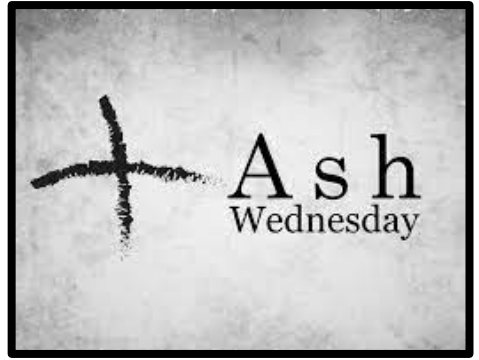


Challow News

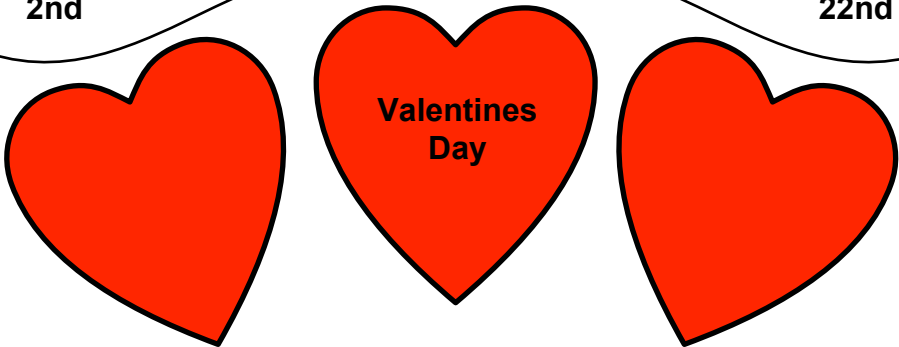
February 2023



February
2nd



February
22nd



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

Licensed Lay Minister: Sue Powditch

Email: llm@valebenefice.org.uk

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

Open: Mon - Fri 10.00 - 12.00

Tel: 01235 771479

Email: office@valebenefice.org.uk

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

My son gave me, as a Christmas present, the game LINKEE which we enjoyed playing as a family. If, like me, you have not come across it essentially you have to answer 4 questions - the answers to which are linked or connected in some way. Guessing the connection is the goal. The first connection I eventually managed to guess had the 4 answers - crackers, nuts, bananas and loco. I said the link was “expressions of madness” and the question master allowed me the point though the answer was “crazy”.

One of David's Psalms (34) praising God is set in the context of pretending to be mad. It can certainly seem crazy to trust and praise God in this year 2023 when so much is uncertain or confusing. The climate, economy, international relationships, government leadership as well as personal tragedies and challenges are matters of serious concern. Sadly I am sure you are well aware of this list of woes affecting us all.

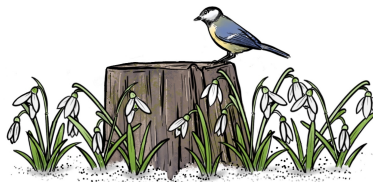
Our Christian faith calls us to trust in the Lord at all times even if life seems mad. You probably know Psalm 23 where David reminds us that the Lord is our Shepherd guiding, protecting, directing and providing for us as we journey through life even in the dark and difficult times as well as the comfortable and joyful occasions. When Jesus claimed to be the Good Shepherd his listeners said he was raving mad (John 10 : 19).

I have knowingly trusted the Lord Jesus for nearly 60 years of my life, in that time I have been through some horrible experiences, yet God has been totally faithful. I am aware life is still very precarious yet I pray and urge you to rely on the Lord Jesus as your Good Shepherd through 2023. My experience is that He has never let me down, God promises to hear and answer our prayers and if you will trust Him I know that you will find that to be true.

Get Linked in to God, people may think you are crazy but I am confident you will find great benefit in your everyday life.

God bless

John



- NEWS FROM THE PEWS -

February and one month into 2023 and I hope all is well with you, and that your Christmas and New Year was enjoyable.

A recap on Christmas.... the Church was beautifully decorated and we had an excellent Carol Service led by John our vicar, who treated us by playing his guitar. There was a mix of traditional Carols and modern ones with a good number of people filling the pews. Afterwards we indulged in mulled wine and mince pies, very acceptable I thought.

The Carol's Around the Crib was also very well attended. It has been a long standing tradition at Saint Nicholas and the children participated in an informal fun story of Christmas, egged on by our very enthusiastic vicar Alec.

Thank you to all who came and I hope you got as much pleasure from it as I did.

Our Midnight Mass was also successful , conducted by Rev Nicholas Cheeseman. It has been really good to get back some sort of normality in Church, after the all the restrictions that covid put on us in the last few years.

**Thank you to all the people who participated in the
"Village Christmas Carol's on the Green"**

It was a great success, despite the rain on that night. Well over thirty people turned up and I think it was enjoyed by all, if a bit soggy.

I hope this is an East Challow tradition that is now being revived. It was lovely to be a part of it. So same time and place next Christmas I hope, and perhaps the weather will be kinder to us.

I feel that I should give some of our unsung heroes in the village a bit of praise, I won't mention names but they are the people that keep our village ticking over smoothly. It is mainly voluntary work, with people taking time and effort from their own busy lives. First, the Parish Council, they organise the everyday nuts and bolts of running the village. Making sure the grass and hedges are kept trimmed, that litter is kept under control (our litter man is very diligent), keeping vandalism in check and making good any damage to parish property. Our recreation and playing fields are beautifully maintained. There are other countless tasks they perform that I have no idea about. There is also the Village Hall committee that oversees the hiring and maintenance of our hall. It always looks smart and tidy. It is available for hire and supports many local activities.

Of course the old phone box, houses both the defibrillator (which needs regular maintenance) and its also the home for the Book Swap Library.

All is voluntary and time consuming but done willingly.

The Challow News itself which keeps us informed of village activities is also organised on a voluntary basis by our local editor and has come on in leaps and bounds over the years.

Last but by no means least, our Church, it is a focal point in the village and it is there for the whole community.

We also have to run and maintain the building and make sure it is there at all times for everyone. Whether or not you attend, Saint Nicholas Church, it is there for all the people of East Challow, not just the congregation.

We would like to resume our family service at some point, so keep an eye out for the notice outside. All are welcome

There are so many aspects to keeping a Village alive so don't be afraid of joining in and maybe lending a hand.

So a big **Thank You** to everybody that does so much for East Challow.

Saint Valentine's day is 14th February. He was a 3rd Century priest and physician. He became famous for performing marriage ceremonies secretly for young men who had been forbidden to marry by the Emperor Claudius II, who wanted to recruit more soldiers and thought marriage would hamper the recruitment drive. When he learned of Valentine's activities he had him arrested and sentenced to death. While in prison Valentine befriended his jailer and helped with the education of his blind daughter Julia. Claudius came to like Valentine and offered to pardon him if he renounced his faith and followed the Roman gods. He refused. Before he was executed Valentine wrote to Julia signing it "from your Valentine" it is said her blindness was cured by God so that she could read the letter herself. Saint Valentine is also the Patron Saint of beekeeping, epilepsy, plague, travelling and of course engaged and married couples. Strange collection of causes.

As always stay safe for yourself and others.

Liz

Service of Memories

To remember all those we have lost
as we celebrate their lives and our time together

Sunday 5th February ~ 11am

Everyone will be invited to light a candle during
the service in memory of their loved one





OUR AUTUMN / WINTER OFFERING

Bar opening times through this period will generally be

Monday	CLOSED
Tuesday	CLOSED
Wednesday	4pm – 7pm
Thursday	4pm – 7pm (10pm when Darts match is on)
Friday	4pm – 7.30pm
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.

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.

We also require bar staff to cover some of our bar openings both during the weekday evenings and occasional outside events when the clubhouse has been hired on weekend evenings. For full details and rate of pay please e-mail us in first instance.

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

admin@challowcricket.co.uk

01235 763335

St. Nicholas Church - Service Information

February 5th Service of Memories <i>Rev Alec Gill</i>	Isaiah 58: 1 – 9a (9b – 12) 1 Corinthians 2: 1 – 12 (13 – 16) <i>Gospel Reading ~ Mathew 5: 13 - 20</i>
February 12th 2 nd Sunday before Lent <i>T B A</i>	Deuteronomy 30: 15 - 20 1 Corinthians 3: 1 – 9 <i>Gospel Reading ~ Mathew 5: 21 - 37</i>
February 19th <i>Last Sunday before Lent</i> <i>T B A</i>	Exodus 24: 12 - 18 2 Peter 1: 16 - 21 <i>Gospel Reading ~ Mathew 17: 1 - 9</i>
February 22nd Ash Wednesday <i>T B A</i>	Joel 2: 1 – 2 + 12 – 17 or [Isaiah 58: 1 – 12] 2 Corinthians 5: 20b – 6: 10 <i>Gospel Reading ~ Mathew 6: 1 – 6 + 16 - 21</i>
February 26th 1 st Sunday of Lent <i>T B A</i>	Genesis 2: 15 – 17 + 3: 1 - 7 Romans 5: 12 – 19 <i>Gospel Reading ~ Mathew 4: 1 - 11</i>

St. Nicholas Church - Rotas

Week	Prayers	Sacristan	Sidesperson	Reader	Music	Flowers	Coffee	
1st	Philip	Philip	Frances Nigel	Alan or Ruth	Ruth	Heather	1st Sunday	Mandy
2nd	Mary	Mary	Linda Noel	Graham	Ruth	Mary	2nd Sunday	Jan & Hillary
3rd	Jenny or Jeff	Jenny	Jeff Liz	Jenny or Jeff	Graham	Jenny	3rd Sunday	Val & Barbera
4th	Juliet	Nigel	Tricia Sue	Nigel	Graham	Mandy	4th Sunday	Linda & Janet
5th	Jeff or Ruth	Linda or Ruth	Philip Nigel	Mary	Graham	Linda	5th Sunday	Sue, Frances & Tricia
10 am Thursdays							Week	Cleaning
1st	Mary						1 & 2	Linda & Liz
2nd	Jenny						3 & 4	Mandy
3rd	Juliet						5	Sue & Tricia
4th	Mandy							
5th	Nigel							



~ If you are unable to attend please arrange cover for your week ~

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TOPICAL TALK

New Year? Get First Aid Training

Here is a very worthwhile New Year's Resolution: consider doing some First Aid training this year, especially if you are a parent with young children.

In a survey by the British Red Cross, 96% of parents agreed that their main fears were of their children choking, or of finding them unconscious—when seconds could make the difference to their survival. Even 15 minutes of proper First Aid training is enough to give you knowledge that could save someone's life in an emergency.

For details of your nearest First Aid Course, visit: www.redcross.org.uk

King Charles's favourite dog breed surges in popularity with public

When Queen Elizabeth II died last summer, there was a surge in the number of people wanting to buy Corgis.

Now, as the Coronation of Charles III approaches, it seems there is a trend to buy Jack Russell terriers. King Charles III has long been a fan of Jack Russell terriers. He and the Queen Consort currently own two, Bluebell and Beth, whom they rescued from Battersea Cats and Dogs Home more than a decade ago.

A spokeswoman for the Kennel Club said: "Breeds certainly wax and wane in popularity—and there are a number of factors that can play a part, such as high-profile ownership."

Statistics for Mission 2021 published

Attendance at Church of England parishes rose sharply in 2021, compared to 2020, but continued to be affected by Covid measures, new statistics from the Church of England show.

Average weekly attendance, which includes Sundays and midweek attendance, grew to 605,000 in 2021 compared to 345,000 in 2020. But it was lower than in 2019, when average weekly attendance stood at 854,000 people.

The number of baptisms and weddings grew in 2021 compared to 2020, with 26,500 marriages and services of prayer and dedication after civil marriage and 55,200 baptisms or thanksgiving services for a child.

Many churches continued to provide 'church at home' services in 2021, offered online, by phone, post, email, and other means amid a range of Covid restrictions.

It comes as separate figures show the number of people praying online has continued to grow sharply over the past year with downloads of the Church of England's Daily Prayer audio at 3.2 million so far in 2022 – 62% higher than 2021 when it was launched. Total downloads now stand at 5.2 million.

Daily Prayer audio – across the Daily Prayer podcast and app – has now reached more than 1.1 million unique listeners.

Meanwhile, figures from the Church of England's digital channels show that social media content – prayers, Bible verses, reflection content, good news stories and encouragement – have been seen more than 65 million times this year so far.

This amounts to approximately 1.3 million impressions per week, with content seen roughly 190,000 times a day.

And the Church of England's national online service averages around 150,000 views a week, with an average of 300 written comments a week from regular online worshipping communities.

The summary adds: "The pandemic continued to have an impact on the life of the Church of England, with some churches being closed for worship for parts of 2021 and some members of congregations continuing not to attend in-person services. This report indicates the extent to which things have 'bounced back,' but notes that further bouncing back is expected."

Using Church Buildings for the Community

Churches should improve the way their buildings are used by their community. And the survival of many local churches may actually depend on it.

So says a new report recently published the Cambridge Judge Business School, part of the University of Cambridge. *Reimagining Churches as Community Assets for the Common Good* (REACH Ely) found that one third of church buildings in the diocese of Ely cost more each year to run than they were able to raise.

As one expert pointed out: "The future survival of rural churches lies in their ability to serve the wider community."

Happily, the report's researchers found that even before the pandemic, numerous churches were beginning to offer community activities, ranging from blood donations to debt counselling to coffee mornings and concerts.

It's all in the VALENTINE

For God so lo**V**ed the world,
That He g**A**ve
His on**L**y
Begott**E**n
So**N**
That whosoever
Believes **I**n Him
Should **N**ot perish,
But have **E**verlasting life."

John 3:16



*Do you suffer with back, neck
or joint pain, headaches, sports
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"He moved here after the PCC voted
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He says it is warmer out here."

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

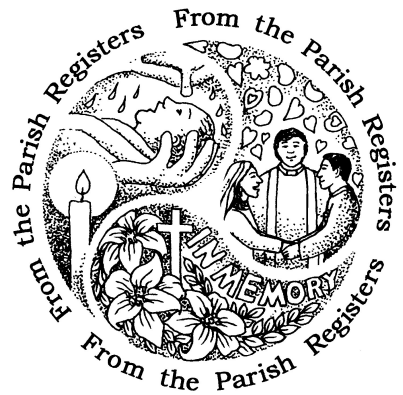
£50 ~ £20 ~ £10

[£100 additional prize in December]

Contact Tricia Shand

01235 764222

the.shandies@btinternet.com



Blessing & Thanksgiving

Lottie Martin

Elodie Martin

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

Biblical Cooking

If you can prepare this dish without looking up the references in the Bible, you should be on Mastermind!

It is suggested the Authorised Version is used.

You can find it online at

www.kingjamesbibleonline.org

Ingredients:

- 1 ½ lb of Judges 5:25 (end);
- 2 ½ lb of Jeremiah 6:20;
- 3 1 tablespoon of 1 Samuel 14:25;
- 4 3 of Jeremiah 17:11;
- 5 ½ lb of 1 Samuel 30:12;
- 6 ½ lb of Nahum 3:12 (chopped);
- 7 2 oz of Numbers 17:8 (blanched and chopped);
- 8 1 lb of 1 Kings 4:22;
- 9 2 Chronicles 9:9;
- 10 a pinch of Leviticus 2:13;
- 11 1 teaspoonful of Amos 4:5
- 12 3 tablespoons of Judges 4:19

Preparation:

Mix 8, 9, 10 and 11, and put them aside.

Beat 1, 2 and 3 to a cream.

Still beating add 4, one at a time.

Then add 5, 6 and 7 and beat again.

Then add 12.

Bake in a low oven for 1½ hours

Answers to Bible clues can be found on page 13

The Language of Love

Valentine's Day reminds us of the importance of expressing our love to those close to us. But how can we go beyond simply offering flowers and a card? Jesus says: *'A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another'* (John 13:34). How can we express love like Jesus in our everyday relationships to our partner, children, neighbours or work colleagues?

Listening

We need to listen to others, just as Jesus did. He asked questions of people and waited for them to process their answer. According to James, *'everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry'* (James 1:19). How well do we listen to others? How often do we find ourselves already thinking of what we want to say before somebody's finished speaking? Listening takes time; don't rush it!

Touching

Jesus reached out to touch the untouchables in His world, including lepers, the sick and children. This was completely out of character for rabbis of His day. For us today, a warm handshake may be of value. Of course, it should always be an *appropriate* touch – helpful for the other person, not just for ourselves.

Speaking

Jesus' conversation was always full of grace and truth (John 1:14). Do we speak words of *grace*, by offering comfort, giving encouragement or expressing care and concern? However, we should also be ready to speak words of *truth*, in asking for forgiveness, seeking reconciliation or addressing conflict. As Paul urges us, don't avoid: *'speaking the truth in love'*.

Where is the challenge for us in expressing love this Valentine's Day?



Fairtrade Fortnight 2023

This year Fairtrade Fortnight runs 27th February to 12th March. It comes with a sombre reminder: climate change means that soon some of our favourite foods, such as bananas, cocoa and coffee could be harder to grow. And if that is combined with deeply unfair trade, then communities growing these crops will be pushed to the brink.



This makes Fairtrade all the more vital – for all of us.

You can help in Three Ways during this Fortnight.

First, *why not join an online Big Fairtrade Get Together? Hear Fairtrade farmers and other experts explain what needs to change, for a sustainable future.*

Secondly, *let your friends know of any Fairtrade event in your area, from a coffee morning to a quiz night.*

Thirdly, *buy Fairtrade whenever you can, from flowers to coffee, clothes to teas, plus lots more.*

For more information, visit <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk>



Looking back on the Space Shuttle Columbia

Twenty years ago, on 1st February 2003, the US space shuttle Columbia disintegrated over Texas during re-entry, killing all seven astronauts.

It was the second space shuttle disaster after Challenger, which saw a catastrophic failure during launch in 1986. In both cases the “organisational culture” at NASA was blamed, because engineers’ advice was ignored.

This second disaster led to the suspension of the space shuttle programme.

Instead, US astronauts fly to the International Space Station on Russian Soyuz rockets or aboard commercial spacecraft.

The Columbia disaster was caused by a large piece of foam falling from an external tank and making a hole in the aircraft’s wing during launch. This allowed gases to get into the shuttle during re-entry, causing its disintegration and the death of the astronauts, who almost certainly lost consciousness before the shuttle broke up.

It would have been possible to examine pictures of the breached wing and look at possible remedies before re-entry, but NASA officials declined the opportunity. The search for debris over 2,000 square miles took weeks. Some 84,000 pieces were eventually recovered – nearly 40 per cent of Columbia by weight. Enough human remains were found to identify all crew members by DNA.

Seven Asteroids discovered in July 2001 were named after the astronauts. The landing site of the Mars rover Spirit was named Columbia Memorial Station, and it included a plaque to the Columbia crew. Many other memorials are in place elsewhere.

Columbia had been the first space shuttle to fly in space – in April 1981 – and it completed 27 successful missions.

Wild Watch

Celtic traditions of February

*On St Bride's Day the nests start to grow,
The building ravens fly to and fro.
And wheeling rooks activity show.
O feast St Bride, feast of the maid
White fingered Bride of the music played.*

(Taken from Poems of the West Highlanders)

The ancient Celtic Christians observed 8 festivals during the year. Many of these customs have morphed into customs that we still have today.

In the Celtic legends there is always a sense of adventure and a sense of sanctity for the land.

The first Celtic fire festival of our year (and perhaps my favourite) is 'Imbolc' which is kept near the 1st of February and marks the start of the growing year.

(This is the second fire festival of the Celtic calendar which starts in November at the beginning of Advent.)

Imbolc (meaning Ewe's milk) marks the day that seeds would begin to be sown again, and when work in the orchards could begin weather permitting, firstly to prune the apple and pear trees and also to Wassail the trees to ask for a good harvest. This involved lighting a fire (to burn the prunings) dance around it (to keep warm) and offerings given to the trees in the form of cakes and biscuits hung in the branches to ask for a good crop. (the birds would then be attracted to the cake and hopefully also eat any bugs hibernating there.)

*I will go out to sow the seed,
In the name of Him who gave it growth,
I will place my front to the wind,
And throw a gracious handful on high.*

(Taken from the Carmina Gadelica)

The 1st February is also St Bridés day, or St Bridget's day. St Bridget was thought to travel round the countryside with a white cow bestowing blessings on the countryside on the eve of her feast. This is also the time of Candlemas when the church celebrates the presentation of the baby Jesus in the Temple in Jerusalem. It marks renewal and beginnings.

This spring let us renew our enthusiasm for observing the natural world around us, tune in to its rhythms, and rejoice at the small creatures that often get over looked and endeavour to give them a helping hand, by making our gardens more wild life friendly.

This January we have been enjoying the regular visit of a lone female black cap, and I wonder why we never see any males. Female black caps are easy to identify because they have a brown cap on their heads instead of the black of the males. We have also seen bumblebees active in the sunshine.

Please let us know what wild life you are seeing near you by email :

jgteare@yahoo.co.uk

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Registered Office: 10 Santa Way, Grove, Warrage, OX12 7P Company No. 066711 V.A.T. No.851-6254-96

Bible Cooking

Answers to Bible clues:

- 1 Butter
- 2 Sugar
- 3 Honey
- 4 Egg
- 5 Raisins
- 6 Figs
- 7 Almonds
- 8 Flour
- 9 Spices
- 10 Salt
- 11 Leaven may be taken as
Baking Powder or as Yeast
- 12 Milk

2nd Feb: Candlemas

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2nd February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself.

In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for a baby boy: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child - to 'present Him to the Lord'. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus, we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

So, where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the Light of the World, and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day - hence the name, Candlemas.

The story of how Candlemas began can be found in Luke 2:22-40. Simeon's great declaration of faith and recognition of who Jesus was is of course found in the Nunc Dimittis, which is embedded in the Office of Evening Prayer in the West. But in medieval times, the Nunc Dimittis was mostly used just on this day, during the distribution of candles before the Eucharist. Only gradually did it win a place in the daily prayer life of the Church.





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St. Nicholas Church

200 Club - Monthly Draw

December Results

£100 - N° 81 - Mrs C. Andrews
£50 - N° 133 - Mr R. Swift
£20 - N° 32 - Mr G. Shand
£10 - N° 7 - Mr & Mrs Mawdesly
~

January Results

£50 - N° 22 - Mrs MacKinnon
£20 - N° 71 - Mr & Mrs Parker
£10 - N° 75 - Mrs Grover
~

Would you like to join?

For further information please contact
Tricia Shand - 01235 764222
email - the.shandies@btinternet.com

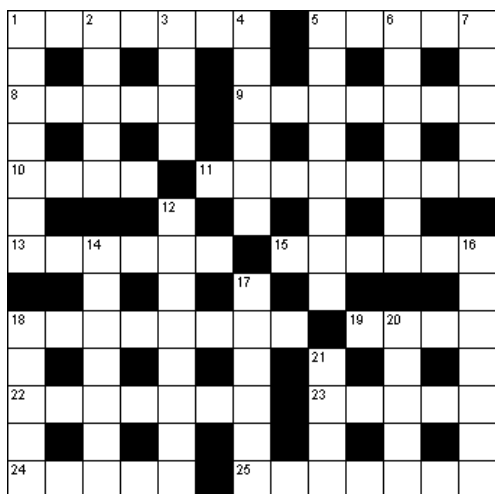
All entries for the

March Issue of the Challow News

Must be submitted by

> > 15th February 2023 < <

Email: nigel.langford@me.com



Solutions on Page 22

Across

1. Fate (7)
5. Animal with two feet (5)
8. Musical instrument (5)
9. Aerial (7)
10. Professional cook (4)
11. Delight (8)
13. Mass leaving (6)
15. Transparent gem (6)
18. Entertainer (8)
19. Cab (4)
22. Planet nearest to the sun (7)
23. Similar (5)
24. Fishing basket (5)
25. Ruminant (7)

Down

1. Fiasco (7)
2. Meaning (5)
3. Metallic element (4)
4. Annually (6)
5. Treachery (8)
6. Flightless bird (7)
7. Curtain (5)
12. On time (8)
14. See (7)
16. Spear with three prongs (7)
17. Attorney (6)
18. Ape (5)
20. Nimble (5)
21. Young whale (4)



Open Level Mat Pilates

9:30 - 10:30 am

Post-Natal Mat Pilates with Babies

10:45 - 11:45 am

Mondays in the Village Hall

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sharon.pilates.massage@gmail.com

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Challows and Childrey Cricket Club

Every Friday morning 11-1

Please let your neighbours know

Have trouble getting there? Call 07557953862 for a lift



WE are A
Community



WE are A
Community



WE are A
Community

Can you Help ?

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

01235 763173



Wantage Hospital Maternity Unit

Despite the current NHS crisis at last we have some good local news. If you haven't already heard from another source, Wantage Maternity Unit (Midwife-Led Unit, MLU) has opened again! We have been told by Oxford University Health (OUH) Trust that it is to open on January 9th - so I hope they have kept to their word.

Both the Wantage and Chipping Norton (Cotswold Birth Centre) Midwifery-led Units (MLUs), were temporarily closed in August 2021. On HOSC (the county health scrutiny committee) we were concerned because there were insufficient staff to run the unit and the few staff that we had were seconded to Wallingford. In HOSC meetings we expressed our serious concerns that OUH were running down services at Wantage.

We don't know where the extra staff came from, but it was always such a waste that the superb unit at Wantage was not in use. We know what the NHS is going through at the moment with staff shortages so let's hope that we don't have to go through this again.

Planning regulations

We have just been through a planning application in this ward (not this parish) for conversion of agricultural buildings to domestic dwellings. We have had a few of these in the last few years (one of which raised the issue of the extent to which substantial reconstruction is needed for a barn conversion. That is a very subjective assessment and I have pressed (unsuccessfully so far) for this to be made more objective and involve quantitative criteria – but that is another battle).

Earlier this year changes to the National Planning Policy Framework, which is the planning policy from central government providing overall guidance, were announced that were aimed at making it easier to convert former agricultural buildings to domestic dwellings, ostensibly for local residents. The problem of course is that most of these old buildings are converted into highly desirable and expensive houses well outside the range of local residents. Which is a shame.

East Challow Warm Space

With the long Christmas gap between the December and February newsletter, I have not been able to report that East Challow now has a warm space where residents can spend a couple of hours with tea/coffee/biscuits and chat. Challow and Childrey Cricket Club every Friday 11-1. Hopefully you will have all received a flier about this.

Defibrillators

Can we remind residents of the siting of the two village defibrillators. One in the telephone box on the village green and the other on the wall of the cricket club.

East Challow Mission

Some may have noticed that on January 1st a group of residents met outside East Challow mission to sign a petition to request and ensure that the Mission is retained by the parish as a small meeting centre and for other activities as it is no longer required for religious services.

The building dates from 1904 and was built on land donated. It ceased to be a non-conformist meeting room several years ago. It has been recorded as a non-designated parish heritage asset.

You may hear more of plans for this building in due course and please refer to the piece elsewhere in this newsletter. Please support this idea/proposal when requested to do so.

Oxfordshire County Council – School transport and Childrey Way

This is largely for information but Childrey children attending KA's are now disallowed from using school transport and have to make their own way to school or be driven. Cycling or walking along Childrey Way is not terribly safe, especially the stretch beyond St. Nicholas's School which is very open and, in some places in terrible condition (I have posted some pictures on my Facebook page). We also think it is not safe for school children, requiring them to cross three roads, including the bottom of Letcombe Hill, which is dangerous, and it may be dark if after-school activities are undertaken. We are currently protesting against this.

Cllr Dr Paul Barrow

Ridgeway Ward

Voter ID requirement

From 4 May 2023, voters in England will need to show photo ID to vote at polling stations in some elections.

This will apply to:

Local elections

Police and Crime Commissioner elections

UK parliamentary by-elections

Recall petitions

From October 2023 it will also apply to UK General elections.

If you don't have accepted photo ID, you can apply for a free voter ID document, which is known as a Voter Authority Certificate.

Find out more about accepted forms of photo ID, how to apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate, and what to expect on polling day.

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voter-id?gclid=aw.ds>




EAST CHALLOW

THE FRIENDS OF ST. NICS PRESENTS
LIVE MUSIC FROM
STUDIO SIX 90'S COVER BAND
PLUS DISCO!

SATURDAY 4TH MARCH
6.30PM-10.30PM
AT THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION, EAST CHALLOW.

PRE PAID TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED THROUGH THE SCHOOL.
£7.50 ADULTS AND CHILDREN GO FREE WITH A TICKET

YOU CAN ALSO BUY YOUR TICKETS ONLINE AT:
FRIENDSOFSTNICS@OUTLOOK.COM

TICKETS CAN ALSO BE PURCHASED ON THE NIGHT FOR £10 PER ADULT.

King Alfred Quilters

Programme for February 2023

1st February 2023 International Crazy Quilt Talk

by Ani Cat - Village Hall 7pm

15th February - 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, (£5.00 entrance fee for non members), 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 or Mary Wearn on 07789

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Petition to save the Mission!

Dear villagers, thank you for joining and supporting us on the 1st of January, in support of keeping The Mission as a gathering space for our community.

As you noticed, the previously shared plans to run a pop up café had to be halted due to vandalism that posed a risk to the building itself and the ones immediately adjacent. In consultation with the Thames Valley Police, it was decided to secure the building until it can be used daily.

Our plan is to absorb the costs of keeping and running the Mission from the current Board of Trustees working on behalf of the Baptist Church, and return it to its former use of a safe, warm gathering space.

As such, a group of us are invested in taking on the responsibility of looking after The Mission so as to open it for daily gatherings of local community members. We envisage a sustainable management model through the income generated by a small, volunteer run café as well as donations of time/moneys from local sources. Special interest groups such as local history/geography and choirs/music would be especially welcome.

We are so thankful for those of you that have offered your support to date, in the set up and ongoing catering/management of this idea.

We want to state clearly that funds raised will be used to support local community activities, particularly supporting those deemed vulnerable or at risk and activities that drive inclusiveness, care and community values will be favoured. Should funds permit, small grants aimed at advancing the education of students from developing countries or in conflict or war-stricken areas may be considered. All funds will be managed and allocated by a local committee.

The wider objective of a community café in the Mission will be to promote bonding, sharing and support, while empowering the community, increasingly important in these times with so many changes taking place around us.

Thank you once again for those of you that have remained engaged and supportive throughout this last year, as we made numerous attempts with the Baptist Church Trustees. We would like to share with them our petition, which many of you have signed. For ease of distribution we have started an online form, and hope that the newsletter reaches those of you that may not have regular access to social media.

Here is the link to the “Petition to save the Mission”

<https://chng.it/FDrqkQhL9R>

This can also be accessed through your mobile phones, or on the East Challow Facebook page.

Alternatively you can rip this page out and write

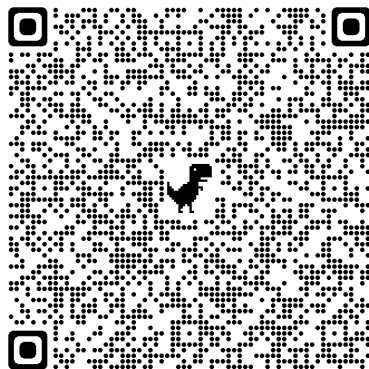
*** YES TO THE MISSION** in the box below,

then drop it in the letter box of

1: The Village Hall at East Challow,

2: The Cricket Club at East Challow.

All votes are anonymous regardless of the means of submission. We hope we will soon receive news directly from those currently in charge of the Mission, which we will share with you all. Last but not least Have a wonderful beginning of 2023 and we hope to see you in our café soon!



★

EAST CHALLOW ~ PARISH COUNCIL

www.eastchallowpc.co.uk

Christmas Cheer

Many thanks to all Villagers who provided extra Christmas cheer by putting up light's and displays, it was appreciated.

Save a Life

It has become apparent that many people do not know the location of the nearest Defibrillator, in particular when visiting areas that are not known to them.

The Parish Council recommends that everybody installs the "Save a Life" app on their smart phones.



The Save a Life app tells you the location of your nearest Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) and provides Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) guidance in the event of someone suffering a heart arrest."

Car Parking

Irresponsible parking causes problems. Please can residents park responsibly around the Village. Parking on pavements cause problems for wheelchair user's and pushchairs. If parking on the road-ways take care to leave room for the emergency services and school buses. Parking on grass verges restricts the grounds maintenance contractor(s) from cutting the grass, verges and corners are being eroded by traffic cutting across them.

Waste Bins Again

A reminder..... Please ensure that you remove your Brown, Black and Green bins from the kerbside as soon as possible after the waste collection, returning the bin to within the curtilage of your property on the day of collection.

Bins on Main Street and around the Village Greens are a particular problem.

Please ensure your Waste & Recycling Bins are placed on the kerbside before
07.00 am to ensure your bins are emptied.

Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 8th February 2023 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

Trevor Hayes, Paul Barrow, Iris Game, Sue Terry

Clerk to East Challow Parish Council

Linda Hooper

East Challow Parish Clerk

C/O 35 Woodhill Drive

Grove, Wantage, Oxon

OX12 0DE

07774 405472

eastchallowclerk@gmail.com

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