

# Challow News

July & August  
2022

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'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

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**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

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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

Currently there is a work-based study going on in the UK, where workers are paid 100% of their salary but only expected to work 80% of their hours; can they be as or more productive working 4 days a week instead of 5?

The thinking behind this is that productivity and working hours are not the same, if people are more rested and more focused then their work will be improved.

I was once asked if I was working out of rest or resting from work? Was I just collapsing at the end of a week before lurching into the next one or was I investing in resting so that I was ready and equip for the week to come? There are a lot of different life circumstances that can affect this, but it is an interesting question to consider.

In the book of Genesis, God is described as creating the universe in 6 days. But the days are explained differently from how we demark them. In the Hebrew Scriptures a day starts in the evening and goes through the night into the day and ends at the next evening. Rather than what we currently do, by starting a day in the morning, with activity and then ending in the evening. This difference has struck me in terms of how important I consider rest and sleep to be; are they the things that start my day or just what I do once the real work is over?

Also, Genesis tells us that God rested on the 7<sup>th</sup> day. I don't think that God was tired, but that enjoying this created world is important to do, God did it and wants us to do it as well. In fact, one of the 10 commandments is about God telling us to stop working and rest at least once a week.

During the lockdowns, alongside all that was going on, many of us had the opportunity to reflect on what we were doing, how busy our lives were and what is important to us. We need work and have purpose in our lives, we also need time with others and space to recharge. As humans we are created for a rhythm of resting and working, it is important for our wellbeing that we are productive at both.

Hopefully, over the summer you will have a chance to stop and rest and to recharge. To do the things that help you to re-create yourself, while also having a chance to reflect on your rhythm of rest and activity.

God bless,

Alec

# Wild Watch ~ July 2022

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the encouraging feedback that this page has received.

Last week a neighbour rang to say he had bees swarming in his garden, what did I (as a bee keeper) suggest? Well to cut the story short the bees were not honey bees but 'Tree bumble bees', and I am glad to say my lucky neighbour is happy to share his garden with them this summer.



The tree bumble bee *Bombus Hypnorum* is a recent immigrant from Europe, they were first spotted in this country in 2002. It is thought they will soon reach Iceland as they seem to be migrating North wards.

If you see an insect that you cannot identify then taking a photo is really helpful, and then comparing your picture to pictures on line is much easier than drawings in books. To make things complicated there are cuckoo versions of bumblebees that mimic each species and the 'cuckoo queen lays her eggs in the true colonies nest. The only way to tell the difference between a cuckoo bumble bee and the true bumblebee is the hairiness of their legs apparently.

Could our natural world be more extraordinary!

Your letters:

## **Sylvia writes:**

*It is said that the best things in life are free... I have recently found this to be so. Life changes continually, but some things never change. For some weeks now the joy of seeing two families of ducks on the Wantage Brook has been enjoyed by young and old. I was back in my childhood watching them darting about but always with their parents close by. One clutch is about a month older than the other.*

*Then in Betjamine park my great niece so enjoys running around the ring of stones and now a lovely seat has been made from a tree that was felled. Two weeks ago (mid May) I heard the cuckoo call over in Letcombe and I have now been visited by a hedgehog in my garden. All these wonderful pleasures for free.*

## **Mary writes:**

*On two consecutive days in late May I saw a painted lady butterfly in the garden. The second one looked much the worse for wear.*

*Though not in Challow, on 7th June coming to West Hanney from Oxford at about 4.0'clock I saw a barn owl flying low over the last field before the first houses. Flying at this time of day probably means it has young to feed... Such a treat.*

Please share your sightings with us by emailing [jgteare@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jgteare@yahoo.co.uk) pictures very welcome. Please send them by the 8th of the month if possible.

Thank you for your help.

**Juliet**



## - NEWS FROM THE PEWS -

This is all going to seem in the long distant past but I can't possibly not mention the Platinum Jubilee and what East Challow contributed in way of marking the occasion. I am unashamedly a royalist and have enjoyed seeing much of the celebrations on television and I thought our Queen looked amazing and seemed to be enjoying all of the displays that were put on in her honour.

Well, we had a wonderful Platinum Jubilee as far as I am concerned.

Saint Nicholas Church looked amazing for our Festival of Flowers, we owe everyone who donated flowers and the flower arrangers a huge thank you. We were able to display coronation memorabilia alongside the wonderful arrangements. I hope you took the time to come and have a look around the Church, I felt so proud to be a part of it, and if Her Majesty the Queen herself had popped her head around the door I don't think we would have been found lacking.

The Village Platinum Jubilee Celebration at the Cricket Club was a resounding success and very well attended and even though the weather wasn't brilliant, the rain held off and everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves. It was opened by both Father John Durant, who led and said a prayer for Her Majesty and the event, and Les Cannings who gave us an idea of what was happening. There was plenty to do and see, the Tug of War and cricket match was enjoyed by many. It was great to see so many people in the village meeting together and having fun. What more could you want entertainment, fish and chips, cream teas, stalls and a bar and plenty to keep the children amused. I met up with people I hadn't seen since before the pandemic started, so it was good to catch up. The Cricket Club made an excellent venue and were most accommodating with their facilities. Organisers, participants and people attending all need to be congratulated on what didn't look to be too promising a day at first that morning, and actually was most enjoyable for all concerned.

I still haven't heard a cuckoo this year, but a good friend of mine has heard one over towards Letcombe. Perhaps it's my hearing that is deteriorating. There are water lilies appearing at the Challow end of the canal towards Grove so I shall look forward to seeing their progress.

With things seeming to get back to some sort of 'normal' at last, it is great to be able to meet and enjoy ourselves at social gatherings once again. Although I personally still feel safer wearing a mask at times, but that's probably an age thing.

So still stay safe as always.

Liz

# St. Nicholas Church

## 11 am Sundays - Rolling Rota

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

**There will be No Thursday 10 am Services during August**

## Churchyard Maintenance

9th July - J. Penfold

23rd July - G. Parker

6th August - D. Perkins

20th August - N. Langford

# St. Nicholas Church - Service Information - July & August

<b>July 3<sup>rd</sup> – Trinity 3</b> <i>Rev Alec Gill</i>	2 Kings 5: 1-14 Galatians 6: [1-6] 7-16
<b>July 10<sup>th</sup> – Trinity 4</b> <i>Rev John Durant</i>	Amos 7: 7-End Colossians 1: 1-14
<b>July 17<sup>th</sup> – Trinity 5</b>	No Service at St. Nicholas <b>Hanney Patronal Festival</b>
<b>July 24<sup>th</sup> – Trinity 6</b> <i>Rev John Durant</i>	Hosea 1: 2-10 Colossians 2: 6-15 (16-19)
<b>July 31<sup>st</sup> – Trinity 7</b> <i>Rev Peter Rich</i>	Hosea 11: 1-11 Colossians 3: 1-11
<b>August 7<sup>th</sup> – Trinity 8</b> <i>Rev Robert Teare</i>	Isaiah 1: 1 & 10 – 20 Hebrews 11: 1-3 & 8-16
<b>August 14<sup>th</sup> – Trinity 9</b> <i>Rev Velma Oxley</i>	Isaiah 5: 1-7 Hebrews 11: 29 – 12: 2
<b>August 21<sup>st</sup> – Trinity 10</b> <i>Rev Chris Ashton</i>	Jeremiah 1: 4-10 Hebrews 12: 18-End
<b>August 28<sup>th</sup> – Trinity 11</b> <i>Rev Alec Gill</i>	Jeremiah 2: 4-13 Hebrews 13: 1-8 & 15-16

**There will be No 10am Thursday Eucharist Services during August**

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## TOPICAL TALK

**Sea Sunday – 10<sup>th</sup> July**

**Look around your home. How much of the contents in your cupboards, wardrobe, rooms, and even garage came to you from over the seas, via the great merchant ships?**

***What would your home be like without them?***

***Yet when did you last give a thought to the people who bring them to you?***

It is a curious fact that seafarers are one of the most important, and yet invisible, people groups in our society. We all depend on them to fill our homes and businesses with an endless variety of goods, and yet we never see them, never speak to them, and rarely even remember their existence.

It suddenly makes Sea Sunday seem good sense: an annual opportunity to give thanks for the seafarers of the world, and to pray for their personal well-being. For going to sea is a lonely occupation. It separates families for months on end. It can sometimes be dangerous, and it is always physically demanding work.

So this month, on Sea Sunday, let's pause and give thanks to God for the seafarers of the world. Let's remember how their work so enriches families, and let's support the support through their chaplaincy work.



our lives. Let's pray for them, for their organisations that offer them care and

In doing so, we will join with thousands of other Christians, from London to Lagos, Manila to Melbourne and Durban to Dunkerque, who each year remember the seafarers who make our prosperity possible.

## National 'Don't Step on a Bee Day' – 10<sup>th</sup> July

## Worried more about money

Bees need your help. And we need their help. Not only do bees help provide the honey, propolis and beeswax, but they also help to keep us all fed and watered. Without bees, more than a third of everything we eat would disappear from our tables.

The majority of our honey here in the UK is imported (85%), but there are also many beekeepers on our doorstep. So why not visit a near-by farm shop or deli and enjoy the precious produce of local beekeepers for breakfast?

You can also help bees by planting wildflower seeds that will provide a food supply. Download the Great British Bee Count app created by Friends of the Earth which allows you to log the bees you spot out and about. This builds a picture of bee health and activity in the UK.

Finally, build a bee hotel! Bees need somewhere to rest when they venture out on their pollen mission.

You can find a step-by-step guide here: <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2020/04/how-to-build-a-bee-hotel/>

Four in ten of us are now more worried about our energy bills than about catching Covid.

That is the finding of a recent study by University College London (UCL).

Dr Daisy Fancourt, of UCL's Institute of Epidemiology and Healthcare and the lead author, said that as the cost-of-living crisis takes hold, "Concerns about money have been increasing, with people now more concerned about finances than about Covid-19. This suggests that new psychological stressors are becoming dominant for individuals."

The study found that there has also been a drop in happiness and life satisfaction levels, with fewer than half of adults saying they felt in control of their mental health, as compared with 54 per cent six months ago. Depression and anxiety symptoms are the highest they have been for more than a year, on a level with when the first lockdown was eased in 2020.

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## Reaching the deepest place on earth

One hundred years ago, on 28<sup>th</sup> July 1922, Jacques Piccard, the Swiss oceanographer and engineer, was born in Belgium. He is best known for developing deep-sea submarines, and for becoming one of the first two people to reach the Mariana Trench, the deepest point on earth.

He came from a family known for daring achievements. His father Auguste set height records in ballooning, reaching the stratosphere, and later with his son adapted the technology involved in that achievement to create the bathyscaphe for deep sea exploration. As a result, the Piccard family made both the highest flight and the deepest dive.

Jacques Piccard taught economics at the University of Geneva before leaving to concentrate on deep sea research. His revolutionary vessel, developed with his father, was bought by the US Navy for salvage and rescue.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 1960, Piccard and Lt Don Walsh, a submarine officer, descended to 35,800 feet in a chasm of the Marianas Trench known as Challenger Deep. There were no on-board experiments or scientific equipment. They finally touched down in "snuff-coloured ooze" where they found, amazingly, a flat fish and a new type of shrimp.

The Piccards followed this success by developing further vessels, including tourist submarines and another exploratory vessel that followed the Gulf Stream and studied its various features. Jacques Piccard, who died in 2008, also formed the Foundation for the Study and Preservation of Seas and Lakes. His son Bertrand, with Brian Jones, made the first non-stop circumnavigation of the world by balloon in 1999 (Switzerland-Egypt, 20 days).



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> > Numbers are £2 each < <

### Monthly prizes are

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[ £100 additional prize in December ]

Contact Tricia Shand

01235 764222

the.shandies@btinternet.com

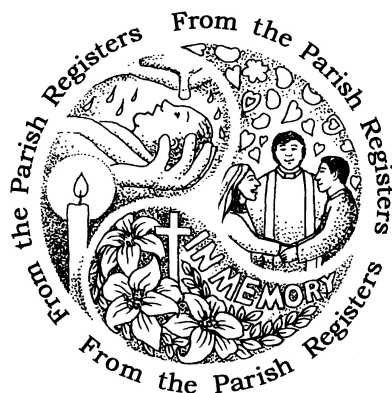
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Challow News

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contact

nigel.langford@me.com



### HOLY MATRIMONY

*Kathleen Rusher*

*Benjamin Mills*

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

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

CHALLOW & CHILDREY



CRICKET CLUB

## SUMMER IS HERE

The cricket season is in full flow 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 until 15<sup>th</sup> July, 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



**WE are A  
Community**



**WE are A  
Community**

### **What a Day.....**

The Village came together as a community on the 5th June to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee with a locals Cricket Match and Tug 'o' War.

The day started with a forecast of heavy rain and questions of do we go ahead with it or postpone it...

Happily the bunting was put up, the stalls were set and the Fish & Chip and Ice Cream vans arrived.

The afternoon activities started with a Tug 'o' War and then it was time for the main event to start - The Locals Cricket Match.

The two teams of amateur players took to the field and that's when the fun started, most had never played cricket before and only knew the basics, but the entertainment value of seeing these guys attempting to bowl a cricket ball as well as trying to hit the ball as well, was what the match was all about, coming together and enjoying an afternoons cricket, although there were some surprises also at just how good some of them were.



**Thank you....**

**to everyone who helped in organising the day**

the village certainly came together as one, we met up with those we hadn't seen in ages and we met new people as well.

**WE are A  
Community**



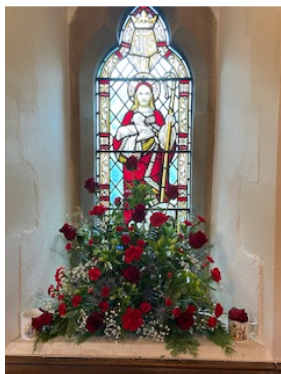
## Jubilee Cricketers - 5th June 2022



Photo supplied by a Nalderfield resident.



Festival of Flowers



## St. Nicholas Church

2nd - 4th June 2022





# GODFREY PEST CONTROL

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St. Nicholas Church

200 Club - Monthly Draw

## June Results

£50 - N° 36 - Mrs M. Lovegrove

£20 - N° 138 - Mr N. Keays

£10 - N° 19 - Mrs A. Collie

**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**

**September**

**Issue of the Challow News**

Must be submitted by

**15th August 2022**

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



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

## St Nicholas CE Primary

The school has undergone much change since I began as Headteacher in January 2021, with a particular focus on making the most of its wonderful location and school grounds. In February 2021 we began a project to transform an area of the school which was previously a sensory garden into a school garden and through significant support from the local community have created a valuable resource for the school and the local community. We had many volunteers give up their time in the early stages to lay gravel, cart soil and build vegetable beds. We are keen to open this up to people in the community who enjoy gardening as we know that this is the best way to inspire the next generation of gardeners.

We have also developed Forest School at St Nics, fencing off a dedicated area under the trees to become a space for our learners to experience challenge, teambuilding and leadership opportunities beyond the classroom. Again, we have been hugely appreciative of community support and donations in helping us to realise this, from donations of handtools, pallets, logs, the loan of digging machinery and above all time. Again, we would be keen to open this up as a resource to other organisations within the village to use.

The most significant change has of course been the start of our Early Years building in February of this year. With a growing population within Challow this will provide purpose built Early Years provision for families with 3yr olds and above through our Nursery. This also incorporates Reception year, the first year in school. The project is due for completion in July, when all the children are looking forward to getting their field back. On **8<sup>th</sup> September 2022** we will have our building blessed by Bishop Colin, as part of the official opening when the children return after the summer break. We would welcome in members of the community to come and have a look around that day from 4pm onwards.

Please contact the school office on [officesn@stnicholasce.vale-academy.org](mailto:officesn@stnicholasce.vale-academy.org) if you are interested.

Within school, as a community we re-evaluated our school values. Our vision, to enable our children to enjoy 'Life in all its fullness' John 10:10 centres around our belief that everyone has a unique and special contribution to make to the world. We value and nurture those unique gifts by creating a compassionate community here at St Nics, where everyone feels a sense of belonging. The impact of the pandemic has been significant on school children and building resilience in our children and positivity in the face of adversity will equip them well to enjoy future life success. This is why we chose Belonging, Compassion and Resilience as our core values.

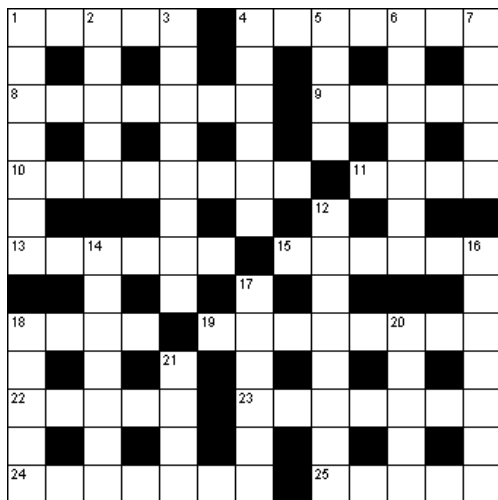
Looking forward, I hope that as a school we can become a place where everyone in the community feels welcome, irrespective of whether you have children here. Once building work is finished we would be keen to host community events and let out spaces for organisations. **The summer fair on 10th July** this year is likely to be a similar format to last years – a village wide school fair with 'car boot' sale on various driveways – mainly because we simply don't know how much of the school site will be fully open by then. Everyone is always welcome to our fundraising events and I hope we have as much support as we did for the Christmas Craft Fair in the Legion this year. Once again we will also see scarecrows appearing across the village, providing a great family competition as well as helping to raise vital school funds.

On behalf of everyone at St Nicholas CE Primary, thank you for your support over the last year and here's to more exciting events in the future.

**Heather Richards**

Headteacher





**Solutions on Page 22**

### Across

1. Direction (5)
4. Equilibrium (7)
8. Brass instrument (7)
9. Fruit (5)
10. Beamed (8)
11. Singing couple (4)
13. Kind of lake (6)
15. Movie house (6)
18. Large and scholarly book (4)
19. Precise (8)
22. Tooth (5)
23. Inactivity (7)
24. Family name (7)
25. Laconic (5)

### Down

1. Notation cancelling a previous flat or sharp (7)
2. A regular route (5)
3. Seven-sided polygon (8)
4. Dairy product (6)
5. Jump (4)
6. Planet (7)
7. Choose by vote (5)
12. Venomous (8)
14. Risk taker (7)
16. Norm (7)
17. In operation (6)
18. Domesticates (5)
20. Theatrical performer (5)
21. Song for solo voice (4)

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**Home Visits**



ST NICHOLAS C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

# VILLAGE FÊTE

SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup> JULY 2 – 4 PM



*Following the huge success last year,  
the school fête will be again held around the village  
Fête stalls and games will be at numerous locations in the  
village and 'car boot tables' are welcome at £5 per stall  
A map of all fête games, stalls and car boot tables will be  
available on the link at the bottom of the page*

*If you want to have a car boot table, use the link below  
by 5<sup>th</sup> July, to donate and give your address, so it can be  
added to the map*

*Please come and enjoy the fête*

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



[www.justgiving.com/campaign/stnics2022](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/stnics2022)

# Wilts & Berks Canal Trust

## Improving footpaths in East Challow

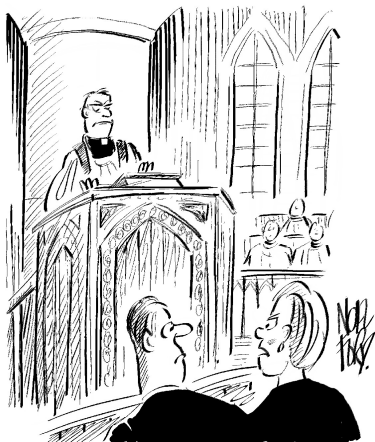
The footpaths around East Challow are very popular with walkers, even more so since Covid-19. However, they can get very muddy and unpleasant in the winter, especially the very narrow stretch at the start of the of canal towpath going to West Challow. Last year the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust laid woodchips donated by local residents along the canal towpaths, making them much better last winter.

But woodchips don't last forever, and it's difficult to lay enough of them. So this year East Challow Parish Council bought stone chips to be laid on that narrow stretch. L.J. & C.A. Cannings provided a vibrating compactor to stabilise the stone, and John Smith of Wyse's Farm provided access to the canal for the stone, and woodchips to fill in hollows further along the towpath. A work party from the Wilts & Berks Canal Trust laid and compacted the stone in the worst areas, and woodchips further along. The result should be a substantial improvement for walkers for years to come.

Jon Miles, Work Party Organiser. [jon.miles@wbct.org.uk](mailto:jon.miles@wbct.org.uk)



The Womens Tour of Britain  
roaring past the village on  
Saturday 11th June



It was bad enough your mobile ringing half-way through his sermon, without the ring-tone being the 'Christians Awake' tune!

### The Summer Garden

Summer comes and waves her hand,  
The garden blooms at her command,  
Plants abounding everywhere  
As fragrant perfumes fill the air.

Roses, geraniums, lilies too  
Agapanthus with globes of blue,  
Sumptuous colours in such array,  
Their beauty takes our breath away.

To sit beneath the shady trees,  
To listen to the humming bees,  
As Summer wears her rainbow dress  
We thank God for such loveliness.

*By Megan Carter*



*Editor: Dr Ruth Bancewicz, who is based at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge, writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.*

## **Wonder and Worship: Reflections in a Scottish Rainforest**

It can be easier to notice things away from home, when we are relaxed and surrounded by unfamiliar sights in an exotic location. But sometimes the same wonders are there in our own back yard. GK Chesterton was a great advocate of intensive observation, and he invited his readers to take a fresh look at things that might be taken for granted. The rewards for this mental adjustment are great, and can feed into our worship in new ways.



I first learned to appreciate old growth forests on the West coast of Canada: the centuries-old tangle of logs and underbrush, and thick layers of moss and lichen, that provide rich resources for countless organisms. Several years later, in Scotland, I stumbled over a few acres of birch and hazel, lush with moss and ferns, and humming with insect and bird life. Fallen logs lay everywhere, vegetation grew up the trees, creepers hung down, and sunlight slanted through clearings.

I later discovered that this patch of woodland is one of the few remaining areas of old growth Atlantic rainforest, so I visited one sunny morning when I had more time to linger. The wood is home to 140 species of lichen and 100 of moss, so I found myself looking very closely at tree trunks and boulders. Each lichen is a unique relationship between a fungus and a particular collection of single-celled algae – an example of the collaboration that is so essential to every ecosystem.

Places like this are worth preserving, respecting, and appreciating as much as a work of art or a historic city. I'm so grateful to the community that chose to preserve it, and the Creator who used such intricate and patient processes to create it. As the animals and plants around me did what comes to them naturally, I did what I was made for - thanking God for everything I saw. I found myself praising God alongside all those species of lichen, moss and trees. "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord" (Psalm 150).

There is a growing call to take both our personal devotions and our church services outside from time to time, and there are a growing number of resources to help us do this. As you go through your week, can you find one new way to appreciate your surroundings, and praise God alongside the rest of creation?

## **Jubilee**

I hope you all enjoyed the Jubilee weekend. There was plenty going on at the cricket club and at the Legion – all good fun. I spent the Sunday flitting between three celebrations so only saw bits and pieces but it was a good weekend. Shame the weather wasn't warmer but you can't have everything!

## **Local Health Services**

These continue to tax us on HOSC, the county health scrutiny committee, and I will continue to update you. GP access is a huge problem but is, in reality, a national one associated with GP and staff numbers. Some residents cannot use the e-consult system and need phone access. This is linked to rural isolation which affects a relatively small number of people but hits those with no private or public transport.

Covid cases are now rising again (increase of 400% in Oxfordshire between June 7<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>) and may increase further next winter.

My report on improving infection control in care homes was accepted and we have asked that the improved recommendations be forwarded to all county care homes for them to use them in addition to the gov.uk guidelines.

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## Building Control Regulation Changes

Profound changes are coming to new housing development under new Building Control Regulations. These will require all new housing from June 2022 to be fitted with PV (solar) panels and air-source heat exchange systems. Well, we should have started this with solar 10 years ago but better late than never.

## Industrial/Business Estates in the Parish

***We have two important industrial/ business parks in the parish.*** I am keen that David Johnston, our MP, understands the breadth of commercial activity in East Challow. On April 22<sup>nd</sup> I took him around Grove Business park and the W&G Estate to see a selection of business activities ranging from small precision engineering, the veterans charity (Mission Motorsport), the Boston House business incubator and Calber, with 900 staff across the UK and run by Les Cannings.

I have been in contact with many of these companies liaising with them particularly during the Covid pandemic regarding obtaining financial support.

## Nature Recovery Forum

The second meeting with the experts (see May Newsletter) took place on June 13<sup>th</sup>. The councillors attending the discussion will continue to meet online to see how best to take forward improving our local bio-environment.

## Housing development

This continues to be a major concern for Oxfordshire. In the current Local Plan no further large developments are allocated for our villages. East Challow suffers from the two larger developments which have caused several niggling problems, including late completion of footpaths which has required constant nagging to get worked completed on time.

The new Joint Local Plan is being developed and it will be important to continue the same restriction on housing in our villages and to ensure separation of settlements. In a recent meeting our MP David Johnston also expressed his concern at the level of local housing development, especially where infrastructure is not provided and where developers scale their development back to a level where it is not required!

Houses on some of these developments are not selling as fast as they were and the adoption by central government of a new algorithm for calculating housing requirements gives a considerably lower value with current figures indicating over delivery in the Vale west of Wantage in the last 10 years of more than 1,300 dwellings!

This continuing fluid picture is compounded by the developing Oxford Plan 2050 (<https://oxfordshireplan.org/>) where there is also considerable argument over likely housing requirements (<https://mycouncil.oxford.gov.uk/documents/s60719/Appendix%20B%20Final%20Oxfordshire%20Growth%20Needs%20Assessment%20Phase%201%20Report%2024.06.21.pdf>).

Where is levelling up when you need it?

*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)

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## ***Announcement.....***

The Parish Council welcomes back Sue Terry as a parish councillor.

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## ***Fly Tipping***

There has been some fly tipping taking place in Old School Lane, could everyone please refrain from doing this and dispose of your waste items in a responsible and environmentally friendly way please by using the Recycling centre at Stanford in the Vale.

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## ***Jubilee Celebrations***

Many thanks .... to all who joined the Jubilee Celebrations at the Cricket Club on Sunday 5th June. Despite the weather the Tug-of-War went ahead and the Village Cricket Teams had their hour (or two).

Thanks to all those who took part and those who helped on the day, who provided cakes, prizes, cream teas and who gave their time to make the day memorable.

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## ***Jubilee Photographs***

If you have any photographs that were taken at any of the village events celebrating the Platinum Jubilee, we would love to be able to publish them on the parish council website with the persons permission.

Please contact the clerk for more details.....

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## ***Reminder ..... Vicarage Hill Cemetery***

*Please note that the bin is exclusively used for the disposal of cemetery waste only, Hedge trimmings / Leylandii cuttings have been found in the bin recently*

## ***Reminder ..... Dog Owners and 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 Meeting***

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July at 7.30pm

in the Village Hall

[ No Council Meeting in August ]

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, Sue Terry

## ***August Bank Holiday - Waste Collection Changes***

Normal Collection Day	Revised Collection Day	Which Bins
Monday 29th August	Tuesday 30th August	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.

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

Linda Hooper

East Challow Parish Clerk

C/O East Challow Village Hall

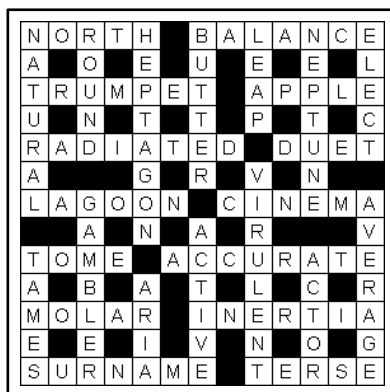
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Oxon OX12 9SR

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Please note NEW postal and email addresses - email is no longer accessible at the old email address



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