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February 2018

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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

Mrs Linda Hopkins tel 01235 767121

Parish Council

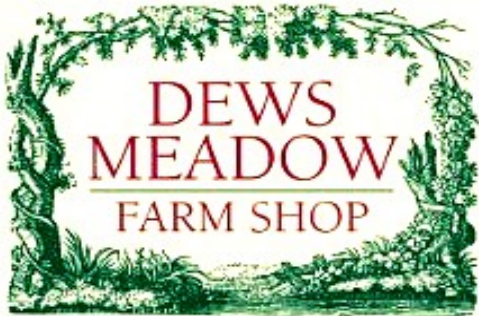
Chair: Ms V. Bosley, Coach Row, Main Street, East Challow
Telephone: 01235 764068

Clerk: Sheryl Sanders, 5 Hedge Hill Road, East Challow,
OX12 9SD

Tel 01235 760394 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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All entries for **March 2018** Challow News
to be received by **February 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

PARISH COUNCIL cont.

APPOINTMENT OF LITTER WARDEN

The Parish Council is pleased to welcome our new Litter Warden. You will no doubt see him around the village.

PLAY AREA

Please do not allow dogs in the children's play area.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will take place in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm on **Wednesday 14 February**. 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;

Ruth Vigor- Hedderly: 07860 136965

Sarah Parker : 01235 762565

Sheryl Sanders: Clerk to East Challow Parish Council.

e-mail: eastchallowpc@gmail.com. Tel 760394

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Vicar's Letter

Dear Friends

I wish you a **blessed** new year in 2018.

Some of our church groups are exploring the blessings (or Beatitudes as they are often known) of Jesus quoted in St Matthew's Gospel. We looked at some in December and will be considering the rest in the spring of the New Year.

The word used for **Blessed** includes the notions of happiness, well-being, positivity, goodness and excitement; and each of the blessings are accompanied by a promise. So I pray that 2018 will be for you both joy and hope and that you will be truly blessed.

A feature of these blessings is the fact that it is the people who are hurting and sad, the poor and needy, who are the ones promised hope and joy when we are in a relationship with the Lord our God.

What we at St Nicholas are hoping for and what will bring us great joy is to start the improvements of our facilities in the church building. We are hoping to have a more welcoming entrance and provide a toilet convenience.

Whatever life brings you this year or whatever you are experiencing now I do wish you a blessed 2018.

John

Rev W John N Durant Vicar of Vale Benefice

I went back into the room and said, "Now, I did listen to what you just told me, but I obviously didn't remember it. Could you tell me it again please?" Listening and remembering are both important skills that we need each and every day. They are just not easy things to do!

We live in a world where it is very easy to get our words out; through social media we can all send our sound-bites and options around the world, to thousands of people in seconds. In writing to the early Church, St James reminds Christians that we should be quick to **listen**, slow to **speak** and slow to become **angry**. It times this seems to be the exact opposite of what our culture tells us; get angry, send a tweet, then think about whether it might come back to bite you later!

Listening to others is not an easy thing to do, not is it a "sliver-bullet" to all our problems. But I am challenged to live out the words from the book of Proverbs that to answer before you listen is a silly thing to do; who do I need to listen to more in my life: God, myself, my friends, my family and all those around me, even the ones I don't agree with?

Happy listening! God bless,

Alec

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

December winners

£100	No	6	Susan Green
£50	No	66	Mrs E Belcher
£20	No	67	Mrs J Hives
£10	No:	92	Mrs Lidsey

January winners

£50	No	25	Mr G Shand
£20	No	77	Miss B Betteridge
£10	No:	17	Mrs C Canning

We would welcome any new members to the 200 club.

If you would like to join, please contact Tricia Shand—01235 764222
or email: the.shandies@btinternet.com

St Nicholas Church East Challow

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 4th 9.30AM

LIGHT

A family friendly candlemas service for approx. 30minutes
Interactive story and craft activities
Refreshments afterwards
All welcome

Marmalade for Sale

In aid of St Nicholas Church, East Challow



If you are like Paddington Bear and enjoy homemade
Marmalade please contact Jenny Penfold 01235763173
with your order. £2 per pot. Delivery can be arranged.

Parish Council Cont.

When she moved to East Challow Iris worked to help fundraise for the area's Brownies & Guides, and also became a member of the village WI and has been on/off the committee for the past 30 years. During this time she has been treasurer and president and is treasurer at the present time. Iris also helps at a local stroke club and is treasurer for them too. Iris is also on the committee for the women's section of the Royal British Legion, East Challow and bakes cakes for charity each month which has helped raise over £14,000.

Susannah Swift

Susannah first started helping with the Cub Scouts when her youngest son came home from a pack meeting to say they needed holiday cover for the next 3 weeks. It was 15 years before she left. In that time, she had become Cub leader. Taking the Cubs on annual summer camps, midnight hikes and camp fires. A great time had by all.

When Susannah moved back to East Challow (the village she grew up in) she joined the Village Hall Management Committee. Soon becoming treasurer which she has continued to do for the last 20+ years. Susannah set up and ran the monthly bingos. Buying and setting out the prizes, making cakes for refreshments etc. They ran for 12 years raising much needed funds. She also caters for any fundraising events for the village hall.

Susannah is a Churchwarden at St Nicholas Church, East Challow. She has been in this role at least twice in the last 20 years. Attending meetings of the PCC, organises the church rotas and the lunches for Harvest Festival and the Patronial Festival, among other duties. Until recently she arranged, printed and oversaw the distribution of the Challow News. She is now part of the Re-ordering Group. Raising funds to provide catering and toilet facilities within the church. The aim of the project is to make the church more welcoming and making the building more compatible with the needs and expectations of the 21st Century.

In more recent years, Susannah and her husband have been actively involved in the organisation of regular weekend rallies for their motorhome club, again catering for evening get-togethers.

A recent house move brought Susannah and her husband back into the centre of the village. Now a founder member of the Nalder Fields residents group.

Susannah continues to be a very busy, active member of East Challow.

PARISH COUNCIL

Vale Chairman's Community Unsung Hero Awards

The Chairman of Vale of White Horse District Council, Cllr Reg Waite, asked for nominations for the Community Awards. This year Cllr Waite had changed the nomination to unsung heroes to include people who have made a significant achievement in their chosen field, for instance art or sport, as well those who have supported their communities by voluntary work or community spirit. The following three Parishioners were nominated: -

Frances Webb

Frances has been a parish councillor in East Challow for nearly 20 years and in more recent years served as vice chairman. Over the last 2 years when membership of East Challow Parish Council was low Frances went out of her way to help support the council and enable it to continue to function. Frances is also on the Parish Council's Accounts Review Group and a member of the Planning Group.

Frances takes responsibility for clearing the dog bin along the canal tow-path. Frances is also on the Community Bus Committee and through the Parish Council Frances is part of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. Frances audits the WI accounts. Frances is regularly seen in the village church – she is a sidesperson/welcomer, she delivers Challow News, collects for the Church 200 Club and bakes cakes when it's her turn on the coffee morning rota.

Frances has, in recent years taken control of the village hall heating and has helped for some 15 years to run a monthly bingo to raise funds for the village hall. Frances is very much an un-sung hero of East Challow.

Iris Game

Iris Game has been a member of East Challow Parish Council for over 3 years. During this time membership of the Parish Council has been low. Iris has gone out of her way to help support the council and enable it to continue to function. She is also a member of the Parish Council planning group and the accounts review group.

Iris has done voluntary work for many years – from a young age she was a Brownie and then Girl Guide. She progressed to assistant guide leader. She also helped with her local Sunday School (playing the organ with one hand). Before Iris moved to Oxfordshire she became a district commissioner for the Guiding Movement with over 30 units to oversee. **Cont .**

Readers

Feb 4 Candlemas	M. Mann
Feb 11 th Sunday before Lent	P Pepler
Feb 18 th Lent 1	C. Swift
Feb 25 th Lent 2	J. Brown
Mar 4 th Lent 3	R. Pepler

February Rotas

Malachi 3.1-5 Hebrews 2.14=18
2 Kings 2.1-12 2 Corinthians 4.3-6
Genesis 9.8-17 1 Peter 3.18-22
Genesis 17.1-7,15-16 Romans 4.13-25
Exodus 20.1-17 1 Corinthians 1.18-25

Date	Sacristan	Sidesman	Coffee	Cleaning
Feb 4	R. Bustany	R. Bustany S. Giles	M. Perkins	L. Hopkins
Feb 11	L. Hopkins	K. Culverwell T. Shand	Ody Family	
Feb 18	S. Swift	F. Werbb P. Pepler	H. Smith J. Brown	J. Penfold
Feb 25	M. Mann	D. Mann L. Hopkins	J. Parker V. Brewster	
March 4	R. Bustany	R. Bustany S. Giles	M. Perkins	J. Parker

Date	Intercessions	Flowers	Thursday	Sacristan
Feb 4	L. Parker	M. Perkins	Feb 8	J. Teare
Feb 11	J. Penfold	S. Swift	Feb 15	J. Penfold
Feb 18	J. Brown	Lent No Flowers	Feb 22	J. Penfold
Feb 25	P. Pepler	Lent No Flowers	March 1	S. Swift
March 4	P. Hudson	Lent No Flowers	March 8	S. Swift

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. Thank you.

St Nicholas Church Reordering Project update

We have made fantastic progress, exceeding our expectations, and we are pleased to announce that work on the project started on Monday 8th January. The work will take about 12 to 16 weeks to complete. During that time we expect our regular church services will continue as usual, and every effort will be made to keep any disruption to a minimum.

The work will make the church more welcoming, accessible and more usable for a wider range of church and village activities by sensitively introducing some modern facilities into this much loved and cared for church. This involves providing a disabled access toilet, rearranging the entrance area for better access and use, adding some basic catering facilities, renovating the main door and providing a ramped path to the church entrance. This will facilitate independent disabled access and make access easier for any wheels e.g buggy, pram etc. (as shown in the plan).

Due to a number of key grant awards, some inspirational fund raising and generous direct giving we have raised most of the funds required (~£55,000); sufficient to start the work.

We currently have a small shortfall (~£4000) which we plan to reduce with further fund raising, direct giving and from some grants applications still outstanding. However we will be pleased to receive any further donations that would help us to complete the fund raising. If you can help us in any way please contact the churchwardens, treasurer or Vicar.

This project is only a means to an end i.e to extend the use of the building so all and any ideas as to what you would like to see start to happen based in the church, please contact churchwardens, Challow News editors or leave us a note in church.

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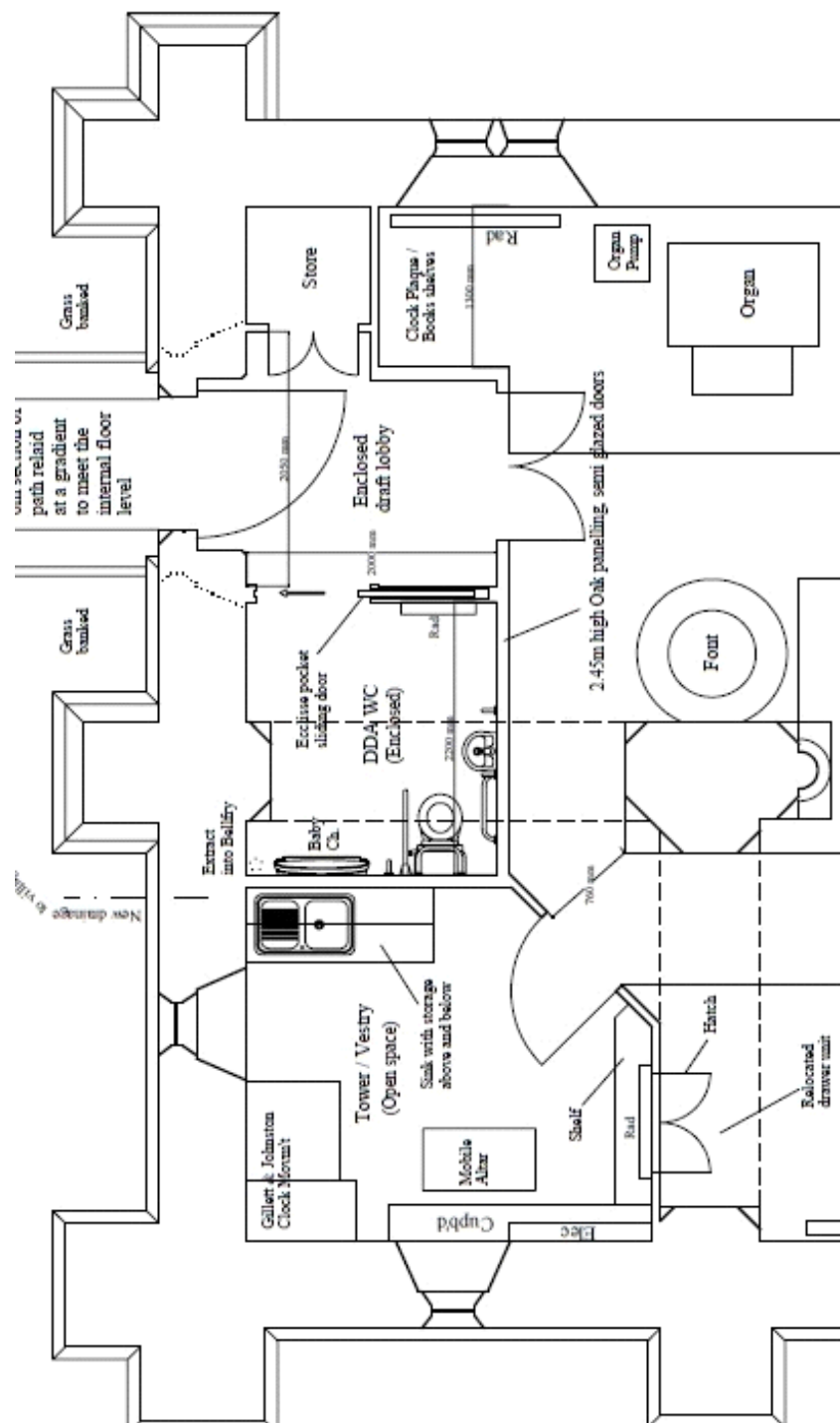
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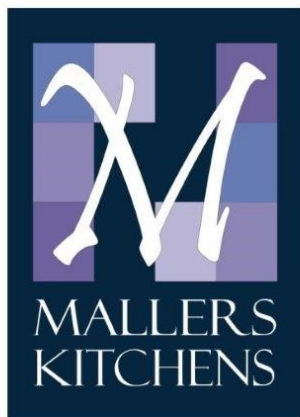
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