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December 2016 / January 2017

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**St. Nicholas Church, East Challow
(Vale Benefice)**

Services.

Sundays: Parish Eucharist 11.15am
Thursday Weekday Mass 10am



Vicar Rev John Durant

The Vicarage Main St Grove OX12 7LQ

Telephone: 01235 766484 Email: vicar@valebenefice.org.uk

Associate Vicar Alec Gill,

Tel: 07739 563894 Email: vicaralec@valebenefice.org.uk

Curate: Revd George Moody,

Email: curate@valebenefice.org.uk

Churchwardens

Mrs Sue Swift tel: 01235 770542

Dr Jeff Penfold. tel: 01235 763173

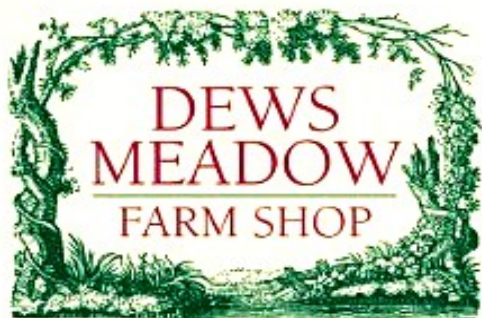
Parish Council

Chair: Ms V. Bosley, Coach Row, Main Street, East Challow
Telephone: 01235 764068

Clerk: Julia Evans Moorcroft, The Greenway, West Hendred,
OX12 8RG Tel 01235 833466
Email eastchallowpc@gmail.com

The Parish Council Meeting takes place in the Village Hall at
7.30pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.
Villagers are invited to attend.

Village Hall Booking Secretary: Denise Knight 01235 769933



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Useful Numbers

The 24-hour non-emergency number for Thames Valley Police is '101' or 999 in emergencies

or use email to contact me/Policing team

WantageandGroveNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Regards Howard

All entries for **February 2017** Challow News

to be received by **January 15th** please.

If you would like to place an advert for your business in Challow News or just send in an item about things happening in the village .
please contact us for more information.

To :- Pat & Dave Hudson (01235) 760526. mob 07787 120044

Westview House, Faringdon Road, East Challow, OX12 9TH.

Email entries can be sent to david66hudson@gmail.com

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Peter Mols – General Manager on 01235 772 992

or email peter@grovebusinesspark.com

Community Policing - PCSO Howard Pack C9600 - Thames Valley Police

MERRY XMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR!, in advance, to all residents of EAST and WEST CHALLOW, from the **WANTAGE Neighbourhood Policing Team**.

2017 looks like being a year of 'Challenges and Changes' for everyone, so, please keep safe and enjoy the Festive season.

Crime prevention

Five top tips on personal safety for a crime-free Christmas:

- When Christmas shopping, be aware of how much you are carrying with you. iPods, digital cameras, mobile phones and extra cash to buy presents mean you could be the ideal target for thieves.
- When you are out and about at Christmas, don't leave your bag unattended. Keep your purse safe in an internal pocket, and don't carry your PIN number with you.
- Don't leave your drink unattended. It takes a matter of seconds for someone to tamper with your drink.
- Have you ever considered getting a personal safety alarm? Don't allow threats of crime to intimidate you into never going anywhere alone. Just be aware of what's going on around you and be confident that you can keep safe.
- Plan your journey home. If you use a taxi, ensure it is registered. If you have to walk home, try and walk with a friend, stick to well lit and busy streets, and make sure someone knows the route you are taking.

Five top tips on home security for a crime-free Christmas:

- Property-mark presents and valuables with your postcode, house number or name, then register on the Immobilise website (www.immobilise.com) Make a note of all model numbers and serial numbers of all electrical items.
- Keep presents out of view - placing presents in plain view of windows will only draw attention to your house and its contents.
- Be cautious when using social media such as Facebook - do you really want to advertise that your home is empty by showing you are somewhere else or having a countdown to your holiday?
- Invest in a timer to open and close your curtains or turn on your lights or, better yet, ask a family member or neighbour to pop in and do it at random times of the day so a potential thief does not see an exact pattern.
- Dispose of boxes and rubbish discreetly. Leaving boxes outside will give away the fact that you have new and valuable items in the house.

Rural Patrol

There have been a number of Thefts recently from Vehicles at the RIDGEWAY beauty spot car parks from CHAIN HILL to ASHBURY, several persons have been arrested for each offence and enquiries are ongoing.

Vulnerable Residents

With the advent of colder temperatures could I ask the Residents in the CHALLOWS to help me and the Neighbourhood Policing team by keeping an 'eye' on Vulnerable members of the Community, especially the elderly, and if you have any concerns please let us know via **101** or contact one of our Partnership Agencies eg. Local Councils, Social Services. Where we are notified of a possible vulnerable person we will contact them via a visit or telephone call and ensure they have the help they require.

Cont

Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends

Since moving to the benefice, we have had an electrical pylon catch fire outside our house and a man arrested by police on our driveway. I never thought moving to the countryside would be this exciting! These were both unexpected and slightly shocking events to take place on your doorstep. In just over a month we will be celebrating Christmas, which isn't unexpected, hopefully won't be shocking but is rather exciting.

Yet, for those involved in the first Christmas, the arrival of God-in-a-body, the son of God born to an engaged teenage girl in a stable in the back of beyond. This was massively shocking; God's people had got the message that someone special was coming from God, but they never expected this. I find that there is a challenge each Christmas to remember exactly how mind blowing and incredible the events of the first Christmas are and how they impact our relationship with God's today. Advent, the run-up to Christmas, is a great opportunity to reflect on all that God said he would do and our need for God to get in involved in a world today.

The prophet Isaiah wrote many hundreds of years before Jesus's birth that; *"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. They lived in a land of shadows, but now light is shining on them. A child is born to us! A son is given to us! And he will be our ruler. He will be called, Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace."*

In a time of shocking news stories unexpected events and an uncertain future, it can feel that we are groping around in the shadows not sure what is ahead. We can take great comfort from the promise of Christmas; that God is with us and wants to get involved in the world around us, through us and with us. I hope that you do have an exciting but not too shocking Christmas!

God bless
Alec Gill

Pastoral Support

To help our Vicars Revd John Durant and Revd Alec Gill in the pastoral support of the parish Liz Belcher will be acting as local contact within the village for those who are in need of a home visit, home communion or other support that we as a church may be able to provide. If we can help please contact Liz on 01235 763966

St Nicholas Church 200 Club November 2016 Winners

£50	No: 138	N Keay
£20	No 131	R Hansford
£10	No: 48	P & R Rogers

We would welcome any new members to the 200 club.
If you would like to join, please contact Tricia Shand—01235 764222

St Nicholas Church, East Challow 200 Club

We would like to thank all members of the 200 Club for their support in 2016.

Subscriptions to the 200 club contribute towards the £22,000 a year which is required to keep our village church open, in good repair and available for all who wish to use it.
Your support is greatly appreciated.

We wish you all a joyous and peaceful Christmas

Church Fellowship

Our annual games evening.

Everyone welcome

Tuesday January 17th 7.45pm at Kemgisel, Sarajac Ave.
Bring a game of your choice, or just come and share the fun.



Date	Intercessions	Flowers	Thursday Sacristan	
			Dec 1st	S.Swift
Dec 4th	M.Mann	Everyone	Dec 8th	M. Mann
Dec 11th	J. Brown	No Flowers	Dec 15th	M. Mann
Dec 18th	P. Pepler	No Flowers	Dec 22nd	J. Penfold
Dec 25th	J. Penfold	Everyone	Dec 29th	J. Penfold
Jan 1st	M. Mann	S. Swift	Jan 5th	S. Swift
Jan 8th	P. Hudson	J. Teare	Jan 12th	S. Swift
Jan 15th	L.Parker	J. Penfold	Jan 19th	M. Mann
Jan 22nd	J. Brown	H. Smith	Jan 26th	M. Mann
Jan 29th	P. Pepler	M. Mann	Feb 2nd	J. Penfold
Feb 5th	J. Penfold	J. Adams		

Parish Council cont.

Oxfordshire County Council welcomes your views on the proposals. If you have any queries, visit the website above or contact the Daytime Team Support Team at daytimesupportreview@oxfordshire.gov.uk or call 01865 323410

WASTE BINS AGAIN

A reminder: **please** could you ensure that you remove your Waste/Recycling bin from the kerbside as soon as possible after the waste collection.
Thank You.

WASTE BIN COLLECTIONS OVER CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR:

Monday 26th December collection day

changes to Wednesday, 28th December

Monday 2nd January collection day **changes to Wednesday** 4th January

Monday 9th January collection day **changes to Tuesday** 10th January

SEASON'S GREETINGS!

The Parish Councillors send best wishes to all residents for a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will take place in the Village Hall at 7.30 p.m. on **Wednesday 7th December** (a week earlier than usual).

All villagers are invited to attend Parish Council meetings as observers and there is a 10 minute Public Discussion Time early in the meeting when you can raise any matter you wish with the council.

The minutes of each meeting are available on the website.

PARISH COUNCILLORS:

Vanessa Bosley (Chairman), 764068; Frances Webb, 765176; Iris Game, 770412; Pat Gill 07807 914833

Julia Evans, Clerk to East Challow Parish Council;
e-mail: eastchallowpc@gmail.com Tel. 833466

PARISH COUNCIL

VILLAGE EMAIL

Would you like to receive village news and information directly to you inbox? We are planning to set up a village email facility. All you need to do is register by sending your email address to the Clerk. Your email address will not be made public.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

A huge Thank You to those who responded to our request for Volunteers to help with the Neighbourhood Plan. A Steering Group has now been established and the next step is to define what activities people are going carry out. There is a lot to do and we welcome any help you can offer.

VACANCIES FOR PARISH COUNCILLORS

We still have two vacancies for parish councillors and recruitment is becoming urgent. We need a full complement of Councillors to ensure everything gets done. Supporting and maintaining our lovely village and its community is interesting and satisfying. Please consider joining us.

DOG FOULING

Dog Fouling is becoming a problem again throughout the village and especially on the football pitch. **Please be a responsible dog owner and clear up after your dog.** How would you feel if your child came home from football covered in dog mess?

DAYTIME SUPPORT CONSULTATION

Oxfordshire County Council has carried out a review of daytime support for people aged over 18 in Oxfordshire. The review focused on understanding the needs of vulnerable people for daytime support. As a result of the review the County Council are proposing a new model for daytime support and a number of options for delivering this are now being consulted on.

The public consultation is running **until 9am on Tuesday 20 December 2016**. Supporting documentation for the consultation, together with the online questionnaire can be found at <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/daytimesupport>.

Readers

Dec 4	J. Penfold
St. Nicholas	
Dec 11	G. Parker
Advent 3	
Dec 18	L. Parker
Advent 4	
Dec 24	R.Pepler
Christmas Eve	
Dec 25	M.Mann
Christmas Day	
Jan 1	P. Hudson
Naming of Jesus	
Jan 8	J. Brown
Baptism of Christ	
Jan 15	J. Teare
Epiphany 2	
Jan 22	R. Pepler
Epiphany 3	
Jan 29	C. Swift
Candlemas	
Feb 5	P. Pepler
4 th before Lent	

December / January Rotas

Isaiah 61.1-3
1 Timothy 6.6-11
Isaiah 35.1-10
James 5.7-10
Isaiah 7.10-16
Romans 1.1-7
Isaiah 52.7-10
Hebrews 1.1-4(5-12)
Isaiah 9.2-7
Titus 3.4-7
Isaiah 63.7-9
Hebrews 2.10-18
Isaiah 42.1-9
Acts 10.34-43
Isaiah 49.1-7
1 Corinthians 1.1-9
Isaiah 9.1-4
1 Corinthians 1.10-18
1 Kings 17.8-16
1 Corinthians 1.18-31
Isaiah 58.1-9a(b-12)
1 Corinthians 2.1-12

Date	Sacristan	Sidesman	Coffee	Cleaning
Dec 4th	R.Bustany	R.Bustany T.Shand	M.Perkins	L.Hopkins
Dec 11th	M. Mann	D. Mann S. Swift	J. Penfold / J. Brown	
Dec 18th	L. Hopkins	T. Shand F. Webb	M. Man / D. Mann	M. Perkins
Dec 25th	S. Swift	J. Penfold L. Hopkins	No Coffee	
Jan 1st	R. Bustany	R. Bustany S. Giles	M. Perkins	J. Penfold
Jan 8th	P. Pepler	G. Parker P. Hudson	Ody Family	
Jan 15th	J. Penfold	T. Shand L. Parker	H. Smith / L. Hopkins	M. Mann
Jan 22nd	M. Mann	D. Hudson J. Penfold	J. Parker / J. Penfold	
Jan 29th	S. Swift	L. Belcher K. Culverwell	D. Hudson / P. Hudson	J. Parker
Feb 5th	R. Bustany	R. Bustany S. Giles	M. Perkins	

If you are unable to take your turn, please arrange to swap or get someone to step in. It would be very helpful if you would amend the copy on the church notice board. Thankyou.

St Nicholas Church, Advent Course

A 4 week Advent course , following the York Course 'Living in the Light' , will take place at Windrush, Challow Road, Wantage at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 22nd, 29th November, 6th and 13th December.

All are welcome, but please let Jeff Penfold know if you plan to attend and would like a course book ordered (01235 763173, or jeff.penfold@stfc.ac.uk).

About ' Living in the Light'

Witnesses to a single event often give contrasting reports. When the event is God's coming to this world as a child it is not just fascinating, it is highly instructive. It opens our eyes not only to what God is like, but to how life can be lived to the full. This course explores the 'reports' of Luke, John, Mary and Paul. In doing so it engages with the distinctive nature of Christian spirituality and how we can give expression to it in our lives, thus living the light of Christ's coming (see also www.yorkcourses.co.uk).

Many thanks to all those who deliver Challow News

Also to our contributors and advertisers

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and
a Peaceful New Year

RIDE+STRIDE



The final total paid to the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust for the "Ride and Stride." was £355 This will result in £177.50 being returned to St Nicholas Church.

Many thanks to all our kind and generous sponsors and those who supported the visitors to the church on the day with refreshments.

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On-line at: www.wantageband.org



THE MISSION

EAST CHALLOW



A Christmas Carol Celebration
Joy to the world!
Sunday 11th December at 4pm

You are invited to an all-age Carol Service at The Mission, entitled *Joy to the world!* on Sunday 11th December at 4pm. Please join us to celebrate Christmas with traditional and modern Carols, prayers and Bible readings. The service is followed by free festive refreshments.

All are welcome to attend, whether you usually go to church or not.

E-mail , contactthemission@challowmission.org.uk

Telephone , 0795 860 2364 or 01235 771322



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Christmas Services at St Nicholas church, East Challow

Sunday 18th December : Carol Service. 4 pm

Saturday 24th December: No rehearsal Nativity, 4 pm

Midnight Mass, 11.30 pm

Sunday 25th December:

Christmas Eucharist, 11.15 am



Please come to

**St Nicholas Church, East Challow
Christmas Eve December 24th 4 pm
No-Rehearsal Nativity**

Come and play as active a role as you would like or just watch, enjoy and sing.

Required – angels, animals, inn-keepers, kings, shepherds, Mary and Joseph.

No experience required. Costumes provided. For all ages.

A truly family friendly service.

Start your Christmas here



Prayer Space at St Nicholas School

On 12-13th October members of St Nicholas Church were invited to organise a prayer space at St Nicholas School with the help of Catherine Claydon from Prayer Spaces in Schools from Oxford.

Prayer Spaces in Schools is a group that, 'enable children and young people to explore faith and spirituality from a broadly Christian perspective in a safe, creative and interactive way.' This was our fourth prayer space at the school and this year we decided to spread over two days with the growing numbers at St Nicholas School.

The theme of our prayer space this year was 'The Christian Values at St Nicholas school'. Unfortunately time only allowed us to explore four of the six school values.

Courage. Here we thought about who needs courage and when it is needed. We also talked about giving courage to others and looked at pictures showing courage. Thoughts were written on post-it notes to attached to the 'bubble tube'.

Friendship. We talked about the importance of friends, how to be a good friend even with people we find more difficult. Each child was given a fish on which to write or draw a friendly message. Each pupil attached their fish to the class hanger which will hang in their classrooms to remind them about friendship.

Respect. Most children were amused by this activity which started by looking at themselves in a mirror and thinking about themselves! The importance of self respect was emphasized before going onto respecting others and talking about who we respect and why. The children were told that the Bible says that God loves us all and this helps Christians to respect themselves and to respect others.

Forgiveness. In the forgiveness area the children were each given a zip and asked to imagine the two sides as two people getting on well with one another. As the children pulled down the zip they imagined a 'falling out' or argument where the two sides moved further apart. We discussed ways of bringing the two sides back together and how we feel before and after a falling out and also ways of preventing these situations from happening.

The children responded well to all the challenges given to them. Their comments showed that they were thinking carefully about each section. We were also pleased to learn how much the children remembered from previous prayer spaces.

We should like to thank Andrew Browne and his staff and Catherine from prayer spaces in schools for their support and cooperation.

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Village News

EAST CHALLOW W.I.

Here is some of our programme for the coming months, so if you think they sound interesting then please join a happy bunch of ladies who meet in the Village Hall on the 2nd Tuesday at 7.30pm.

A warm welcome awaits you so why not give it a try and bring a friend.

Dec. 13th –Christmas Social + Magician.

If you need to know more please telephone –01235 767860 Jan McGill (President)

Queen's 90th Birthday Celebration

The response to the Queen's birthday celebrations in June was overwhelmingly positive. The afternoon made a small profit. As a result, we are hoping to be able to plan more social events for the Village. The next event will be a Christmas tea in the Village Hall on the afternoon of Sunday 4th December, from 2pm

Friday 9th December

Wantage and Grove community volunteers will be holding a cash bingo with a Grand Christmas raffle. In East Challow Village Hall

Doors open 6.45 , Eyes down 7.15. Refreshments available.

East Challow Neighbourhood Watch

AGM and half yearly meeting

Mr Tony Evans chairman opened our AGM by saying we have had a relatively crime free year but stressed the need to secure property including garages and outbuildings particularly with two house burglaries recently.

There have been incidents of cars and youths accumulating in both the top parish council car park by the school and the middle car park used by the footballers.

If you hear or see anything please contact the police on 101.

On more than one occasion an individual has damaged the gate next to the top parish council car park to gain car access to the playground! If you see anything could you please call a member of the parish council their contact details are at the front of the Challow News.

Although the pedestrian crossing helps enormously, there is still a problem with cars and lorries going through the village too fast.

And last but not most certainly not least, there is still the ongoing problem of dogs on the loose in public places including the park area and irresponsible owners not cleaning up after their dogs. Dogs must be kept on leads in these areas.

Our next half yearly meeting is on Tuesday 9th May 2017 at the Challows RBL Club. I will send reminders nearer the time. **Don't wait until then though if you would like to become a co-ordinator give me a call just for a chat.**

Sue Woodley Secretary



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Christmas Tea

Please come and meet your fellow villagers
and enjoy a cup of tea and a mince pie

When: 4th December 2-4pm

Where: East Challow Village Hall

£1 for a cup of tea and mince pie (the proceeds of which will go towards financing
the purchase of new chairs for the hall)

We will also have a raffle and a few children's games



CHALLOWS ROYAL BRITISH LEGION NEW YEARS EVE PARTY 'MUSTANG'



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