

# Challow News

May 2023



## East Challow **Festival of Flowers**

In celebration of the Coronation of

King Charles III and Queen Camilla

**Friday 5th May - Monday 8th May**

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*Informal open air Coronation Service on the Village Green at 3.00 pm*

**Sunday 7th May**

*Refreshments available in the church ~ 1.00 pm - 5.00 pm*

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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

(30 minute said service)

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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

# VICARS LETTER - PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

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Dear Friends

I am looking forward to celebrating the Coronation and, though I am still getting used to praying for our sovereign lord King Charles rather than our sovereign lady queen Elizabeth, I do sincerely pray that God will endue him with wisdom and that his role may be a uniting focus for our countries of England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. In these challenging times we do need to co-operate constructively together for everyone's good.

A crown is round to be able to be placed fittingly on the head, and not only does it symbolise leadership its circular base also illustrates unity.



The same weekend our parishes will be holding a Confirmation service led by Bishop Gavin Bishop of Dorchester, laying hands on the candidates' heads and praying that their faith may be made strong as they commit to following Jesus.

Looking back on a previous confirmation service I noticed that we sang the hymn ***Crown him with many crowns*** written originally by Matthew Bridges ( d 1851). That phrase indicates Jesus' claim to be King of all.

There are 70 references to a crown in the bible ( and over 2200 to king!) mainly pointing ultimately to Jesus Christ the King of kings but also encouraging Jesus followers that they will receive crowns which symbolise the positive qualities of joy, righteousness, glory and ( *as James 1 : 12 says* ) life.

God save the king!

John

## What is the purpose of an apple tree?

I was asked this question during a recent training day on leadership and I was encouraged to reflect on how the answer relates to the way we lead.

## What is the purpose of leadership?

The purpose of an apple tree, is to produce apples, right? That was my response. Relating this to leadership, the purpose of leading others is to produce results, make things happen and achieve goals.

I was told that the purpose of an apple tree is to produce more apple trees. Growing apples is part of this process but not the end-result. So with leadership. Getting things done is important. But so is growing and developing new leaders who can continue the work. The point of leadership is to grow more leaders.

With lots to do, it can be easy to focus on just getting things done. But this insight into the purpose of leadership has made me start to think about how I lead with others. Where are the opportunities for me to help others grow and develop in what they are doing? When am I learning from others, to grow my own skills and abilities? If the purpose of an apple tree is to pass on life, what are we passing on to others in our lives?

What ever we do, one way or another we all lead and influence other people in some way. Who do you spend time with, that you could pass on your skills, knowledge and experience too? In what ways could you invest in others, to help them grow and develop? How could you be like an apple tree?

God bless,

Alec

# St. Nicholas Church ~ Service Information

<b>May 7th</b>  Rev John Durant  Rev Alec Gill	<b>CORONATION SERVICE</b>  <b>3.00 PM</b>  ON THE VILLAGE GREEN
<b>May 14th</b>  Easter 6  <i>Rev John Durant</i>	<b>Acts 17: 22 - 31</b>  <b>1 Peter 3: 13 - 22</b>  <i>Gospel Reading ~ John 14: 15 - 21</i>
<b>May 21st</b>  Easter 7  <i>Rev Alec Gill</i>	<b>Acts 1: 6 - 14</b>  <b>1 Peter 4: 12 – 14 + 5: 6 - 11</b>  <i>Gospel Reading ~ John 17: 1 - 11</i>
<b>May 28th</b>  Pentecost  <i>Rev John Durant</i>	<b>Isaiah 50: 4 – 9a</b>  <b>Philippians 2: 5 - 11</b>  <i>Gospel Reading ~ Matthew 26: 14 - 27</i>

## St. Nicholas Church - Rotas

Week	Prayers	Sacristan	Sidesperson	Reader	Music	Flowers
1st	Philip	Phillip	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	Mandy
2nd Sunday	Jan & Hillary
3rd Sunday	Val & Barbera
4th Sunday	Linda & Janet
5th Sunday	Sue, Frances & Tricia

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

Churchyard Maintenance
<b>13th May - G. Parker</b>
<b>27th May - M. Culverwell</b>

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



## - NEWS FROM THE PEWS -

I hope you had a wonderful Easter. The Church looked really beautiful so thank you to every one who participated in making such lovely flower displays. The Easter Day service was well attended and we enjoyed coffee and cakes afterwards, there were also Easter eggs for the children. Thankfully we were blessed with lovely weather for much of the weekend.

As I mentioned last month, to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles and Queen Camilla on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May, at Saint Nicholas we are having a Flower Festival. For such a momentous historical occasion we would like to invite people to either help to decorate, or to donate flowers on the Thursday before. The Church will be open on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday so please call in to see the floral displays, we will be offering refreshments on the Sunday from 1.00 pm to 5.00 pm. I really hope you can join us over the weekend.

We did Queen Elizabeth proud on her Platinum Jubilee so I am sure we can do the same for King Charles and Queen Camilla. Please try to join us. We are also holding an informal Service on the Village Green on the Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> at 3.00 pm to mark the occasion, so it would be great if you could join us for that. We don't get a Coronation very often so I think we should make the most of it. I was four months old on the last one so I have no memory of that, but apparently the village was festooned with bunting when I was Christened as the decorations were still up for that Coronation.

I have loved seeing the magnolia tree on the green burst into flower, it really is magnificent, there are several magnolias in the village of different shades of pink and they are really wonderful. Blossoms don't last long but they do look fantastic. Spring flowers have been a bit late this year due to the weather, but it will all catch up I am sure. The hedgerows are becoming green again and the May blossom will soon be out, a sure sign that summer is on its way.

Ascension Day is on 18<sup>th</sup> May this is to commemorate Our Lord going up into Heaven, to join His Father God. This is forty days after the triumph of Easter. I remember as a child that on Ascension day morning, the pupils from Hanney school walked in a crocodile to St. James Church at West Hanney for a service. The stained-glass window above the altar epitomises the Ascension for me. At the centre is Christ in red surrounded by angels, and light radiating around Him. I always think of that window when I think of Ascension day. After the service we were allowed to go home and have the rest of the day off. My sister and I used to walk back home across my Grandad's fields picking whatever meadow flowers were in bloom at the time to give to Mum and Gran, I think cowslips were my favourite. If buttercups were in bloom, by the time we crossed the fields our white ankle socks would be covered in yellow pollen.

Don't forget the Village Community Celebration on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June please keep it in your diary.

*As usual please stay safe for yourself and others..... Liz*



# Challows Royal British Legion

## Opening Hours

Monday - Friday from 7.00 pm

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

**13th May - Miss Bridy & the 2 notes**

£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

### COUNTDOWN TO THE CORONATION

#### *Of His Majesty the King and Her Majesty the Queen*

On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May the Coronation will take place

It is based on a solemn religious ceremony which has remained largely unchanged for more than 1000 years. For the past 900 years, the ceremony has taken place at Westminster Abbey, and is conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

King Charles III will be crowned, and then in a similar, but simpler ceremony at the same service Queen Camilla will also be crowned.

**From 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> May Coronation Big Lunches** will be held up and down the UK, and also across the Commonwealth.

**On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May a Coronation Concert** will be held at Windsor Castle, with iconic locations across the UK lit up using projections, lasers, drone displays and illuminations.

**On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May** there is a special Bank Holiday, giving everyone the opportunity to join in with their communities and good causes through Big Help Out activities.

<https://thebighelpout.org.uk>

## **The Pothole Crisis**

If you drive, you already know this: the potholes are getting worse.

Some experts have warned that one in five of our roads will be undriveable in the next five years, unless we get to grips with the crisis.

In its recent annual survey on the state of the country's roads, the Asphalt Industry Alliance (AIA) has found that about 37,000 miles of road, or 18 per cent, are in very poor condition. Without intervention, these roads have less than five years of 'life' left in them.

But intervention costs billions of pounds. This latest 'Alarm' report estimates that now more than £14 billion is needed to fix all of England and Wales' potholes, and generally get the country's roads back up to standard.

Looking further ahead, the AIA predicts that while just over half of all local roads are in good structural condition, the remaining 100,000 miles of roads may need to be rebuilt in the next 15 years, unless adequate maintenance is speedily introduced.

It is not as if the government is ignoring the problem. Jeremy Hunt has provided an additional £200 million one-off payment to fix potholes on our roads. That is in addition to the Government's annual £500 million pothole fund. This means that in 2023/4, the Government is going to pour an eye-watering £700 million into holes in our roads.

Meanwhile, research by the RAC Foundation has found that one in 24 road bridges across the country are substandard, and therefore unable to carry heavy vehicles.

Steve Gooding, director of the RAC Foundation, said: "Whether it is potholes or bridges, there is only so long that councils can continue to patch things up before bigger cracks literally start to appear in the road network."

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## **Worshipping online looks set to carry on**

We still enjoy 'going to church' online. In fact, recent viewing figures for the CofE's national online services reveal that they continue to receive about 150,000 views a week. Overall, in 2022, they attracted more than eight million views.

It was in March this year that the C of E marked three years since the start of the online services, which were begun during the Covid lockdown. By the end of that first year, it was found that clips and content from the services across the country had been seen 40 million times on social-media channels.

The current figure of 150,000 a week is thought to be conservative. As a Church House spokesman in London said: "Our analysis in May 2022 showed that 20 per cent of viewers watched with at least one other person, so this would have meant at least another 30,000 views." The C of E online service on New Year's Day gained 800,000 views alone.

And weekly production of services continues. Services are broadcast on social-media channels every Sunday, via YouTube and Instagram. They cover all the C of E traditions, and include estates churches, military chaplaincies, rural parishes, multiple church benefices, big county town churches, and cathedrals.

As one vicar said, "Worship online has made such an enormous difference... now we live-stream absolutely everything, and I'm really passionate about that."

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## How an argument over TEA led to the founding of America

Some 250 years ago, on 10<sup>th</sup> May 1773, Britain passed the Tea Act, which favoured the British East India Company over the American colonies. This led to the Boston Tea Party in December, which escalated into the American Revolution and the establishment of the USA.

The idea of the Tea Act was to help the struggling British East India Company to dispose of its vast holdings of tea profitably in the American colonies, where much of the (inferior) tea came from Dutch sources and was smuggled in. But the colonists reacted strongly against the attempt to manipulate their tea-buying, and against British taxes generally, which they regarded as taxation without representation.

Later the same year this led to what has become known as the Boston Tea Party, where a large group of citizens, calling themselves the Sons of Liberty and dressed as Mohawk Indians, boarded the British tea ships and threw 92,000 pounds of tea into the harbour.

This was not a violent insurrection. No-one was injured, and it was reported that the Sons of Liberty swept the decks of the ships afterwards. But British politicians of all sides were appalled, not least because many of them had substantial holdings in the British East India Company.

Added to the ill-feeling resulting from the Boston Massacre in 1770, in which five people died after British troops had been taunted (the comparison with Ulster is obvious), this led in two short years to the American War of Independence, which changed everything.

## **Beware of your Dog's Tracker app**

A number of apps which offer to keep an eye on your pet are also recording the login details and locations of YOU.

Such is the finding of a recent study. It seems that many tech companies which offer smart collars, GPS trackers, and wearable cameras for pets, may also be creating cyber security risks for their owners.

A recent study at Newcastle University and Royal Holloway, University of London, evaluated 40 such apps. It discovered that a good number of them were recording the login details and location of the owners without encryption. In addition, all but four of the apps included some sort of tracking software, which was gathering information on the owner, without their consent.

As one doctoral student at Newcastle University's school of computing explained, "Pet tech brings with it new security, privacy and safety risks to the pet owners.

"We would urge anyone using these apps to take the time to ensure they are using a unique password, check the settings and ensure that they consider how much data they are sharing or willing to share."

## **Bob Dylan's *Blowin' in the Wind***

Sixty years ago, on 27<sup>th</sup> May 1963, the folk/blues album *The Freewheelin' Bob Dylan* was released. It included the hit song *Blowin' in the Wind* and marked the start of an amazing singing-songwriting career.

It was in fact Bob Dylan's second album, but the first to contain all his own songs. He came to prominence in the protest movement of the 60s, latching on to the prevailing atmosphere with a catalogue of songs that were not only perceptive but revealed an entirely different kind of talent, from the manner of his delivery to the poetic invention of his lyrics.

Dylan's birth name was Robert Allen Zimmerman, and he was born in Minnesota, descended from Jewish immigrants from the area of Ukraine and Lithuania. He started using guitar and harmonica in folk fashion, but he soon 'went electric', to the consternation of the purists but to the delight of everyone who enjoyed his originality, range and sense of humour.

His career stalled for a short while when he was involved in a motorcycle accident in the mid-60s, but he came back strongly and unexpectedly with the wonderful country-tinged album, *John Wesley Harding*. In the late 1970s he became a Christian and issued several overtly Christian albums, starting with *Slow Train Coming*, but he eventually reverted to a more open style, though he never renounced his faith: it seems evident in his recordings up to the present day.

Although now in his 80s, he has never stopped performing or writing, usually to the highest standards. His more recent albums, such as *Time out of Mind* and *Rough and Rowdy Ways* (his 39<sup>th</sup> studio album, issued in 2020), show just as much invention and creativity as ever.

**All entries for the JUNE issue of the Challow News**

Must be submitted by

**> > 15th May 2023 < <**

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



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

# 200 Club

## Monthly Draw

Is open for everyone to join

You dont have to be regular church goer to  
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> > Numbers are £2 each < <

**Monthly prizes are**

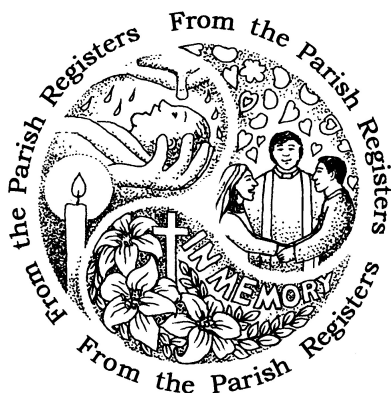
**£50 ~ £20 ~ £10**

[ £100 additional prize in December ]

Contact Tricia Shand

01235 764222

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



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

## The Coronation of King Charles III

On 6<sup>th</sup> May His Majesty King Charles III will be crowned alongside Queen Camilla, in Westminster Abbey. How can we pray for him, as he approaches this important event? Paul says: *'I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.'* (1 Timothy 2:1,2).

**For God's presence** - to guide every aspect of King Charles' life as he prepares for his Coronation and future roles. At his Accession, he was proclaimed Defender of the Faith, the Supreme Governor of the Church of England. Charles has talked about *'the Sovereign's particular relationship and responsibility towards the Church of England - the Church in which my own faith is so deeply rooted.'*

**For God's wisdom** - as he provides leadership that will honour God and promote the wellbeing of our society. King Solomon prayed for wisdom for himself: *'So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong.'* (1 Kings 3:9).

**For God's love** - to strengthen all relationships within the Royal Family; for reconciliation, understanding, forgiveness and good communication.

**For God's purpose** - to be fulfilled through the work of the King and Queen and their family in the years to come. He has said: *'and whatever may be your background or beliefs, I shall endeavour to serve you with loyalty, respect and love, as I have throughout my life.'*

### A Prayer for the new King:

*Everlasting God, we pray for our new King. Bless his reign and the life of our nation. Help us to work together so that truth and justice, harmony and fairness flourish among us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## One in five people find common noises "intolerable"

Do some common noises really bother you? If you hate everyday sounds like chewing, sniffing and even moderate breathing, then you may be among the one in every five people in Britain who suffer from misophonia.

In the first study of its kind, researchers from King's College London and University of Oxford have discovered that 18.4 per cent of the general UK population say certain noises can leave them feeling 'trapped' and 'upset'.

Misophonia is a psychological condition in which common sounds made in normal life trigger more than the occasional irritation. Instead, they can trigger a fight or flight response, sparking real anger and even panic.

Clinical psychologists say that while most people dislike the sound of loud chewing, slurping, snoring and loud breathing, people with misophonia frequently react badly to even normal breathing, footsteps and swallowing.

## A new vision for Together Magazine

*Together* is the UK trade magazine for Christian resources, distributed to almost every UK Christian publisher and retailer, as well as hundreds of churches and over 500 Christian authors.

Published by Cedar Tree until the end of 2022, the magazine is relaunched this month (May) by Onwards and Upwards Publishers, a member of the Evangelical Alliance.

*Together* has promoted collaboration, unity and fellowship across the Christian resources industry. Now it is extending the vision, to support church leaders and their staff with an even wider variety of helpful feature articles and resource recommendations.

To subscribe to the magazine, visit: [togethermagazine.org/subscribe.htm](https://togethermagazine.org/subscribe.htm)



## THE 2023 CRICKET SEASON IS HERE !!!!!

With the Cricket square and outfield looking fantastic, we are now looking forward to another busy summer season

The senior sides have already kicked off their campaign with friendly matches and games in the Cherwell League start on 6<sup>th</sup> May, and the Youth training starts on Friday 28th April – see our website [www.challowcricket.co.uk](http://www.challowcricket.co.uk) for all of our match details

As the club gets busier with a match or training taking place pretty much everyday, the bar will be open when there's something on (again check our website for further info)

We always welcome new friends to the club, whether you want to play a game, grab a pint, or sit and relax with the stunning backdrop of the Downs

If you would like to join the club as a member, you can do so via our website, and 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



# GroW

**GroW are planning to restart a Toddler Group in East Challow Village Hall on Tuesday mornings from 10.00 - 11.30 am after Easter**

**GroW provides activities to support families with children under 5, and operates under the umbrella of Grove Parish Church.**

**They would like some help in preparing and serving drinks.**

**Some members of the congregation helped when it was previously operating in East Challow before COVID.**

**If you are willing to help and join a rota please contact**

**Jenny Penfold - 01235 763173**

*Editor: David Pickup, a solicitor, considers the after-effects of theft*

## **Falling among thieves**

*And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves... Luke 10:30*

Some of the saddest victims of crime include cases where people have been betrayed or taken advantage of by one of their own family members.

One victim lost thousands of pounds to someone with whom they shared a home. They had given their partner access to their bank and credit cards because they trusted them implicitly. Sadly, that person then accessed their accounts, spent the money, and even ran up thousands of pounds of debt. In the end, the police stepped in, and it became a criminal court case.

Is it worse being robbed by a stranger, or by someone whom you have loved? If robbed by someone you loved and trusted, it would be difficult to trust anyone ever again. And the sad reality is that your former 'friend' will probably have already spent all the money, and so there is little point trying to claim it back through the civil courts.

In cases where such betrayal ends up as a criminal court case, the police can put a victim in touch with victim support services, who will explain the court procedure to them (who is who, where to sit and what to call the judge or magistrate). If you win your case, the court can order a convicted criminal to pay compensation to the victim, and sometimes even make restraining orders.

Who can you trust? Inviting a new partner into your home and life is a big step, especially if you already share your home with others. Proverbs encourages us to take care in our relationships, especially whenever money is involved. If your partner or family member wants access to your finances, perhaps you don't need to agree right away.

Instead, take time to consider: why do they need such access? Money is power, and power is control. Why should they exercise this control over your resources? Why not tell them that you will go into your own account, and share with them any money that you have both already agreed upon?

The 'certain man' Jesus was talking about fell among thieves, but then the Samaritan cared for him. Sometimes we need to be good Samaritans to those in trouble.

## Wild Watch

The 1st May was once celebrated as a fire festival by the ancient celts known as Beltane. Today we still enjoy maypole dancing in certain places in the country and enjoy the anticipation of the arrival of summer soon to be with the May bank holiday.

The other day a man called to ask us if we would like the moss taken off our roof?

He could poison it for £800 and clean out the gutters for another £400 and the moss would take a long time to return.

What is wrong with moss I asked ? It stores carbon, it insulates the roof, it looks lovely? ' Well it blocks the gutters 'he replied.

If humans want the planet to survive it strikes me we need to learn to put up with some of natures minor inconveniences, and stop pouring poisons on them as a first resort.

I don't like rats much, but I have to admit the best compost I have ever made was when rats got into the bin and turned and aerated it.

I don't like my neighbours cats coming into our garden either because they use our bark chip paths as a loo, but on the other hand cats mean less rats which means I can continue to feed the birds.

I don't think we should pick and choose what nature we save and what we destroy, as there are still so many things about the delicate balance of it that we don't fully understand.

I hope you are enjoying David Attenborough's wild Isles series, the photography is exceptional and the life cycle of some of our wild life is just extraordinary.

Who knew that large blue butterflies are dependent on ants for their development and help to control their numbers.

It just seems ironic that the government is planning to scrap many of the EU laws that protected our wild areas just at a time when we are realising how much we need clean air, clean water and greenery to survive as a species and just how interdependent every living thing is. Friends of the earth are asking people to sign a petition to try to give our wild areas more protection. They say that the new bill which the government is trying to rush through parliament this summer ' doesn't offer any safety net and there is no requirement to maintain existing levels of environmental protection. '

I think this is very worrying - if you are able to support this petition, please do.

**Juliet**

**Please share your Wild Watch sightings  
or observations with me: Juliet Teare  
jgteare@yahoo.co.uk**



Christianity reached the west side of the British Isles through missionaries who had come first from Egypt then along the northern coast of Africa and finally up through the Gaelic speaking lands of the West, Cornwall, Wales, the Isle of Man, Ireland and the Scottish Isles. It ended when the Vikings took Christianity on to Scandinavia.

The Christian missionaries would have told stories when the day's work was done. And there seem to have been hundreds if not thousands of Celtic saints but there were comparatively few different stories. It feels as though a story would be told and at the end of the telling there was a time for questions, and some bright spark would ask what was the name of the saint. And the poor narrator who was having a senior moment and although the name was on the tip of his tongue, neither he nor the rest of the group could remember it. And so they gave another name, which would explain why there are more saints than stories.

We used to go to St Maughold's church. And his story was that he came to Christ because of the preaching of St Patrick himself. He made all the right noises but Patrick did not believe him and gave him a test. He handcuffed him, threw the keys into the sea and then put him into a fishing Coracle which was then set adrift in the sea at Dun Laogherie, which is just south of Dublin and used to be the port of Dublin. The coracle floated away, for there was no oar, north and round the Isle of Man, where it beached on what is now called Maughold Head. And there waiting were three men, they had a fish that had just been caught and there inside it was the key for Maughold's handcuffs.

It seems a totally unbelievable story, although the same sort of story was told of other Celtic saints. And then at the end of the war, a German bomber, after a bombing raid on Liverpool, had a bomb stuck in his plane, he knew he could not get back to Germany so headed to Ireland, which was neutral. Just off Dun Laogherie he had to parachute from his plane. This was observed from the shore and rescue boats were launched. But nothing was found. Since he had had a little emergency boat with him and those on the shore had thought that they had seen him getting into it, a humanitarian warning was sent out to all shipping in the Irish Sea.

The Manx did not launch any lifeboats but five days later there was a little welcoming party on Maughold beach when the pilot arrived.

**Robert**

## Challow News

We would like to thank

### **Tony & Jenny Evans**

who after many years of delivering the Challow News in Canal Way and also in The Orchard, have now decided to retire.

## **THANK YOU**

### **Tony & Jenny**

We are very grateful to you both

## St. Nicholas Church

200 Club - Monthly Draw

### **March Results**

£50 - N° 145 - Mrs R. Pepler

£20 - N° 32 - Mr G. Shand

£10 - N° 153 - Herbie Swift

~

### **April Results**

£50 - N° 66 - Mrs E. Belcher

£20 - N° 54 - Mrs L. Rowe

£10 - N° 75 - Mrs N. Grover

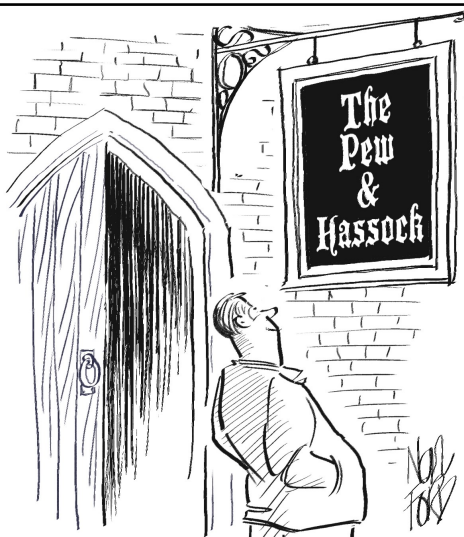
~

**Would you like to join?**

For further information please contact

**Tricia Shand - 01235 764222**

**email - the.shandies@btinternet.com**



Changing the name from 'St Mark's Parish Church', resulted in a big increase in the number of men attending services

## **Can You Help?**

Do you have an hour to spend  
10 times a year

that's just once a month except  
August & December

If so, perhaps you would  
consider taking over the  
delivery of the Challow News in

**Canal Way and The Orchard**

If you can help, please contact  
Tricia Shand

**01235 764222**

**theshandies@btinternet.com**

We would love to hear from you

# Community Notice Board

## FORCED ENTRY

### **St. Nicholas Church was Burgled on Good Friday**

After our Good Friday Service a person or persons entered our Village Church and made a forced entry into the Vestry and the Kitchen area.

There was some damage done, and our vacuum cleaner and extension lead, and some other items were taken.

It is not only expensive to replace these things but it is also quite upsetting to think that not even the sanctity of our Village Church is safe from being targeted by thieves.

If anyone remembers seeing anything out of the ordinary happening on that day or has any information regarding the break in, could you please report it to the authorities.

## **Coffee Mornings at St. Nicholas Church**

From Thursday 4th May the church will be open and serving Tea, Coffee and Biscuits, on the 1st Thursday of each month, between 10.30 and midday

If you would like some refreshments or would just like a sit down and a chat with friends you are most welcome

## **Can you help?**

I am looking for some suitable material to make a super frontal to go with the maroon red frontal we use for Holy Week and Pentecost.

(A super frontal is the strip of material that is hung at the top of the altar over the frontal to hide how it is fixed.)

If there is sufficient material I would also like to make a lectern fall.

**Mary Mann 01235 762408**

## It's getting harder to see your GP

When did you last see your GP, and for how long did that appointment last?

According to a recent international study of 10 high-income countries, British patients are given the shortest GP appointments and are also the least likely to see a doctor in person.

The Health Foundation found that Britain has the shortest appointment times, at ten minutes, along with Germany. Most countries average 15 minutes per patient, with 20 minutes in Switzerland and the USA, and 25 minutes in Sweden.

The British GPs also reported far more use of remote appointments than any of the other countries in the study. Just four in 10 took place in person between February and September 2022.

British GPs were also found to have the highest stress levels and lowest job satisfaction of all the GPs in the study. Professor Kamila Hawthorne, chairman of the Royal College of GPs, said the findings were “alarming, but not at all surprising”.

She said: “College research has shown that two-thirds of GPs feel so over-stretched that they cannot guarantee safe patient care, and many cite workload and burn out as a reason they are considering leaving the profession.

“GPs and our teams want to deliver safe, appropriate and timely care for our patients, but with the intense workload and workforce pressures we are working under, this is becoming ever more difficult.”



**J J Woodage**

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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 ~**



### TOMBOLA DONATIONS

1<sup>st</sup> Challow Beavers and Cubs will be  
running the Tombola stand at this years  
Village Celebrations on Sunday 4th June at  
the Cricket Club, to raise money for the  
village group!

We are looking for Tombola prizes, so if you have any unwanted gifts lying  
around or would like to make a donation towards this years Tombola  
please message Emma on

**07855 764584**

### Thank you

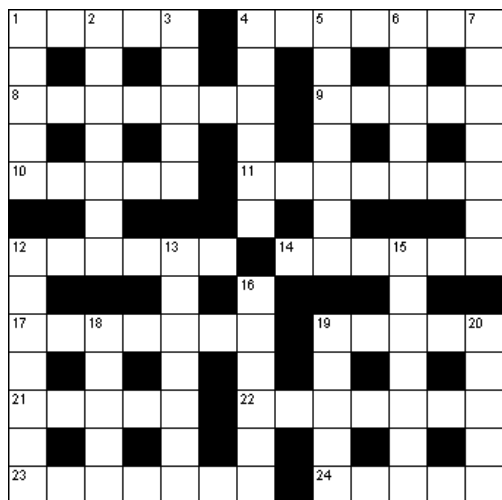
Thank you to all those who have been  
contributing used pill foils. We have  
had a good response, please carry  
on . There is now a box on the side by  
the organ instead of a bag on the  
notice board.

Mary Mann

### Advertise in the Challow News



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



**Solutions on Page 22**

### Across

1. Tempest (5)
4. Perplexes (7)
8. Fall back (7)
9. Portion (5)
10. Boasts (5)
11. Compared (7)
12. Pact (6)
14. Pique (6)
17. Certify (7)
19. Meeting place (5)
21. Mountain range (5)
22. Flair (7)
23. Passed by (7)
24. Begin (5)

### Down

1. Bush (5)
2. Indignation (7)
3. Encounters (5)
4. Improved (6)
5. Crevice (7)
6. Jumped (5)
7. Thin (7)
12. Kind of syrup (7)
13. Despots (7)
15. Cure-all (7)
16. Assisted (6)
18. Play (5)
19. Planet (5)
20. Happening (5)



### 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**



# Social - Rewarding - Active - Healthy

## Wantage Bowling Club

PLAY LAWN  
BOWLS!

Fancy trying something new?

### Taster Sessions and Open Day

**11th, 18th, 25th May 2023**

**18.00 to 20.00**

**27th May 2023**

**11.00 to 15.00**

**ALL EQUIPMENT  
PROVIDED!**

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FOR NEW MEMBERS!**

@ [info@wantagebowlingclub.co.uk](mailto:info@wantagebowlingclub.co.uk)

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

Wantage Bowling Club  
Memorial Park  
Manor Road  
Wantage

### Get in touch today!

Visit our green or make contact via:



Facebook



Web



Email



### Where has All the Money Gone?

You may be wondering, where all the promised schools, roads, hospitals, leisure facilities etc, collectively referred to by the snappy title of "infrastructure" are?

Before any bricks are laid, local planning authorities and developers agree to millions of pounds worth of infrastructure, needed to serve the growing population, but that seems to be the point at which things get tricky...

You may be curious, or furious, or possibly both – if you would like to find out more, and maybe contribute to the debate, you will be welcome to come along to our meeting. We'd love to see you there.

What are developer contributions and how are they spent?

**Wantage and Grove Campaign Group meeting**

**Wantage Methodist Church,**

**1st June 2023 at 7.30pm.**

### WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!

1<sup>st</sup> Challow Cub pack is looking for a new Cub leader to help us grow our Cub pack in East Challow. We have a growing waiting list of young people wishing to join, but without a leader we can't grow!

We need someone who can commit each week to helping run and plan activities for our Cubs! We have a great leader team in place at Beavers, but we need someone committed to being with us each week and taking on the role of Cub leader.

We meet on a Tuesday evening at the Village Hall from 5.30 to 6.45 pm

**If you feel you are able to help please get in touch with Emma**

**(1<sup>st</sup> Challow Beavers)**

**07855 764584 to discuss.**

## **EV Car Club run by County Council**

An Oxfordshire wide car sharing pilot scheme has started in April for 12 months making electric vehicles (EVs) available for people to hire on an hourly or daily basis.

Oxfordshire CC, and all the Vale have partnered with car club providers (Co-Wheels, co-wheels.org.uk, in this area, to offer pay-per-use EVs on a 12 month trial basis. The scheme ([www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/road-and-transport/electric-vehicle-pilot/](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/road-and-transport/electric-vehicle-pilot/)) gives people the chance to access an EV, without owning or leasing one outright. It could be more affordable for people who don't drive every day and provide some real experience of an EV.

The local EV car club vehicles are based in these locations: (i) Portway car park, Wantage, (ii) West St Helens car park and Cattle Market car park both in Abingdon, and (iii) Energy Superhub, Redbridge Park and Ride, Oxford.

Car club membership is required in order to use new vehicles, and residents living near the new EV car club locations should look out for promotional codes giving them free or discounted membership as an incentive to try the scheme for themselves. Members can then hire car club vehicles in the scheme from £5.95 per hour, including insurance, plus 12p per mile.

For more information about this scheme contact Oxfordshire County Council's communications team on 01865 323870 or email [press.office@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:press.office@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## **Dropped kerb at the Goodlake**

Many will have seen that the dropped kerbs at the bottom of Letcombe Hill are now complete making road crossing at that point safer. We have had a problem with cars parked illegally on that stretch of footpath as it is an offence to park a vehicle in either a dangerous position or in such a manner as to cause an obstruction of the public highway, including a footway (Section 22 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 for reference!).

We also still have a problem speeding on Letcombe Hill which is particularly bad at that pinch point and a speed bump and speed sign (the latter as we have outside the Old School House) would be useful and these measures are now being discussed with County Council Highways.

## **New drainage**

We have recently had a site visit from the Vale Drainage Team to discuss improvements to the drainage at the bottom of the village green where we have had extensive and frequent flooding affecting local residents and business at Cannings. This is long overdue and is projected to involve laying a new drainage pipe and trench under the green which should take away the surface water and sludge that collect there, together with a rain garden (drainage sump area but grassed over as it is now) in front of Longs Cottages. We don't have a date for the work yet but the parish council is seeking assurance from the Vale that this will be done with no disruption to business at Cannings and minimal interference with residents' activities.

## **Drains**

The road drains in the village are again blocked in many places and I will be chasing the County Council to have them flushed out. This is a problem in many villages and arise from too infrequent clearing.

## **The Mission**

A small group of residents are getting together as a charity to try and save The Old Mission building for the village community to avoid it being developed for housing or demolished as an entrance for an even bigger housing development. We envisage it being used for a variety of activities, such as clubs and local interest groups and also including non-denominational religious services as before. We will be applying to the Vale to have it registered as an “Asset of Community Value” (see <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/community-support/assets-of-community-value/>) as it is already listed as a non-designated heritage asset in our Neighbourhood Plan. We will be contacting residents soon with a flier asking for any information on known activities at The Mission in the last 10-15 years but if you already have any thoughts on how it might be used please let us know, either via my email address (below) or Bryan Miller (bjmiller663@gmail.com).

## **East Challow Warm Space.**

Spring has arrived and there is now less need for a community warm space. However, its success with residents has meant that we will continue on alternate Fridays 11-1 as before as a community venue for coffee, chat and biscuits as before.

We really want to thank the Challows and Childrey Cricket Club and its manager Stefan Pilcher for their support for this venture and to the Quilters group for allowing us to share their space. It is much appreciated by the villagers.

## **Childrey Way**

We are expecting an outcome/decision on the free school transport for the Childrey school children so that they do not have to walk from Childrey to King Alfred’s along Childrey Way. This was brought to County Council cabinet at the end of April and by the time you read this a decision may hopefully have been made. Let’s hope it is the right one!

## **Blowing Stone**

The fight by residents and councillors continues to save one of our local country pubs, The Blowing Stone at Kingston Lisle, from being converted to a residential dwelling. I have called the planning application (P23/V0480/FUL) in for review by the full planning committee so that all sides can have their say. We need to save our village pubs – we lost our two and enough is enough!

## **News from other villages**

We have a great deal going in in our villages!

Other sources of local information concerning our villages and activities, which may be of interest to East Challow residents, include [www.sparsholtandwestcot.org](http://www.sparsholtandwestcot.org), [www.childrey.org.uk/newsletter](http://www.childrey.org.uk/newsletter), [www.letcomberegispc.org/newsletter](http://www.letcomberegispc.org/newsletter), [www.facebook.com/groups/letcombe/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/letcombe/), [www.westchallow.org](http://www.westchallow.org), [www.kingstonlisle.net](http://www.kingstonlisle.net).

## ***Cllr Dr. Paul Barrow***

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

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

*District Councillor for Ridgeway Ward*

## If a vicar asks you for money...

If you are contacted by a clergyman asking you for money, beware! It is a scammer.

Scammers have been impersonating various clergy, including even the Archbishop of York, to ask priests and other church people to buy them Amazon vouchers and online gift cards.

**The scammers use either emails or texts, and their message is along the lines: "I have a request I need you to handle discreetly." They then say: "I am currently busy in a prayer meeting, so no calls – just reply to my email." Then the message asks the intended victim to send them financial help, usually in the form of vouchers or gift cards.**

The police reckon that the scammers have trawled church websites for the contact details of clergy and parish officials. At least one person is believed to have been fooled – and lost £1000 in a scam.

As diocesan spokesman said: "It seems this is a national trend." The police are looking into it, and meanwhile, advising people that: **"Clergy will never ask you to give them money, vouchers, or personal banking details directly, even to help someone in need.... it is a scam."**

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---

## Candles in Church

I have a love hate relationship with candles in church. I love the warm glow they give, their light reflecting on the copper candlesticks on the altar. I can understand why people light them to commemorate loved ones.



As they burn they are a prayer to God for that person.

The problem arises when lighted candles are moved as when servers carry them to accompany the priest or they are lit and put into the votive candle stand. *But oh dear*, has anyone thought about how hard it is to clean up spilt wax from very old broken surfaced tiles or from fabric and carpet. Wax does get spilt, it is inevitable. I wonder if using tea lights would solve the problem under the votive candle

stand. I had suggested this a few years ago, it was not followed up as no stand was found. Perhaps protectors could be found for the servers candles.

Please let us know your thoughts on this subject.

Mary



## Christian Aid Week: 14th - 20th May

To mark and support Christian Aid Week the collection in church on Sunday 14th May will be donated to Christian Aid.

Christian Aid is a global movement committed to the eradication of poverty worldwide. For 75 years it has been guided by the Christian principle that "Everyone is equal in the sight of God"

The continuing global conflicts, the recent earthquakes in Turkey & Syria, the East African hunger crisis, the impact of cyclone Freddy on Malawi & Mozambique, and the continuing impact of the floods in Pakistan make their work increasingly relevant and important.

### ~ Social Netball Returns ~

Sunday 7th May at 6.00 pm

East Challow – Recreation Ground

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

**07780 837993**

### How your friends may be keeping you alive

Take care of your friendships, and they will take care of you.

A recent study has found that if, in later life, you enjoy your friends on a regular and frequent basis, then the joy that they bring you may even halve your risk of death within five years.

The book of Proverbs (27:9) compares the balm of ointments and perfumes to the soothing effect of a good friend, and an analysis of the research would seem to confirm this. People in their later years who socialised every day were healthier than those who didn't. Even those who saw their friends only once a week were healthier than those who saw no friends on a regular basis.

In fact, the team reported having found a 'dose response', with the greater the frequency of socialising, the greater the likelihood of living longer. As one doctor put it: "The more frequent the social activity, the more prolonged the survival time."

It is thought that having regular contact with friends encourages healthier thinking, better personal habits, increased physical activity, and reduces stress.

Yet according to Age UK, more than two million older people in England live alone, and more than a million older people can go for a month without speaking to anyone.

The study was published in the *Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health*.

# EAST CHALLOW ~ PARISH COUNCIL

www.eastchallowpc.co.uk

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## Bank Holiday ~ Waste Collection Changes

Normal Collection Day	Revised Collection Day	Which Bin
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Black + Food
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> May	Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> May	Green + Food + Brown
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> May	Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> May	Black + Food

*Please ensure your Waste & Recycling Bins are placed on the kerbside before **06.00 am** to ensure your bins are emptied*

Please return your bins to your property ASAP after collection to ensure they are not blown onto the road causing an obstruction or damage to other vehicles

---

## ***New Dropped Kerb***

A new dropped crossing has recently been installed at the junction of Vicarage Hill and Hedge Hill Road.

This work was carried out by Oxfordshire County Council following submissions made by East Challow Parish Council.

Villagers had requested this improvement to improve safety for wheelchair and pram users.

**Vehicle users are reminded that vehicles, in accordance with the Highway Code, must not be parked in this area.**

---

## ***Allotments***

Please respect the allotment gardens and do not let your dog(s) roam onto the plots.

**Dogs are not permitted in this area.**

Please refrain from walking onto the allotments unless you are an allotment holder.

Please do not remove any produce which does not belong to you.

---

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# VACANCY

## Parish Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer

East Challow Parish Council is looking to appoint a Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer to undertake the administration and financial management of the Council.

The Council is seeking a candidate with good organisational, secretarial and administrative skills. The job involves working from home for which an allowance is paid. Hours - 35 per. month, pay according to NALC pay scales and according to experience.

For more information please call

**07976 546826**

---

## ***Parish Council Meeting***

**Wednesday 17th May 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, Sue Terry

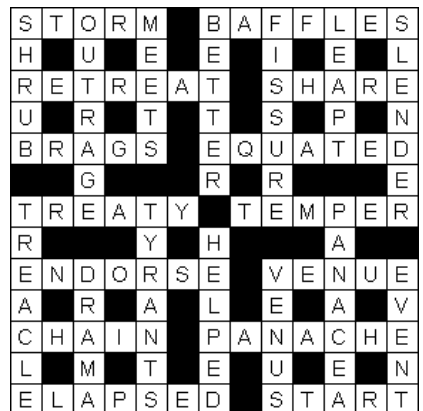
**eastchallowclerk@gmail.com**

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## ***Annual Parish Meeting***

**Wednesday May  
24th at 8.00 pm**

East Challow Village Hall





LJ & CA  
**Cannings**

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