

# Challow News

March 2023



'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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**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

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Dear Friends

The army has 6 core values which Chaplains were responsible for teaching – one of which was “discipline”. Most soldiers understood this to mean either punishment or more positively the ability to control yourself.

I relished demolishing the first of those misconceptions and teaching the fact that discipline comes from the Latin word *disco* meaning *I learn*- not I hasten to add, I dance! In other words true discipline is about learning and developing; and certainly a soldiers career is a constant round of training and getting prepared for their duties.

In this period of Lent many Christians would associate the 40 days approaching Easter as a time of discipline – developing our faith as we look forward to celebrating the death and resurrection of Jesus. Our churches will be thinking about being a disciple of Jesus in our Lent Groups. We are also encouraging folk to join in the personal Discipleship plan which is a friendly and flexible way to encourage being a follower of Jesus.

I think there are 2 other reasons for studying discipleship 1. It fits into the modern trend of personal development; 2. It is a positive gospel word.

There are only 6 of the 66 books of the bible that mention disciple: 2 in Isaiah; 23 in the Acts of the Apostles and the rest in the 4 gospels - over 450. Jesus has 2 requirements of being his disciple. He says “hold onto my teaching” *John 8:31* and “love one another” *John 13:35* both of which take determination and trust to carry out.

So as we enjoy the new growth of spring and journey through Lent may I encourage you to seek some activity or practice that helps you develop, especially in your knowledge and love of the Lord Jesus.

God bless

John

## - NEWS FROM THE PEWS -

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Well the spring flowers have made it through the winter weather yet again. I find this amazing, every year, snowdrops, crocus and daffodils all refuse to let a bit of frost, snow or rain deter them, no matter how much we mere mortals may complain about the conditions, the flowers persevere regardless. It's so uplifting to see them each year. The birds that stay here over the winter are also starting to have their springtime songs. As I am out with Meg my dog in the mornings, several hedges are full of chattering sparrows, it's lovely to hear them. It seems the whole of nature is waking up again. I like to keep a well stocked bird table throughout the winter and spring as it must be hard work being a bird, so I hope they find it useful.

Our Service of Memories was beautiful and well attended, giving us a chance to remember friends, relations and others who have passed away either recently or a long time ago, it may never stop hurting, but it does get easier to live with, given time. Alec gave a meaningful sermon which I for one appreciated, and we were able to light a candle in memory.

Saint Patrick's day is March 17<sup>th</sup> he is the Patron Saint of Ireland. He was born Maewyn Saccat in 5<sup>th</sup> century Roman Britain, at the age of 16 he was kidnapped by Irish raiders and taken to Ireland as a slave. He later escaped and returned to Britain but was captured and enslaved once more, eventually he returned to his family. He studied and travelled to Europe and later became a priest. This was when he adopted his new name Patrick, after Patricius, which relates to the Latin meaning father. He rose in the priesthood and became a Bishop. He returned to Ireland and commenced the conversion of the country to Christianity. According to legend Patrick used the shamrock to illustrate the Holy Trinity, showing that three different spiritual entities can be all be part of the same whole. The shamrock is one of the most widely known Irish emblem, recognised worldwide. Legend has it that he is responsible for driving all the snakes out of Ireland. Although there is no actual proof that there were any snakes there in the first place.

On 25<sup>th</sup> March the Feast of the Annunciation also called Lady Day, is celebrated. This is commemorate when the Angel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary that she would conceive and give birth to a son.

**Mothering Sunday is on 19<sup>th</sup> March this is halfway through Lent it is also called Refresher Sunday. It was a time to honour Mary the Mother of Jesus, Mother Church and of course mother figures in our own lives. Historically it was a time when children in domestic employment or apprenticeships away from home were allowed to visit their mothers.**

**You are welcome to join us for our service on this special day. (see page 14 for more details)**

The coronation of King Charles III and his wife Camilla as King and Queen Consort, will take place on Saturday May 6<sup>th</sup>. We will be decorating Saint Nicholas Church to mark this historic occasion, please feel free to either help us decorate or donate flowers. (Details page 16)

Our Lent Course is starting on 1<sup>st</sup> of March at Grove alternating with East Challow every Wednesday evening 7.45 pm through Lent. Full details will be in the Benefice News Letter, or contact the Benefice Office or even me nearer the time.

That's all for now, but as always, stay safe for yourself and others.

Liz

# St. Nicholas Church ~ Service Information

<b>March 5<sup>th</sup></b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent <i>Rev Alec Gill</i>	<b>Genesis 12: 1 – 4a</b> <b>Romans 4: 1 – 5 + 13 – 17</b> <i>Gospel Reading</i> <i>John 3: 1 – 17 or Matthew 17: 1 - 9</i>
<b>March 12<sup>th</sup></b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent <i>T B A</i>	<b>Exodus 17: 1 - 7</b> <b>Romans 5: 1 - 11</b> <i>Gospel Reading ~ John 4: 5 - 42</i>
<b>March 19<sup>th</sup></b> <b>Mothers Day</b> <i>Rev Alec Gill</i>	<b>1 Samuel 16: 1 - 13</b> <b>Ephesians 5: 8 - 14</b> <i>Gospel Reading ~ John 9: 1 - 41</i>
<b>March 26<sup>th</sup></b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent <i>T B A</i>	<b>Ezekiel 37: 1 - 14</b> <b>Romans 8: 6 - 11</b> <i>Gospel Reading ~ John 11: 1 - 45</i>

## St. Nicholas Church ~ Rotas

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

Coffee	
1st Sunday	<b>Mandy</b>
2nd Sunday	<b>Jan &amp; Hillary</b>
3rd Sunday	<b>Val &amp; Barbera</b>
4th Sunday	<b>Linda &amp; Janet</b>
5th Sunday	<b>Sue, Frances &amp; Tricia</b>

### 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



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

## God in the Sciences

*Editor: This series is written by Dr Ruth M. Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith. The graphic is from Pixabay, and may be used without a credit.*

### **A bucket of tadpoles: Springtime, Curiosity, and the Theology of Science**

When I was nearly three, I knocked a bucket of tadpoles all over the patio. Those unfortunate creatures must have been collected to educate my brother and I on where frogs came from, but a toddler can't just stand by and watch. Can I see up close? Or maybe I was 'helpfully' moving it to another place. I just remember doing something I shouldn't have done, and tadpoles on the ground. I was sad that I wouldn't get to see those creatures grow up.

I might have been great at destroying things when I was a child (my family would probably say I still am), but I absolutely love watching living things up close. The more I learn, the more my sense of wonder grows. For a tadpole to become a frog, large sections of its gut, salivary glands and muscles must die, as well as the gills. The cells in those tissues are programmed to curl up and disintegrate, and are swallowed up by a specialised kind of white blood cell. Legs grow from small sacs of cells on the tadpole's body, and one of my textbooks says that 'The nervous system is also remodelled' - which I suspect is a bit of an understatement.

This knowledge removes a little of the mystery of how a tadpole turns into a frog, but there is plenty more to discover. These few details also reveal the cleverness of the process. Metamorphosis is surprisingly common in the animal kingdom. How is that an efficient way to grow up, or is efficiency not the most important thing for an animal?

Scientists are essentially grown-ups who are still very much in touch with their inner two-year-old self. They refuse to stop asking questions, even when finding an answer becomes decidedly more awkward than opening a textbook.

Many scientists are people of faith, and this also drives their questioning. They believe that God created a world that was very good, that the purpose of all Creation is to praise Him, we are made in God's image, and that we are tasked with looking after Creation. So Christians, of all people, should be enjoying and investigating our surroundings. These are the bones of a Theology of Science which serves some of us very well, and keeps us looking into things like buckets of frogs – that is, until a two-year-old comes and knocks them over.





# Challows Royal British Legion

## Opening Hours

Monday - Friday from 7.00pm

Saturday - 12.00 am - 12.00 pm

Sunday 12.00 am - 10.30 pm

**Snooker & Pool Tables**

**Darts**

**Poker every Monday**  
(Redtooth)

**Bingo every Sunday**

Eyes down at 8.00 pm

**Challows Afternoon Club**  
meets monthly on every 3rd  
Thursday from 2.00 pm

## Monthly Dance Night 18th March - ELVIS

£7.00 on the Door

~ Non Members welcome ~

Planning an Event or Party  
our Main Hall with Kitchen facilities  
are available to Hire  
**01235 763430**  
during opening hours

## TOPICAL TALK

### Become a litter picker – and earn money

Litter pickers will be able to make about 20p per can or bottle from a new deposit scheme in England and Wales, according to an environment minister.

From **2025**, bottles and cans will include a deposit, likely to be 20p, that can be reclaimed when containers are returned to reverse vending machines at designated sites, according to a recent government statement.

As one environment minister explained, “there will be an opportunity for people to go around collecting up litter and so forth, and taking it back, and receiving the deposit, which we think might benefit a range of charities and individuals.”

The scheme will include all polyethylene terephthalate plastic bottles and cans up to three litres in size, meaning households will have to take their rubbish to a recycling point instead of leaving them on the kerbside for collection.

Councils will be able to cash in on any bottles and cans left in the recycling by collecting the deposit. The exact amount of the deposit will be decided by a new quango that will run the scheme, which was first announced in 2017.

The scheme is expected to save local authorities around £35 million a year by reducing the amount of recycling they pick up. The UK uses 14 billion plastic drink bottles, and nine billion drink cans every year. The country already recycles around 70 per cent of these.

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*Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham considers our appreciation of mothers.*

## **Mothering Sunday**

Mothering Sunday is a day of mixed emotions. For many it's a happy, joyous day, but for others it's one of pain and grief. A day to celebrate love, while acknowledging those who cannot have children or have lost them and those who have no relationship with their mother.

In the dying moments of His life, Jesus honoured Mary his mother by showing her love and care. He entrusted His mother to John's protection: *'When Jesus saw His mother there, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to her, 'Woman, here is your son,' and to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.'* (John 19:26,27). While affirming the importance of mothers, Jesus reminds us that the love we show on Mothering Sunday is just a token of our continuous appreciation of them.

Jesus also creates a new way of being family, marking the beginnings of the church. In the past, people would go back to their *'mother'* church on this Sunday, to acknowledge its importance in their lives. Jesus invites us into this new family of love and mutual belonging, where we can find a place, irrespective of our own family circumstances.

Church is not always an easy place to be, because we are shaped by our own experience of mothering. We may find it hard to give or receive love without ourselves getting in the way. However, God's help is available to change things, *'because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.'* (Romans 5:5)

**The mother of three difficult youngsters was asked whether she'd have children if she had to do it over again. 'Yes,' she replied. 'But not the same ones.'**



## Learn to bell-ring for the King's Coronation

The Coronation of the King and the Queen Consort will be held in Westminster Abbey on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May.

It will be conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

A Palace statement has said that it will "reflect the monarch's role today and look towards the future while being rooted in longstanding traditions and pageantry."

Meanwhile, in preparation for the Coronation, a national call has been made to recruit thousands of new bell ringers to ring in the new King in May.

A new website, Ring for the King, **ringfortheKing.org** has been set up for this purpose by The Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, especially hoping to encourage young people to try their hand.

The website says that bellringing is "an activity like no other—a unique mix of physical exercise with mental agility that is a deep part of our history but still practised and evolving today." It suggests that after ten to 15 hours of one-to-one tuition, a beginner can learn to handle a bell, use a bell rope, and begin to ring with others.

There are about 38,000 church bells, but only 30,000 ringers in the UK. The Central Council has said that while a swell of new recruits in time for the Coronation would be 'fantastic', "we hope that people find this new hobby, skill and social activity something they would want to continue with beyond 6<sup>th</sup> May."

## The 'Nones'

Do you know any? 'Nones' are people who, when asked what religion they belong to, say 'None'.

At the last Census in 2021, just over 50% of adults in England and Wales said they were 'Nones'.

Not all are atheists. More detailed delving by the research organisation Theos, revealed that 16% of Nones believe in reincarnation, 14% in the healing power of crystals and 14% in the supernatural power of ancestors.

The author G K Chesterton (1874-1936) wrote, "When people choose not to believe in God, they do not thereafter believe in nothing, they then become capable of believing in anything." He had himself dabbled in the occult and a variety of alternatives, before becoming a committed Roman Catholic.

Recent research by historian Tom Holland convinced him that, "to live in a western country is to live in a society still utterly saturated by Christian concepts and assumptions." You'll find all this in his book, *"Dominion: How the Christian Revolution Remade the World"*.

Even the Guardian's resident atheist admits, "I feel culturally Christian, so deeply imbued with its myths, paintings, hymns and parables". Many others who also claim atheism, often turn out to be less certain than her, and are actually agnostic, meaning 'don't know'.

Many of us seem to have lost touch with our roots and contented to live our lives on the surface without asking questions, until we have to.

Actor Amanda Abbington and stuntman Jonathan Goodwin tell of how their love for each other deepened after an accident left him paralysed from the waist down. He says, "I've always been a very cynical person but since meeting Amanda I've shifted my opinion about the power of the universe. I just had this really powerful feeling that we were supposed to be together."

Does that mean 'none', or something more?





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"The new vicar is really cool, Dad.  
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Commandments to Moses' Tablet PC?"

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> > Numbers are £2 each < <

### Monthly prizes are

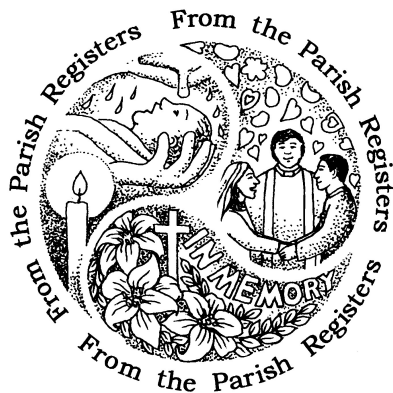
**£50 ~ £20 ~ £10**

[ £100 additional prize in December ]

Contact Tricia Shand

01235 764222

the.shandies@btinternet.com



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

## **Remembering Sir Christopher Wren**

It was 300 years ago, on 8<sup>th</sup> March 1723, that English architect Sir Christopher Wren died at the age of 90. Best known for designing St Paul's Cathedral, he was also a ground-breaking anatomist, astronomer and physicist.

A founder of the Royal Society, Wren served as its president from 1680 to 1682 and was highly regarded by such eminent scientists as Isaac Newton and Blaise Pascal. But it is as an architect that he is best known: beside St Paul's, regarded as his masterpiece and completed in 1710, he directed the rebuilding of 52 churches after the Great Fire of London in 1666 – though he did not work alone, heading a team of creative minds that included Nicholas Hawksmoor.

Born at East Knoyle in Wiltshire, Wren was the only surviving son of Christopher Wren the Elder, who became Dean of Windsor. He was a sickly child but lived a long life, despite his family being affected by the Civil Wars that broke out in 1642. He married twice, but both his wives died very early – one of smallpox and the other of tuberculosis. Although Wren lived 90 years, he was married for only nine of them, but had four children.

Two factors may have contributed to Wren's success as an architect: one was basic – his decision to move into that field because of the dearth of architects in the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century; the other was more dramatic – the Great Fire of London, which necessitated so much rebuilding in the city and gave him the opportunity to shine.

Robert Hooke, the scientist and architect who was a friend of Wren, said: "Since the time of Archimedes there scarce ever met in one man in so great perfection such a mechanical hand and so philosophical a mind."

## **First crossing of Antarctica**

The first land crossing of Antarctica was completed 65 years ago, on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1958, by the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition, led by Vivian Fuchs. The team of 12 men travelled 2,158 miles from Shackleton Base to Scott Base (via the South Pole) in 99 days, using six vehicles.

The journey – nearly 22 miles a day, much of it in appalling conditions and obstructed by huge crevasses – started from the Weddell Sea and ended at McMurdo Sound. It was well prepared and strongly supported. The advance team at the Shackleton Base had to over-winter in weather much more severe than they had anticipated, but still they remained healthy.

Mount Everest conqueror Edmund Hillary, starting at the 'end', was responsible for laying supplies for the crossing party and forging a route for vehicles through the western mountains, but he and his group also made an unscheduled dash for the Pole, becoming in the process the third group to reach it, and the first to do so in vehicles.

The expedition had been timed to cash in on the worldwide interest created by the International Geophysical Year, a global project designed to stimulate scientific co-operation. Under the patronage of Queen Elizabeth II, the expedition was funded by the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Australia and South Africa. The continent was not crossed again until 1981.

Fuchs, whose determination was key to the expedition's success, was the son of a German immigrant and his British wife. He was educated as a geologist – a profession he chose so that he could pursue his interest in the outdoors. He was knighted on his return to the UK and became one of very few explorers to whom the Royal Geographical Society has awarded a Special Gold Medal. He also became Director of the British Antarctic Survey until 1973 and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society the following year.



## OUR SPRING OFFERING

As Spring/Summer gets ever closer we are preparing for another busy summer season but until then our Bar opening times 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](http://www.challowcricket.co.uk)  
[admin@challowcricket.co.uk](mailto:admin@challowcricket.co.uk)

01235 763335

## 1<sup>st</sup> March: St Davids Day

On 1<sup>st</sup> March Wales celebrates its patron saint, David - or, in Welsh, Dewi or Dafydd. He is revered wherever Welsh people have settled. As with most figures from the so-called 'Dark Ages' (he lived in the sixth century), reliable details about his life are scarce, but there are enough for us to form a picture of a formidably austere, disciplined and charismatic leader, who led the Church in Wales through turbulent years and fought tenaciously for the faith.

It's likely that David was strengthened in his ministry by time spent in Ireland, where the Church was stronger and more confident. Early records tell of a meeting of Irish church leaders with three 'Britons', as they were described, among them 'bishop David'. His mother, Non, is also celebrated as a saint in Wales, where a number of churches are dedicated in her name.

That he founded a monastery at Menevia, in Pembrokeshire, seems beyond doubt. It later became the site of St David's cathedral and the settlement which is now the smallest city in the United Kingdom. From Menevia David embarked on preaching and teaching missions across Wales, and probably beyond. His eloquence was legendary.

At a famous Synod of the Church, held at a Carmarthenshire village called Brefi, he preached passionately against the Arian heresy - indeed, so passionately that he was (according to some accounts) immediately named as archbishop of Wales. The village is now known as Llandewi Brefi - *brefi* in Welsh is a hillock, and legend claims that it appeared miraculously in order to provide the eloquent bishop with a pulpit.

His monks avoided wine and beer, drinking only water. Indeed, he and they lived lives of rigorous austerity and constant prayer, in the manner of the Desert Fathers of the Eastern Church. The date of David's death is disputed - either 589 or 601. It wasn't until the 12<sup>th</sup> century that he was generally accepted as the patron saint of Wales, and pilgrimages to St David's were highly regarded in the following centuries - including two made by English kings, William I and Henry II.

It's traditional for Welsh people to wear daffodils on St David's Day (*Gwyl Dewi Sant* in Welsh) - but there seems no particular reason for it, beyond the fact that they tend to make their early Spring appearance round about his day - oh, and they look nice!

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## Time for a Spring clean?

*Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;  
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.*

*(Psalm 51:77)*

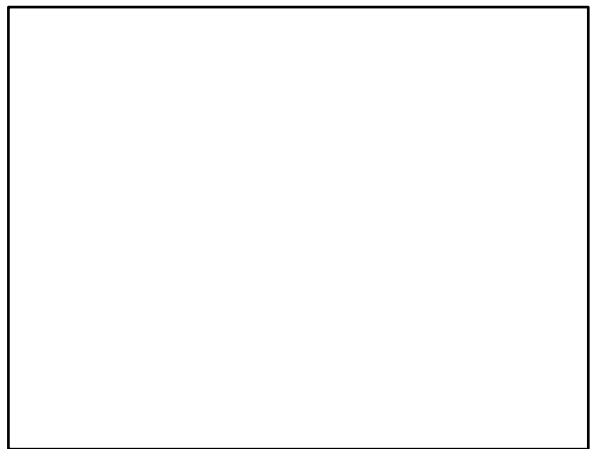
People used to have an annual 'Spring clean' when they would clean the house from top to bottom. Perhaps it was a way of marking the new season or because the longer days and increasing sunlight rays made the dust stand out. Certainly, the coal fires used all winter before central heating would have made the houses dusty!

If you do have a clean-up, why not have a clear-out as well? Some of us are not good at throwing things away. Even if we don't use the thing, we can have a sentimental attachment to it, and not want to let it go.

But what do you do with the stuff you no longer want, without simply adding to landfill? There are online places to sell second-hand goods and local online organisations that advertise things people want to get rid of. You could also have a garage sale (called a yard sale in America) where you sell stuff, or even go to a car boot sale.

Another way of passing things on is via a charity shop. But charity shops are particular about what they can accept. Many reject items that do not have a safety label, and items that could be potentially dangerous, such as electrical goods.

If you want to raise money for church funds, how about holding a church or village jumble sale? If you decide to go ahead, just give yourself time to plan it well in advance with rules about what you will accept, how you will publicise it, how you can keep everyone safe, and who will manage the money.





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Happy Mother's Day

March 19th  
Family Service  
11.00 am

Our Mothers Day Family Service is for everyone, but especially for the children to come and give thanks for their mothers and present them with a floral gift



St. Nicholas Church

200 Club - Monthly Draw

**February Results**

£50 - N° 88 - Mrs E. Dawson

£20 - N° 28 - Mr C. Swift

£10 - N° 140 - Mr K. 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)**

**DAYLIGHT  
SAVINGS  
TIME BEGINS!**

March 26th

Clocks go forward  
by 1 hour.



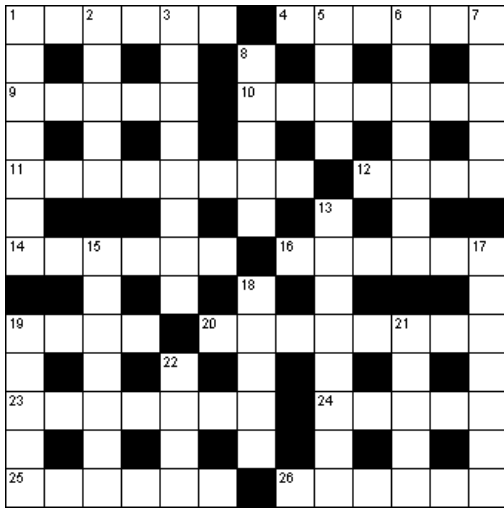
**All entries for the**

**April Issue of the Challow News**

Must be submitted by

**> > 6th March 2023 < <**

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



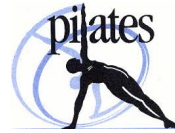
**Solutions on Page 22**

**Across**

1. Cultivated plot (6)
4. Written musical compositions (6)
9. Film (5)
10. Refrain from voting (7)
11. Listlessness (8)
12. Meat or vegetables cooked slowly (4)
14. Shrink (6)
16. Evaded (6)
19. Part of the neck (4)
20. Resident (8)
23. Inactivity (7)
24. Play (5)
25. Excused (6)
26. Deferred payment (6)

**Down**

1. Risk taker (7)
2. Stud (5)
3. Panache (8)
5. Monetary value (4)
6. Responded (7)
7. Tendon (5)
8. Freight (5)
13. Flatfish (8)
15. Use up (7)
17. Take away (7)
18. Large expanse of water (5)
19. Dissonance (5)
21. Accolade (5)
22. Pace (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

Contact Sharon on 07973 273599

sharon.pilates.massage@gmail.com

***WANTED***

Record Collections

LP's - Singles & Memorabilia

Rock - Blues - Folk - Jazz - Reggae

Large or Small

Collections in Ex Condition

**> Cash Paid <**

Please Call

07789 158485 or 01235 760383

**East Challow Village Hall**

*Available for Private Hire*

**Booking Secretary**

Denise Knight

**01235 769933**

**deniseknight15@gmail.com**



# Community Notice Board

Save the Date.....

## SUNDAY 4TH JUNE

### Village Community Celebration

Join our Community Cricket and Tug of War teams  
for a fun friendly amateur afternoon of Sport, Tombola,  
Lucky Dip, Side Stalls, Ice Creams, Fish & Chips etc.

**1.00 pm - 6.00 pm**

**Challow & Childrey Cricket Club**

~ FREE ENTRY ~

WE are A  
Community



WE are A  
Community



WE are A  
Community



## Festival of Flowers



**Thursday 4th May - Monday 8th May**

This years flower festival will be to celebrate the Coronation of  
King Charles III & Camilla Queen Consort

**Theme for the Festival is the "Crown Jewels"**

If you love flowers please get involved with making a floral  
arrangement or just bring some flowers along to help decorate the  
church on Wednesday 3rd May.

Everyone is welcome to take part in this village event

**~ For more details contact Liz: 01235 763966 ~**

## **PLEASE NOTE! ALL FUTURE NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS – PHOTO ID NOW NEEDED!**

Please remember that for any future elections, including the local elections in May, you will need photo ID to vote.

Accepted forms of photo ID will include, but are not limited to, passport, driving licence (including provisional license), disabled parking blue badge, certain concessionary travel cards and proof of age cards with a PASS mark.

Anyone who doesn't have accepted photo ID can apply on [www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate](http://www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate) now for a free voter ID document, known as a Voter Authority Certificate. For more information, visit the [www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voter-id](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/voter/voter-id) or call their helpline on 0800 328 0280.

## **Planning - national consultation**

The overall guidance on planning is provided by central government under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework--2>).

Local Plans (ours can be seen at: <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/planning-and-development/local-plan-and-planning-policies/local-plan-2031/>), are obliged to refer to the NPPF and work within this framework in setting out their own local vision for development. The NPPF is currently under consultation as a part of the Levelling up agenda and is looking to give local authorities more control over housing numbers and also to give local neighbourhood plans more influence. We shall see if this is the case. The East Challow neighbourhood plan is currently being looked at by the examiner and West Challow are looking to prepare a lighter-touch neighbourhood plan which is being piloted together with other villages as a result of a successful application by the Vale to the Dept of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. Please don't forget that the NPPF consultation is open for comment until March 2nd. The proposed changes to the document can be seen at [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1126647/NPPF\\_July\\_2021\\_-\\_showing\\_proposed\\_changes.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1126647/NPPF_July_2021_-_showing_proposed_changes.pdf). These are marked in a different colour in “track changes” mode to more easily visualise the changes proposed.

Anyone can respond. Please do so!

## **Planning generally**

I look at all planning applications that are submitted in our 7 villages and visit some of these which I think raise some difficulties. If you have any concerns either about your own application or one that affects you please do not be afraid to contact me to discuss. Contact details at the bottom of this report.

Conversion of unused agricultural building into dwellings was intended to attract local residents and which might reduce rural poverty. What does happen is that these are frequently converted into high quality, highly desirable residences which are beyond the reach of most local residents such as agricultural workers. It is a shame.

## **BOB ICP (Integrated Care Partnership) – The health service again!**

Local health services seem to be a perennial issue for us both as residents and local councillors. I am deputy chair of the HOSC, the county health scrutiny committee, and we are constantly perplexed by the constant reorganisation in the health service at county level. It all comes down to limited resources at the end of the day of course, but it does result in the system becoming strained and residents becoming more and more frustrated.

So, the reorganisation of community health at the county level, which, you may remember, arose out of this being done (poorly) in the OX12 postcode, has been overtaken by a new cross-county level of administration (ICS, The Integrated Care System) including Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and West Berks (BOB) which together with the local authorities forms the ICP (IC Partnership). It is designed to save money but administration costs p.a. must be in excess of £1 million! It remains to be seen how well this large structure will function. Finally, in addition to try to reduce the crisis in the ambulance service acute hospitals need to discharge more patients to care homes and community hospitals. Wantage Hospital used to have community beds!!

Well, we must hope that the teething problems are solved and we get a more effective service.

Together with Oxford Health, HOSC ran a workshop on some of the issues affecting primary care (mainly GPs). One of the good things that came out of it was a positive response to our request that the ICB (Integrated Care Board) appoints a member of staff specifically to oversee the use of CIL money from housing development to enable primary care infrastructure (GP practices) to be expanded accordingly and does lag behind houses going up. The ICB will soon be talking to district councils about this.

### **Farming – the CAP is no more**

I have spoken to a number of local farmers who are concerned about the uncertainty around implementation of the government's flagship Agri-Environmental Legislation, ELMS (the Environmental Land Management System - see [www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-land-management-schemes-overview](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-land-management-schemes-overview)) if you are interested. It also has teething problems with pilots being carried out for various parts of it. It is likely that the sustainable agriculture arm will be funded more substantially than biodiversity and landscape but it feeds into both of these. It has been suggested to me that it might not be fully "sorted" until 2025!

### **Speeding**

The county council is now working its way through our villages introducing 20 mph limits including ours. This will inevitably bring speeds down and reduce accidents of the unnecessary sort that we saw a couple of weeks ago at the bottom of Main Street in East Challow. Our 20mph limit may take up to 18 months to go through the bureaucratic process!! We should have the big flashy SIDs (Speed Indicator Devices in place well before then).

### **Heritage buildings**

I have mentioned before that we are trying to save The Mission for the village. It is important to preserve as many of our old buildings as possible. Not all of them are listed and some, two old barns (17-18<sup>th</sup> C) one of which is close to collapse as a result of neglect by the owner. It doesn't take much to maintain these splendid old buildings for the next generation!

### **Community bus service**

Community bus services through our villages were stopped several years ago as a result of shortage of funds and there have been a few attempts to restart these – unsuccessful so far. Wantage Town Council is now discussing the possibility of some sort of local service being set up with housing development money. I will be involved in the group to discuss this. I will shortly be sending out a questionnaire and would welcome its wider circulation through the villages.

### **East Challow Warm Space**

Our Warm Space at the Challows and Childrey Cricket Club is doing well with more than a dozen visitors weekly (every Friday 11-1). We will continue until the end of March and then if residents wish to continue, we will review the current arrangements and decide whether to keep it going in some form or not.

[Paul.Barrow@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:Paul.Barrow@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

<https://www.facebook.com/Cllr-Dr-Paul-Barrow-104943001583284>

## Church Website Provider has saved the UK Church £2.15million

Church Edit, part of the UK's leading Christian software company, celebrates a major milestone this year as it reaches 20 years since they started their church website builder.

The founder, Kyle Cottingham, was re-designing his local church's website back in 2002 and saw the importance that the internet would bring to the church and how churches were struggling to create their own websites. Whilst working in full time employment, Kyle spent many evenings and weekends developing Church Edit until the first site launched in 2003. Church Edit hasn't stopped growing since - from just one person at the start, there are now 13 in the team, supporting churches in running their websites across the UK.

Church Edit is also used by 24 of the Church of England Dioceses.

Church Edit has also recently launched an all new Design Builder, giving even greater control to churches to create an attractive, professional and responsive website for their church.

After analysis of historical websites prices, it has been calculated that Church Edit has saved the UK church £2.15million since its launch. Prices for Church Edit have always been around £175pa, including full and unlimited technical support.

More information on Church Edit can be found on their website [www.churchedit.co.uk](http://www.churchedit.co.uk).

Details on their sister product iKnow Church can be found on [www.iknowchurch.co.uk](http://www.iknowchurch.co.uk)

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



## March Hares

The frosty sunlight glistens  
From the ice upon the grass;  
But they who stop and listen  
Know winter, soon, will pass.

The icy grass is rustling!  
Beneath the frozen dew  
Someone is in there, bustling;  
We only wonder – who?

They burst into a clearing  
Dispelling winter cares!  
A sight to set us cheering!  
Two zany, mad, March hares!

They're chasing, leaping, bounding  
As round and round they race;  
Those winter blues confounding –  
Spring stares us in the face!

The cold and dark behind us  
We watch those leopards, mad;  
Their frolics just remind us –  
It's time now to be glad!

*By Nigel Beeton*

## Advertise in the Challow News



nigel.langford@me.com

## Wild Watch

Traditionally the 14th February is when the birds pair up for the season and begin to make a nesting site. I was very entertained the other day by a very determined wren who flew across to see what I was doing in his fruit cage and then flew forwards and back, stopping every few moments to perch on the bars of the cage puffing his chest out and grumbling at me. For the rest of the year they are so discreet and secretive, but not in February and March.

Last month my husband and I visited the hawk conservancy near Andover to see an aerial display of owls flying in the evening. It was a favourite place to visit each summer before we moved to Wantage, and I don't why it has taken us so long to return because it is only an hour's drive from here.

The Hawk Conservancy was voted the most family friendly location to visit some years ago, and I am very glad to say that their welcome was as warm as ever and they looked after us brilliantly.

30 years ago they ran a programme to introduce red kites to the south of England, and now look at the numbers!

Some of the donations given to them at the moment are being used to build and distribute barn owl boxes, because the barn owl is very dependent on humans for nesting sites, liking old barns especially, and these days there aren't as many derelict buildings about and so their numbers have been declining. The last time I saw a barn owl was when I was driving from Wantage to Lambourn last Autumn so we do have them in this area. If you are interested in birds and conservation work, the Hawk Conservancy is a really lovely place to visit and like many other places has struggled financially with a lack of visitors during the pandemic.

Please drop us a line to tell us what you are seeing in your gardens at this time of the year.

Juliet

[jgteare@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jgteare@yahoo.co.uk)



## **DOG FOULING - PLEASE CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOG**

Dog fouling is becoming a problem again throughout the Village. This is unpleasant for all and it spreads diseases which can cause illness and even blindness.

The person in charge of the dog which is fouling a footpath, highway, verge or other open space to which the public have access to, is responsible for cleaning it up.

**Thank you to everyone who puts their dog poo in bags.**

**Please put the bag in the bins provided.**



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

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## **Village Sports Facilities**

The Parish Council would like to encourage enthusiastic people to join them in forming a working group with a view to planning for the future and improving the facilities within the Village Sports and Recreation area.

**If you are interested in being involved with this please contact the Clerk (details below).**

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## ***Parish Council Meeting***

**Wednesday 8th March 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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