

# Challow News

March 2022

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*St. David's Day - 1st March*

*Pancake Day - 1st March*

*Ash Wednesday - 2nd March*

*St. Patrick's Day - 17th March*

*Mothers Day - 27th March*



*St. Nicholas Church, East Challow. OX12 9SH*  
(Vale Benefice)



**Parish Eucharist**

Sundays - 11.00 am

**Weekday Eucharist**

Thursdays - 10.00 am

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**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

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**Curate: Rev Chris Ashton**

Email: curatechris@valebenefice.org.uk

**Licensed Lay Minister: Sue Powditch**

Email: llm@valebenefice.org.uk

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**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

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**Churchwardens**

Mrs Ruth Pepler: 01235 762197

Mrs Liz Belcher: 01235 763966

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**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

# VICAR'S LETTER - A PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

When I was a teenager I injured my hand, I had deep cuts on the palm side of my fingers.

I got the cuts dressed and had to keep them protected, to stop infection.

In time, the cuts scabbed over. Eventually I needed to take off the dressings to help my wounds heal.

There came a point where I needed to start using my fingers normally, to help my scars stretch and to encourage full movement. I still have the scars on my right hand.

The situations, experiences and life events that we encounter leave us with both physical as well as emotional, mental and spiritual wounds. The loss of a loved one, being bullied, relationships breaking down, illness and financial instability can all leave lasting marks on us.

Initially, these traumas can be very raw and exposed. We need to protect ourselves and to find healthy ways in which we can respond to them.

There then comes a time when we feel that we can take the bandages and support off, where we feel able to appropriately share our experiences more widely. We may then come to a place where because of our own history we can support others who are going through troubles, due to the struggles that we have had.

Our wounds need to be looked after, to be aired appropriately and our scars can become part of who we are.

This is a process that takes time and support. Open wounds can become healed scars, but not always and old scars can be reopened again. It is helpful to take stock of where we are in terms of our journey with our hurts and pains.

I am thankful to the leader of a recent CPAS training session, Emma Styles, for presenting this imagery of vulnerability and how we can interact with the damage that life does to us. I have found picturing my own hurts and pains in this way helpful, as it has aided me in realising that some things I am comfortable with sharing and others I keep private, and this alters depending on the situation that I am in. I have learnt the need to practise both self-care and vulnerability when it comes to addressing and sharing the hurts that I suffered.

God bless,

Alec

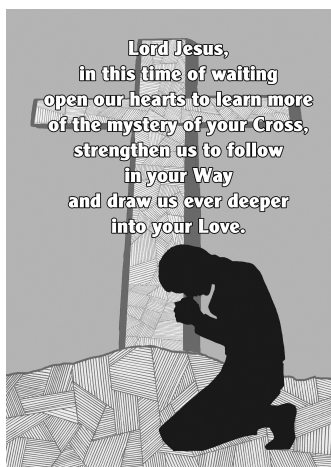


## Ash Wednesday

St. Nicholas Church, East Challow

*Imposition of Ashes Service*

2nd March - 8pm



## Mothering Sunday

St Nicholas Church, East Challow

*Mothers Day Service*

27th March - 11am



## Lent Courses



Every Wednesday online via Zoom

If you wish to join the course

Please contact the Benefice Office

[office@valebenefice.org.uk](mailto:office@valebenefice.org.uk)

01235 771479





## - NEWS FROM THE PEWS -

At the time of print I have no idea if March came in like a lion or a lamb but it is here now.

No matter what the weather, snow, frost, rain, cold, damp, or fog I am always amazed that the tiny fragile looking snowdrops always push their heads through to herald spring. Then come the crocuses and of course daffodils and we are reminded that there will be an end to the long winter.

Having a dog Meg by name, I have to take her out twice a day whatever the weather, it's fine once we are out, it is just the thought of going out in it sometimes. But it is nice to get out and about enjoying the different weather's and seeing the changes in the village. Down the canal path there is often a deer to see, and of course rabbits and even a fox early in the morning, and my dog loves barking at squirrels. Listening to and looking at the different birds is always interesting unless of course Meg sees a squirrel, then of course she barks and the birds fly off.

The first of March is Shrove Tuesday, this happens forty seven days before Easter and is when Christians traditionally went to Church to be "Shriven" (confess and be forgiven of their sins) also pancakes were eaten to use up rich foods which were not eaten during Lent.

So it now tends to be better known as Pancake Day.

This is followed by Ash Wednesday which is the first day of Lent. It is a day of repentance and in the middle ages the priest would sprinkle ashes on the heads of people at church, nowadays they are marked on the forehead with the sign of the cross. Lent is a period of preparation for Easter. Some people give up things they like at this time for the forty days, not counting Sundays.

Even with covid restrictions being lifted we are being advised to continue with the wearing of masks in Church.

So please take care of yourselves and others in these peculiar times.

Liz



## OUR SPRING OFFERING

Bar opening times through the Spring 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,  
and 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

[www.challowcricket.co.uk](http://www.challowcricket.co.uk)  
[admin@challowcricket.co.uk](mailto:admin@challowcricket.co.uk)

01235 763335

# St. Nicholas - Service Information

DATE	READER	READINGS
<b>March 2nd</b> 8.00pm	<b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> With the Imposition of Ashes	
<b>March 6th</b> Lent 1 <i>Rev Alec Gill</i>	Alan OR Ruth	Deuteronomy 26: 1-11 * Romans 10: 8b-13
<b>March 13th</b> Lent 2 <i>Rev Alec Gill</i>	Jenny or Jeff	Genesis 15: 1-12 + 17-18 * Philippians 3: 17 - 4: 1
<b>March 20th</b> Lent 3 <i>Rev John Durant &amp; Rev Chris Ashton</i>	Graham	Isaiah 55: 1-9 * 1 Corinthians 10: 1-13
<b>March 27th</b> Mothering Sunday <i>Rev John Durant &amp; Rev Chris Ashton</i>	Mary	Joshua 5: 9-12 * 2 Corinthians 5: 16-End

***All Readers should bring their own Bible to read from***

Date	Sacristan	Sidesperson	Organist	Cleaning
Ash Wednesday	*	*	*	
06-Mar	Philip	Nigel Frances	Ruth	Liz & Linda
13-Mar	Mary	Peter Linda	Ruth	
20-Mar	Jenny	Jeff Liz	Graham	Mandy
27-Mar	Nigel	Tricia Sue	Graham	

Date	Intercessions	Flowers	Thursday	Sacristan
02-Mar	*	No Flowers	03-Mar	Mary
06-Mar	Philip		10-Mar	Jenny
13-Mar	Mary		17-Mar	Juliet
20-Mar	Jenny or Jeff		24-Mar	Mandy
27-Mar	Juliet	All Sml Vases	31-Mar	TBA

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## **TOPICAL TALK**

### **Wear your daffodil to support Marie Curie and the National Day of Reflection**

This March the UK's leading end of life charity Marie Curie will once again be asking people across the UK to support its Great Daffodil Appeal.

Money raised from the flagship fundraising appeal will help the charity's doctors, nurses and hospice staff continue their vital work providing expert care to people at the end of life, and their families. Funds raised also go towards the Marie Curie Information and Support Line, which provides support for people dealing with all aspects of end of life including bereavement.

Last year Marie Curie provided direct support to more than 69,000 people – a 15% rise on the previous year – which is more than ever before.

Marie Curie would like to encourage as many people as possible to give their money or time through volunteering, donating, and fundraising. This could include taking part in a Step into Spring challenge, organising a fundraising event, purchasing products from the Marie Curie online shop, or donating.

This year, for the first time in two years, Marie Curie's volunteer collectors will be back on the streets donning their daffodil hats and selling the charity's iconic daffodil pins.

During the Great Daffodil Appeal, on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, Marie Curie is inviting everyone in the UK to take part in the National Day of Reflection. It will be a day to come together and support the millions of people who are grieving and remember those we have lost.

You can show your support for the day by wearing a daffodil pin and joining the minute's silence at 12 noon. Or take part by joining one of the many local events happening across the UK or join one of the online talks for inspiration, support and reflection.

For more information on the National Day of Reflection and how to support Marie Curie's Great Daffodil Appeal this March, visit: [mariecurie.org.uk](http://mariecurie.org.uk)

## **'Anxiety' comes top**

The word 'anxiety' has been chosen by children as how they would describe their experience of 2021.

Oxford University Press (OUP) asked more than 8,000 pupils, aged between seven and 14, to select a word from a shortlist of 10 words. The words were: anxiety, challenging, isolate, wellbeing, resilience, bubble, kindness, remote, cancelled, empathy.

The children were asked to choose which word they felt was most applicable to them. 'Anxiety' was closely followed by 'challenging', and then 'isolate'

## **Chaplain for the Coastguards**

A full-time chaplain has been appointed by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) for the first time in its 200-year history.

The Revd Tom Ebbens, who will be based in Cornwall, has been appointed to the position after a pilot project. He has previously worked in MCA operations centres and as a coastal officer, and will provide support for front-line staff.

Mr Ebbens, 30, says that he will offer support to colleagues of any faith and none. "People have fears and concerns, worries and challenges, and sometimes they need someone to walk with them in those dark moments; to listen, share the hurt and support them."

HM Coastguard director Claire Hughes said it was a "landmark appointment". She said: "Tom is going to bring another level of care alongside the welfare-led support systems we already have in place, such as trauma risk management.

"People know they can talk to him in confidence about their concerns and problems, and that he will provide the support they need."

## **Smile as you eat your broccoli**

If you look happy while you are eating vegetables, you will help your children consume up to double the amount that they would have eaten otherwise.

A study by the College of Health and Life Sciences at Aston University has found that adults who have a positive expression on their faces while they eat can convey 'food enjoyment' to their children, who are then more willing to try the vegetables for themselves.

## **Consultation launched on how to choose the future Archbishops of Canterbury**

The Archbishops' Council has launched a consultation on a proposal to change the make-up of the body which nominates future Archbishops of Canterbury.

The proposal would give the worldwide Anglican Communion a greater voice on the Crown Nominations Commission (CNC) for the See of Canterbury.

At present the entire Communion outside of England is represented by just one of the current 16 voting members, compared to six from the Diocese of Canterbury alone. The proposal would increase the Anglican Communion representatives to five while reducing the number of members from the Diocese to three. As at present, there would also be nine other members from the Church of England, including six elected by General Synod.



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[www.progressivephysiotherapy.co.uk](http://www.progressivephysiotherapy.co.uk)



## 200 Club

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> > Numbers are £2 each < <

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[ £100 additional prize in December ]

Contact Tricia Shand

01235 764222

[the.shandies@btinternet.com](mailto:the.shandies@btinternet.com)

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## **The story of the "Yellow Ribbons"**

We are loved with everlasting love! One of the greatest and most comforting doctrines taught in the Bible is the love of God for His people. In the Law and in the Prophets; in the poetical and historical books; in Gospels and Letters – all agree to tell us what God said to His people through Jeremiah. "I have loved you with an everlasting love" (Jeremiah 31:3).

It was that love that moved the Father to send His Son into the world (John 3:16). Paul writes glowingly of "that great love with which He loved us" (Ephesians 2:4). John emphasises the same great truth in a magnificent creed of just three words: 'God is love' (1 John 4:8). Quite simply there is nothing in all creation more reassuring, more comforting, more encouraging, more uplifting than to know that God loves us. And we can go further and put it in personal terms as Paul did. 'He loved me and gave Himself for me' (Galations 2:21).

How can we illustrate the illimitable love of God? One such illustration was told by the Rev John Wilbur Chapman of Indiana, an ordained Presbyterian minister who in 1893 went into full-time evangelistic ministry.

One evening Chapman was travelling by train in a rural part of Kansas. The other passenger in the carriage was a young man who kept glancing out the window and then covering his face with his hands. Chapman asked if he could help.

The young man confessed that many years before he had run away from home and 'sown his wild oats.' He had not written to his parents at all, until a few weeks before, telling them that he would be travelling on this train. At a certain point it passed very close to his home. In the letter he had begged his parents' forgiveness and asked if they wanted him to come home. If so, they were to tie a yellow ribbon on the old apple tree that grew right beside the railway lines.

"Sir," he said to Chapman, "the train will soon pass my home but I'm afraid to look. If there's a yellow ribbon on the tree, I'll get off at the next station and go home. If there's no ribbon, I'll just travel on. But I'm too afraid to look out for the tree." So Chapman offered to look for him.

"You can open your eyes now," he said a few minutes later. The returning prodigal looked at Chapman with tears and quivering lips. 'All is well,' said the evangelist. 'There is a yellow ribbon on the apple tree. In fact, there's far more than one. Every branch is hanging with yellow ribbons, scores and scores of them. Your parents love you that much, they want you to come home.'

If parents can love their wayward children like that, how much greater is the love of God! Truly, we are loved with everlasting love.

## **The Real Easter Egg celebrates its 12<sup>th</sup> year with an invitation to 'Let's Celebrate'!**

For the first time since the pandemic began, churches and communities across the UK will be coming together to celebrate Easter as restrictions are relaxed. So, no wonder that the theme for the Real Easter Egg this year is 'Let's Celebrate'!

The Real Easter Egg was created in 2010 as a way for churches, groups and individuals to share the Easter story while supporting Fairtrade. 12 years on, it has a network of thousands of churches and supports. More than three million people have read the Easter Stories we proud, and it has raised more than £320,000 for good causes.

This year, you can also reach out to UK families facing hardship by donating to food banks through the new foodbank scheme.

All Real Easter Eggs are made of Fairtrade chocolate, and come with an Easter story in the box. The stories range from simple guides to 24-page activity book versions with a prize competition worth £200. They are Palm oil free and plastic free.

Because of the continued effects of the pandemic, it is more important than ever that we find ways to share the Easter story in 2022 and support producers. The Real Easter Egg is a proven way to do this. More details at [www.realeasteregg.co.uk](http://www.realeasteregg.co.uk)

### **Every church region in the country signs up to become an Eco Diocese**

All 42 dioceses in the Church of England have signed up to become an 'eco diocese' as part of their commitment to reach net zero carbon by 2030.

The Eco Dioceses scheme, developed by the charity A Rocha UK, sees churches and dioceses awarded bronze, silver, or gold status depending on actions taken to improve their environmental footprint.

The Church of England is seeking to reach 'net zero' carbon by 2030 to meet a target set by General Synod in 2020.

Graham Usher, the Bishop of Norwich and lead bishop for the environment, said:

"A Rocha UK's Eco Church and Diocese scheme is a great tool which enables local churches at every level of their climate justice journey to engage with environmental issues. As Christians, we must make real differences to our lives to care for God's creation and limit the impact of the climate emergency.

"The whole Church is currently looking at our proposed Routemap to Net Zero Carbon by 2030 and I would encourage everyone to read it and engage with the survey so we can make the journey to net zero carbon together."



**27th March**  
**Clocks will go**  
**FORWARD**  
**1 Hour**





# **Saving the Planet via your Kitchen and Bathroom in 2022**

As world leaders wake up to the crisis of global warming and plan emergency measures before it is too late, each of us can make a difference right now, beginning in our own homes.

## ***Start in the KITCHEN***

25% of the world's food is thrown away. One supermarket discovered British households waste seven million tonnes of food waste every year, partly because most of our fridges aren't cold enough. Keeping the fridge temperature at a maximum of 4 degrees will help food last longer and save waste.

Vast quantities of greenhouse gasses are released by animals reared to supply us with red meat and dairy products. Cutting down on quantities and conserving leftovers would help.

Conserving electricity by washing clothes at 30 degrees and replacing power-hungry tumble driers with a clothes line or old-fashioned clothes-horse would have the added advantage of reducing soaring power bills.

According to the Good Housekeeping Institute, "many mainstream detergents are brimming with synthetic chemicals like phosphates, chlorine and bleach that pollute our waterways, damaging delicate ecosystems, and may irritate sensitive skin." Plant-based and eco-friendly alternatives are now readily available and work well in the washing machine and dishwasher.

## ***Don't forget the BATHROOM***

Annual increases in UK water consumption would be curbed, if we were to shower rather than bath.

Exchanging the shower head for a water-saving type, which regulates or aerates the flow, would save both water and cash.

Spending less time in the shower needn't be a hardship. Daily shampooing may actually be counter-productive - it's best to let some oils remain in the hair, so they can act as moisturisers. Biodegradable body wash is available in bulk, from which re-usable containers can be filled.

Eco-friendly toothpaste is now on the market, some of it in plastic-free containers. More water can be saved by turning the tap off as we brush. Beware wet-wipes which may be 'flushable', but aren't biodegradable, because they are part-plastic. Eco-friendly alternatives are now available.

Saving the planet needn't cost the earth.

## **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 March 2022**

*2<sup>nd</sup> March - Sew and Chat  
and Exhibition preparation*

East Challow Village Hall - 7pm

*16<sup>th</sup> March - Sewing Morning*  
Challow & Childrey Cricket Club  
10am - 2pm

Visitors and New Members are always welcome. You do not have to be a member to come along to one of our evening 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.

However, our sewing mornings are for members, if you would like to join our morning group then please pop along and speak to one of our committee members either on an evening meeting or a daytime one, or you can contact us on one of the numbers below.

We are a friendly bunch and can offer help and advice, and welcome members of any level and age 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

Mary Wearn on 07789 888569



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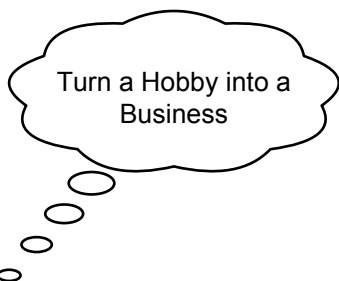
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St. Nicholas Church

## 200 Club - Monthly Draw

### February Results

£50 - N° 58 - Mrs Gregson

£20 - N° 42 - Mrs V. Swift

£10 - N° 72 - Mrs J. Evans

### Would you like to join?

For further information please contact

Tricia Shand - 01235 764222

email - [the.shandies@btinternet.com](mailto:the.shandies@btinternet.com)

## All entries for the April Issue of the Challow News

Must be submitted by

**15th March 2022**

Email: [nigel.langford@me.com](mailto:nigel.langford@me.com)

## East Challow Village Hall

*Available for Private Hire*

### Booking Secretary

Denise Knight

01235 769933

[deniseknight15@gmail.com](mailto:deniseknight15@gmail.com)

## The End of Paper Money

The Bank of England will be withdrawing legal tender status of the paper £20 and £50 notes after 30th September 2022, and are encouraging anyone who has these at home to spend or deposit them at their bank or Post Office.

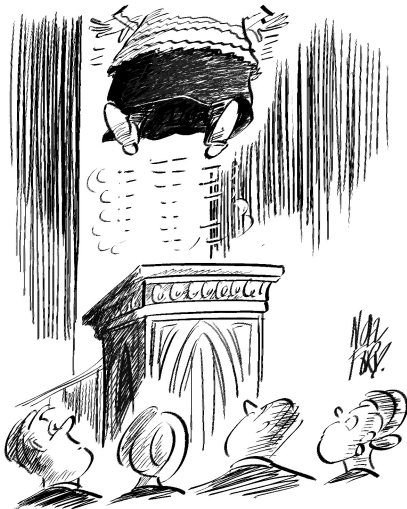
There are approximately £9 billion worth of paper £20 and £15 billion worth of paper £50 notes still in circulation. As they are returned to the Bank of England, these are being replaced with the new polymer £20 notes featuring J.M.W. Turner, and polymer £50 notes featuring Alan Turing. After 30th September 2022, the new polymer notes will be the only ones with legal tender status.

After 30th September 2022 people with a UK bank account will still be able to deposit withdrawn notes into their account. Some Post Offices may also accept withdrawn notes as payment for goods and services or as a deposit to an account accessed via them.

## Advertise your business in the Challow News

For more details

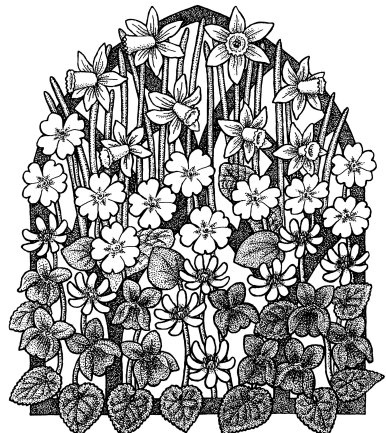
Contact: [nigel.langford@me.com](mailto:nigel.langford@me.com)



The fan-heater under the cassock idea proved not to be such a good one

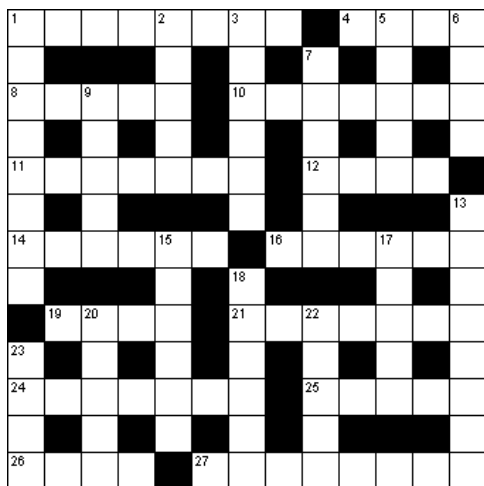


March  
2022



The flowers are blooming, the time of birdsong has come! Song of Songs 2:12

[www.challownews.org](http://www.challownews.org)



**Solutions on Page 22**

### Across

1. Consigns (8)
4. Upkeep (4)
8. Majestic (5)
10. Young swans (7)
11. Svelte (7)
12. Short letter (4)
14. Musical interval of eight tones (6)
16. Plant fibre (6)
19. Long narrative poem (4)
21. Kind of nonfictional prose (7)
24. Nonattendance (7)
25. Sound (5)
26. Large woody plant (4)
27. Mental state induced by suggestion (8)

### Down

1. Ridicule (8)
2. Still legally acceptable (5)
3. An extreme attainment (6)
5. Alarm (5)
6. Facilitate (4)
7. Order of business (6)
9. Outstanding (5)
13. Famished (8)
15. Empty (6)
17. Confronted (5)
18. Seldom (6)
20. Ski run (5)
22. Public transport (5)
23. Immense (4)

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**Home Visits**

### **Quilt Exhibition**

By members of King Alfred's Quilters  
"QUILTS ARE NOT JUST FOR BEDS"



*Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April  
9.30am to 3.45pm  
at*

*Vale & Downland Museum  
19 Church St, Wantage, OX12 8BL*



*Sales Table*

*Free Admission*

*Raffle in aid of  
The October Club*

*(a day centre for  
Alzheimers &  
Dementia sufferers)*



### **Churchyard Maintenance**

We have a fortnightly rota for cutting the grass in the churchyard that runs from sometime in March until the end of October. It would be a great help to those who currently take on that task if we could get some more help. Your help would only be needed for 2-3 times a year at the most. If you would like to know more or would just like to help our dedicated team to keep the churchyard looking tidy please contact Jeff Penfold on

**01235 763173.**

## Speeding and heavy traffic on the A417

This is a “brief summary” of a meeting that we had with Mark Francis (Oxford County Council, Highways) which is particularly for those who were not at the meeting and have not seen the posts on the village Facebook pages. This is an important topic for the village so nearly all this month’s report will focus on this. There are a number of traffic-related issues in the village:

1. *The missing roundabout!* This is history, unfortunately, and is the cause of a lot of our speeding problems!
2. *Road surface, Main Str.* This was done badly and is Crest Nicholson’s responsibility under a s278 agreement. Mark will follow this up. He would also like to see speed-reducing lines painted on the road.
3. *Speedwatch.* This has been discussed off and on for some time. Thames Valley Police (TVP) are supportive once more. A village Speedwatch scheme would need a group of residents who would be interested in getting trained up to do this (see <https://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/speedwatch/> and <https://communityspeedwatch.org/FRONT-v2-Home.php>). Neighbouring parishes have been contacted and would consider splitting the cost of the speed gun since they will not need to be used frequently. If a vehicle is caught three times the police visit them and give them a warning. These schemes have been shown to be highly effective in several villages including Highworth and Harwell.
4. *Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) and Vehicle Activated Signs (VASs).* The black VASs that we have are not very visible and the bright SIDs that can be seen elsewhere are much more “in your face” and do bring down the average speed. OCC are willing to provide some posts for the kit and we need to discuss where they should be positioned. There are two makes, Westcotec <https://www.westcotec.co.uk/products/speed-indicator-device/> and Elan City <https://www.elancity.co.uk/evolix-radar-speed-sign/> the latter which is cheaper and lighter and already used by other local villages. The parish council will need to buy these.
5. *20 mph through the village.* We were interested in having the whole village as a 20 mph zone including the A417. We were steered away from this but, given the problems that we have, it may be worth continuing to consider this option
6. *The footpath and barriers around the Crest Nicholson site.* The site manager told me that this would be fixed by mid-March.
7. *Down-loading speed data from the VAS.* The VAS collects speed data only and does not identify individual vehicles by registration number but the info can be made available to the police for further discussion/investigation with a speed camera van. We are waiting for some additional software from Highways to assist in analysing the data.
8. *Speed sign (repeaters) along the A417.* This stretch of the A417 between East Challow and Wantage is a restricted road, meaning it has street lamps less than 200 yards apart so the Highway Code regards it as a 30mph speed limit and additional repeater speed limit signs along the stretch of road are not allowed.

Additional points discussed included: Possible traffic lights at Letcombe Hill/A417/Crest site (can only be addressed when Crest site is complete), Bollards (these are not lit but have been cleaned), Changing SatNav/Google maps route planner data to limit access to Letcombe Hill by HGVs (must be done via Ordnance Survey – Mark will investigate), Speeding HGVs (confirmed speeding enables the Western Area Traffic Commission to penalise drivers), Entrance to roads and private drives (Mirrors opposite entrances would not be allowed on the A417)

## Action points

1. The parish council will discuss the merits or otherwise of applying for a 20mph speed limit through the village, including the A417. Comments are welcome.
2. Placing SIDs at strategic points at both ends of the village would be a good idea to reduce speed. Parish Council will discuss and hopefully buy some in the coming financial year.
3. We will explore the possibility of a Speedwatch group, although we would not want all the work to fall upon the usual shoulders!
4. Mark Francis, on our behalf, is following up on resurfacing/remarking the main road.
5. We will analyse the data from the VAS near the Old School House when we get the software and consider approaching TVP to see how best to use this.

If anyone has comments on the above points feel free to mail me at [paul.barrow@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:paul.barrow@whitehorsedc.gov.uk). You can see some of my activities on Facebook (Cllr Dr Paul Barrow) <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063836481113>

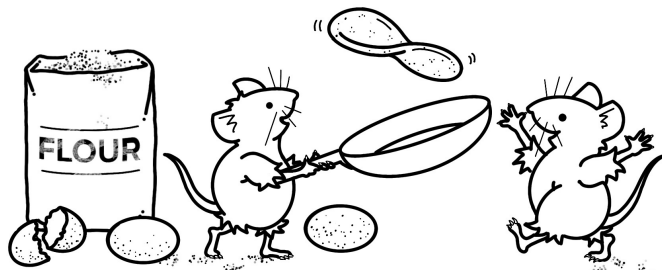
## Local Broadband roll out

Full fibre broadband is being rolled out in local villages. This is currently Defra-funded provision to rural businesses rather than to private dwellings although we think OCC are trying to kill two birds with one stone. The contractors have not been communicative with the parish councils and it has caused some aggravation with road closures and drivers being held up for some time. We hope these problems will be resolved with further roll out.

***Cllr Dr Paul Barrow***

Ridgeway Ward

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**Pancake Day - 1st March**

## **Cornerstone Christian Centre**

10 Savile Way, Grove, OX12 0PT

Tel: 01235 772280

[www.cornerstonegrove.org.uk](http://www.cornerstonegrove.org.uk)

### **Lent**

Ash Wednesday is on 2nd March this year and we have a good selection of Lent books available on the shelves, many of them are on offer. We do have the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent book for 2022 – Embracing Justice. If there is a specific book you want which we don't have in stock we can order it for you, just drop us an email.

### **Community Fridge**

The Community Fridge still runs here every Thursday from 4-5pm – come and take some surplus food to help stop food wastage. There is always surplus bread, and often a selection of vegetables – some very interesting, in the last few weeks we have had Fresh Horseradish, Purple Sweet Potatoes and Avocados.

### **Make and Bake for the Under 5's**

This is back up and running again and we have welcomed some new families this year. It is held every Tuesday morning in term time from 9.30-11am and costs £2 per child which includes activities, story time and drink. No need to book just turn up.

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## St. Nicholas CE Primary School

It's been a busy term at St Nicholas CE Primary, with building work commencing on our new Early Years unit within the school grounds. This will provide us with much needed additional space for our growing school numbers and it is an exciting new chapter for us. Work is due to be completed by the end of June and we are all looking forward to enjoying improved facilities at school.

We are continuing with our Forest School, which has now been extended to include a mud pit, ropes area and wildlife area. To run our sessions, we need volunteers and if you are interested in giving up any free time you may have to support us, we would love to hear from you. Please contact either myself , [headteacher@stnicholasce.vale-academy.org](mailto:headteacher@stnicholasce.vale-academy.org) or Becky Palmer our Forest School lead , [rpalmer@stnicholasce.vale-academy.org](mailto:rpalmer@stnicholasce.vale-academy.org) to find out more. Our website also has further information in our Forest School section at <https://www.st-nicholas-pri.oxon.sch.uk/>.

We are also looking for a keen gardener to help us maintain our school garden across the year. Each class has been allocated 3 raised beds, and we also have a sensory garden where everyone at St Nics can enjoy some quiet time for reflection. We are just planning what to plant for this year and again if you would like to help us out by volunteering for an hour a week we would love to hear from you.

The Christmas Craft Fair in December was a fantastic success and it was lovely to meet so many people not directly connected to the school there. It was a great way to raise money, and I got some lovely Christmas presents there too. A huge thank you to Friends of St Nics for organising this and of course to all of you who came and supported us.

As we start to see signs of spring and the days start to lengthen, we are very much looking forward to doing more events which involve the wider community. The last two years have put a halt to so many things which helps bind us all together and helps to keep us connected.

**We have the Queen's Jubilee this year, and as a school we are keen to be involved in events planned across the village as well as make links with other groups within the village. I would love to hear from you if you have ideas about how we can all work together on projects.**

Warmest wishes

***Heather Richards***

Headteacher

# 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](http://www.eastchallowpc.co.uk)

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## ***New Appointment - Parish Clerk***

I'm Linda Hooper and I have recently been appointed as the new Parish Clerk for East Challow Parish Council.

I have lived in the area for more than 35 years but have lived all over Oxfordshire and have worked in Wantage and now East Challow for the past 26. As a result I know the area and our wonderful community very well. Professionally I have a background in Administration including HR and Finance and look forward to getting more involved in the community and serving the area I love so much.

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## ***Parish Website***

We are still looking for photographs to put on the website, especially of the Village but all are welcome.  
If you have any photographs you would like to share, whether they are old or new, please contact the clerk.

\* \* \* \* \*

Also, what have you been doing during the COVID years we would like to know? Please if you can share words/photo's of how you, your family and friends have spent time and how/if it has changed your life.

## ***Parish Council Meeting***

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 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, Iris Game

### ***Clerk to East Challow Parish Council***

Linda Hooper

e-mail: [eastchallowclerk@gmail.com](mailto:eastchallowclerk@gmail.com)

## **Solutions**

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