

Challow News



AUTUMN

Harvest Festival

24th September - 11.00 am



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

St. Nicholas Church

East Challow. OX12 9SH

Parish Eucharist

Sundays - 11.00 am

Weekday Eucharist

Thursdays - 10.00 am

(30 minute said service)

Vicar: Rev John Durant

01235 766484

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

Email: vicar@valebenefice.org.uk

Associate Vicar: Rev Alec Gill

07739 563894

Email: vicaralec@valebenefice.org.uk

Licensed Lay Minister: Sue Powditch

Email: llm@valebenefice.org.uk

Benefice Office: Grove Parish Church,

Main Street, Grove. OX12 7LQ

Open: Mon - Fri 10.00 - 12.00

Tel: 01235 771479

Email: office@valebenefice.org.uk

Churchwarden

Mrs Liz Belcher: 01235 763966

Pastoral Support

To help our Vicars Rev John Durant and Rev 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

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

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

Coffee	
1st Sunday	Mandy
2nd Sunday	Jan & Hillary
3rd Sunday	Val & Barbera
4th Sunday	Linda & Janet
5th Sunday	Sue, Frances & Tricia



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



Blessing & Thanksgiving

Sunday Brooke Tokelove

Internment of Ashes

Rosemary Marina Clark

Holy Matrimony

Emma Jane Day

Sebastian Jack David Kirby

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

Churchyard Maintenance

2nd September - D. Perkins

16th September - G. Parker

20th September - M. Culverwell

14th October - J. Penfold

St. Nicholas Church

Coffee Morning



10.30 - Middy

~ on the 1st Thursday of the month ~

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

St. Nicholas Church

11.00 am Sunday Services' Information

September 3 rd	Trinity 13 Green	Rev Alec Gill	Exodus 3: 1 - 15 Romans 12: 9 - 21 <i>Gospel Reading ~ Matthew 16: 21 - 28</i>
September 10 th	Trinity 14 Green	Rev John Durant	Exodus: 12: 1 - 14 Romans 13: 8 - 14 <i>Gospel Reading ~ Matthew 18: 15 - 20</i>
September 17 th	Trinity 15 Green	T B A	Exodus 14: 19 - 31 Romans 14: 1 - 12 <i>Gospel Reading ~ Matthew 18: 21 - 35</i>
September 24 th Harvest Festival	Trinity 16 Green	Rev John Durant	Exodus 16: 2 - 15 Philippians 1: 21 - 30 <i>Gospel Reading ~ Matthew 20: 1 - 16</i>

Harvest Collection at St. Nicholas Church on Sunday 24th September 2023

At our Harvest celebration we give thanks for all we have received to sustain life and for all those who have made this possible.

Often our harvest charity supports food aid, in this country e.g food banks or in parts of the world where food is more scarce. e.g Mary's Meals, feeding children in poorer countries.

This year, with our cash donations, we are hoping to improve the life for those suffering because of war or natural disasters and, with this in mind, the PCC decided to support **'The David Nott Foundation.'**

There is unfortunate certainty in the enduring occurrence of conflict and natural disaster. Environmental catastrophe and civil unrest are a part of our global landscape. At the frontlines of these crises are the doctors and medical professionals who work to help victims and preserve life.

The David Nott Foundation was established with a simple mission: to provide the surgeons and medical professionals working in the most hostile environments with the skills and the confidence to save more lives. The knowledge and techniques are shared enabling the lives of communities to improve for years to come.

Gift Aid forms will be available at the back of the church for all tax payers who wish to use one.

Any donations of non-perishable food will be donated to the Wantage food bank and all perishable food donations will be available for sale after our morning service.

Thank you.

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

Dear Friends

I am interested in strength of character; so I look forward to the Rugby World Cup which begins this month. I would like England to win but am more confident there will be some really entertaining games rather than England will be successful.

You may of course not want to continue reading after those 2 sentences; but one of the reasons I enjoy rugby is that it is a game for people with different skills and physiques and it helps build character.

England Rugby have 5 core values: Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline and Sportsmanship whereas the Welsh Rugby Union have 6: Courage, Honour, Integrity, Excellence, Family and Success. It is also back to school this month and our church school at St Nicholas have 3 core values: they are Belonging, Compassion and Resilience.

What we value in life impacts on our character and that in turn affects how we relate and what sort of community we shape. A satisfying life and a peaceful environment are important to our wellbeing but even more so is our ability to respond well to all the challenges we face.

As a Christian minister who likes sport I have to remind myself that there is no mention of sport in the Old Testament and in the ancient world of the Israelites their physical activities were work, dancing and fighting. Competitive sport only begins to be referred to when the Jewish culture mixes with the Greeks and the Romans. However the bible has a lot to say about God helping us develop strength of character.

The list of important values in the bible is rather long but Jesus does say we should seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness and St Paul charges Timothy to pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. *1 Tim 6 : 11.*

I wonder what values you would want to embody and what characteristics you would want your family to display. As a new school year begins with all the changes and challenges that brings what qualities of character would you and your family hope to develop?

May the love and strength of Jesus be your support in all your work and leisure.

God bless

John



September 24th - 11.00 am



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
9th September - Music Box
£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

Ways of keeping your home smelling fresh

Diffusing essential oils into our homes is nothing new – the ancient Greeks used reeds dipped in essential oils in both their homes and temples. And diffusing essential oils like lavender, eucalyptus or rose is still popular today, helping us to relax and feel tranquil.

If you would like to 'have a go', there are three basic types of diffusers to choose from.

Reed diffusers, often rattan or bamboo, sit in a small well of fragrance, which works its way up and evaporates at the top, dispersing fragrance into the air.

Electric diffusers heat a blend of the oil and water, which then evaporates into the room.

Nebulising diffusers, which use high pressure to force a stream of air through the essential oil, in order to create a mist.

Whichever you choose, be very careful if you have pets in your house. Many essential oils are highly toxic for them. You might wish to 'google' whatever scent you have in mind, to make sure that it won't badly affect your dog or cat.

NHS

Shingles Vaccine
will be offered to almost one
million more people

Almost a million more people (900,000) will become eligible for a shingles vaccination from September, the NHS has announced.

From 1 September 2023, those turning 65 and 70 will also be able to get the vaccine after their birthday, in addition to those already aged 70-80.

Patients will be contacted by their GP practice when they become eligible.

The change comes on the back of the Joint Committee of Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) recommending that the Shingrix vaccine should be extended to a wider cohort of people, after trials showed the vaccine was highly effective and safe for these groups.

Vicars Ramblings

We can all get stuck in a rut.

Frustrated that we keep repeating the same errors.

Saint Paul's words can chime with all of us; "I do not understand what I do; for I don't do what I would like to do, but instead I do what I hate." Romans 7:15-25

How do we go about making changes in our life?

In a podcast interview the author James Clear advises that the place to start, like Saint Paul, is with self-awareness. We need to be aware of what our struggles are and what we want to achieve. Having goals in life help us to shape what we want to achieve and what sort of person we want to be. For James Clear we can best achieve these by focusing on our daily habits and our everyday choices. What are the habits that we want to keep up? Which habits do we want to do less and which do we want to increase? Whether that's buying different things to eat, putting a book by our bedside, creating a reminder to call a loved one, scheduling in regular exercise or putting a little bit away every month. Whatever we want to achieve in life, big or small, I have found it helpful to focus on the next one little thing that I can do.

In Matthew Chapter 7 Jesus tells a parable about two builders, a successful one who spends time and effort digging secure foundations and a disappointed builder who easily creates a home on unstable ground with disastrous outcomes. Jesus' point is that it takes time and effort for our intentions and our actions to produce the outcomes that we want. There are no short cuts in creating habits that shape us into the people that God wants us to be.

If we keep digging, God encourages us that we can build secure foundations.

If we adjust our habits, bit by bit, we can gradually work towards our long-term goals in life.

Becoming people who do the things that we want to do.

God bless,

Alec



September
2023



09TH
SEPT.
2023

RIDE+STRIDE
for Churches

Many of the churches and chapels in Oxfordshire will be open.

Help preserve the history on your doorstep by raising funds for Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust.

All funds raised go to OHCT and 50% can be passed on to a church or chapel of your choice.

Join Us

Join Us' as we cycle or walk, ride a horse or mobility scooter
Fund raising partners now invest My Community

County Organiser: Hilary CakebreadHall
Email: rideandstrideoxon@ohct.org.uk Tel: 07831 690524

For full details including sponsorship forms, link to InvestMyCommunity and list of churches visit www.ohct.org.uk/ride-stride

Supported by the National Churches Trust

It's September already and I hope you enjoyed a holiday and feel refreshed and ready to tackle the rest of the year. Good luck to all those students that have started at junior school, changed schools or are starting higher education. Good wishes to the teachers as well. Hopefully our Open the Book team will be going into St. Nicholas School as usual.

If you feel you would like to help out please let us know, I am sure you would enjoy it.

Well the start of summer was a bit disappointing, lots of rain. The plants in my garden took a bit of a battering at times, but survived, and the hanging baskets didn't take off into orbit, so for that I am thankful. We were able to sit in the garden on many occasions and enjoy looking at the results of our labours with the odd glass or two.

Walking with my dog Meg across the park, I noticed how much clover there was, it was very pretty and reminded me of sitting in the grass as a child looking for four leafed clovers. It is said that the leaves of the clover represent hope, faith and love, the fourth one is for good luck, hence "lucky four leafed clover". They were scarce, but patience usually rewarded us with one. Also there was an abundance of thistles to be seen on our walks. As I have mentioned before my father was a Scot and so, it being the emblem of Scotland, I love them. They are very beautiful, surprisingly fragrant, and attract many insects. It is said that when Scotland was being invaded by Norse men, the raiders removed their footwear in order to be as quiet as possible when they crept across the countryside. One of them stepped on a prickly patch of thistles and his cry of pain alerted the Scots, and their warriors rose up and defeated the Norse invaders. The thistle of Scotland is the oldest recorded national flower. The first coins featuring a thistle were issued in 1474 in the reign of James 3rd. They may not be popular with farmers or gardeners but apparently donkeys like them and many of the finches and other wild birds feed from them.



We have our Harvest Festival coming up on 24th of September. We will be decorating the Church for harvest as usual, so please if you want to come and help, or can donate flowers or produce to make our Church look wonderful please do so. We will be working on the displays on the Saturday 23rd. This year we are supporting the David Nott Foundation which aims to provide the surgeons and other medical professionals, working in areas of war and disaster, the skills to carry out their work. There are more details in this publication. All money raised either by donations or the sale of produce will be sent to this worthy cause. Of course there will be a coffee and cakes after our service, to which you will be most welcome.

The patron Saint of the harvest is Saint Isidore, he was a devout Christian who was a farm labourer who lived in Spain 1070 – 1130. He was known for his piety towards the poor, birds animals, and wildlife in general. He was often late for work as he attended mass before work every day, and spent much of his day in prayer. Despite this his work was always completed as if by divine intervention. He was canonised in 1622.

Saint Matthew's day is celebrated on 21st September. Matthew was one of the twelve Apostles of Christ and was the first to respond to the call to follow Jesus. He wrote the first of the gospels, recording the life and death of our Lord. Before he followed Jesus, he was a Jewish tax collector considered a sinner, and much hated, but gave up everything to go with Jesus. After the Ascension he continued his mission in Ethiopia and Persia. He died a martyr. He is the patron Saint of tax collectors, bankers accountants, civil servants and perfumers.

The blackberries are plentiful this year so I will be gathering them on my daily walks with Meg. My family are always keen on blackberry and apple jam, pies, and crumbles. The sloes are also abundant, many people are fond of sloe gin. Personally although it is nice, it seems a dreadful thing to do to a perfectly innocent bottle of gin, but everyone has their own preferences, mine is with tonic ice and a slice of lemon.

There doesn't seem to have been as many wasps about this year I suppose the weather hasn't been good enough for them a lot of the time. I think wasps get a bad press, they are hugely beneficial to gardeners and without them we would be overrun with insects and caterpillars, so they are great pest controllers and, are excellent pollinators. They also eat dead invertebrates and scavenge from carcasses. A worker wasp lives seventeen to twenty days, new ones replacing them and a queen can live up to a year. The newly mated new queens survive the winter and create new nests the following year. It is only female wasps that sting, and usually as a defence. I have been stung in the past and it really is very painful so I do avoid wasps rather than attack them.

As always stay safe for yourself and others.

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200 Club

Monthly Draw

Is open for everyone to join

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

> > Numbers are £2 each < <

Monthly prizes are

£50 ~ £20 ~ £10

[£100 additional prize in December]

Contact Tricia Shand

01235 764222

the.shandies@btinternet.com

St. Nicholas Church

200 Club - Monthly Draw

July Results

£50 - N° 58 - Mrs K. Gregson

£20 - N° 38 - Mr R. Haynes

£10 - N° 9 - Mr & Mrs Mann

~

August Results

£50 - N° 67 - Mrs Hives

£20 - N° 169 - Mrs Day

£10 - N° 134 - Mr C. Swift

~

Would you like to join?

For further information please contact

Tricia Shand - 01235 764222

email -
the.shandies@btinternet.com



"Er... vicar - does the church have a
position on the donation of GM
vegetables for the Harvest Festival?"

Editor: The Ven John Barton considers....

How not to be a Grumpy Old Man (or Woman)

Marvel. Marvel every time you see a child
learning to walk and speak at the same time.

Share in their delight. Wonder at the dawn of
each new season: sunshine and shadows, falling
leaves, frost, sudden new growth. You are still
alive to take it all in. That's an unexpected
bonus.

Appreciate. Have a look around your living room
and concentrate on items designed for your
comfort and entertainment, which your forbears
never had. Think of someone you don't like;
now ponder a couple of their good points. Try to
desire their welfare more than their downfall.

Forgive. (That's a condition for being forgiven).
You may have to do it over and over again for
the same person. Unearth grudges which have
been lying under the surface. Are they worth
preserving that much? Think of the damage they
are doing you.

Married or Single? Don't envy. The grass on the
other side of the street isn't greener, it's just
different. Count your blessings - some will be
uniquely yours. Be concerned for the welfare of
someone whose circumstances are unlike yours.

Deal with disappointment. If you have become
grumpy it's probably caused by a deep-down
dissatisfaction with yourself. Stop raking over
past failures. Each morning when you wake up,
say with the Psalmist, "This is the day the Lord
has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Change. No, it isn't too late. It will only be too
late to change when you are in a coffin. In the
meantime, there's still room for manoeuvre.
Remember John Henry Newman's words, "To
live is to change, and to be perfect is to have
changed often."

Portion creep

Bet you didn't notice this, but dinner plates have
got bigger. In the 1950s, a dinner plate measured
25cm across; now the usual is 28cm. And take a
look at those very old wine glasses in the charity
shops: our grandparents served wine in what looks
like liqueur glasses to us now. These days, many
wineglasses seem to hold nearly half a bottle....

What is an angel?

Easy, people think: a shining figure with glorious wings,
who appears from time to time to do some mighty work
for God or bring a very special message from him.

Well, that's right in one sense (apart from the wings,
which owe more to stained glass windows than the
Bible). But the fact that not all 'angels' in the Bible are
'glorious' or 'shining' should make us hesitate to
categorise them in this spectacular way. After all, the
three apparently ordinary men who visited Abraham
and Sarah to tell them that she would have a son even
though she was long past child-bearing age had none of
those outward embellishments. Nevertheless,
Abraham recognised them as divine messengers.

The Bible is full of angels, from the early chapters of
Genesis to the last chapter of Revelation, and often they
had a key role in crucial events. It seems, from just two
instances, that Michael was their leader, an 'archangel'.
In many stained glass windows he's seen with a sword,
because in a vision in Revelation he led the angelic host
who fought and defeated Satan and his army.

In the Gospels, an angel of the Lord appeared to
Zechariah in the Temple, to tell him that his elderly wife
was to have a son, the forerunner of the Messiah, John
the Baptist. An angel, Gabriel, appeared to Mary to tell
her that she would be the mother of the Messiah, the
Son of God. An angel appeared 'in a dream' to Joseph,
the village carpenter in Nazareth, to tell him to go ahead
and marry his fiancée, Mary, and later - also in a dream -
warned him not to go back to Bethlehem. A 'young
man', whom we take to have been an angel, was sitting
in the empty tomb on Easter morning, waiting to tell the
startled women that Jesus wasn't there - He had risen
(Mark 16:5).

Without going into every biblical reference to angels,
those should be sufficient to show that the word covers
an enormous diversity of experience. So the Letter to
the Hebrews speaks of those who practice hospitality as
sometimes 'entertaining angels unawares'. Sometimes
people recognised angels for who they were, and
sometimes they didn't. Angels, quite simply, are God's
agents or emissaries, messengers and ministers of His
will. Sometimes they appear as human; sometimes they
seem to be spiritual beings.

Perhaps we could even say that *anyone*, in any
situation, who is at that moment God's 'messenger' to
us, or serves us graciously, is an 'angel'. So, when we
say, 'Oh, be an angel and pop up to the chemist for my
prescription', we may be nearer the heart of the matter
than we think!

Oxford Hospitals - New Parking charges for patients attending

John Radcliffe Hospital - Churchill Hospital - Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (OUH) will introduce new parking charges for patients and visitors at its three Oxford hospital sites from Tuesday 1 August 2023.

This is the first time the Trust has increased parking charges since 2017, and the changes have been put in place following a detailed review.

The changes, which see a reduction for those spending less time on the sites and increases for longer stayers, will be introduced in the visitor car parks at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Churchill Hospital, and Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre in Oxford.

Charges at the patient and visitor car parks at the Horton General Hospital in Banbury remain unchanged because they are similar to nearby public car parks.

As the average parking time for patients and visitors is under three hours, the Trust has lowered the tariff for those parking for 1-2 and 2-3 hours by 10p and 50p respectively.

Anyone parked for more than six hours will now pay £15. This brings the all-day rate in line with local Headington car parks to prevent misuse of hospital facilities.

Concessionary arrangements for patients and visitors who regularly attend the hospitals remain in place, and will not change. Free parking for Blue Badge holders is also unchanged, with 253 spaces for Blue Badge holders across the four hospitals.

Time	Current charges	Charges from 1 August 2023 (JR, Churchill, and Nuffield only)
Up to 30 minutes	Free	Free
30 minutes to 1 hour	£1.40	£2.20
1 - 2 hours	£2.80	£2.70
2 - 3 hours	£4.20	£3.70
3 - 4 hours	£5.60	£6.20
Over 4 hours	£7	£8 for 4 – 6 hours £15 for over 6 hours
8pm - 8am	Free	£2



All money generated from the Trust's parking charges is reinvested in patient and visitor services.

Jason Dorsett, Chief Finance Officer at Oxford University Hospitals, said: "We have looked at all the data to ensure that the majority of people who attend our hospitals will not be charged any more, and, in fact, most will be charged slightly less.

"With the average length of stay at our hospitals being less than three hours, we will be reducing charges for people parking for 1-3 hours, and increasing the charges for those who stay longer. This aims to prevent our car parks being used by people not attending the hospitals, in turn potentially freeing up spaces for those who genuinely need them. Our concessionary arrangements remain unchanged and are there to support patients and visitors in exceptional circumstances.

"The Trust actively encourages patients and visitors to consider other methods of transport such as public transport if possible and appropriate, and there is information on these alternatives in our appointment letters and on our website."

PUBLIC NOTICE

ACCOUNTS FOR EAST CHALLOW VILLAGE COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS SUNDAY 4TH JUNE 2023 AT CHALLOW & CHILDREY CRICKET CLUB FUN DAY (NOT FOR PROFIT)

	£	£	£
INCOME			
Raffle	150.00		
Cake Stall	78.50		
Lucky Dip	52.00		
Donations	55.00		
TOTAL			335.50

EXPENDITURE			
Flyers for advertising event		34.54	
Uncle Wiggly		110.00	
Tug O War Rope		34.99	
Lucky Dip Prizes		31.79	
Cricket Teas		34.16	
<i>Tokens of appreciation for cricket and Tug-O-War teams:</i>			
Keyrings (20)		79.80	
Pens (16)		31.84	
TOTAL			357.12

<i>Amounts Brought Forward From Previous Events:</i>			
Queen's 90th Birthday celebrations	85.00		
Platinum Jubilee Celebrations 2022	86.81		
TOTAL			171.81

Amount carried forward to next event **150.19**

OFFICER: *Sy Webb*

SECONDER: *L.G. Gurney*



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I Never Knew

I never knew how beautiful and interesting the Forest of Dean was until we spent four nights there this July, with our son and his partner. There are a wealth of places to visit and attractions to see whatever your interests.

We were limited to places with access for a wheelchair or someone using two walking sticks. However you must be prepared to negotiate very narrow, twisty and hilly roads with diversions. For us this only added to the atmosphere of the area.

The Butterfly Farm was a great place to visit on a very windy, cold, damp day. Masses of beautiful butterflies, but it was difficult to spot either caterpillars or chrysalis. Symonds Yat seemed beyond our reach, but we made it thanks to the wheelchair, David did manage a short walk uphill with his sticks. The views were spectacular, and to our joy we all saw a Goshawk.

A visit to the Dean Heritage Museum gave us a great insight into the history of the area. The whole area was an active mining community with its own laws and

traditions and not too keen on outsiders enfolded in the Wye Valley.

They have a huge archive of photographs, recordings and written records of the ordinary people of the area and the staff are only too happy to talk to you.

We visited Lydney Harbour when it was blowing a gale and saw across the river

Severn to Sharpness where we had taken our Narrowboat in 2008.

We went to the Gary Hart Arboretum near Speech House, Coleford and walked through to a forest walk. Of all the things we did I think this came top. Such a variety of native trees, many butterflies, dung beetles and different plants, many whose names I could not remember. I saw enchanters nightshade, which also grows in my garden. The sun

was out most of the time and we even, with difficulty managed to get over a large tree across the path. The walk was 2.5 miles long and we both made it, though shattered at the end.

We feel blessed to have had this opportunity to witness the beauty and diversity of God's creation.

Mary Mann

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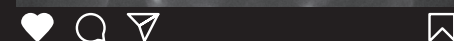
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10-11.30AM



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East Challow

VILLAGE HALL



The Majority of Village Hall committee members will be retiring at the September meeting.

Our recent A.G.M. brought no interest of support, but without a full quota of committee members the Village Hall cannot survive.

**The Village Hall has always been an important part of village life
So please help support its survival**

Current Vacancies

Booking Secretary

Minute Secretary

Vice Chair Person

Volunteers

Please come along and join us on
27th September at 7.30 pm

Without your help there will not be a Village Hall

**If there is not a committee in place to run the Hall
The Hall will have to be Closed**

we become more fruitful. And the fruit God wants is love, joy, patience etc. (see Galatians 5:22-23) These holy qualities are intended to influence the world to change it from the bad to all that is good.

To encourage its growth, a vine has regularly to be cut back. The effect looks drastic, but it is still essential. When God cuts away the dead wood in our lives, He does it because He knows how our lives can grow. The pruning knives are in the hands of our Father God who only desires the best for us. This pruning process can be painful, but Jesus says that it is vital if the Holy Spirit is to flow through us to produce the fruit that God wants.

Also in this parable, Jesus said He was the Vine, and we are the branches. We have no existence apart from Jesus. We can do nothing for God on our own and must be joined to Jesus. In the same way a vine utilises the life-giving sap to flow into the branches, so we need the Holy Spirit to flow His life into us. It is only by us remaining in Jesus, that He can give us the inner resources for an effective fruit-producing life.

Jesus said, 'Abide in Me' (John 15:4 King James Version). Abiding speaks of sustenance, being upheld and supported, enduring and withstanding. So, if we are to reap a harvest of holiness, may we be prepared for God's pruning, and continue to abide in Jesus, our Lord and Saviour.

The Divine Gardener

This is the time of year for many churches to hold their Harvest Festival services. No doubt, there will be displays of food, some grown in local gardens. While gardeners have pleasure growing fruit and vegetables, it can be hard work tending to them.

Jesus knew about the care given to vines. In John 15:1-8 Jesus compared Himself to a vine and referred to God as the gardener. In this parable, God is responsible for pruning the vine. He sees what parts are useful, and what parts useless. The unproductive parts are cut away, so that growth is encouraged. Jesus is telling us that God will prune our lives, not to harm us, but to encourage our spiritual growth.

God's pruning cuts away wrong attitudes and wasteful behaviour, all of which serve no useful purpose in our lives. This pruning is required so that

Harvest Festival

Open Invitation to all East Challow residents

We are appealing for donations of Fruit, Vegetables and Flowers to decorate our Church

We will also accept store cupboard items of canned & packet food etc.

**Please bring them along to the church
on Saturday 23rd September between 1pm and 4pm**



Sunday 24th September

~ Harvest Festival ~

Service of Celebration & Thanksgiving will commence at 11.00 am

Everyone is welcome to join us where we will give our thanks for this years Harvest

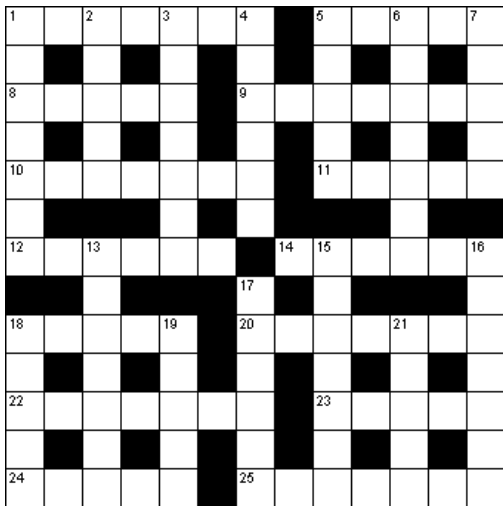
(Colouring in sheets for the children will also be available)

Any donations of non-perishable food will be donated to the Wantage food bank and perishable food donations will be available for sale after our morning service.



Wantage & Grove
**FOOD
BANK**





Solutions on page 22

Across

- 1. Theft (7)
- 5. Ambit (5)
- 8. Relating to a city (5)
- 9. Closest (7)
- 10. Foster (7)
- 11. Public square (5)
- 12. Floor covering (6)
- 14. Soldiers (6)
- 18. Percussion instruments (5)
- 20. Burrowing rodent (7)
- 22. View (7)
- 23. Stroll (5)
- 24. Choose (5)
- 25. Pull out (7)

Down

- 1. Curt (7)
- 2. Watercourse (5)
- 3. Leave out (7)
- 4. Distant but visible (6)
- 5. Acute (5)
- 6. Aromatic herb (7)
- 7. Additional (5)
- 13. Habitual method (7)
- 15. Oddment (7)
- 16. Excess (7)
- 17. Opportunity (6)
- 18. Stingless male bee (5)
- 19. Change position (5)
- 21. Shinbone (5)

Autumn Equinox - 23rd September

When the sun goes edgewise
and daytime equals night-time

23rd September is the autumnal equinox (if you live in the northern hemisphere) or the vernal (Spring) equinox (if you live in the southern hemisphere). The equinoxes occur in March and September, when the Sun is 'edgewise' to the Earth's axis of rotation, so that everywhere on earth has twelve hours of daylight and twelve hours of darkness.

The Secret of Living

The secret of living
Is learning to pray –
It's asking our Father
For strength for the day!

It's trusting completely
That His boundless grace
Will overcome care
And each problem we face!

It's walking by Faith
Every mile that we plod
And knowing our prayers
Bring us closer to God.

Anon

**Used Garden Patio Slabs
in need of a new home**

We have a total of 89 used garden patio
slabs which are no longer required.

Slab size is 45 x 45 cm
(17½ x 17½ inches)

They are available for collection locally in
return for a donation to St Nicholas Church
If you are interested please
contact Jeff Penfold

01235 763173

FOR SALE

Grace Skivvy Flatbed Trailer
£50.00

Size: 5 x 3 ft / sides 11.5 ins
Spare wheel, Cover, Electrics ok.
Little used, has been kept in garage.

Mann 01235 762408

Weather by app?

Do you watch the weather
via an app? It seems
millions of us do, as we try
to outguess what the
British weather is going to
do next.

There are thousands of
weather apps out there,
and it seems that you can
find one that will predict
almost anything you want.
But if you want reliability,
you could do worse than
choose the Met Office
app.

The World Meteorological
Organisation (WMO) has
recently named the Met
Office as the world's best
public sector-provided
app for usefulness,
reliability and information
quality. As its website
says, "92.5 per cent of the
Met Office's next day
temperature forecasts are
accurate within two
degrees Celsius." As the
UK's official weather
service, it is also
responsible for weather
warnings, and sends them
directly to users as push
notifications.

Or you might try The
Weather Channel app.
Some industry analysts
say that the US-based
Weather Channel is the
world's most accurate
forecaster. Using data
from IBM, the Weather
Channel offers a main app
with hurricane, lightning
and wildfire tracker
capabilities on top of all
the usual functions, as well
as a separate Storm Radar
app.

Falling down the stairs

Women are more likely to fall down the stairs
than men. The British Woodworking Federation
(BWF) Stair Scheme has estimated that 38 per
cent of women have a fall going up or down stairs
each year, compared to 28 per cent of men.

A recent study at Purdue University has been
trying to find out why. They came up with several
reasons. Firstly, women tend to be more
distracted when using the stairs. They are more
likely to be talking to friends or colleagues at the
same time, or to be carrying things, and therefore
unable to use the banister. Also, women are
often wearing impractical footwear such as
sandals, flip-flops or high heels.

Some 43,000 people are hospitalised each year in
the UK from stair falls.



**Do you like the exterior lights of
modern cars?**

Have you noticed that the exterior lights on many
newer cars are smaller than they used to be?
Many motorists are finding this difficult when
driving in sunshine, as they still need to see what
other cars are signalling to do.

But the arrival of LED light clusters means that car
manufacturers have been fitting their indicator
lights into much smaller spaces. And while that
might look good, stylistically, it doesn't always
work well. This is especially true when the car is
in bright daylight, or when the car's indicator
lights are set near to a brake or taillight.

The current regulations only legislate for colour,
lighting intensity and viewing angle. Surprisingly,
there are no rules about how big the actual
surface area of the indicator light should be.

**Are you always a bit
late - for everything?**

Is this you? - late for work,
late for friends, nearly
missing trains and flights,
late for lunch dates, late
for dinner dates, and late
for just about everything
else.

If you are habitually late for
almost everything, is it an
actual mental condition?

When a recent TikTok
video called it 'time
blindness', that struck a
chord – the video has been
viewed nearly five million
times.

But some psychologists
doubt you can just claim
being late 'a mental
condition'. Instead, they
say that a major factor is
our childhood experiences
of lateness - whether we
have since tried to mimic
our parent's behaviour
about punctuality, or rebel
against it.

Certainly, once we have
got into the habit of acting
in a certain way, we tend to
do it long-term, unless we
make a really conscious
effort to change ourselves.

One common reason for
lateness is over-optimism.
If we are a bit too positive
about our abilities, we may
assume that we can leave
at the last minute and still
get somewhere else in
time. We don't factor in
any possible problems
along the way. Whereas
pessimists always imagine
there will be problems
with the journey, and so
give themselves more
time.



OUR AUTUMN / WINTER OFFERING

Bar opening times through this period will generally be

Monday	CLOSED
Tuesday	CLOSED
Wednesday	4pm – 7pm
Thursday	4pm – 7pm (10pm when Darts match is on)
Friday	4pm – 7.30pm
Saturday	CLOSED
Sunday	11am – 3pm

The clubhouse is available to hire for a range of events through the 'close season' either during the day or in the evening, and makes a superb setting for your birthday, anniversary, christening or wake.

Please contact us to discuss your function requirements, we will always look to do whatever we can to make your event a success.

If you would like to join the club as a member it's just £20 for the year, you can do so via our website.

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

Remember that everyone is welcome at Challow, membership is not required to enjoy the facilities (although it does mean we can keep you up to date with news and events at the Club)

www.challowcricket.co.uk
admin@challowcricket.co.uk
 01235 763335



The celebration of the seventy fifth anniversary of the establishment of the National Health Service and the coming of the Windrush have brought a flood of memories.



My secondary school was involved with the advisers of the Duke of Edinburgh as he went about setting up his scheme. So, for instance we had opportunity to work in a youth club in a deprived area, in our case, Notting Hill, then the most deprived and dangerous slum in London.

There was also an old housebound lady, whom I visited every week.

That I enjoyed because I began to see the world through her eyes.

Working with the boys was a totally different kettle of fish, nearly all of them were on probation or under some legal restraint. The club had a field in Kent with several fairly derelict huts on it. For boys' weeks, the week started with them having to be strip searched for weapons. This meant taking all their clothes off at one end of the huts and putting them on a table and then running round, naked, playing leap frog, meanwhile their clothes would be searched. The leap frog would ensure that they had not concealed anything between their buttocks. Of course this would all be illegal now.

The first few days of the camp were quiet, because they needed to rearm themselves. Bicycles provided chains and spokes from the wheels, these were then sharpened.

A small group of boys took me to Woolworths and showed me how to shoplift. It all started with taking a paper bag.

When we came out of the shop, the first people we saw were two policemen. My little group of friends folded up the bag, gave it to me and melted into the crowd. It was only then that I realised that as they showed me how to steal things they had actually been doing it. I'm ashamed to say that I also melted into the crowd. I did manage to get the bag back into the store. But there was a very amicable phone call from Woolworths that night asking us to ring them before our next visit.

The fascinating thing about it all was the opportunity of seeing the world through the eyes of others.

It's an invaluable gift.

Fr Robert



Harvest

24th September at 11.00 am

East Challow Community Space (formerly East Challow Warm Space)

We will be meeting again fortnightly from September 15th in the Cricket Club as before.

Grove Business Park/ Childrey Brook/ Rural Footpaths

You will probably know that Grove Business Park is applying to expand to provide more business/R&D space for Oxford University spin-outs. This is all good news with more employment for the area as opposed to more houses! Further information can be seen at www.grovebusinesspark.co.uk/news-events. Sustainability will be a major feature with huge provision of PV solar. We are currently not sure whether excess electricity will be fed back into the grid. There are also no plans for a direct bus service (20 min walk from “the plane” roundabout)! I am also concerned whether the sewage treatment plant to the west has capacity for increased use – there was an “incident” there not so long ago!

The planning application has been submitted and you can comment using the Vale planning portal.

After treatment effluent is discharged into Woodhill Brook which joins Childrey Brook which then joins Letcombe Brook west of Venn Mill. We have just started a Childrey Brook Project group to explore the Brook and try to improve it in parallel with Letcombe Brook. The main players in this new group are The Letcombe Brook Project and The Fresh Water Habitats Trust.

Between Woodhill and Childrey Brooks and the A417 at Mellors/W&G Estate is a large area of arable land criss-crossed with footpaths and Bridleways, but which are hardly used. These are potentially very nice circular walks for residents/dog-walkers and one of which crosses the railway and is a very nice route to The Fox at Denchworth! I am discussing with the OCC Footpaths officer and The Wasborough Estate about improving some of the dilapidated wooden footbridges over ditches and getting the paths opened up and maintained. It is possible to walk them now but you need a machete and would need to walk through fields of crops which is not good.

Cornhill Lane

We have been told by OCC Highways that Cornhill Lane (and also Green/Shelley’s Lane in the Letcombes) will remain closed until August 2024! Despite some pressure from us, Highways have not yet come up with a management plan. I have suggested a site visit so that they can see what is needed.

Letcombe Hill – Traffic and Speeding

After talking to Mark Francis at OCC Highways they have agreed to install signage and road markings to try to calm traffic because of the pinch-point at the bottom. I am not wholly convinced that this will work and he has mentioned a speed cushion (a bump would not be suitable as it is too residential). This will become part of the village 20 mph area in 2024. Unfortunately, we cannot do anything about the volume of traffic! I have complained to Earthline HQ about their use of Letcombe Hill and speeding through the village (I caught two lorries 3 weeks ago!). We also need a “not suitable for HGVs” sign at the top of Vicarage Hill.

Village EV Charging Points

We have discussed this before but now OCC have asked for Expressions of Interest (EOI) for placing EV charging points in villages which will be OCC-funded. We have submitted an EOI for two points to be situated at the Village Hall (it must be sited on parish council property). We will be able to apply in early 2024, so we are told.

Hedgerow Planting Group

We now have two dates for planting a hedge along Silver Lane, West Challow – November 26th and January 13th. We are still looking for volunteers. Please contact me if you are interested in getting involved.

Childrey Way/School Transport

Appeals against the decision to stop free school transport from Childrey have been rejected. OCC say that they will now repair the particularly bad stretch of Childrey Way. I don’t think this will help. It is still an isolated and unsafe route for younger children and parents will still drive their kids to school. It will be a waste of local taxpayers’ money! One bad decision after another!

Further Proposed Housing Between Grove And East Hanney

You may have seen in the Herald (9th August) a proposal by Richborough to develop 70 hectares for housing and business immediately north of the railway line at Grove, stretching almost as far as East Hanney (see www.swindonadvertiser.co.uk/news/23687592.draft-masterplan-new-railway-station-near-wantage/). They say that they would like to see Grove Station developed – but do not say that they will fund it. East Hanney Parish Council knew nothing about this when I asked. Many will agree with Julie Mabblerley (as do I) that we have enough houses in this area – we are one of the development hot-spots in England – and almost no solar panels installed on new build!!

VWHDC – Joint Local Plan (2031-2041) and Corporate Plan (2024-2028)

The Vale together with South Oxfordshire is putting together a new Joint Local Plan covering forward planning (including house building – numbers and spatial distribution) until 2041. New build numbers will be reduced but this is still also partially dictated from above!

The Vale is also now preparing a new Corporate Plan to cover 2024-2028 and which will include the council’s priorities also including planning, climate emergency, healthy communities and stable finances. More on this as we hear more.

No decision so far on the application to convert the Blowing Stone pub to a house.

Cllr Dr Paul Barrow

If you have any issues/problems please feel free to contact me

Paul.barrow@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Mob: 07557 953862

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

All entries for the

October issue of the Challow News

Must be submitted by **15th September 2023**

Email: nigel.langford@me.com



Have your Advertising Flyers or Leaflets Inserted and delivered along with the Challow News for only £15

Advertising space is also available

for more information please email nigel.langford@me.com



On the absurdity of a Vicar ever retiring

The Rectory
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

Beware of being invited by bishops to drop round for a chat. My first mistake was to answer the phone when he rang; what are answerphones for, but to avoid having to talk to anyone - ever. My second mistake was not to be able to think of a meeting I had to attend - preferably on another planet - on the day he suggested.

I therefore found myself in his study this morning, waiting for the point of the meeting while we negotiated the obligatory five minutes discussing the weather and his summer holiday in France. I made it quite clear that I had been far too busy to swan off to foreign parts - although I suspect the implication of what I said passed him by.

We then got to the point. He was toying with the thought of my retirement and linking us with the adjoining parish of St Agatha's. I patiently explained, using simple words and speaking slowly for his benefit, that at 85 and with 40 years at St James the Least of All behind me, I was just getting into my stride and that the vicar of St Agatha's, a stripling at 63, had nowhere near enough experience to organise the hymn list, let alone two parishes. This, too, seemed to drift somewhere above his head.

He had clearly done his homework. There were already plans for my Queen Anne rectory to be sold and my five acres of garden to be turned into a housing estate. This news would be received by our parishioners with as much equanimity as if they were told that Buckingham Palace was to be converted into a sports centre.

The matter, I was told, was confidential - which meant that I only relayed the news to one parishioner at a time. By the end of the day everyone in the village knew, and a counter attack was being planned. Inevitably, the most outraged were those who never attend church. People do so love having a church not to go to. Congregations have soared, gardeners are being brought in to tidy the rectory grounds, and the church council is now well attended. The latter is a mixed blessing, as I always think that the time to get worried is when people start to turn up to meetings.

It may surprise our bishop, but the threat of a merger has been the greatest impetus to mission outreach we've had in years. Retirement indeed!

I'm sure Zadok was never asked about his pension plans...

Your loving uncle...

Eustace



Our Natural World
Correspondent for the Challow News
- Juliet Teare -



This spring was notable for me by the absence of butterflies, I didn't see any orange tip butterflies this spring, painted ladies, or even many tortoiseshells. So I was very excited to read this report from RSPB recently:

One of Europe's rarest butterflies has been discovered at Haweswater in the Lake District. Changes in the way the RSPB is looking after the land, in partnership with United Utilities, is making a difference. Once widespread throughout the UK, the Marsh Fritillary declined severely over the twentieth century as a result of changes to farming and the drainage of damp grasslands. It is now sadly confined to the western side of Britain and Ireland. The number of colonies in Cumbria dropped from over 200 to just three in the year 2000 and by 2004 they faced extinction in the county.



In 2007, the Cumbria Marsh Fritillary Project - a successful re-introduction programme in Cumbria led by Butterfly Conservation, Natural England and DEFRA released 42,000 Marsh Fritillary larvae over four sites in the county. This was part of a scheme aimed at bringing back these beautiful butterflies to the area, in order for them to spread out naturally. It has been successful, with Marsh Fritillaries now found in many sites across Cumbria, including this new found population at Haweswater.

Walking locally in the woods in Ardington and across grass meadows near the ridgeway, I have seen several species of summer butterflies, so perhaps in the spring I just didn't look in the right places.

Butterflies are a good indicator species as to how healthy an ecosystem is, thanks to the butterfly conservation movement many of our native species are being rescued, which is very good news.

Please let us know what butterflies you have seen this summer.

jgteare@yahoo.co.uk

Challows and Childrey Hedge Group



The Challows and Childrey Hedgerow Group are looking for volunteers to help with planting a new hedge along Silver Lane, West Challow on **November 26th and January 13th next year.**

Please contact me if you are interested

paulbarrow@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

07557 953862



24th September
11.00 am

EAST CHALLOW ~ PARISH COUNCIL

www.eastchallowpc.co.uk

CASUAL VACANCY - East Challow Parish Council

We have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor.

The Parish Council represents and serves the whole
Village / Parish Community

If you are interested in joining please contact the Chair on
07976 546826

vanessa.lawson.ecpc@gmail.com

Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday 13th September 2023 at 7.30pm

All Villagers are invited to attend Parish Council meetings as observers

Parish Councillors

Paul Barrow, Vanessa Bosley, Trevor Hayes,

Bryan Miller, Sue Terry, Frances Webb

eastchallowclerk@gmail.com

Reminder

Parking - Please park responsibly around the Village as parked vehicles on pavements and grass verges cause problems for pedestrians and other vehicles.

*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

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**3-digit
numbers**

999

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(UK)



112

Emergency
(EU-wide)



111

NHS
(non-emergency)



101

Police
(non-emergency)



123

Speaking clock



105

National power
cut service



Calls to 999, 111, 112 and 105 are free to call from all networks. Calls to 101 cost 15p.
Calls to 123 may vary in cost; check with your provider for details.
105 is available to callers in Great Britain.

East Challow

Village Hall

Available for Private Hire

Booking Secretary

Denise Knight

01235 769933

deniseknight15@gmail.com



Wantage Music Festival

www.wantagemusicfestival.org.uk



SAVE OUR FESTIVAL - HELP URGENTLY NEEDED

Did you know that Wantage has had its own annual music festival for over 45 years?

Not the kind that takes place in a muddy field and maxes out your bank account. Our Festival gives performance opportunities to aspiring musicians young and old, delighting audiences and giving performers valuable feedback from expert professional musicians and the chance to sing or play with an experienced accompanist.

Many entrants have been encouraged as amateur musicians and performers by their experience at Wantage Music Festival, while others have gone on to make music their career and even to success on TV programmes including BBC Young Musician of the Year and Britain's Got Talent.

Wantage and the surrounding areas have always had talent!

We were pleased to run Festivals in both 2021 and 2022 despite the impact of Covid, but could not do so this year because we no longer have enough committee members to organise it. To continue to run the Festival we need more volunteers to join our friendly committee and take an active part in planning and running it, including someone willing to lead it as Chair. Without more help the Festival will have to be wound up.

There will be a General Meeting on Thursday 28th September 8.00pm at the Methodist Church, Wantage to discuss the future of the Festival.

For more information about the Festival and what help is needed please contact the vice-chair, David Lynch

compsec@WantageMusicFestival.org.uk

or phone 0755 435 0055

www.wantagemusicfestival.org.uk

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