

The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter
March 2024



Dates for your Diary

Fri 1 Mar	8pm	Ladies Of Culham – Graphology	St Paul's Church
Sun 3 Mar	11am	Holy Communion	St Paul's Church
Sun 10 Mar	11am	Messy Church – Mothering Sunday	St Paul's Church
Wed 13 Mar	7.15pm	Thames Water presentation & Parish Council Meeting from 8pm	St Paul's Church
Sun 17 Mar	11am	Messy Church – Passion Sunday	St Paul's Church
Sun 24 Mar	10.30am	Family Holy Communion – Palm Sunday	St Paul's Church
Sun 31 Mar	9am	Easter Service and Breakfast Baps	St Paul's Church



Culham Kids



Easter Bunny

WORD SEARCH

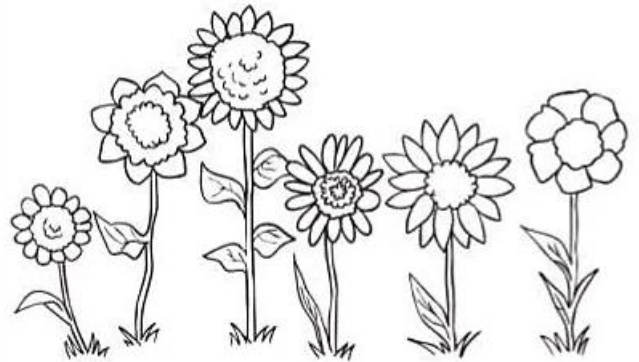
Solve the following puzzle by finding all the hidden words!

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E
E Y A
G E N S
G H N G Y
T B E S S
B T E B A
Y T I S
Y I E H R N
N E N E H N E
N P T U T T T
T G D B E E U G N U N H U N
Y D Y A D N U S A P N A E T E S S
R I R E T E N S U H U T E K S A B
H B A E R T E G I U A H T B R
E Y U U N S A B U E S N S R R T
N R P A N H T E K E S P E E N E
B D N E S Y Y U P A R U T Y I E
S T D H E A H Y S I I S N N G G
E D I N N E T T S N E A N E B Y
A S H R E N E D U G B E U T T A
A A S B E T N S G A B G R G H
N I N A S H E R S A Y

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For Colouring!



BASKET
HIDE

BUNNY
HUNT

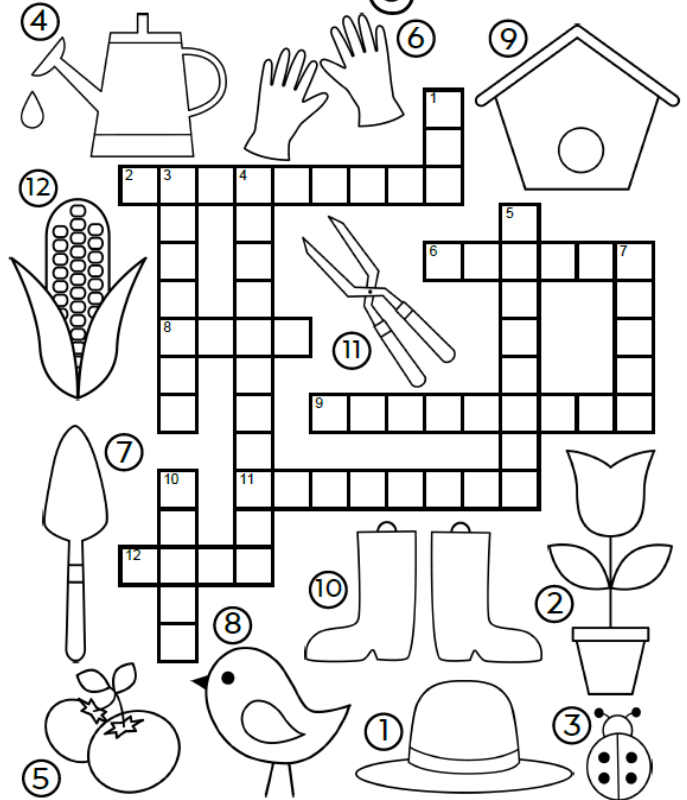
EASTER
SPRING

EGGS
SUNDAY



Gardening

Crossword
Puzzle



Talking point by Revd Sorrel Shamel-Wood



Easter is a time when we celebrate new life. The shops are filled with displays featuring pastel-coloured eggs, bouncing lambs and cheeky chicks. The festival coincides with the onset of Springtime, when the days become longer and brighter and our local farms are bursting with new life. Visiting the lambs is becoming an increasingly popular activity for families, rivalling the pumpkin picking craze that continues to soar in popularity during the October half-term holiday.

Of course, for Christians, Easter is the festival celebrating the resurrection life of Jesus Christ. Christians believe that, on Easter Sunday, Jesus rose from the grave, heralding a great celebration and a promise of new, glorious, eternal life. The image of the rising Sun is symbolic for Christians at this time of year, with many offering a dawn service to celebrate Easter Sunday as the first morning light first creeps up over the hillside. For Christians, this is one of the holiest and most special times of year, and we give thanks to God not just for all created life, but for the particular good news of Jesus.

However, Easter Sunday is the culmination of Holy Week, which is a dramatic and intense journey of intense ups and downs. On Palm Sunday (the Sunday before Easter), Jesus was celebrated by the crowds as a hero when he rides into Jerusalem on a donkey. On Maundy Thursday, he shared a final meal with his closest friends before being betrayed by them. On Good Friday, he was crucified. On Holy Saturday, nothing happened: Jesus lay dead in the grave and his friends hid in fear, thinking that was the end of the story.

In the run up to the glorious celebration of resurrection life, there are many moments of despair, death and darkness. We know this to be true in the natural world as well: before Spring time bursts out in all its beauty and colour, first the Autumn leaves must die and rot into the ground. First we must go through the darkest and coldest time of year, when nothing seems to be growing. We know that death and darkness are part of the cycle of life.

I have found that, depending on where I am in the journey of life, different parts of the Easter story resonate with me in different years. Some years, I am most excited for the joyous celebration of Easter. At other years, it is the profound reality of Good Friday where I feel closest to God. During the lockdown of 2020, I felt that I was most compelled by Holy Saturday: the day when nothing happened. I wonder which day of the story most resonates with you this year?

A long and full life, and any great adventure story, is full of moments of excitement and celebration as well as times of boredom, frustration and grief. pray that wherever you are on life's journey, you would find comfort, healing, strength and community. Please know that you are very welcome to come and journey with us as we remember the Easter story, at any or all of our Holy Week services across the Dorchester Team this year. Or if you are too frail but would like a pastoral visit or to receive communion, please do get in touch.

The Arrival of Revd Jo Allen

We were pleased to welcome Jo and her family at her Licensing on Wednesday 31st January. Jo is now Team Vicar in the Dorchester Team, with pastoral responsibility for the Bridge Group of parishes: Clifton Hampden and Burcot, Culham and Long with Little Wittenham.



Events in the Abbey

Sun 3rd March- 3pm The Choir of The Thames Consort – Bach, Vivaldi, Bruckner All proceeds will go to Dorchester Abbey Tickets £16/ £12 (16 and under free) <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/dorchesterabbey/t-dvxpznn>

Sat 23rd March- 7.30pm- 9pm Benson Choral Society Benson Choral Society's next concert combines the new with the old – local composer Richard Blackford's recent Pietà and Gabriel Fauré's incomparable Requiem. Tickets are £20 (reserved) or £17 (unreserved) and are available online at www.bensonchoralsociety.org.uk.

Sat 30th March- 6pm- 8.30pm OSJ- Bach – St Matthew Passion A highlight of our musical year, we celebrate Easter with our annual performances of JS Bach's sacred oratorio. Featuring some of Bach's most delicate chorales and rousing choruses, this depiction of the last few days of Jesus's life is as powerful today as it was when it was written nearly 300 years ago. Free tickets available for NHS workers and for the disabled. Please email admin@osj.org.uk. Tickets £6 to £35 from www.osj.org.uk

TEAM EVENTS

Lent- Details of all our services and courses can be found on at www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk under the services section or a printed copies can be found within your local Church.

World Day of Prayer St Mary's Long Wittenham Friday 1 March 3.00pm Each year on the first Friday in March a world wide day of Prayer takes place. Formally Women's World Day of Prayer the service is prepared by women of a different country each year. Appropriately in 2024 the Christian Women of Palestine have prepared the service. Therefore everyone is invited to join us in Long Wittenham to pray with the women of Palestine and hear some of their stories.

Experience Easter @ Berinsfield Church- 23rd March 10.30am-12.30pm Come and have an immersive experience of the Easter story brought to you by our amazing team of storytellers. There is also craft, quizzes an Easter Egg Treasure Hunt and delicious cakes and hot drinks. Free to everyone, families welcome.



The Bereavement Journey online - 2nd April-14th May 7pm-9pm Grief is hard.

Death can impact all of life. Come and join our online group to explore your experience of the Bereavement Journey.

7 online sessions of films and discussion for anyone bereaved anytime. To book or for more information contact Rev Teresa 07823809112

revteresa@outlook.com

A poster for 'The Bereavement Journey' online course. The top half features a close-up of a green leaf with a white flower. Text on the left says 'Grief is hard. Death can impact all of life.' On the right, a logo for 'The Bereavement Journey' is shown. Below the image, it says '7 Sessions of films and discussion for anyone bereaved anytime'. A list of topics includes: Attachment, separation and loss; The pain and responses of grief; Anger and guilt; Coping with others' reactions; Delayed and suppressed grief; Adjusting to change; Moving forward healthily; Faith questions - a Christian perspective (optional). A box on the right says 'Running soon: Hosted by Dorchester Team of Churches. Online Course: Tuesdays 2nd April to 14th May 7pm. To book or for more info: Contact Rev Teresa 07823 809 112 revteresa@outlook.com'. At the bottom left, it says 'To find out more visit: thebereavementjourney.org'.

Village News

Village website: www.culhamvillage.org.uk

Ladies of Culham Next Dates:

1st March – graphology / hand writing analysis

5th April – tea tasting and history

3rd May – Abstract painting

7th June – wine tasting

5th July – cocktails

2nd August – pub walk and social

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

Tree Planting in Culham

On a bright Sunday afternoon in January, a small team of villagers beat the winter blues, and armed with shovels and stakes, set about planting five new saplings organised by Culham Parish Council. The enthusiastic volunteers planted three silver birch trees next to the pond on The Green, one adjacent to the road, plus a final tree on the junction of The High Street and Tollgate Road. It was a fantastic afternoon of community spirit and we look forward to seeing the new trees thrive in the village! Thanks to everyone who helped!

Mike Cooper



St Paul's Church News



Come along on Easter Sunday morning for a short service and a celebratory Easter breakfast bap from 9am!



Brief Notes from Culham Parish Council meeting Feb 2024

Steps to Cemetery – a quote is being obtained to improve access

Transfer of The Green – a solicitor has been appointed to further negotiations

please see Parish Council website for full minutes <https://www.culham-pc.gov.uk/minutes/14th-february-2024>

Advance warning of temporary road closure

Abingdon Road & Tollgate Road, Culham – to facilitate surface dressing works

Starting on 15 April – anticipated completion by 18 April inclusive

Closure between 05:00 and 18:00

Limited access will be maintained for emergency service vehicles and for frontages within the closed section of road, subject to the progress of the works

District Councillor Report February 2024 - Sam Casey-Rerhaye

The next Joint Local Plan – consultation and low carbon housing

Planning is a key statutory responsibility for the district council and one of the main ways we can deliver on our priorities on climate change, nature and biodiversity, truly affordable housing and provision of new infrastructure.

The Government's climate change adviser, the Committee on Climate Change, has assessed that all new buildings must be "zero-carbon" by 2025 if the UK is to meet its legally binding decarbonisation targets.

In 2015, as part of "cutting the green crap," the government scrapped the zero-carbon homes standard which was due to come into force the following year. As a result, more than a million new homes have been built with poor energy efficiency standards and resulting higher bills.

We managed to ensure South Oxfordshire's existing Local Plan 2035, which passed inspection in 2020, imposes energy efficiency standards that are higher than those required by building regulations.

In December, the government announced its new Future Homes Standard which disappointed many with its lack of ambition. The announcement included a condition that any local planning policy on energy efficiency that goes beyond current or planned building regulations "should be rejected" by planning inspectors unless it is supported by "well-reasoned and robustly costed rationale."

In our Council's draft Joint Local Plan 2041 we have some new policy proposals which include ambitious zero carbon standards for new developments, that go beyond the Future Homes Standard. It will be vital that the Council backs up these policies with robust evidence if they are to pass inspection.

Government are suggesting higher standards will limit the number of new homes built. But both can be achieved. Having high national building standards that align with the climate emergency can provide the homes people need and tackle the climate and cost of living crises. After all, sustainable homes are cheaper to run and less costly for our planet.

The consultation on the preferred options for the Joint Local Plan ran until 11.59pm on 26th February 2024.

Spring Clean

We are once again supporting [the Keep Britain Tidy 'Great British Spring Clean'](#) with litter pickers, high-viz jackets and bags available for loan to community litter picking groups and individuals, from **Friday 15 March to Sunday 31 March**.

Equipment is limited and it's first-come-first-served, so bookings should be made as soon as possible by completing and returning the booking form and declaration document available on South's litter picking webpage (search Community Litter Picking on www.southoxon.gov.uk) We must receive completed forms at least two weeks before a litter pick takes place.

'Greening' your business

We're urging local businesses and organisations to take part in a survey to find how best to help them find new markets, make potential cost savings as well as becoming more environmentally-friendly.

If you can, please help us spread the word. The survey, created in partnership between the councils and Oxford Brookes Business School, takes just 15 minutes to complete. Businesses, local groups, charities, town and parish councils, public sector, social enterprises and other organisations in South Oxfordshire are invited to have their say at https://brookes.fra1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dcyRh6kNAmKuz0q.

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

Or call & leave a message: 01235 635566

County Councillor Report February 2024 - Cllr Robin Bennett

Robin.bennett@Oxfordshire.gov.uk

OCC budget

Oxfordshire County Council cabinet has proposed measures to close its remaining £900,000 budget shortfall for 2024/25. The proposals form part of the final budget which will be decided at the annual budget setting meeting of all 63 county councillors on 20 February.

Although a track record of responsible financial management means that Oxfordshire County Council has been in a more resilient position than many other authorities, the overall position remains extremely challenging. Councils of all political hues throughout the country have made clear to central government that more funding was needed this year and in following years due to the high levels of pressures in areas such as social care, special educational needs and other services.

While the government has subsequently announced an increase to council funding of a further £600 million nationwide, following warnings of an impending crisis, we won't know how much Oxfordshire will receive or any further details until later this month.

Health and Wellbeing Strategy

More than a thousand people in Oxfordshire have helped OCC to prepare a [new strategy to improve health outcomes](#) for local people over the next five years. Three new principles for health success lie at the heart of the strategy: addressing health inequalities; preventing ill-health; and closer collaboration. It's been developed by Oxfordshire's Health and Wellbeing Board – the partnership between local NHS services, the county council, the city and district councils and Healthwatch Oxfordshire. This links well to the Community Profile being developed for Berinsfield, which comes with some public health funding.

Road safety and Vision Zero

I have met with officers and asked them to investigate ways to improve safety on the A4074 Dorchester bypass with urgency. Further, the county council has written to the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner (TVPCC) to call for more police action to improve road safety, after the number of people killed or seriously injured on Oxfordshire's roads rose in 2022 – the first increase for many years.

Oxfordshire County Council has made a commitment to [Vision Zero](#) – the elimination of road deaths and serious injuries by 2050 – and is currently progressing with a strategy and associated action plan to deliver this ambition.

Have your say (before March 10th) on the Council's Vision Zero strategy here:

<https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk/vision-zero>

Fix My Street changes

Changes have been made to simplify and improve FixMyStreet. This remains the best way to report potholes, faulty streetlights and a host of other street defects and queries.

<https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk>

The updated version also includes an aerial map of the county, as well as a regular map, to help people pinpoint the location of the problem.

The changes will be monitored over the next three months to see what impact they have, and the views of users will be sought.

Note, all current highways works including those by Thames Water, broadband providers etc can be located live at <https://one.network>

100 Together conference

Earlier this year, Oxfordshire County Council organised a conference called '100 Together', investigating possibilities for investment needed to deliver environmental activity at scale in Oxfordshire, which featured an opening talk by acclaimed Oxford economist Kate Raworth.

Didcot HIF1 planning inquiry

In July 2023, the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities called in the planning application for the HIF1 Didcot and surrounding areas major infrastructure project, following the county council's planning and regulation committee's vote to refuse the application.

A conjoined planning and Orders public inquiry will take place at [Bee House in Milton Park](#), and will sit for 26 days across a 12-week period.

The sitting dates of the inquiry are:

- 20 to 23 February
- 27 February to 1 March
- 5 to 8 March
- 26 to 28 March
- 16 to 19 April
- 23 to 26 April
- 8 to 10 May (set as reserve days)

Sessions will start at 10am and run until 5pm Monday to Thursday, with finish times at 3pm on Fridays. Members of the public can attend the inquiry.

If you'd like to follow the government planning inquiry online, the streaming link is:

<https://gateleyhamer-pi.com/en-gb/didcot-garden-town/>

RSPB Vale of White Horse Local Group

We provide monthly talks from September to May at the River Room (by the Church), Sutton Courtenay and / or via Zoom in the darker months, on Mondays starting at 7.30pm and finishing by 10pm. We also meet monthly at local birdwatching sites.

We welcome new members - membership is now £10 for the remainder of the season until May (whether or not you are an RSPB member), and free for under-16s, and includes a quarterly e-Newsletter and the programme of talks and trips. Non-members are also welcome to attend individual talks (in-person or Zoom) for a fee of £5. You can join using the form on our website (under "Contacts"), which also includes details of our full programme: www.rspb-vwh.org.uk, or at an in-person meeting. For meetings with an option to join via Zoom, members receive the link via email a few days beforehand.

Our next talks are:

18 March 2024 (River Room and Zoom): Ian Barthorpe - The Pantanal

Ian will talk about his travels in the Pantanal wetlands of South America

15 April 2024 (River Room only): Jerry Pride - The World of Swifts

Swifts can fly up to 800km a day, and spend almost their entire life on the wing, sometimes flying nonstop for 3 years. It wouldn't be summer without them, but these remarkable birds are in serious decline.

20 May 2024 (River Room only): Members Evening and AGM

At our last meeting of the year we conduct the AGM swiftly (!), then hand over to members' short talks. We may also have a talk about the local Letcombe Brook Project, to be confirmed.

Our next trips are:

24 March 2024: Arne Nature Reserve: meet 10am on site

21 April 2024: Otmoor: meet 10am on site

26 May 2024: Whelford Pools: meet 10am on site

9 June 2024: Greenham Common: meet 8pm on site (seeking Nightjars!)



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

Come along for a visit

APRIL 18TH

Guest Speaker will give a talk – ‘Sabah Home of the Orangutan’

(Please note March meeting is an AGM, for members only)

Contact us via email at

suttoncourtenaywi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

Or 01869 331081



Oxfordshire Youth Music Theatre



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presents



Tues 9 April to Sat 13 April 7.30pm plus Sat 13 April 2.30pm

At

The Amey Theatre, Abingdon School

Tickets see abingdonoperatic.co.uk/tickets



Do you love music and would you like to spend a weekend in the best of company, with a friendly and welcoming group of volunteers helping at an internationally-acclaimed music festival, with celebrated musicians and a wonderful array of music?

If so, please come and join us at the English Music Festival! We are looking for volunteers to help with stewarding, refreshments and looking after artists. Not only will you be warmly welcomed by our affable and inclusive group of helpers, but you will have the chance to meet and work with our star artists such as the BBC Concert Orchestra, clarinettist Michael Collins, conductor Hilary Davan Wetton and pianist and Radio 3 presenter Paul Guinery, and the opportunity to attend all the concerts.

The Festival takes place over the second May bank holiday, from **Friday 24th to Monday 27th May 2024**, in Dorchester-on-Thames in Oxfordshire and we would welcome help over the whole weekend if possible, but if not, then whenever suits your own timetable. Duties can be tailored to your own interests, abilities and preferences. The full programme can be seen at

<https://www.englishmusicfestival.org.uk/2024-may-festival/programme.php>.

Please contact Festival Director **Em Marshall-Luck** at em.marshall-luck@englishmusicfestival.org.uk for more information or if you are able to help.

The museum celebrates International Women's Day 2024 with a range of events and exhibitions



**Soldiers of
Oxfordshire
Museum**

- A new permanent display at the museum now tells the story of women in the armed forces, from the Great War to more recent conflicts in Bosnia and Afghanistan
- Living historians *Tastes Through Time* will visit the museum with displays that provide insight into the lives of women on the home front and in auxiliary forces during the Second World War, **11am – 4pm Sat 9 March 2024**
- A talk from Blenheim Palace's archivist, Antonia Keaney, will tell the stories of the Ladies of Blenheim - often over-looked in favour of the men – **2pm on Saturday 9 March 2024**
- A talk from Richard Poad MBE, of the Air Transport Auxiliary Museum, will tell the stories of the inspiring women of the ATA **from 3pm on Sunday 10 March 2024**

The museum will stream an interview with the renowned comics writer Garth Ennis on **Saturday 9 March 2024** from 7pm GMT, followed by a live Q&A session where the audience will be invited to put forward their own questions. Watchable via the museum's website, the event is the latest in a series of popular online events the museum has been running over the past three years.

Watch Online Here: <https://www.sofo.org.uk/whats-on/garthenniswarcomics/>

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

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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
Nacho Gimenez	n.gimenez@culham-pc.gov.uk		
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:	Revd. Joanne Allen	revjoallen@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 COMMITTEE			
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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