULHAM (LOC)			1	
_aura Cooper <u>ladiesofculham@gmail.com</u>			Also Jenny Williams, Jo Oughtred	
POLICE			1	
Neighbourhood Policing Team			Non-emergency Phone Number	101
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