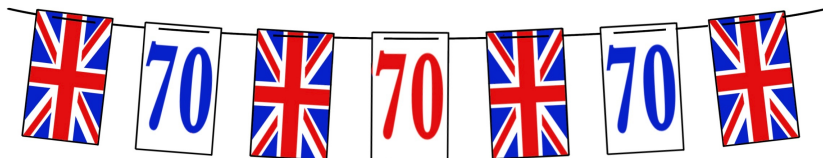


# Challow News

June 2022

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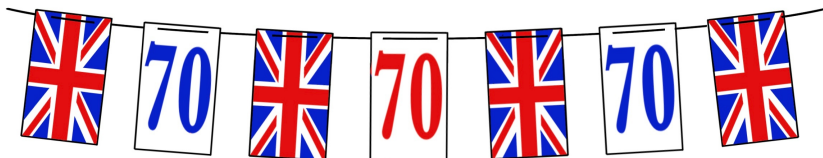


## Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

Sunday 5th June

1.30pm ~ Free Admission

Challow & Childrey Cricket Club



## Festival of Flowers

including a display of Royal Memorabilia

Thursday 2nd June - Saturday 4th June

~ Free Admission ~

St. Nicholas Church



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

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



**Parish Eucharist**

Sundays - 11.00 am

**Weekday Eucharist**

Thursdays - 10.00 am

---

**Vicar: Rev John Durant**

01235 766484

**The Vicarage, Main Street, Grove. OX12 7LQ**

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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**Churchwarden**

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

# VICAR'S LETTER - A PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

Dear Friends

We celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty our sovereign lady Queen Elizabeth this month to express our thanks for her humble service, her constant and gracious dependability, her wise council and her dedicated commitment to honour her royal vows.



God has certainly answered our prayers that the Queen has been to "long reign over us".

Part of the celebration has been to plant trees in gratitude; - a "Treebilee" as HRH Prince Charles has reportedly called it.

You might like to know that nature has been very active this year in our Vicarage garden providing over half a dozen Horse Chestnut saplings and seeding several Sycamores.

All our English trees have a majesty and beauty of their own as well as providing a haven for hundreds of wild life - a very apt way to express our thanks.

Trees are significant in the bible; (from the second to last chapter) indeed the Christian faith is centred on the Lord who was raised to life having hung on a tree.

Psalm 1 links this beautifully to describe the Queens resilience and reliance on God - the one whose delight is in the law of the Lord ..... is like a tree planted by streams of water which yield its fruit in season and whose leaves do not wither.

I wish you happy planting but also that you flourish like a well watered tree being refreshed and resourced by daily reading and reflecting on the truth of the bible.

God bless

John



# Wild Watch ~ June 2022

When the primroses make their seed each one will have a sticky sweet coating. This sticky seed is attractive to ants. The ants collect the sticky primrose seeds and take them down to their nests where they are licked clean by the colony. The worker ants then take the cleaned seeds and drop them outside the nest as they forage for other food sources, which explains why the primroses are germinating along the cracks in the paths, I wonder how many other wild flowers use animals for seed dispersal?

Scientists are discovering more and more complex relationships between plants and animals, which is why growing wild native plants is such an asset to a garden as they attract all sorts of wild life.

We have field voles living in the garden, they are chocolate brown with shortish tails.

Over the last 10 years or so we have noticed an increasing number of Bussards in the sky here, last week I saw 4 riding a thermal very high up above Wantage.

## Your sightings from Challow

*Dear Juliet,*

*I keep a record of when I first see a species of bird through the year.*

*I saw my first chaffinch last year in January, but this year I saw my first in late April. This year I have not seen either a greenfinch or a blackcap. Both seen last year.*

*I have also seen fledgling blackbirds, now fully fledged. We have plenty of starlings, jackdaws and sparrows.*

*Just before lockdown we purchased a trail camera. It has rewarded us well. We have a hedgehog who visits regularly, occasionally we see two. Also the camera batteries have been drained by the number of times it has seen one or two wood mice. Up to 40 videos a night!! Extremely active little creatures.*

*Fewer bees each year, but noticed a large bumble bee quite often during the winter.*

*Saw 2 holly blue butterflies today May 5th. Mary Mann*

*Hi Juliet*

*Just writing to say It was lovely to read your article in the newsletter. I've lived in Field Gardens for just over twenty years and look forward to welcoming the swifts back every late Spring. They always appear within a day either side of the 9th May, one of my sister's birthday and they turned up this morning! Their high pitch squeals a sound of the summer for me and I always feel a bit bereft when they leave in early August. They've always left for sunnier climes by my other sisters birthday, and mark the start of the turn towards late summer and autumn.*

*Kind Regards, Helen Ferris*

## What are you seeing in your patch?

Please email and let me know so that we can log the interesting sightings and link up with wild Wantage and monitor what we have in our local area. Has any one seen a green finch this year?.

Please email any interesting sightings to Juliet: [jgteare@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jgteare@yahoo.co.uk)  
pictures are very welcome.

Also what is absent that you used to see regularly.

Thank you for your help.

**Juliet**

## - NEWS FROM THE PEWS -

I hope you are all becoming enthused over the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations planned in the village, it will be wonderful if we can all come together to celebrate this remarkable historical achievement. Be at the Cricket Club on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June for some village fun and entertainment. I am still looking for coronation memorabilia to display in Church along with our flower displays. If you have anything please let me know. I am looking forward to including a bit about it in the next Challow News. So give me something to write about.

We now have hanging in the nave of the Church a wonderful Banner of Saint Nicholas.



It was made by Sue Woodley, Mary Mann, and Juliet Teare some very talented ladies I have to say.

It really is excellent and I hope you get a chance to call in and have a look at it close up.

Any newcomers to the village please feel free to join us on a Sunday for our 11.00 am service you would be most welcome, we are a friendly bunch at St. Nicholas Church and we are hoping in the future to resume a family service so watch this space.

I am still enjoying my walks with Meg and seeing the changes in the trees which are now green and lush looking, it's amazing how many different shades of green there are, every plant unique and everything is now growing so quickly especially along the hedgerows.

Between East Challow and Grove a bench has been placed in memory of Chris Naish. He was the secretary of East Vale Branch of Wilts and Berks Canal. I have tried it out on one of our walks, and it does work.

Dandelions I think are vastly underrated, they flower for much of the year, are bright and cheerful and bees love them, even if gardeners are not that keen. Who has not blown a dandelion clock in their life.

It is great when the sun is shining and the butterflies are flitting about. I can name some, Brimstone, Peacock, Tortoiseshell, Cabbage white, but not many, and a few tiny ones are too quick for my eyes to focus on, they love the sunshine.

We have some Moorhen and Mallard chicks hatched along the canal. Amazing how agile they are following their mums. I haven't heard a cuckoo yet I'm still living in hope.

On the way to Oxford the other day we passed Tubney Woods, the bluebells were wonderful like a lake under the trees. Please remember I write this a month before it is printed. Also the primroses in the churchyard are now going over but they were really beautiful again this year and always bring a promise of summer.

Keep safe as always

Liz

# St. Nicholas Church

## 11 am Sundays - Rolling Rota

| Week | Prayers       | Sacristan     | Sidesperson      | Reader        | Music  | Flowers |
|------|---------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|--------|---------|
| 1st  | Philip        | Philip        | Frances<br>Nigel | Alan or Ruth  | Ruth   | Heather |
| 2nd  | Mary          | Mary          | Linda<br>Noel    | Nigel         | Ruth   | Mary    |
| 3rd  | Jenny or Jeff | Jenny         | Jeff<br>Liz      | Jenny or Jeff | Graham | Jenny   |
| 4th  | Juliet        | Nigel         | Tricia<br>Sue    | Graham        | Graham | Mandy   |
| 5th  | Jeff or Ruth  | Linda or Ruth | Philip<br>Nigel  | Mary          | Graham | Linda   |

### 10 am Thursdays

|     |        |
|-----|--------|
| 1st | Mary   |
| 2nd | Jenny  |
| 3rd | Juliet |
| 4th | Mandy  |
| 5th | Nigel  |

### Week Cleaning

|       |              |
|-------|--------------|
| 1 & 2 | Linda & Liz  |
| 3 & 4 | Mandy        |
| 5     | Sue & Tricia |

## Service Information

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>June 5th - Pentecost</b><br><i>Rev Geoff Maughan</i>   | Genesis 11: 1 - 9 or Romans 8: 14 - 17<br>Acts 2: 1 - 21                       |
| <b>June 12th - Trinity Sunday</b><br><i>Rev Alec Gill</i> | Proverbs 8: 1 - 4 + 22 - 31<br>Romans 5: 1 - 5                                 |
| <b>June 19th - Trinity 1</b><br><i>Rev John Durant</i>    | 1 Kings 19: 1 - 4 (5 - 7) 8 - 15a or Isaiah 65: 1 - 9<br>Galatians 3: 23 - end |
| <b>June 26th - Trinity 2</b>                              | <b>Grove Patronal Festival</b><br>No Service at East Challow                   |
|   |  |

## Churchyard Maintenance

11th June - N. Langford

25th June - M. Culverwell



## WHAT A LOVELY START TO THE SUMMER

We're well underway in the new cricket season, with a home game each Saturday afternoon and Youth Cricket training on Friday nights and matches across the week.

There is a league match at home each Saturday with the bar open from 12noon – see our website [www.challowcricket.co.uk](http://www.challowcricket.co.uk) for all of our match details

Youth Training takes place on a Friday evening, running from 4.30pm through until 8pm – the bar is open from 4pm and the BBQ runs from 5 until 7.30.

There is normally something on each day at the club, whether that be a youth game on an evening, a senior match on a Saturday, or just joining the leisurely Sunday lunchtime crew for a catch up. Our opening hours are based around our matches and training, so keep an eye on the club website or facebook page for exact details [www.challowcricket.co.uk](http://www.challowcricket.co.uk) or @challowcricket on Facebook

There really is no better place to sit and unwind after a hard day in the office/spare room/garden, so why not call up for a cold pint and the unspoilt view of the Downs.

If you would like to join the club as a member it's just £20 for the year, you can do so via our website. If you would be able to help us out in any capacity then we'd love to hear from you! We're always looking for players, umpires, scorers, coaches and of course anyone who can give us an hour or so occasionally to do the little jobs that keep the place ticking over

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)

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

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

01235 763335

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## TOPICAL TALK

### High Fat, Sugar, Salt (HFSS)

As part of the Childhood Obesity Strategy announced in June 2018, the government set out its intention to end the promotion of high fat, sugar or salt products.

**New legislation will come into effect from 1st October 2022 which will restrict the location of certain High Fat, Sugar or Salt Foods.**

Supermarkets are having to relocate these products away from their Shop entrances, Front of Store Displays, Checkouts, Aisle ends, Queueing areas etc.

Some supermarkets have already started this process which is why your shopping trip is taking a little longer because everything has had to be moved.

**The 2nd part of this legislation banning the promotion of multi buy products has been postponed by the government until October 2023 because of the current cost of living crisis.**



## What 6000 steps a day can do for you

A recent study has found that doing 6000 steps a day can reduce your risk of an early death, if you are aged over 60. People *under* the age of 60 should aim for between 8000 and 10,000 steps a day.

However, taking more than 8000 steps a day has no particular benefit, and the oft-repeated mantra that everyone should take 10,000 step a day has no grounding whatever in science. (The 10,000 steps idea came from a 1964 Japanese marketing drive to sell pedometers!)

Researchers from the University of Massachusetts Amherst point out that: "Steps are very simple to track, and there is a rapid growth of fitness-tracking devices."

The major thing to remember is that there is a "lot of evidence suggesting that moving, even a little more, is beneficial, particularly for those who are doing very little activity."

---

## The power of earphones

You are more likely to engage with a podcast if you listen to it through your earphones, rather than a speaker. You feel closer to what you hear, and are therefore more likely to change your views and behaviour.

Those are the findings of recent research at the University of California, San Diego. As one scientist put it: "Headphones produce a phenomenon called in-head localisation, which makes the speaker sound as if they're inside your head. As a result, people perceive the communicator as warmer, feel more empathically toward them, and are more easily persuaded by them."

---

## Pet sitters wanted!

Pet sitters are in high demand these days, as millions of people have returned to work, and must leave their cats and dogs during each day. According to the British Pet Food Manufacturers Association, one in ten households welcomed a new pet during the first seven months of lockdown. According to Adzuna, a job search website, a pet sitter can now earn an average salary of £24,000 a year for pet sitting.

## Some simple tricks to save energy

The on-going rise in energy costs is eye-watering. Here are some well-proven ways to save money:

*Always* turn off the lights when you leave a room. Forget about maintaining an 'ambience' in your home.

Turn down your thermostat by at least a degree. Or two. Or three?

Get some LED bulbs – they are six times more efficient, last much longer, and use 90 per cent less energy than old-style bulbs.

Shower rather than bath. Don't worry about a bit of dirt on your children. It can strengthen their immune systems and help prevent them from becoming allergic to everything.

Don't boil the kettle all the time – it eats up about six per cent of all your electricity per year. Why not consider making a pot rather than a mug, so that you drink as much overall, but less often?

Make a draught excluder - you know, the ones that look like sausage dogs. Don't turn up the heat to combat a draught, fix the draught.

Keep doors closed. If you don't need to heat your **WHOLE** house, don't.

Put some more clothes on. We all know people who like to wear only tee-shirts at home, even in winter. If they belong to your family, get them to put on a jumper, cuddle the dog, wrap up in a blanket, or run up and down the stairs, not turn up the heating.

Set your washing machine at 30. Washing at 30 rather than 40 degrees can reduce your energy consumption by 60 per cent per cycle, according to the energy experts.

Use your electric tumble dryer less. It can account for five per cent of all household electricity. Far cheaper to buy a washing line!

Use your oven only when you can fill it up. Never cook just one thing at a time. And when you are done, leave the oven door open to help heat the house.

All of these are small steps, but together they could make a big difference this year.



*Do you suffer with back, neck  
or joint pain, headaches, sports  
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## 200 Club

### Monthly Draw

Is open for everyone to join

You don't have to be regular church goer to  
belong to the 200 club

> > Numbers are £2 each < <

**Monthly prizes are**

**£50 ~ £20 ~ £10**

[ £100 additional prize in December ]

Contact Tricia Shand

01235 764222

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

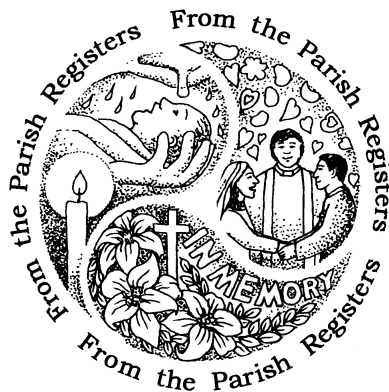
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contact

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



### Funeral

South Oxfordshire Crematorium

*Catherine Alder*

*"Ann"*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

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

## The U in JesUs

Before U were thought of or time had begun,  
God even stuck U in the name of His Son.

And each time U pray, you'll see it's true  
You can't spell out JesUs and not include U

You're a pretty big part of His wonderful name,  
For U, He was born; that's why He came.

And His great love for U is the reason He died.  
It even takes U to spell crUcified.

Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand  
He rose from the dead, with U in His plan?

The stones split away, the gold trUmpet blew,  
and this word resUrrection is spelled with a U.

When JesUs left earth at His Upward ascension,  
He felt there was one thing He just had to mention.

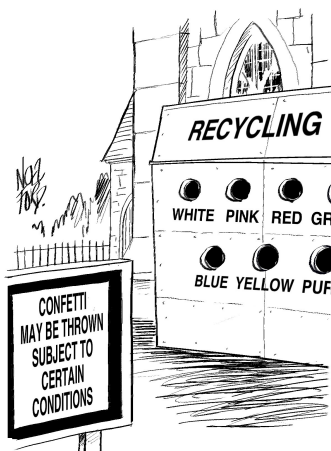
"Now go into the world and tell them it's true  
That the love I have shown is not just for U."

So many great people are spelled with a U,  
Don't they have a right to know JesUs too?

It all depends now on what U will do,  
He'd like them to know,

But it all starts with U.

*Author unknown*



## Is your house welcoming to swifts?

These boomerang-shaped little birds have recently been added to the list of endangered birds because they have a severe housing crisis: modern homes do not have nooks and crannies for them to nest in. Swifts are in serious decline: they have faced a 58 per cent drop in their numbers since 1995.

Because modern homes are less likely to have spaces between bricks and in the eaves, the RSPB is now pushing for special 'swift bricks', that contain small tunnels and nesting space, to be installed in new-build homes.

## Would your children enjoy a Holiday Camp this summer?

If your children enjoy multi-activity residentials with a mix of sport, adventure, arts and crafts, fun and games, or if they would prefer a specialist holiday which focuses on sailing, technology, performing arts or baking, then a Scripture Union summer camp may well be a holiday they would enjoy.

SU has been organising holidays and activities for children, young people and families for more than 100 years, and this year offers an extensive programme

More details at:

<https://content.scriptureunion.org.uk/holidays-events>





# Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

## Sunday 5th June

1.30pm ~ Free Admission

### Challow & Childrey Cricket Club



OX12 9RR



**Join us for an afternoon of Traditional Village Fun**  
centred around a locals Cricket Match,  
Tug 'o' War and enter our home made Crown Competition

The club bar will be open, with refreshments, food, stalls and entertainment



### The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

This month we celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. She is the longest reigning monarch in British history. Up until recently she attended church every week and still did a full week's work at the age of 96!

It is her commitment to serving God and the nation which stands out in her life. Even before she became Queen, she made a promise, which she has kept for over 75 years: ***'I declare before you all that my whole***

***life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service'*** (21<sup>st</sup> birthday broadcast, 21 April 1947).

What is the secret of the Queen's consistency of character and service? In 2002 she said this: *"I know just how much I rely on my faith to guide me through the good times and the bad. Each day is a new beginning. I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings, and to put my trust in God."* These are wise words from somebody who draws her strength from the Christian Faith and can inspire all of us who want to make our lives count!

The Queen has been an example of joyful, wise, and generous service on behalf of others all her life. Six months before her coronation she asked the nation and Commonwealth to ***"pray that God may give me wisdom and strength to carry out the solemn promises I shall be making, and that I may faithfully serve Him and you, all the days of my life."*** Paul urges us to pray for all in authority, *"that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."* (1 Timothy 2:2).



# Festival of Flowers



We are looking for help from the village

to

Decorate our Church

on

Wednesday 1st June at 2 pm

If you can bring along a ready made Flower arrangement

or just supply us with some cut Flowers

your help would be very much appreciated



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Community

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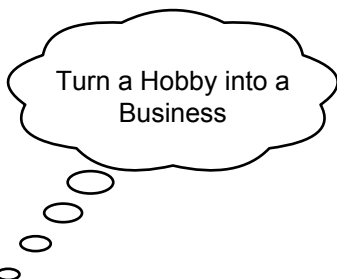
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Or Dianne: 07936 418149

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## Advertising

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St. Nicholas Church

200 Club - Monthly Draw

## May Results

£50 - N° 168 - Mrs M. Lovegrove

£20 - N° 54 - Mrs L. Rowe

£10 - N° 123 - Mrs G. Moss

## 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**

**July & August**

**Issue of the Challow News**

Must be submitted by

**15th June 2022**

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

## East Challow Village Hall

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**Booking Secretary**

Denise Knight

01235 769933

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

# East Challow Village Hall

~ User Group ~

## Introducing "Boogie Mites"

### Sharing the joy of brain-boosting music-making with your child!

There are so many reasons why music is a brilliant activity to get involved in with your child – and they are never too young to start!

**Did you know** that by the age of 4, a child's brain has grown to 90% of its adult size? Providing young children with access to opportunities for play with a wide range of sensory inputs is really important for making the most of this period of phenomenal development.

**Making music uses our whole brain:** neuroscience shows regular music-making builds strong neural connections across the all areas of the brain. It also supports development of self-confidence, managing feelings and behaviour, social skills, language, literacy & maths skills – and much more!

**And it's fun!** Hearing our favourite song, or dancing with friends makes us feel good! Research shows making music in a group promotes social bonding, as our bodies release oxytocin and endorphins (chemicals which give us feelings of pleasure and well-being, enhancing feelings of trust and social connection).

**Boogie Mites** classes are perfectly designed for children from birth to 5 years old and their favourite grown-ups: dads, mums, childminders, nannies, grandparents, aunts, uncles, you're all welcome! Sessions are friendly and relaxed, with lots of catchy songs and engaging activities that your child will love to share with you.

### Join us on Friday mornings at East Challow Village Hall

For more information and to book, visit

[www.bookwhen.com/lizzielock](http://www.bookwhen.com/lizzielock)

Follow us: @boogiemitesnewbury

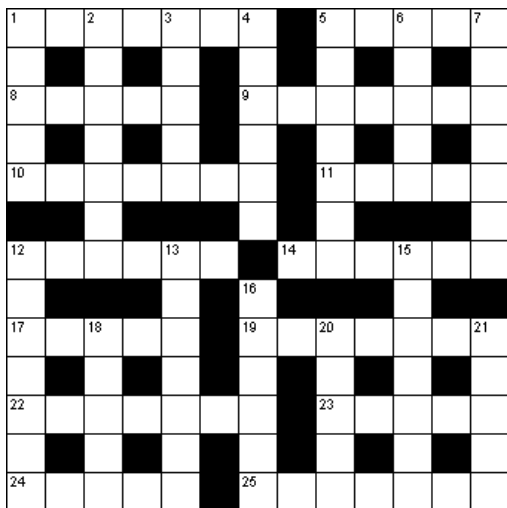
Find out more: [www.boogiemites.co.uk](http://www.boogiemites.co.uk)



"My little boy absolutely loves his Boogie Mites class...  
It's such a welcoming and fun atmosphere  
for the little ones and parents alike!"

**Fridays at East Challow Village Hall**  
[www.bookwhen.com/lizzielock](http://www.bookwhen.com/lizzielock)





### Solutions on Page 22

#### Across


1. Quantify (7)
5. Mindful (5)
8. Changed location (5)
9. Pyrogenic (7)
10. Fundamental (7)
11. Languish (5)
12. Remit in advance (6)
14. Recommendation(6) idea (7)
17. Utter (5)
19. Traversed (7)
22. Trap (7)
23. Precise (5)
24. Velocity (5)
25. Farm vehicle (7)

#### Down

1. Imitate (5)
2. Go forward (7)
3. Below (5)
4. Comestible (6)
5. Irritated (7)
6. Fragrance (5)
7. Most vital part of an
12. Own (7)
13. Clumsy (7)
15. Occurring with no delay (7)
16. Dialect (6)
18. Follow or result (5)
20. Greek letter (5)
21. Dissuade (5)

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**DBS  
Checked**



**Home  
Visits**



~ Social Netball Returns ~



Sunday 12th June at 6 pm



East Challow - Recreation Ground

*If you are interested in joining us for an enjoyable game of Netball  
or require more information please contact - Sue Terry*

**07780 837993**

> everyone is welcome <

Friends of St. Nicholas C of E Primary School

## Village Scarecrow Competition & Fete

*Scarecrows need to be displayed from Sunday 26 June for two  
weeks until the school / village fete on Sunday 10 July*

***£5 suggested donation per Scarecrow entry***

The theme for this years competition is **Heroes**

There will be prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places

*We would love to see as many scarecrows as possible around the village!*

*Following the huge success last year, the school fete will be held around the  
village again on Sunday 10 July 2 - 4pm.*

*Fete stalls will be at various locations around the village and car boot tables are  
welcome at £5 per stall.*

*A map will be available to show the scarecrow trail and location of the fete and  
car boot stalls.*

*Funds raised will go towards new outdoor play equipment at St Nics.*

*To donate and be added to the map please visit*

<http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/stnics2022>

## God in the Sciences

Editor: These questions and answers are taken from The Faraday Kids website ([www.faradaykids.com](http://www.faradaykids.com))

For even more science-faith Q&A's, check out *101 Great Big Questions About God and Science*, Edited by L Henderson & S Bryant (Lion, 2022)



### Help, my kids just asked me a science question!

#### ***Why aren't dinosaurs in the Bible?***

The Bible wasn't written to list all the animals on earth or tell us about science. It was written a long time before people started to use science to learn about the world.

When the Bible was written, people didn't even have a word for dinosaurs yet! But it's not just dinosaurs that aren't mentioned in the Bible, it doesn't talk about armadillos, kangaroos, sabre-toothed cats or penguins either!

That doesn't mean that the Bible is out of date or wrong, or that these animals aren't important. Rather than teaching us science, many Christians believe that the Bible was written to tell people about God, how much He loves them, and all the amazing things He has done.

The Bible says that God made everything, and loves everything He made, so that includes dinosaurs. It also encourages people to explore and find out all about the wonderful things it says God has made. Science is a part of this exploration.

#### ***Did God make the dinosaurs?***

The Bible (the holy book that Christians read) says that God made everything. All the stars, the Earth and all the amazing plants and animals that have ever lived here. So yes, most Christians believe that God made the dinosaurs!

The Bible also teaches that God loves it when people explore His creation, and science is a great way of doing that. So, for many Christians, science is one of the fun things we can use to learn all about **how** God made everything, including all of the dinosaurs!

#### ***Were humans and dinosaurs ever living on earth at the same time?***

Yes! But probably not the kind of dinosaur you're thinking of! Most of the dinosaurs died out a very, very long time ago, way before humans first lived. But some of the smaller, feathery dinosaurs survived and over a long time they have evolved into the animals we call birds.

So, from chickens and robins to penguins and ostriches, there are dinosaurs living all over our world today!

*These questions and answers are taken from The Faraday Kids website [www.faradaykids.com](http://www.faradaykids.com) For even more science-faith Q&A's, check out 101 Great Big Questions About God and Science, Edited by L Henderson & S Bryant (Lion, 2022)*

## God in the Arts

### The Thread of God's love

In 563 an Irish monk was forced to leave his homeland because of a conflict that had led to a misuse of power and even bloodshed. On Pentecost Sunday he arrived on the island of Iona off the north-west coast of Scotland with twelve companions. There he began a new way of life, founded on Christ's mercy and forgiveness of the past, and so created one of the great centres of faith and mission in the Christian Church. His name was Columba, and we keep his feast day on 9<sup>th</sup> June.

His monastery on Iona started as a small cluster of wooden buildings with a church and a guesthouse. Around were fields of crops and cattle and bees. But under Columba's guidance, it grew, and from Iona monks were sent into Scotland as one arm of a missionary advance that reached down through England to France and across Europe.

That outreach was an amazing achievement. But just as amazing was the consolidation of monastic life on Iona that resulted two centuries later in the Book of Kells. This text of the four Gospels was begun by scribes and artists in the library of Iona. It grew into one of the masterpieces of Celtic art that was taken to Kells in Ireland to escape the Viking invaders who ravaged the island.

Along with the text of the Gospels, there are illustrations of Jesus, Mary and the four evangelists, together with decorations at once intricate and fantastic: patterns that interweave and interlace across the page with an odd face here and a weird creature there. The design is in brilliant detail, and you can follow the lines as they weave in and out. This delight in patterns is evident in lots of Celtic art.

It is good to imagine Columba on Iona meditating on the thread of God's grace woven into his life as he looked back to his years in Ireland and his pilgrimage to Iona. It might have seemed at one glance a complicated interweaving of events and experiences, and then perhaps as he looked again, he would see God's love threading its way through that history and redeeming both it and him.

It is the same for us. As we look at our lives, they may seem complex and involved patterns of events and circumstances taking us here and there. As we ponder those patterns, then we can begin to see a thread woven into the patterns that guides and leads us on. And as we stand back, all the patterns and threads seem to make sense as we spot that guiding thread. Just as we can stand back from the designs of this page and see God's love spelling out the name of Christ, our Lord.



## OPEN THE BOOK

In term time a team from St Nicholas church go into school each week to lead an "Open the Book" assembly.

We use a nationally recognised programme produced by the Bible Society and we tell the Bible stories in a dramatised way, with costumes and props.

Due to retirements, house moves and other circumstances our team is somewhat reduced.



**If you would like to join us please contact**

**Ruth Pepler 01235 762197**



All persons in the O T B team will need to be D B S checked and registered with the school and OTB HQ for safeguarding

# S. J. ACKRILL

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## **Update on housing development footpaths**

We are all well aware of the delayed completion of the footpaths around the Crest Nicholson site and the incomplete old footpath through the MacTaggart and Mickel site.

Crest were required to start the footpath along the A417 by May 9<sup>th</sup> and complete by June 10<sup>th</sup> otherwise they would suffer a financial penalty. They had completed 90% of it by the end of May 9<sup>th</sup>. Why they couldn't complete it puzzles me but it must be complete for use by June 10<sup>th</sup>.

The M+M footpath has also been annoying since there has been a mess-up with SSE putting a pole in an incorrect and unsafe position. The footpath was originally planned for opening last August. The footpaths people at OCC were pulling their hair out since there was little they could do. However, complaints to the M+M HQ in Glasgow ended with a promise to open by end April which has been done. Nevertheless, a lot remains (as I write May 11) to be done with resurfacing, reworking a nasty step, weed clearance and tree cutting but the site manager has agreed that this will be done before the site is completed in a month.

## **Health**

At a meeting of HOSC (County Health Scrutiny Committee) on May 10<sup>th</sup> two of the major issues discussed were GP access and maternity services. They are trying to improve telephony with more lines to GP practices but they had to admit that more phone lines requires more people to answer the calls! Staff shortage and retention amongst GPs and technical positions is a major issue and international recruitment is underway. This is primarily a national problem.

Staff shortage is the main reason for the continuing closure of the Wantage maternity unit. We will be updated on the situation by the beginning of June.

## **Nature Recovery Forum**

I chaired an online Forum for Nature Recovery and Biodiversity on May 10<sup>th</sup> to give parish councils some ideas of what they might do in "their own back yards". Speakers included Richard Benwell, Roselle Chapman (Wild Oxfordshire) and Jeremy Biggs (Fresh Water Habitats Trust). This was very useful and constructive and there will be a follow-up meeting June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## **Countryside Records footpaths**

I have listed for registration the additional footpath leading from Marsh Lane to Challow Marsh Farm. I have no idea of the time-line for approval. We hope to open up the footpaths north of the village for recreational walking and are awaiting the Wasborough Estate to clear the paths on their land.

*Cllr Dr Paul Barrow*

Ridgeway Ward

# 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)

## ***Jubilee Bank Holiday Waste Collections***

| Normal Collection Day | Revised Collection Day | Which Bins           |
|-----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Monday 6th June       | Tuesday 7th June       | Green + Brown + Food |

## ***Refuse Bins***

Please remove your food, rubbish and recycling bins from the kerbside as soon as you can after they have been emptied by returning them to your own property for safety - they are easily blown into the roads which can cause accidents, damage to cars and obstruct emergency vehicles.

## ***Vicarage Hill Cemetery***

Please note the bin is exclusively used for the disposal of Cemetery waste only,  
Hedge Trimmings / Leylandii cuttings have been found in the bin recently.

## ***Dog Owners and Dog Walkers***

Please note that dogs are excluded from the fenced-off children's play area at the Recreation Ground – despite this there is evidence someone is taking their dog in and allowing it to foul, this is totally unacceptable! It is well known that dog faeces are very dangerous, especially to children and can cause blindness.

## ***Parish Council Website – Photographs Required***

Do you have any new or old photographs of the Village, photographs of days of celebration from yesteryear etc that you would like to share on our website?

*Please send them to the Parish Clerk*

# ***Parish Council Meeting***

**\* Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm**

in the Village Hall

(\* Please note there has been a change of date)

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

East Challow Parish Clerk  
C/O East Challow Village Hall

East Challow

Wantage

Oxon

OX12 9SR

**Tel: 07444 405472**

**[eastchallowclerk@gmail.com](mailto:eastchallowclerk@gmail.com)**

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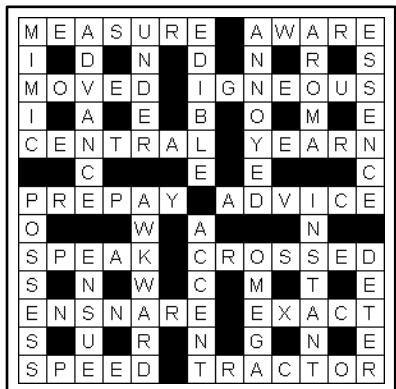
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