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Challow News

- 2021 -



November

EDITION



'Challow News' is the Community Newsletter of St. Nicholas Church, East Challow

St. Nicholas Church, East Challow.

OX12 9SH

(Vale Benefice)

Parish Eucharist

Sundays: 11.15am

Family Service

Temporarily Suspended

2nd Sunday 9.30am (Monthly)

Weekday Eucharist

Thursdays 10am



Vicar: Rev John Durant
The Vicarage, Main Street, Grove. OX12 7LQ
 01235 766484

Email: vicar@valebenefice.org.uk

Associate Vicar: Rev Alec Gill
 07739 563894

Email: vicaralec@valebenefice.org.uk

Curate: Rev Chris Ashton

Email: curatechris@valebenefice.org.uk

Licensed Lay Minister: Sue Powditch

Email: llm@valebenefice.org.uk

Benefice Office: Grove Parish Church, Main Street, Grove. OX12 7LQ

Open: Mon - Fri 10.00 - 12.00

Tel: 01235 771479

Email: office@valebenefice.org.uk

Churchwardens

Mrs Ruth Pepler: 01235 762197

Mrs Liz Belcher: 01235 763966

Pastoral Support

To help our Vicars Revd John Durant and Revd Alec Gill in the pastoral support of the village, Liz Belcher will be acting as the 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

Parish Council Meetings

Please note the December Parish Council meeting will take place on
Wednesday 1st December at 7.30pm

All Villagers are invited to attend Parish Council meetings as observers.

PARISH COUNCILLORS

Vanessa Bosley: (Chair) 01235 764068

Frances Webb (Vice Chair) 01235 765176

Sarah Parker, Trevor Hayes, Paul Barrow, Wende Blowfield & Iris Game.

Clerk to East Challow Parish Council

e-mail: .eastchallowclerk@gmail.com

Solutions

T	N	E	L	A	S		S	E	I	S
A		G	I		U		E	E		E
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PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council meeting takes place in the Village Hall at 7.30pm
on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

www.eastchallowpc.co.uk

Streetlighting

If you notice any problems with streetlighting in the Parish please make a note of the number which can be found on the lighting column and the location. Please let any member of Parish Council know so that it can be reported to the relevant OCC Department.

November 5th – Fireworks!!

Please remember the Firework Code <https://www.britishfireworksassociation> this is the name given to a number of similar sets of guidelines for the safe use of fireworks by the general public. Stay safe, be considerate, ensure your pets are safe, never throw fireworks and don't become a nuisance.

If found misusing fireworks, you could be fined/prosecuted.

Parish Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer

East Challow Parish Council is looking to appoint a Parish Clerk/RFO to undertake the administration and financial management of the Council. The Council is seeking a candidate with good organisational, secretarial and administrative skills.

The job involves working from home for which an allowance is paid. The hours are 35 per month at an hourly rate of £12 per hour.

Please contact the Parish Council Chairman c/o the Clerk for more information.

Parish Council Vacancy

A vacancy has arisen for a Parish Councillor. If you are interested in joining the Parish Council please contact the Chairman c/o the Clerk for more information.

Clerk to East Challow Parish Council

e-mail: .eastchallowclerk@gmail.com

VICAR'S LETTER - A PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

Listening is important. It can make a great difference when we give people time and space to talk. I have valued the times when others have truly listened to me. But how often do we actually, listen?

The New Testament challenges us to "be quick to listen, slow to speak" (James 1:19). Listening can be transformative, allowing people to process their experiences and emotions, but it is also draining and time consuming. It is an activity that we must choose to do and a skill that we can develop.

At this time of year, we have had and will have the opportunity to reflect on black history, the sacrifices of those who have fought in wars and give time to remember our loved ones who have died. It can be challenging hearing stories that are traumatic and different from our own experiences. But it is important that we take time to pause and listen to others, as giving space to hear different voices shows that we value individuals, allows us to fully understand the climate that we are living in and helps us to make better informed decisions about the actions that we take.

But we also live in a culture which is increasingly becoming more polarised around political, moral, social and spiritual issues, impacted by issues of fake news, cancel culture and echo chambers.

Listening is at its hardest when we hear things that we don't agree with. If we ignore the views and realities of others, then divisions only deepen and in one form or another, people get hurt. One of the most radical things that we can do is to listen to someone that we do not agree with.

We need to listen, so that we show respect to others, honouring God's command to love others

We need to listen, so that we are fully aware of the situation that we are in, hearing the voices of others.

We need to listen, so that we can effectively respond to or challenge what others have said.

We need to listen, so that we can learn from past mistakes and learn more about current problems.

We need to listen, so that we can grow and develop.

I need to listen more and be slower to speak.

God bless,
Alec

War memorials

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. (Matthew 5:4)

National and local memorials to the casualties were first proposed during the First World War. After the war ended, local committees were set up to plan how to commemorate the sacrifice of their young men's lives. The committees were not usually run by the local churches but often by landowners, employers, and representatives of comrades' groups. Memorials often started as shrines where locals could gather to leave messages or flowers.

Over the next few years, permanent memorials were set up in every village, town and city across the UK. They differ widely in style. Sometimes a stone cross was chosen, other times a plaque or an obelisk. They usually list the names of local men who died, but sometimes all the men from the community who had served. Sometimes they list just names, while others are complete with details of the units they served in. They usually reflect an equality in death – that no-one was more important than another.

In many cases, memorials were not dedicated until well into the 1920s. It took time to decide on the design and raise money. In many cases there was difficulty in tracing the names of all the fallen. There was also the question of where to site the memorial. Most are on roadsides, or in the centre of a community. Some, but not many, are in churchyards. Many memorials were facilities for the community such as recreation grounds or village halls in addition to the lists of names.

Most memorials were paid for by public donations, local fetes and concerts. No-one gave a thought to who would pay for their upkeep in the future. Now, one hundred years later, many are in need of repair, cleaning or restoration. Sadly, some have been vandalised or have had the metal plaques stolen.

Many local authorities, including town and parish councils, have taken responsibility for the upkeep of memorials although there rarely is any legal duty to do this.

What you can do

Research the history of your local memorial. Your county record office may have information. When was it dedicated? You can find out about casualties via the Commonwealth War Graves Commission website.

Also, there may be people in the area who have memories or photographs of the men who served. Some of the older locals may remember what it was like to grow up in the area during the war or what their parents remember.

Is the area near the memorial looked after and free of litter? Start a local campaign to improve this or get some rubbish bags and do it yourself.

If the memorial needs attention, then this is a skilled job. The War Memorials Trust works to protect and conserve war memorials in the UK. The charity provides free advice to anyone as well as running grant schemes to support repair and conservation projects. You can find a range of resources at

www.warmemorials.org

Plans to make 20mph the new 30mph in Oxfordshire

- Ambition to create a safer place and a safer pace

Read the story and watch the video on the Oxfordshire County Council

[website](#) or read it below:

Communities could soon find it easier to make their streets safer and more pleasant by reducing speed limits from 30mph to 20mph.

Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet will decide later this month [19 October] whether to endorse plans to make it simpler to lower speeds to 20mph as part of its aspiration to see limits lowered on most urban areas and village streets in places where it is suitable and supported by residents

Councillor Tim Bearder, Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance, said: "It's a hugely ambitious vision for Oxfordshire that can create a safer pace and a safer place. Making 20mph the new 30mph sits at the heart of all our active travel plans. Without this shift we'll never be able to persuade residents to make cycling and walking the natural first choice and reduce the dominance of vehicles in the hearts of our towns and villages.

"I firmly believe this is an important step on the road to improving health and wellbeing. Combined with other measures it can create healthy, dynamic community spaces. There is huge local interest and desire to deliver 20mph within the county and the proposed policy and approach should make it easier and more cost effective to implement.

"We want the streets where people live, work, play and shop to benefit from this policy change with the aim to make Oxfordshire's roads safer for pedestrians and cyclists." Last month, as part of the policy change work, 20mph limits were introduced in the south Oxfordshire village of Cuxham on a pilot basis, while four more pilot schemes are planned – in Long Wittenham, Wallingford Central, Wallingford North and Kirtlington – following consultations.

Although Oxfordshire County Council would be working alongside Thames Valley Police, there would be an emphasis on drivers adhering to the new limits through a change of mindset, rather than enforcement. It is hoped that as 20mph areas become more common, breaking the limit would become socially unacceptable for drivers.

There is a clear link between the speed of traffic and the likelihood of accidents happening in which people are killed or injured. You are seven times more likely to survive if you are hit by a car driving at 20mph than if you are hit at 30mph.

If the proposals are approved, a countywide survey of parish councils will be carried out to understand the potential level of interest.

The authority is committed to working with key stakeholders including bus, taxi, and haulage companies, as well as major businesses, throughout the process.

More information, including details about how towns, parishes and villages can register an interest in bringing in 20mph limits, are available on Oxfordshire County Council's

[website](#)

Yvonne Constance

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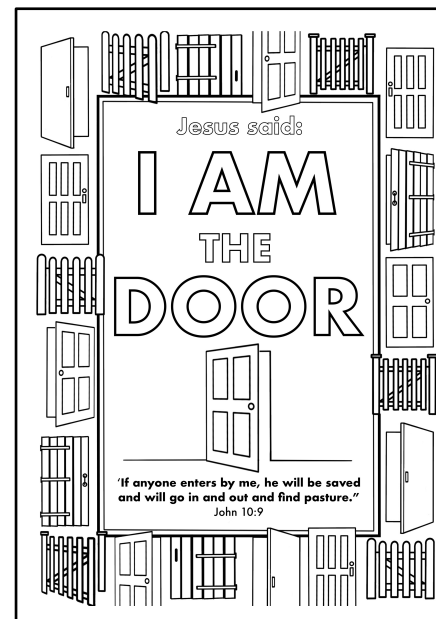
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sjackrill@gmail.com



~ NEWS FROM THE PEWS ~

Our Harvest Festival was a huge success, the Church looked amazing, many thanks to everyone involved, the produce donated, the creative people that decorated and made it all look so wonderful, and of course a big thank you to Mandy for organising the refreshments and the beautiful cakes as well as those which were brought along and made by others.

If you weren't there you missed out big time!

Another excellent result from the day was that £223.20 was raised and donated to our chosen charity for this year - 'Water Aid'

November has arrived, the clocks have changed and autumn is here. The beautiful colours are always remarkable, I can't resist rustling through the leaves and picking up conkers. I put them in dishes around the house to discourage spiders. I've no idea if it works but they look nice.

It's also a reminder that Bonfire night is on its way, so please make sure that pets are safe and kept calm if there are fireworks nearby. I really enjoy watching a firework display.

I do love the changing seasons and the fact that nothing stands still. I walk my dog daily so I get to see the difference all the time, sometimes appreciating it, other times not. I have noticed that by the side of the canal between Challow and Grove more "fairy doors" have appeared which is very cheering on a bleak morning. Whichever fairy people are involved I for one think they are beautiful.

All the best to you all,

Liz

Church Warden

All Information / details are held as Public Records within the Vale Benefice

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Plant a Tree for the Jubilee

The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 which invites people from across the United Kingdom to "**Plant a Tree for the Jubilee.**"

Everyone from individuals to Scout and Girlguiding groups, villages, cities, counties, schools and corporates will be encouraged to play their part to enhance our environment by planting trees during the official planting season between October to March. Tree planting will commence again in October 2022, through to the end of the Jubilee year.

With a focus on planting sustainably, the QGC will encourage planting of trees to create a legacy in honour of The Queen's leadership of the Nation, which will benefit future generations.



<https://queensgreencanopy.org>



Vale of White Horse District Council - Dr. Paul Barrow District Councillor for Ridgeway Ward

East Challow Neighbourhood Plan

In the last newsletter I mentioned that the first full draft of our neighbourhood plan is complete and that we will soon be entering the public consultation phase. This is intended to begin on November 1st but it might be a little later. We have sent the draft to the Vale for an informal first look and expect it to be back by the third week of October. Any corrections will then be made and we will advertise around the village to let residents know exactly when and where they can find hard and online copies of the plan and how to comment. There will be six weeks between the start and end of the consultation.

Broadband

Broadband speeds in the village are pretty good (generally around 20-30 Mbps) but they could be even better and anyone running a business from home or even working from home may like to see this higher. The problem arises from the fact that we have optic fibre to the box but copper wire from there to individual houses. OCC plan to provide full fibre to property (with speeds of <1000 Mbps) by April 2025, starting in April 2022 which should cover all of our parish. Some of the hard-to-reach properties in the Ridgeway ward have a separate pot of money provided by central government for this purpose but as far as I can see our parish will not need this. We are in fairly frequent contact with Craig Bower (Digital Infrastructure) at OCC about this and I will provide updates as and when anything occurs of relevance.

HOSC

We had the first HOSC (County Health Overview Scrutiny Committee) meeting on Sept 23rd under the new county leadership. I have mentioned before that we remain concerned about the county community health strategy, particularly regarding local community hospitals. The review of health strategy is powering ahead but with no scrutiny at all so far. I sometimes think that we caused Oxford Health so many problems over the roll out of community health in OX12 that they are trying to avoid scrutiny. That's not a good idea! And I hope I can report a bit more positively next time.

New planning applications

Two planning applications were approved at the planning committee which are relevant to the village.

P20/V0738/FUL (Crest Nicholson site, uplift of 11 extra houses). The only positive thing is that the houses and others in the cluster (36) will be provided with EV charging points.

P21/V1338/FUL (MacTaggart and Mickel site). Because of the footpath along the A417, trees have been taken out but will be replaced. Committee members were unhappy with it and also with the fact that the footpath from the village hall to the A417 is still blocked, due to reopen in February, but school kids are required to use the road-side path. We are trying to get them to open it earlier. Jenny Hannaby has also been very helpful in this.

Three new applications:

P21/V2702/FUL Hill Farm, Faringdon Road.

P21/V2678/HH The Old Appleyard, Main St.

P21/V1755/FUL Valentine Food Catering Trailer, Grove Business Park

Cllr Dr Paul Barrow

East Challow Village Hall Car Park

- Notice to all Villagers -

The Village Hall Car Park has been used extensively by 'non hall users' during the covid shut down period. On many occasions we have published that this is not a practice that is benefitting the Village Hall users.

If the car park is still being used by the residents as a personal car park, then the committee will have no option other than employing a car park management company.

East Challow Village Hall Committee

Urgently requires New Committee Members - without them our Village Hall could close.

Please help support your Village Hall and come along to our next meeting on
Wednesday 24th November at 7.30pm

WE ARE BACK- but with special measures in place.

King Alfred Patchwork and Quilters Group East Challow

We have all the procedures and protocols in place & in line with the latest government guidelines.

Programme for November and December 2021

3rd November -Inhouse Demonstration and Sew and Chat

@ East Challow Village Hall - 7pm

15th December - Christmas Party @ East Challow Village Hall - 7pm

Visitors and New Members are always welcome. You do not have to be a member to come along to one of our talks and demonstrations, but we are sure once you have seen some of the lovely handmade items and been inspired you might want to join us to have a go.

If you would like to come along to see what we are about then please do, we are a friendly bunch and can offer help and advice, and welcome members of any level and our programme of events is varied throughout the year.

We look forward to seeing you.

For more information, please contact

Janice Miller 01235 771552 or Mary Wearn on 0778 9888569

'Ride and Stride' 2021

I would like to thank all those who so kindly and generously sponsored me for the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust "Ride and Stride".

£250 was raised by cycling from church to church on a beautiful September day. 50% of this money will go to the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust which gives grants to Churches needing work such as repairs or development.

St. Nicholas benefitted from this fund when the toilet and Hazel Brown room was added to the Church.

The remaining 50% of the money will return to St. Nicholas Church.

Janet Parker



OUR WINTER OFFERING

With the cricket season now completed, there's a few things that we wanted to share with you

Bar opening times through the Autumn and Winter will generally be

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	Closed
Wednesday	4pm – 7pm
Thursday	4pm – 7pm (10pm when Darts match is on)
Friday	4pm – 9pm
Saturday	Closed
Sunday	11am – 3pm

The clubhouse is available to hire for a range of events through the 'close season' either during the day or in the evening, and makes a superb setting for your birthday, anniversary, christening or wake.

Please contact us to discuss your function requirements, we will always look to do whatever we can to make your event a success.

Remember that everyone is welcome at Challow, membership is not required to enjoy the facilities (although it does mean we can keep you up to date with news and events at the Club)

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~ Come and take a look at what's available ~

Advertise your business in the Challow News

For more details

Contact: nigel.langford@me.com

St. Nicholas Church 200 Club - Monthly Draw

October Results

£50 - N° 19 - A. Collie

£20 - N° 34 - T. Penfold

£10 - N° 54 - L. Rowe

We are looking for more members ~ Would you like to join?

Subscriptions to the 200 Club contribute towards the £20,000 which is required annually to keep our village Church open, in good repair and available for all who wish to use it.

The 200 Club is a monthly draw with 3 prizes each month - £50, £20 and £10

There is an additional prize of £100 in December.

The draw takes place on the first Sunday of every month, during coffee after morning service.

The cost is £2 per number per month, which can be paid monthly, 6 monthly or annually, and can be paid for by Cash or Standing Order.

If you would like to join the 200 Club, please contact Tricia Shand

Email: the.shandies@btinternet.com

Telephone: 01235 764222

> Community Notice Board <

Christmas Lights - 2021

If you participated in decorating your Homes with
Christmas Lights & Decorations in 2020

THANK YOU

Lets make the Christmas 2021 displays even better

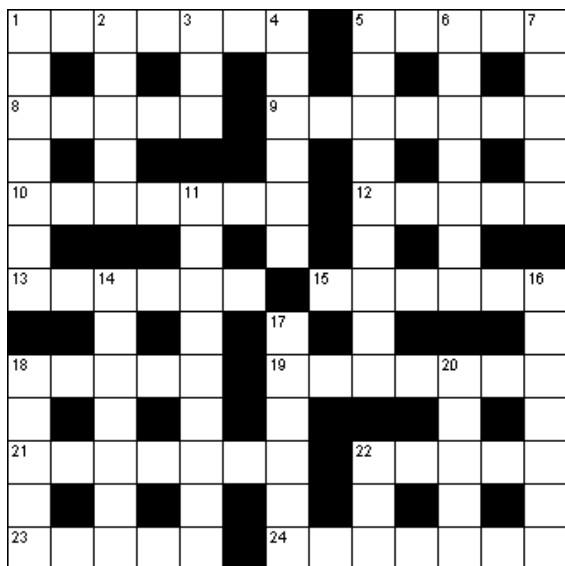
From small window displays to larger outside displays

Lets create a walking route around the whole village
for everyone to enjoy - especially the Children

**If everyone can have their displays up and
illuminated for the weekend of**

18th & 19th December

*Together we can put our village on the map
for some great displays again this year....*



Solutions on Page 22

Across

1. Entrust (7)
5. Small thin biscuit (5)
8. Dissonance (5)
9. Projecting upper floor (7)
10. The sheltered side (7)
12. Unvarnished (5)
13. Scheme (6)
15. Become visible (6)
18. Flowed back (5)
19. Athlete (7)
21. Hinged window blind (7)
22. Slight push (5)
23. Two or more contesting groups (5)
24. Striking (7)

Down

1. Tapers (7)
2. Inexperienced (5)
3. Frozen water (3)
4. Personify (6)
5. Decorative covering (9)
6. Photographic film (7)
7. Synthetic silklike fabric (5)
11. Short accounts of incidents (9)
14. Quashed (7)
16. Private place with peace and quiet (7)
17. Marine mammal (6)
18. Alleviates (5)
20. Emblem (5)
22. Nothing (3)



We so enjoyed the fireworks display, can we do it again at New Year?

Remembrance Day

Sunday

14th November

11.00 am

at the

Village War Memorial

~ ~ ~ ~

Service

of

Remembrance

11.15 am

Friends of St Nicholas Primary School

Christmas Craft Fair

Friends of St Nicholas C of E Primary School are holding a Christmas Craft Fair to raise vital funds for our Village School.

Saturday 11th December 1pm - 5pm
at the Royal British Legion Club

Stalls are £10 per table plus a raffle prize donation

If you would like a stall to sell at the event please contact Emma Amor emma.amor@hotmail.co.uk

Entry to the fair will be £1 per Adult, Children free.

St. Nicholas Church

~ Service of Memories ~

Sunday 7th November at 3.30 pm

A special service to remember those loved ones who are no longer with us but are always remembered and never forgotten

Everyone will be invited to light a candle during the service in memory of those that not only have been lost recently but also for those lost in previous years

~ Light refreshments will be available after the service ~



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DATE	READER	READINGS
November 7th 23rd after Trinity 3rd Before Advent	Alan OR Ruth	Psalms 62: 5-12 Jonah 3: 1-5 Hebrews 9 24-28 Mark 1: 14-20
November 14th Remembrance Day 2nd before Advent	Peter	Daniel 12: 1-3 Hebrews 10: 11-25 Mark 13: 1-8
November 21st Christ the King	Jenny or Jeff	Daniel 7: 9-10 & 13-14 Revelation 1: 4b-8 John 18: 33-37
November 28th Advent Sunday	Graham	Jeremiah 33: 14-17 1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13 Luke 21: 25-36

December 5th ~ St. Nicholas Patronal Festival ~

Date	Sacristan	Sidesperson	Organist	Cleaning
07-Nov	Philip	Frances & Nigel	Ruth	Liz & Linda
14-Nov	Mary	Peter & Linda	Ruth	
21-Nov	Jenny	Jeff & Liz	Graham	Mandy
28-Nov	Nigel	Tricia & Sue	Graham	

Date	Intercessions	Flowers	Thursday	Sacristan
07-Nov	Philip	Heather	04-Nov	Mary
14-Nov	Mary	Mary	11-Nov	Jenny
21-Nov	Jenny or Jeff	Jenny	18-Nov	Juliet
28-Nov	Juliet	Mandy	25-Nov	Mandy
			02-Dec	Mary

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All entries for the Dec / Jan

Issue of the Challow News

Must be submitted by

15th November 2021

Email: nigel.langford@me.com

TOPICAL TALK

Contactless payment limit goes up

The contactless payment limit has just more than doubled. It now stands at £100. And while this will be more convenient to many of us, it is also “a thief’s dream.”

So say the critics. As one financial expert from fund shop AJ Bell, points out: “By spending £100 a pop without having to put in a PIN, it will be very easy for thieves to blitz through money quickly, before you even spot that your card is lost or has been stolen.”

Another finance expert, from the consumer group Fairer Finance adds: “it’s much more attractive for petty criminals to steal cards and use them a few times if they can spend up to a three-figure sum.”

No proof-of-jab needed to go to church

You can go to church this autumn for worship, baptisms, weddings, and funerals, all without needing to offer proof that you have had the jab.

The Church of England welcomed the news that vaccination certification will not be required. As a spokesman said: “it would be difficult ... to justify limiting access to church services or organisations on the basis of vaccine passports. Such an approach would run contrary to the principle of the Church being a home-and-a-refuge for all.”

Our affection for Premium Bonds

Some 65 years ago, on 5th November 1956, Premium Bonds went on sale in the UK. They were designed to encourage people to save, and they offered cash prizes instead of interest.

The idea was to persuade people to save again following the Second World War, and on the first day alone, £5 million worth of Bonds were bought (equivalent to about £120 million today). The name of the machine that generated the winning numbers – the Electronic Random Number Indicator Equipment, shortened inevitably to Ernie – became common in everyday conversation.

There is no guarantee that you will ever win, which in many people’s eyes defines Premium Bonds as gambling, though the counter to that argument is that you can never lose your stake. You do, however, lose whatever interest you would have accrued if you had invested your money elsewhere.

The current odds against each £1 Bond winning a prize are 34,500 to 1. This has been described as “a gamble with very poor odds”. Nevertheless Premium Bonds are said to be held by more than 22 million people, or about 1 in 3 of the UK population.

Love your trees: 27th November – 5th December

National Tree Week is the UK’s largest annual tree celebration, marking the start of the winter tree planting season (November to March each year). This year, it runs from Saturday 27th November to Sunday 5th December. It is a good time to both celebrate your current trees, and to plant more trees in your area. You don’t have to necessarily hug a tree to prove your appreciation; there are plenty of other ways to support them. Visit: <https://treecouncil.org.uk/take-action/seasonal-campaigns/national-tree-week/>

Harvest Festival ~ 2021

~ Thank you to all East Challow residents ~

For all of your donations of Fruit, Vegetables and Flowers to decorate the Church

The purchase of the Fruit & Vegetables after the service and the plate collection raised £223.20 for our chosen charity



These 'Store Cupboard' items were kindly donated by the pupils of St Nicholas School which were then all sent to the local 'Food Bank'

The congregation of St. Nicholas has a strong working fellowship as these photographs show, and we all work and come together as one when required.

As a church community a lot of our christian work goes unnoticed but we are 'here for everyone'.

