

The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter
December 2023/ January 2024



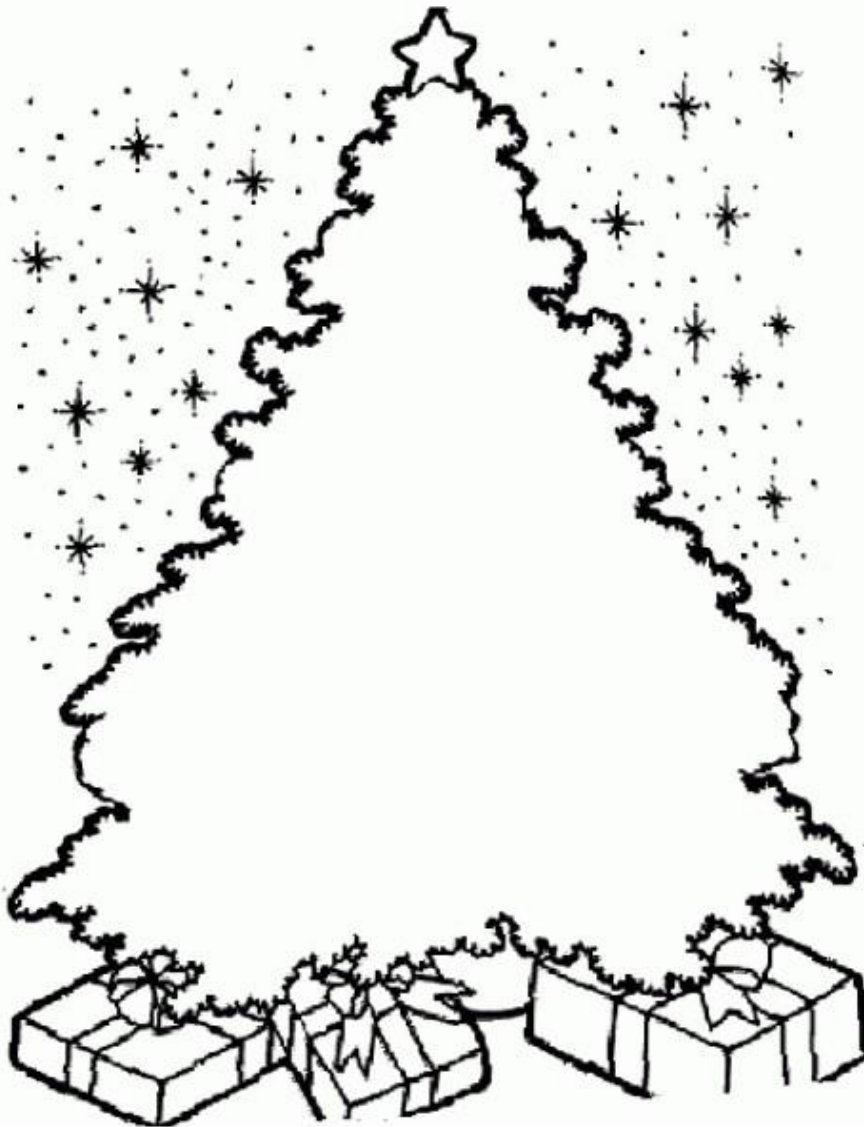
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Dates for your Diary

Fri 1 Dec	8pm	Ladies of Culham- Wreath Making	St Paul's Church
Sun 3 Dec	11am	Family Holy Communion on Advent Sunday	St Paul's Church
Fri 8 Dec	7pm	Rockade concert	St Paul's Church
Sun 10 Dec	11am	Holy Communion Service	St Paul's Church
Wed 13 Dec	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	St Paul's Church or Europa School see website
Fri 15 Dec	4.30pm	 Children's Christmas Film	St Paul's Church
Sun 17 Dec	4pm	 Carol Service with Abingdon Town Band 	The Green/St Paul's Church
Mon 25 Dec	10am	 Christmas Day Service 	St Paul's Church
Fri 5 Jan	8pm	Ladies of Culham- Pot Luck dinner	St Paul's Church
Sun 7 Jan	11am	Family Eucharist	St Paul's Church
Sun 14 Jan	11am	Holy Communion with Healing	St Paul's Church
Sat 27 Jan	3pm	Lego Club 	St Paul's Church
Sun 28 Jan	10.30am	Team Service	St Paul's Church



Culham Kids



Happy December! We hope you're having a good Winter and getting ready for Christmas. We love to see the lights on the houses in the evening time. How about you? Decorate this tree with lights and baubles and colour in the presents! Have fun!

Christmas Quiz

- Including Rudolf, how many Reindeer does Santa have, and what are their names?
- In the song, 12 days of Christmas, how many lords were leaping?
- What type of tree is a Christmas Tree? What country does the Trafalgar Square Christmas Tree come from?
- How many ghosts come to visit Scrooge?
- What are other names for Santa Claus?
- What ocean is Christmas Island in?

Answers towards the back!



Nancy suggests doing some baking over Christmas time. Here she's made some choc chip cookies from Usborne.

<https://usborne.com/media/usborne/files/quicklinks-library/downloads/chocolate-chip-cookies-UK.pdf>

The Usborne webpage also has some amazing activity pages to keep kids entertained.



MERRY CHRISTMAS



The day after Trick or Eat, we delivered the Cubs and Culham Village's Food Bank Collection. An amazing 122kg (2 trolley loads) was donated. Thank you so much Culham Village from everyone at 24th Abingdon (Dry Sandford) Cubs and from Abingdon Food Bank



Important dates –

Kids Christmas Film – 15th Dec

Carols in the Church – 17th Dec

Lego Club – none in December but January will return 27th at 3pm (last Saturday of the month generally).

Have fun doing the activities on this page and a big thank you to Monty and Nancy for their ideas and help putting these together!

See you next month!

Talking point by Revd Jane Willis



As I write it's not quite Advent, but Christmas lights are already appearing everywhere. Christmas in the northern hemisphere comes at the darkest time of the year - with short days and long nights.

Christmas lights are beautiful and decorative – but arriving home on a dark evening the first thing we will reach out for is the light switch. We will need that light for us to be able to do pretty much anything. Our Christmas lights are symbolic of the one true light who has come into the world – and a world which seems to be becoming increasingly dark. In the epilogue to his gospel, John writes of Jesus:

'The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.' (John 1:9) *Jesus himself declared, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'* (John 8:12)

What does that mean? As a confused and rebellious teenager, my experience of coming to faith in Christ was like the light being turned on a dark room. By that light we can see God. Jesus is Emmanuel: 'God with us'. By that light we can also see the world better – in all its beauty and brokenness. CS Lewis wrote 'I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.' We see ourselves better: as beloved children of God, and yet falling so far short of his glory. Which leads us from the manger to the cross – Christ has come to be our saviour, taking upon himself the sins, the brokenness of the world. When Jesus died on the cross, darkness fell over the land (Matthew 27:45). The Light of the world descended into darkness in order to bring us into God's wonderful light. This is God's gift to us, which we celebrate at Christmas.

*The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned...
For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.*

So, this is to offer the warmest invitation to any of our Christmas services and events across the Dorchester Team. There will be candles and fairy lights... But above all else may we discover or rediscover the wonder of light of Christ, in our world and in our lives.

Every blessing for Christmas and the New Year

Jane

Team Rector for the Dorchester Team



Team Services

31st December- 10.30am Toot Baldon

28th January- 10.30am Culham

Events in the Abbey

Sat 2nd Dec 10:00 am – 5:00 pm Dorchester Abbey Christmas Market Come and enjoy our lovely Christmas Market in the beautiful surroundings of Dorchester Abbey. Loads of stalls full of gifts and Christmas food, with Wreaths to order or take away, all surrounded by the smell of Bratwurst and mulled wine and Christmas music. As always, the highlight of the Market is the Tea Room stall packed full of home made Christmas cakes and food to take away!

Sun 3rd Dec-7.30pm to 9.30pm A Jazzy Christmas at Dorchester Abbey with Jo Harrop and Paul Edis- A feast of festive favourites and jazzy Christmas classics performed by singer Jo Harrop and pianist Paul Edis alongside a world class nine-piece band. £22 - £27 <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-jazzy-christmas-at-dorchester-abbey-tickets-717968602417?aff=oddttdtcreator>

Mon 4th Dec- Church Conservation Trust- 7pm-9pm Gregoriana Concert- Join the Churches Conservation Trust for a festive evening, and a glass of wine in the breath taking surroundings of Dorchester Abbey, before listening to a performance from the Gregoriana choir. Tickets start from £17.50 per person and include a wine reception. All proceeds from this event will go towards supporting vital roof repair work to the nearby St Bartholomew's Church in Lower Basildon. Tickets can be purchased from: www.visitchurches.org.uk/DorchesterAbbeyChoir

Fri 8th Dec- Queen Anne's School- Private Event

Saturday 9th Dec- 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm OSJ- Britten Saint Nicolas Cantata- Written in 1948, Britten's captivating Cantata conjures the adventures of St Nicholas, depicting the exploits, magic and miracles of this most beloved character. With its inclusion of popular hymns, OSJ Voices will join together with the audience to raise the roof in song, ensuring that the Christmas gift of music is delivered in perfect harmony. We start with a Sequence of Carols orchestrated by Jeremy Lubbock. 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

11th and 12th Dec- Cranford House- Private Events

Thu 14th Dec- 6pm- 9.30pm- The Coming of Christmas 2023 HFT's festive celebration event, The Coming of Christmas, returns on Thursday 14th December for its 27th year, in the historic setting of Dorchester Abbey, Dorchester-on-Thames. See the historic Abbey bathed in the glow of candles and Christmas lights at this special evening of festive music and readings. Featuring: The Donaghue Choir and guest speakers. Tickets £20 to include a programme and festive refreshments. Or treat yourself to an extra special experience with a VIP ticket: enjoy pre-reserved priority seating and VIP refreshments. www.hft.org.uk/coming-of-christmas

Sat 16th Dec- 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm OSJ- Handel Messiah- Christmas wouldn't be complete without Handel's great oratorio. This seasonal classic will be performed by renowned soloists and backed by the full forces of the Orchestra of St John's and OSJ Voices. 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

Wed 20th Dec- 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm- Nadia Eide – Winter Light-Soprano- A Classical Christmas Concert. This truly is a show for the whole family, featuring well-loved classic songs sure to bring the festive cheer! Tickets £25 (£20 concessions) <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/winter-light-a-classical-christmas-concert-dorchester-abbey-tickets-746103213797?aff=oddttdtcreator>

Sun 31st Dec- 6pm- 8pm OSJ- New Years Eve Concert - Get ready with the fizz! We welcome in 2024 with our ever- popular New Year's Eve concert – a highlight of our orchestral year. Full of toe-tapping favourites, this much-loved event with orchestra and choir is always a delightful way to usher in the New Year. 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

TEAM EVENTS

Sat 9th Dec- Time TBC (AM) Berinsfield Church – **Experience Christmas** – A free event, suitable for all age. Pet the live animals in the stables and enjoy a photobooth.

The Last Supper Installation- at the Abbey for the next 6 months.

A sculpture made up of 50,000 keyboard keys, depicting one of Da Vinci's most recognisable paintings, has gone on display at Dorchester Abbey.

The keys create a mosaic effect on the artwork and also make up verses from the Bible as well as single words for visitors to discover. The sculpture, which took Peter Barnes five years to create, will be available during daylight hours at the abbey for the next six months.

Revd Jane Willis was delighted to welcome the artwork to the abbey. She said: "It is slightly larger than life size. The outline is the shape of Jesus and his disciples sitting round the table. It's quite dynamic – the way they are all moving and responding to one another in it. It is very rounded, very flowing in its appearance so it leaves your imagination to fill in the detail. It brings together the ancient and historic right into the here and now. When I saw it in real life it blew me away – quite surprisingly."

Revd Willis spotted the sculpture when she visited a church in Windsor and knew it was something she'd like to host at the Abbey. Plans moved quickly and within two and a half weeks she was watching it being unloaded! Using a system of winches, pulleys and ramps the sculpture was slowly manoeuvred into place – with just a few centimetres to spare.

Revd Willis added: "I'm excited that we have the Last Supper with us for Lent, Holy Week and Easter. There's so much we can do for adult discipleship, working with schools and beyond, as well as for day-to-day visitors. I'm finding seeing people engaging with the sculpture as fascinating as the piece itself! Every time I go into the Abbey I find myself having great conversations about it – it's something you just want to reach out and touch."



Village News

Village website: www.culhamvillage.org.uk

Ladies of Culham Next Dates:

1st December – wreath making

5th January – shared pot luck dinner

2nd February – still life drawing

1st March – graphology / hand writing analysis

5th April – tea tasting and history

3rd May – Abstract painting

We're really looking forward to our events in 2024, thanks to everyone who's offered to run a session for us. From the Admin Team

To be added onto the LoC WhatsApp group, or any questions, please email us

Email ladiesofculham@gmail.com

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SUNDAY
17TH
DECEMBER
4PM

Christmas
CAROLS

ST PAULS CULHAM

ABINGDON TOWN BAND

MINCE PIES AND MULLED DRINKS



St Paul's Church News



Brief Notes from Culham Parish Council meeting Nov 2023

- Aggregate/chippings – it was agreed that 5 tonnes would be ordered and this work would be carried out in Spring when it was hoped that the ground would be drier.
- ROSPA – the Clerk was following up with Sutcliffe playgrounds regarding the repairs necessary
- John Taylor advised that within the plans for the Waggon and Horses application, a provision of a footpath had been included at the south end of the garden.

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

District Councillor Report December 2023 - Sam Casey-Rerhaye

Grants to help towards energy saving measures for the home

As the cold weather starts to set in, we are promoting Welcome the Warmth - which offers a variety of fully funded energy efficiency measures including insulation, solar panels and heat pumps for those on a lower household income. The good news is that the income eligibility cap for the Oxfordshire scheme, including South and Vale residents, is now £39,000 (up from £31,000) which should mean that many more people are eligible to receive the help. Please help spread the word – [for more details, see the Welcome the Warmth website](#)

New grant to help people stay warm and fed this winter

We have launched a new food and warmth grant will help support people in our communities this winter who may otherwise struggle to afford essential things.

The grant is aimed at local voluntary and community groups, and town and parish councils, who can use it to support those most in need in the districts. Organisations can apply for grants between £2,000 to £5,000, or up to £10,000 for collaborative projects between groups of two or more organisations. The grant can fund projects providing food and warmth to people who may otherwise struggle to access these crucial essentials over the winter.

The grant can cover capital and revenue costs for projects that support people with food and warmth, such as buying food and essential supplies such as household cleaning products, toiletries, hot water bottles and blankets and cooking equipment such as saucepans and slow cookers. Projects might also include cooking clubs, gardening clubs and educational activities that promote healthy food choices and saving energy.

The grant scheme opened week commencing 23 October 2023 and closes at midday 27 November 2023. Decisions are expected to be made within four weeks.

Support for individuals is also available through the councils' Community Hub. If you need support, call our friendly Community Hub Team during office hours on 01235 422600 (option 3) or email communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk

Thermal Imaging Camera for loan and online forum to support home energy efficiency upgrades

As the weather gets colder, South Oxfordshire DC will be lending out our thermal imaging camera to community groups and parishes. The camera can be used to identify spots in buildings where heat is escaping and where energy-saving measures could help make a place more comfortable and reduce fuel bills at the same time.

For more information email climateaction@southandvale.gov.uk

South Oxfordshire DC strategic plan for 2024-29

We are starting work on our next "corporate" plan which sets out our priorities and strategic themes until 2029. There will be formal consultations in the future, but if you, your community group or organisation would like to share views informally, please do get in touch with me with any ideas on the aims for the council for the next 4-5 years.

The current plan is here: <https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/11/SODC-Corporate-Plan-2020-2024.pdf>

SODC pledge our ongoing commitment for paying staff at least the Real Living Wage

All directly employed council staff have received at least the Real Living Wage for several years, to help to reduce in-work poverty. The Real Living Wage (currently £10.90 an hour) is based on the cost of living – considering the current cost of household goods and services. In October, councillors unanimously passed a cross-party motion on the Real Living Wage. SODC will now work towards accreditation as a Living Wage employer with the Living Wage Foundation. This includes ensuring all future companies seeking to win council contracts are committed to paying, as a minimum, the Real Living Wage. Whilst it is not in our power to change existing contracts, we will urge our current suppliers and contractors to follow our example and commit to the Real Living Wage.

Affordable housing grant to help address urgent need

As part of the Council's work to help meet the urgent need for genuinely affordable housing in the region, local developers, Community Land Trusts and self-builders can apply for a 'Section 106' affordable housing grant to build affordable homes that meet the councils' climate criteria.

We have approved an improvement to the existing affordable housing policy to enable funds from the Section 106 developer contributions to be used as a grant to build affordable homes that are energy efficient and cheaper for residents to live in and heat.

This is to help building projects minimise energy use and carbon emissions, as well as how they have identified locally appropriate species and set up long term management plans if they are adding tree planting and biodiversity improvements

Section 106 developer contributions have previously been provided to the Henley and District Housing Trust to develop homes for social rent and to fit solar panels to reduce their carbon emissions.

Celebrate Christmas at Cornerstone

Cornerstone Arts Centre in Didcot has a busy Christmas programme, starting on Sunday 3 December as part of the Play2Give Didcot Festive Market in the Market Place next door to Cornerstone. Thames Con and Cornerstone present a fun and festive afternoon, showing one of the greatest Christmas movies of all time, [A Muppets Christmas Carol](#) from 3pm. Shows and music carry on right up to Christmas Eve.

All the details about the Christmas Shows can be found on the [Cornerstone website](#) or pop into the centre and speak to the Box Office Team.

Sam.casey-rerhaye@southoxon.gov.uk

01235 635566

County Councillor Report November 2023 - Cllr Robin Bennett

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities service update

Steps are being taken to improve the support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in Oxfordshire following Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission's local area partnership inspection of SEND services in July.

Progress is already being made in improving the timeliness of education, health and care plans for those who need them. **As of September 2023, 48 per cent of assessments were being processed within statutory time frames compared with 4 per cent in January 2023.**

The local area partnership members – including Oxfordshire County Council, NHS Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board, Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust, and Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust – have been working, together with the county's parent carer forum and professional subject matter leads, to develop a **priority action plan with clear and measurable service improvements.**

Time to comment on Oxfordshire's health and wellbeing strategy

Oxfordshire County Council are asking residents to comment on the new county wide draft health and wellbeing strategy. The survey was open until 12 November.

A partnership across the county has worked on a strategy that gives power to our communities to help deliver what is needed to support people to make healthy choices, live independently and stay happier and healthier for longer.

20mph zones approved in Nuneham Courtenay and Newington

At a recent highways decision meeting, after public consultation, 20mph zones were approved for the village centres of Nuneham Courtenay and Newington villages.

Decisions for schemes in the Baldons and Dorchester are pending decision in phase 2, with several other local villages signed up for phase 3.

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transport/traffic/20mph-scheme/20-limit-project-progress>

Robin.bennett@Oxfordshire.gov.uk

Stop the Road Jack!

A crowdfunding site has been set up by ORAA (Oxfordshire Roads Actions Alliance) which is fully supported by the Neighbouring Parish Councils Joint Committee (comprising Appleford, Culham, Clifton Hampden, Sutton Courtenay and Nuneham Courtenay parish councils). All these parishes will be involved in the fund-raising.

About £25,000 is needed to for legal and planning advice and expert reports to support the NPC Joint Committee who will be applying for Rule 6 status to oppose the HIF-1 road at the hearing held by a Government Inspector in February 2024. This will be a 22-day hearing requiring a lot of preparatory work – Statements of Case, proofs of evidence, expert reports, and attendance at the hearing.

ORAA is applying for a grant of up to £10,000 from the Federation for Integrated Transport (FIT) who will match what is raised from the crowdfunding.

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/stop-the-road-jackhif1-planning-inquiry-oxon>

Any contribution will be very welcome and will definitely be put to good use

More information about the HIF-1 fight can be found on ORAA's website: <https://oraa.org.uk/>



Other News



SUTTON COURTENAY WI



We always welcome new members

We meet every third Tuesday monthly in the
River Room, All Saints Church, at 7.30 pm

December – Christmas Party (Members)



Come along for a visit in the New Year



January 2024 - Speaker/presentation

Medical Cures in the 18th Century

February 2024 - Speaker/presentation

Daily Life in Tudor Times

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With huge thanks from us all at CPRE Oxfordshire. If you'd like any further information, please contact Laura Reineke: comms@cpreoxon.org.uk 07392 769377



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Tickets available from: The Bookstore, The Abingdon Precinct (15 Bury Street), Abingdon
or online at www.abingdon-drama-club.com Email: enquiries@abingdon-drama-club.com

Christmas Quiz answers:

9 – Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner & Blitzen

10

Spruce or Fir, Norway

4

Father Christmas, Saint Nicholas, Pere Noel, Sinterklaas

Indian Ocean

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 February 2024 issue of the Mouthpiece by **January 15th** to: generalmouthpiece@gmail.com

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 advermouthpiece@gmail.com 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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Pub open 12 to 10pm

Sunday Roasts 12 – 2.30pm

Please call to check for food times

Phone 01235 528046

Email: info@railwayinnculham.co.uk

www.railwayinnculham.co.uk

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	s.caseyrerhaye@culham-pc.gov.uk	3 The Burycroft, Culham	01235 635566
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Mike Richmond-Cooper	m.richmondcooper@culham-pc.gov.uk		
Siobhan Sargeant	s.sergeant@culham-pc.gov.uk	(Yes – the email is misspelled!)	
CLERK TO PARISH COUNCIL			
Denise Corney	clerk@culham-pc.gov.uk		
DISTRICT COUNCILLOR			
Sam Casey-Rerhaye	Sam.Casey-Rerhaye@southoxon.gov.uk	3 The Burycroft, Culham	01235 635566
COUNTY COUNCILLOR			
Robin Bennett	robin.bennett@oxfordshire.gov.uk	4 Meadside, Dorchester-on-Thames	07979 646815
ST PAUL'S CHURCH			
Associate Team Vicar:	<i>Revd. Joanne Allen – not in post yet</i>	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 CHURCH			
Chairman:	Philip Owen	6 The Green, Culham	01235 555223
ST PAUL'S & CULHAM VILLAGE RE-ORDERING COMMTEE			
Philip Owen	stpaulsandculhamvillage@gmail.com	6 The Green, Culham	01235 555223
LADIES OF CULHAM (LOC)			
Laura Cooper	ladiesofculham@gmail.com	Also Jenny Williams, Jo Oughtred	
POLICE			
Neighbourhood Policing Team		Non-emergency Phone Number	101
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