

Challow News

~ APRIL ~

2024

Back again for 2024



Sunday 2nd June

The Community Amateur Cricket Match and Tug 'O' War

[See inside for more details]

St. Nicholas Church

East Challow. OX12 9SH

Parish Eucharist

Sundays - 11.00 am

Weekday Eucharist

Thursdays - 10.00 am

(30 minute said service)

Associate Vicar: Rev Alec Gill

07739 563894

Email: vicaralec@valebenefice.org.uk

Licensed Lay Ministers

Sue Powditch

01235 768141

Email: llm@valebenefice.org.uk

Sarah Shackleton

07587 776609

Email: SarahLLM@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

St. Nicholas Church

Churchwarden

Mrs Liz Belcher: 01235 763966

Deputy Churchwarden

Dr. Jeff Penfold: 01235 763173

Churches of the Vale Benefice

St. Johns - Grove

St. James - West Hanney

St. Nicholas - East Challow

St. James - Denchworth

Weddings ~ Baptisms

Blessing & Thanksgiving

For further information please contact:

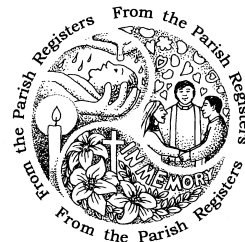
Vale Benefice Office

Grove Parish Church, Main Street, Grove.
OX12 7LQ

Monday - Friday 10.00 - 12.00

01235 771479

Email: office@valebenefice.org



INFORMATION

It is only Baptisms,
Weddings, Thanksgivings
and Funerals
which have taken place at
St. Nicholas Church
which are recorded here

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

Pause for Thought

April may be a month for foolishness, but it is also a month for Adventure! Chaucer begins his Canterbury Tales with this thought: when April with its showers sweet has pierced the droughts of March, then it is time for folk to go on pilgrimage. The roads have dried out and the days are warmer; it's time to get out of the house and see the wider world. Covid kept us at home for so long that we are still unsure about venturing out, but there is a lot to be said for living a bit more adventurously and not sticking to our usual tram tracks.

One reason for adventure is that a routine life runs along more rapidly. The psychologists tell us that our brains are not making memories all the time, but only when life is stimulating. We remember things that are not routine or predictable. The more our lives are same old same old, the less stands out as memorable and the years slip by unnoticed. So let's 'seize the day' and make the most of the time that is left to us. What happened to your bucket list? Watching TV is great but it keeps us in our seats as spectators on the lives of others, instead of fully living our own.

There are of course many ways of living more adventurously – like catching the bus to Oxford; or walking the dog in a new place; or trying some new recipes; or joining a new club or activity. My daughter has been reminding me that old people lose their balance and have accidents, so I should join the gym or find a Pilates group, so I am not so wobbly. That would be adventurous!

As we get older our horizons can shrink around us without our noticing. We had relatives in Leith on the edge of Edinburgh. They had stopped going up into the old city. They had stopped going down to see the sea. They did walk every day to their allotment where they spent the day growing veg and brewing tea with the other allotment holders. But their world had shrunk and their confidence had gone. In his younger days he sailed the world in an aircraft carrier, but those days were over. We can retain a sense of adventure in everyday life by planning a few surprises and new steps. What would make your week zing a bit?

One thing that helps me be more adventurous is the faith that God is good and I can trust him to look after me. The early explorers like Christopher Columbus and Henry the Navigator sailed out into unknown oceans partly because they believed that God had created a good and orderly world. As it says in Isaiah, 'Fear not, for I am with you, do not be afraid for I am your God.'

Geoff Maughan

Retired church minister living in West Hanney

a church
NEAR YOU | THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

INFORMATION

You can now find details of all the Services and Festivals
on the St. Nicholas page of a "Church Near You" website

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/5811/>

you can also view and download the latest
Church Rotas and Service Information
and also this issue of the Challow News



St. Nicholas Church - Rotas

Date	Sides Person	Sacristan	Reader	Prayers	Organist
7 th April	Frances & Nigel	Philip	Alan / Ruth	Philip	Ruth
14 th April	Linda & Noel	Mary	Graham	Mary	Ruth
21 st April	Liz & Jeff	Jenny	Jeff	Jenny	Graham
28 th April	Tricia & Sue	Nigel	Clare / Nigel	Paul	Graham

Date	Coffee	Flowers	Cleaning
7 th April	Mandy	Heather	Linda / Liz
14 th April	Jan & Hillary	Mary	Linda / Liz
21 st April	Val & Barbera	Jenny	Mandy
28 th April	Linda & Janet	Mandy	Mandy

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

Thursday Sacristan	
4 th April	Mary
11 th April	Jenny
18 th April	Heather
25 th April	Mandy

Churchyard Maintenance	
30 th March	J. Penfold
13 th April	N. Langford
27 th April	R. Gregory
11 th May	G. Parker
25 th May	D. Perkins
8 th June	N. Page
22 nd June	J. Penfold
6 th July	R. Gregory
20 th July	N. Langford
3 rd August	G. Parker
17 th August	D. Perkins
31 st August	N. Page

All entries for the **May 2024**

Issue of the Challow News

Must be submitted by

15th April 2024

Email: nigel.langford@me.com

St Nicholas Church 11.00 am Sunday Services Information

7 th April	Easter 2 White	T B A	1 John 1: 1 – 2: 2 Acts 4: 32 – 35 (MUST BE READ) <i>Gospel Reading ~ John 20: 19 – 31</i>
14 th April	Easter 3 White	Rev Alec Gill	1 John 3: 1 - 7 Acts 3: 12 – 19 (MUST BE READ) <i>Gospel Reading ~ Luke 24: 36b - 48</i>
21 st April	Easter 4 White	Rev Alec Gill	1 John 3: 16 - 24 Acts 4: 5 – 12 (MUST BE READ) <i>Gospel Reading ~ John 10: 11 - 18</i>
28 th April	Easter 5 White	Rev Alec Gill	1 John 4: 7 - 21 Acts 8: 26 – 40 (MUST BE READ) <i>Gospel Reading ~ John 15: 1 - 8</i>

**Denotes alternative Reading*

Editor: Canon Paul Hardingham continues his new series - *What's the Big Idea?*



An Introduction to the Books of the Old Testament: Leviticus & Numbers

These books are concerned with Israel's wandering in the desert, on their journey from slavery in Egypt to the promised land of Canaan.



Leviticus focuses on the regulations about worship, ceremonial cleanness, moral laws and holy days. The key theme is that of *holiness*, as every detail of our lives is affected by the presence of a holy God. The aim of the sacrifices, feast and Sabbaths was to enable the people to enter God's presence. We should see the instructions and practices in Leviticus as pointing to Jesus. He totally fulfilled the law through the sacrifice of His life, as Easter reminds us. He demonstrated the love and holiness of God, so that we can share His life:

'Be holy, because I am holy' (1 Peter 1:16, cf Lev 11:44-45; 19:2; 20:7)

The book of Numbers tells the story of Israel's journey through the wilderness. The people were coming to terms with their *identity* as God's people and the *call* to serve Him. They didn't always respond with faith, gratitude and obedience, but with unbelief, ingratitude and rebellion. As a result of their refusal to enter Canaan (ch 14), they were condemned to spend the rest of their lives in the desert. However, God in His grace allowed their children to enter the Promised Land. The book reminds us that the Church is called to be a community that honours God, learns how to deal with sin in ourselves and others, and lives out love and justice in daily life.

'The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.' (Numbers 6:24-26)

Challows Royal British Legion

Opening Hours

Monday - Friday 7.00 pm - Close

Saturday - 12.00 am - 12.00 pm

Sunday 12.00 am - 10.30 pm



Sunday Night Bingo

(Eyes down at 8.00pm)



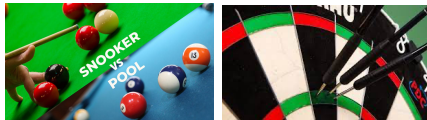
Monday Night Poker



Challows afternoon Club

meet monthly on every 3rd
Thursday from 2.00 pm

SKY SPORTS
SHOWN HERE



Come along and view all that
the Club has to offer

Socialise over a drink from
the Bar or a game of Darts,
Snooker or Pool

Locarno Beat

20th April ~ 7.30 pm

Tickets £10.00

~ Non Members welcome ~



NERF CLUB

Friday 12th April

6.30 - 7.30 pm

- Contact the Club for more details -

Entertainment Dates 2024

18th May - Move It

22nd June - Blue Dayz

13th July - Fraud Squad

10th August - Miss Brodie

14th September - Mr Rock n Roll

5th October - Music Box

9th November - Aaron Cook

£10.00 ~ Cash on the door

Planning an Event or Party

our Main Hall with kitchen facilities

are available to Hire

01235 763430

Do you remember your own

PIN number?

Contactless
INDICATOR



Nearly one in five of us can't. We are so used to paying by contactless that when we have to withdraw cash or type our PIN into a card reader, our minds go blank.

'Contactless' payments hit a record high last year. A staggering 93.4 per cent of all in-store card transactions up to £100 was made using contactless, rather than cash or PIN and card reader.

According to Barclays, we now depend on contactless payments and smartphone technology so much that more than a fifth of young people now leave their wallets at home when they go shopping.

Contactless technology was first introduced by Barclaycard 17 years ago. It had a spending limit of £10. The limit was increased during the pandemic, to reduce physical contact in shops, rising to its current £100 limit.



The pet crisis

More than half of us in the UK own a pet. That is 17 million households.

But we are abandoning them at an alarming rate. The RSPCA warns we are offloading our animals at "unmanageable levels," and stretching their welfare services to the limit.

The turning point was the pandemic. Stuck at home during lockdown, we went animal-mad, and our pet dogs soared from nine million in 2019 to 13 million in 2022.

But four million puppies purchased during the pandemic was not a good idea. Since then, a fifth of all those puppies have been reported as having behavioural problems such as clinginess, aggression, or being very hard to train.

On top of that, the cost-of-living crisis has left many people struggling to even feed their pet. According to the Office for National Statistics, the cost of owning a dog is estimated to have jumped by 12.8 per cent – around £256 – over the past year to total around £2,500.

All in all, it is the 'perfect storm'. The RSPCA received 20,999 reports of abandoned animals last year. That is 5,000 more than in 2020.



The government wants to improve your teeth

Fluoride is to be added to more of our drinking water, to help improve the nation's teeth. It is part of the new NHS Dental

Recovery Plan, the biggest expansion of the health measure since the 1980s.

At present, only five water companies add fluoride to water in the UK. They are mainly in the North-East and West Midlands, and less than 10 per cent of Britons. The initial expansion will provide fluoride to 1.6 million more people, in areas including Northumberland, Teesside, Durham and South Tyneside.

Fluoride is a naturally occurring mineral found in water. It has been proven to make teeth stronger and reduce decay. Sir Chris Whitty, the Chief Medical Officer for England, has claimed that adding fluoride to water supplies could reduce cavities by 17 per cent among the richest and by 28 per cent among the poorest.

RNID Supporting people who are deaf, have hearing loss or tinnitus

Don't hesitate to use hearing aids

Here is something you didn't expect: using hearing aids if you are a bit deaf can be of great benefit to your overall health.

Crystal Rolfe, director of health at the Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID) said: "Hearing aids bring enormous benefits for people with hearing loss. Research shows that wearing hearing aids may reduce the risk of cognitive decline, and it is well known that they have positive effects on physical, social, emotional, and mental wellbeing.

According to hearing loss charity RNID, 12 million adults in the UK are deaf, have hearing loss or tinnitus and an estimated seven million people could benefit from hearing aids, but only about two million use them.

The researchers hope the findings, published in The Lancet Healthy Longevity journal, will encourage more people to wear hearing aids. As one doctor said: "If you have hearing loss, get hearing aids. The benefits could be limitless."

April already, or at least it will be by the time you read this. I have had a pretty boring time, not being able to get out and about in the village, following a foot operation. Meg my faithful dog has been away on holiday with my son Chris, as I have been unable to walk her. I'm pretty sure she hasn't given me a second thought as she absolutely adores Chris and will be having long walks and meeting new people and other dogs. I've certainly missed her though. Although they visit regularly, which is good, it's very strange not having a dog in the house. I have knitted, jigsaw puzzled, read several books, and finished a few puzzle magazines, I certainly don't find it easy being confined to the house. Even the hospital visits are something to look forward to. I'm sure it will be worth it in the end though. People have been very kind, and I am very grateful.

Looking out of the window I have been watching the world coming to life and becoming green again. It is a bit of a limited view of the village, I have been watching the Jackdaws strutting up and down on the roof opposite. They are very interesting birds, a small member of the crow family, measuring about 34cm in length and recognisable with a short chunky



beak, a grey 'shawl' across its shoulders, a black cap, and a white eye. The male and female are alike, and once the female has made her choice, they pair for life. The eggs are pale blue with speckles. Jackdaws are omnivorous, which means that they are very useful eating insects, carrion and not damaging crops to any great extent. They are very intelligent birds able to recognise individuals and can become quite tame. My husband told me that his Gran befriended

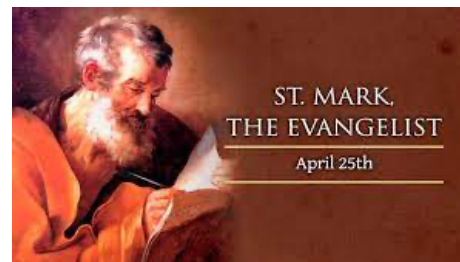
one and it would chatter to her and even brought her 'presents' of shiny things. Jackdaws have been known as the predictor of rain, and the saviour of the crops, as well as an omen of death and new arrivals. Very busy birds and really fascinating to watch.

I have also been watching my plum tree outside my window, it is five years old and was a Mothering Sunday gift from my younger son. It is starting to blossom, last year it had lots of flowers, something went wrong, and I had two plums in my harvest and one of them was half eaten by something. Not to worry I live in hope for an abundant crop this year. I really don't mind sharing with wildlife.

Saint George's day is of course on 23rd April, he is our own patron Saint of England. I have always had a soft spot for him and feel we don't make enough fuss over our national Saint and are even discouraged from wanting to do anything about it. I used to look forward to the St. George's Day parade in Wantage.

I was able to attend the Mothering Sunday service in March. It was very well attended considering a few of our congregation were away. The Church looked beautiful with potted polyanthus, narcissus and flower arrangements. Alec led the service and at the end our ladies were presented with a lovely posy of spring flowers. After the service we had refreshments and there were some beautiful cakes as always. A big thank you to everyone involved in making it a success.

I will report on the Easter services next month.



The 25th of April is the feast day of Saint Mark the Evangelist. He is credited with writing Saint Marks Gospel, which is thought to be the first Gospel written, although this has been disputed. It is the shortest of the gospels. He was the cousin of Barnabas and became a disciple of Peter. Mark, also called John, Mark was not one of the twelve apostles but it is thought that the last supper was held at his house in Jerusalem.

The disciples also met there after the Resurrection. He became the first Bishop of Alexandria in Egypt where he was martyred in 68 AD. Relics of Mark were taken to Venice in 828 AD and housed in the purpose-built Saint Marks Basilica. He is the patron Saint of Venice, barristers, attorneys, prisoners, glaziers and stained-glass window workers. His symbol is a winged lion which represents the royalty of Christ and the Resurrection.

Hopefully I will be out and about in the village in the not-too-distant future with Meg back home with me, until then as always stay safe for yourself and others.

D. O'SULLIVAN

DRIVES ~ PATIOS ~ PATHS ~ FENCING

~ Blockpave ~ Shingle ~ Concrete ~

~ Paving Slabs ~ Garden Walls ~

Pressure Cleaning

Patio's and Driveways

For a Free Quotation

Contact us Today

01367 244509 or 07917 113552



Monthly Draw

**March
Results**

£50 - N° 54 - Mrs L. Rowe

£20 - N° 07 - Mr & Mrs Mawdsley

£10 - N° 144 - Mr & Mrs Mann

~

Would you like to join?

For further information please contact

Tricia Shand - 01235 764222



the.shandies@btinternet.com


progressive
physiotherapy

*Do you suffer with back, neck
or joint pain, headaches, sports
injuries or arthritis?*

Main Clinic, East Challow
and
Wantage Health Centre

01235 821 800

Bupa network approved and registered with most
other healthcare insurers



info@progressivephysiotherapy.co.uk
www.progressivephysiotherapy.co.uk



General Synod backs Code of Conduct for Parochial Church Councils

General Synod has voted in favour of a motion asking the Archbishops' Council to explore a Code of Conduct for Parochial Church Council (PCC) members and lay volunteers.

The motion, brought by the Diocese of Chelmsford, sought to address an imbalance of accountability in relationships where lay volunteers currently face no significant consequences for persistent departures from acceptable standards of behaviour.

An introductory paper explained that, whereas clergy are subject to the Clergy Discipline Measure (CDM) process, there remains no proportionate and accessible means by which laity can be held to account for their actions.

The paper cited National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) advice that, while disagreement is a healthy part of decision making, it was recommended that charities should use a code of conduct for their trustees.

It highlighted instances of uncooperative or aggressive behaviour in meetings over a long period, where there was no mechanism to remove a member from the PCC.

Introducing the motion, the Revd Dr Sara Batts-Neale from Chelmsford Diocese said: "When [things] do go wrong, there is currently no way to change the composition of a PCC. There is a lack of clear accountability.

"We seek a review into a code of conduct to encourage healthy cultures, and to give a possible remedy for intransigent behaviours that damage people, the church, and hinder our ability to share the good news of Christ Jesus."

Synod affirms 'Work' as key to 'Human Dignity and Purpose' in the face of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) revolution

General Synod has affirmed the place of work as a key component in "human flourishing," in an era when Artificial Intelligence (AI) is driving a "new fast moving industrial revolution".

The debate heard that 'work' has been a vital "God-given" element of human life since the Garden of Eden. But it is currently being transformed by the combined impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, inflation, the rise of the gig economy, and AI.

Synod overwhelmingly approved a motion brought by the Diocese of Oxford which affirmed the "dignity and value of purposeful work – whether paid or unpaid."

The Bishop of Oxford, Steven Croft, said: "We were placed in a garden and charged with a God-given task from the very beginning. Work is related intimately to human dignity and purpose."

But he went on to warn that: "The theological value of work faces new and powerful challenges and needs to be articulated afresh in the public square.

"A new fast moving industrial revolution is gathering pace, without safeguards to protect human purpose and dignity in work, let alone agreement about how to share the inevitable costs alongside the undoubted benefit."

More than £250,000 distributed in Conservation Grants

More than £250,000 was distributed by the Church of England last year to support conservation projects in parishes, including work to preserve wall paintings, baptismal fonts, stained glass windows and rood screens.

A total of £255,585 has been awarded for 123 projects in 34 dioceses – with the number of grants up 20% on the year before - to help churches maintain and preserve significant cultural and historical items, including paintings, doors, chairs, clocks, and organs.

The grants, from donated funds, including major funder, the Pilgrim Trust, were distributed by the Church of England's national Cathedrals and Church Buildings team.

Why we should all be like Donkeys



Are you a pet-lover? Many people own a dog, a cat or a budgie, but most of us don't own a donkey! Yet in Bible times, donkeys were essential to daily life. They did everything from helping to grind corn, to ploughing, to carrying people, to transporting their belongings. Despite their small frame, donkeys are surprisingly tough. They can survive on poor fodder, can travel an average of 20 miles a day.

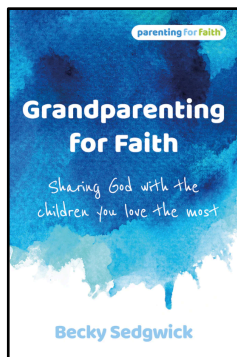
There are two occasions in the Christian calendar where donkeys walk into the picture. At Christmas, Mary travelled the 100 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem on a donkey. And although a donkey doesn't get a specific mention in the manger story, that same one that transported her was probably there; where else would it have been?

On Palm Sunday Jesus entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey. Jesus deliberately chose this animal rather than a horse. Why? In Bible times, the horse was associated with war, conquest and worldly might. But the donkey was a symbol of peace and humility. So, Jesus used this animal to show that He had come with the dignity of the king of peace. His entry into the Holy City also fulfilled Zechariah's prophecy concerning the Messiah.

Donkeys are hardworking and undemanding. They wait for their master to put them to the work He has chosen for them. And, remarkably, each one bears the mark of the Cross on their backs!

Perhaps that is something we should learn—to wait for Jesus our Master, to be always obedient to Him, to serve Him with all our hearts, and to bear the mark of His grace in our lives.





Grand parenting for Faith
sharing God with the children you love
the most
By Becky Sedgwick

Grand parenting brings the opportunity to walk spiritually alongside our grandchildren, offering tools and skills for the journey.

Whatever your circumstances, God has positioned you to be a unique voice, speaking into your grandchildren's lives, helping to nurture them into the reality of a relationship with the God who loves them.

This book will help grandparents to encourage and equip their grandchildren to know God better.

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



World Autism Acceptance Week
2nd – 8th April 2024

Autism is on the rise. Or at least, the recognition of it is. According to the website psychcentral.com, there was a 787% exponential increase in the number of people who were diagnosed with autism between 1998 and 2018 in the UK.

The National Autistic Society says that in the UK, more than one in every 100 people are now on the autism spectrum. It reckons that around 700,000 adults and children in the UK suffer with the condition to some degree.

All of which means that you probably know of someone who has autism, to some degree.

And you may know that, as it says on the NHS website:

Autistic people may act in a different way to other people, ... and find it hard to understand how other people think or feel. They may find things like bright lights or loud noises overwhelming, stressful, or uncomfortable. They may get anxious or upset about unfamiliar situations and social events and take longer to understand information.

To help people with autism, you may wish to support this 'acceptance week', by going to the National Autistic Society's website,

<https://www.autism.org.uk>

and taking part in some way in their fundraising campaign.



50 years of ABBA

Fifty years ago, on 6th April 1974, the Swedish pop group ABBA won the Eurovision Song Contest with their song Waterloo.

It was the first time that Sweden won the contest.

ABBA went on to be one of the most successful groups in music history.

The victory, in Brighton, was just the first step on the road to conquering the world, as far as pop music was concerned. The songs, written mainly by Björn Ulvaeus and Benny Andersson, were matched by

the passion, exuberance and good looks of singers Agnetha Fältskog and Anni-Frid 'Frida' Lyngstad, who later married them – and even later, divorced them.

The name of the group came from the initials of the four Christian names. Some have suggested a link to the biblical Abba and looked for Jewish themes in their songs, but this is wishful thinking. While Anni-Frid (who was born Norwegian) may be Christian, Björn is definitely an outspoken atheist. In fact, ABBA is the name of a Swedish canned fish company that had to give permission for the singers to use it – a decision they are unlikely to have regretted.

Both Waterloo and ABBA achieved worldwide superstar status quickly – no small feat for a group performing in a language that is not their own. The film ABBA – the Movie and the musical Mamma Mia and its sequel, featuring their compelling songs, were huge successes. It is estimated that the musical has been seen by more than 60 million people worldwide.

ABBA hit the jackpot again when their revolutionary new project, ABBA Voyage, launched in 2022. In it, Agnetha, Björn, Benny and Anni-Frid perform their love-songs digitally with a live 10-piece band, in a purpose-built ABBA arena at Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in London.

Not bad for four divorcees in their 70s.

S. J. ACKRILL

BUILDING AND DECORATING CONTRACTORS

ESTABLISHED OVER 60 YEARS

VAT No. 198 9173 96

The Croft,

Letcombe Hill, East Challow

Wantage, Oxon. OX12 9RW

01235 769728

07831 247130

sjackrill@gmail.com



Data from Action Fraud, the national fraud and cybercrime reporting service, shows that **22,530 people** reported that their online accounts had been hacked in 2023, with victims losing a total of £1.3 million.

How are accounts hacked?

On-platform chain hacking

This is when a fraudster gains control of an account and begins to impersonate the legitimate owner. The goal is to convince people to reveal authentication codes that are sent to them via text. Many victims of this type of hacking believe it's a friend messaging them, however the shared code was associated with their own account and the impersonator can now use it to access their account. Usually when an account is taken over, fraudsters monetise control of the account via the promotion of various fraudulent schemes, while impersonating the original account owner.

Leaked passwords and phishing

The other predominant method of hacking reported is leaked information used from data breaches, such as leaked passwords, or account details gained via phishing scams. This becomes prevalent as people often use the same password for multiple accounts, so a leaked password from one website can leave many of their online accounts vulnerable to hacking.

How to secure your accounts

Use a strong and different password for your email and social media accounts. Your email and social media passwords should be strong and different from all your other passwords. Combining three random words that each mean something to you is a great way to create a password that is easy to remember but hard to crack.

Turn on 2-Step Verification (2SV) for your email and social media accounts. 2-Step Verification (2SV) gives you twice the protection so even if cyber criminals have your password, they can't access your email or social media account. 2SV works by asking for more information to prove your identity. For example, getting a code sent to your phone when you sign in using a new device or change settings such as your password. You won't be asked for this every time you check your email or social media.

If you live in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and have been a victim of fraud or cybercrime, report it at www.actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040. In Scotland, victims of fraud and cybercrime should report to Police Scotland on 101.

If you receive a suspicious email, you can report it by forwarding the email to: report@phishing.gov.uk

Find out how to protect yourself from fraud: Gov.uk/stopthinkfraud

9th April - Dietrich Bonhoeffer,
Lutheran pastor and martyr



Standing up to tyrants, no matter what the cost. That kind of courage has been in the headlines since the war in Ukraine began, as many brave people have defied Putin's oppression.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer did not have Putin to contend with, but Hitler. Bonhoeffer did not back down either, when the time came.

Bonhoeffer grew up with no thought of ever defying the leader of Germany. Nothing could have been further from his mind or background. Born at Breslau in Silesia (now the Polish city of Wroclaw) in 1906, Bonhoeffer was the son of an academic. In 1912, his father was appointed to be Professor of Psychiatry and Neurology at Berlin university, and so the family moved to Berlin.

Bonhoeffer never even considered going into politics. Instead, he studied theology in Tübingen, Berlin and New York, before returning to Berlin as a lecturer in theology in 1931.

But though Bonhoeffer did not chase political trouble, it soon came to him. For on 30th January 1933 Adolf Hitler, leader of the National Socialist German Workers' Party, had come to power. His totalitarian approach left no room for anyone in public life to disagree with him. Including anyone in the two major churches - Lutheran and Catholic.

But Bonhoeffer refused to be compliant, and joined the Confessing Church, which had formed in opposition to the takeover of the Lutheran Church. The Confessing Church also opposed Hitler's attempts to force antisemitism on the church and society.

Bonhoeffer was in America when war broke out in 1939, but he returned to Germany. He said: "I shall have no right to participate in the reconstruction of Christian life in Germany after the war, if I do not share the trials of this time with my people."

Back in Germany, he joined the underground anti-Nazi opposition and worked hard to oppose Hitler. In 1943 he was arrested and imprisoned at Tegel prison in Berlin. The involvement of many of his contacts in the July 1944 plot to kill Hitler may well have sealed his fate. He was finally moved on to Flossenbürg concentration camp.

In April 1945, as American troops were approaching the camp, Bonhoeffer was hanged. The last words of this brilliant and courageous 39-year-old opponent of Nazism were: "**This is the end - for me, the beginning of life.**"

Bonhoeffer left a great legacy behind him. His writings, and especially his Letters and Papers from Prison, have inspired many trying to make sense of persecution and needless suffering.

His 1937 book *The Cost of Discipleship* is described as a modern classic.

St. Nicholas Church

Coffee Morning



10.30 - Midday
Thursday 4th April

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



Called to be Fools

April Fool's Day is the traditional way to begin this month. In medieval times the fool (or jester) was not just there for amusement. He had an influential role in the court, because he could speak the truth in ways others couldn't. As Christians we are also called to be fools; Paul described himself as a 'fool for Christ' (1 Corinthians 4:10). In what ways is this an appropriate description of a Christian? In his letter Paul expands on this theme.

A foolish message:

'For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.' (1 Cor 1:18).

The heart of the Gospel does not focus on clever ideas, but on the Cross of Jesus Christ. This message of foolishness and weakness is both God's wisdom and power for our lives.

A foolish community:

'But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.' (1:27).

The church in Corinth consisted of slaves, rather than the rich and successful. God calls the weak and vulnerable to follow Him, in order to shame those who think they don't need God.

A foolish ministry:

'My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.' (2:4,5).

Paul's ministry didn't rest on human wisdom, but on the power of the Holy Spirit. For us, this power is often displayed when we are at our weakest.

**'A fool thinks himself to be wise,
but a wise man knows himself to be a fool.'**
(William Shakespeare)

Please Note....

This newsletter is published by
St Nicholas Church.

It is produced to give a varied
mix of both Church and Village
related articles and information.

Any content submitted for
inclusion needs to be of an
informative nature

The editor reserves the right to
remove anything deemed as
aggressive in nature

Strict bedtimes could make children's brains
'bigger and healthier'

A family routine and a strict bedtime could help your child develop a healthier, bigger brain.

On the other hand, a disruptive family life with poor sleep patterns could mean your child has slower brain development, poorer cognitive function, and below average academic achievement.

Those are the findings of a new study from Colorado State University. It found that children thrive when the family has a weekly 'family time' together, when homework is done at the same time every day, the family eats dinner together every night, the child is expected to carry out regular household chores, and when bedtime is at a consistent time, accompanied by a bedtime story or similar calming ritual.

The underlying need is for the child to get enough regular and deep sleep. Children with disrupted families get disrupted sleep, and therefore are more likely to have thinner regions of the brain in the amygdala as well as parts of the left and right frontal cortex. These areas control skills related to language, behaviour, sensory perception, and emotional processing.

The Easter Glow

For three years Jesus had held the tiny band together, through journeyings, storms and opposition. And now – following a public trial and execution – He was gone.

Take away the dominant figure, and an organisation can quickly crumble. Take Theudas, an earlier messianic claimant. Once killed, his 400 devotees melted away. Then there was Judas the Galilean. When he, too, was removed, the movement scattered.

Now, it was Easter Day. Here were two disciples walking to Emmaus. As far as they were concerned, their leader was dead. The 'scattering' process had already begun. It had started on that fateful Thursday evening of Christ's arrest, when Jesus had quoted to His disciples from the prophet Zechariah: "It is written 'I will strike the shepherd and the sheep of the flock will be scattered'" (Matthew 26:31).

The dream was over. "Let's go home - back to Emmaus." Yet Luke 24 is the glowing account of the entire re-building of a worldview. As the apparent Stranger joins the two, it was like the uncorking of a bottle; the story pours out. Surely crucifixion and the future Redeemer of Israel had nothing to do with each other!

Then began a fascinating Bible study on the road. Evidently in their studies, the two had skipped the passages that spoke of a suffering Messiah. The Stranger says, "Let me fill in those bits for you." Now the figures of a Conquering King and a Suffering Servant begin to coalesce into a single photo fit. Then, at supper with the two, comes the familiar action of the breaking of bread, and – Why.... it's Jesus.

The disciples rush the seven miles back to Jerusalem. They can't keep the glowing news of the risen Christ to themselves!

If Jesus had not been bodily raised from the grave, the demoralised movement – like those of Theudas and Judas the Galilean - would have folded within days. And you and I would never have heard of Him!





HERE COMES THE 2024 SEASON!!!!

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

The senior sides kick off their campaign with friendly matches from 13th April
and the Youth Training starts on Friday 27th April

see our website www.challowcricket.co.uk for all our match details

As the club gets busier with a match or training taking place pretty much every day, 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.

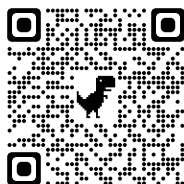
If you would like to join the club as a member, you can do so via our website, and if you would be able to help us out in any capacity then we'd love to hear from you! We're always looking for players, umpires, scorers, coaches and of course anyone who can give us an hour or so occasionally to do the 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

admin@challowcricket.co.uk

01235 763335



Save the Date....

Sunday 2nd June

The Annual Community Cricket Match



and Tug 'O' War 1 pm – 6 pm

Challow Cricket Club, Vicarage Hill, East Challow.

~ FREE ENTRY ~

Join us for an afternoon of Sport and Family Fun

The Club Bar will be open, Children's Entertainment,
Refreshments, Raffle, Tombola, Stalls etc.

For further information please contact:
Carol Cannings: Challow House Farm, Main Street.
Vanessa Bosley: Coach Row, Main Street.

We will also be commemorating the 80th Anniversary of D-Day

- Cornerstone Christian Centre -

Cornerstone News – April 2024

In the Café

This month we will be serving creams teas again. Scone, Jam and Cream for just £5 in April. All our scones and most of our cakes are home made by our very talented cooks. Victoria Sponge and Lemon Drizzle are favourites with our regulars.

We will be doing our Free Breakfasts slightly differently in the Easter School Holidays, handing our vouchers to be redeemed from our marble jar. If you know a family who would benefit, let us know. If you want to contribute – ask at the till about buying some marbles.



In the shop

Our Easter book promotion is over and a new promotion will arrive towards the end of the month. In the meantime, we have been stocking up with new cards and gifts

Join the team

We are blessed with a very friendly team made up of a small team of paid staff and a large team of volunteers. We currently have one paid cook vacancy for 9.15-2.30pm Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Our volunteer shifts are just two hours long and we are looking to cover a number of regular gaps on our rota for serving in the café, washing up and helping in our Christian Bookshop. If you are interested in any of these roles, either call or email our Manager Sarah (details below) or why not drop in and meet our team?

Monthly hot meal special

This will be served on Wednesday 24th April at 12.30pm – please do book in advance so that we know how many to cater for.

Outside catering

We are able to supply cold buffet style platters for your events; for example Business lunches, children's parties and wakes – please contact us for more information.

AGM

Advance notice that our AGM will be held on Monday 17th June – more details to follow but please make a note of the date.

Prayer breakfasts

Our monthly prayer breakfasts continue on the second Saturday of each month. The next one will be on **Saturday 13th April** at 8.30am and I look forward to you joining us for croissants, tea, coffee, prayer and fellowship.

Blessings

Sarah Shewring

Cornerstone Café

10 Savile Way, Grove, OX12 0PT

01235 772280

office@cornerstonegrove.org.uk

**WASPS & ALL INSECTS
RATS, MICE, MOLES & SQUIRRELS
PROMPT SERVICE**

MARK DEARLOVE • 07446377816
(01235 239622) • info@pestwizards.co.uk



23rd April - St George of the Golden Legend

The Saint of an English Army before he was Patron Saint of England, St George may have been a soldier, but he was no Englishman. Some stories say that he was an officer in the Roman army under Diocletian, who refused to abandon his faith during the Terror, and was martyred at Lydda in Palestine about the year 300 AD - supposedly 23rd April. Over the years St George became the example of a Christian fighting-man, a powerful helper against evil powers affecting individual lives. He was the soldier-hero of the Middle Ages, of whom remarkable deeds were reported.

In the Golden Legend of the 13th century, Jacobus de Voragine gave St George a handsome write-up. The story runs thus:

One day, St George rode up to the heathen city of Sylene in Libya where he found the citizens in great distress. A neighbouring dragon had forced them to surrender two sheep each day for its dinner, and when the sheep gave out, two of their children; and now they were about to sacrifice the King's daughter, dressed as if for her wedding. St George encountered the little party by a stagnant lake, where the dragon lived, and persuaded the sobbing Princess to tell him why she was so miserable. At that moment the dragon appeared, looking inexpressibly revolting. St George charged forwards and drove his spear into the dragon's gaping mouth. To everyone's amazement, he tumbled the monster over and over.

Then St George borrowed the Princess's girdle, tied it round the dragon's neck, and persuaded her to lead it back to Sylene herself. The sight of her approaching with the befuddled dragon on its makeshift lead emptied the town. When the inhabitants timidly crept back, St George promised to behead the dragon if they would all believe in Jesus Christ and be baptised.

It was a most effective form of evangelism, for everybody said 'yes' at once. So, 15,000 people were baptised, and four carts were commissioned to remove the dragon's body.

St George thus became a symbol of the war against evil, and he is usually portrayed trampling the dragon of sin under his horse's hoofs. The Crusaders had a vision of him helping them against the Saracens at Antioch, during the first Crusade, and so brought the story of St George back with them from Palestine. Presently England puts herself under the protection of the Saint. His day was declared a holiday in 1222. A red cross on a white field is the flag of St George.



East
Challow
Village
Hall

Saturday 20th April 2024

Doors open 6.15pm

Eyes Down 7.00pm



in aid of

1st Grove Brownies





Regular worshippers were upgraded to first class

Shaun Guard

TV & WIFI SERVICES

- Aerials - supplied & repaired also poor reception solved
- Satellite - Sky Q upgrades, discreet dish installation
- Internet - black spots cured, internal & external data cables installed
- TVs - hung on your wall or set up and tuned

OXFORD AERIALS

www.oxfordaerials.co.uk shaun@oxfordaerials.co.uk

Call us on 01235 239622

Appreciating Johann Sebastian Bach

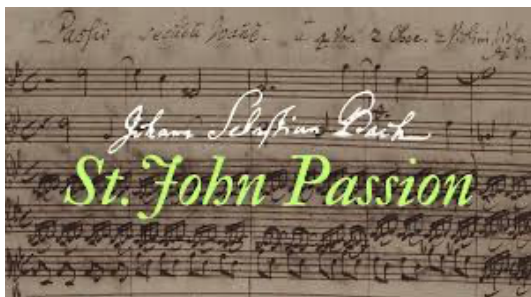


Three hundred years ago, on 7th April 1724, the German composer Johann Sebastian Bach's **St John Passion** was performed for the first time, at a church in Leipzig.

It was put on as part of Good Friday Vespers at St Nicholas Church, having been transferred from St Thomas at the last moment by the music council. Bach, who had just turned 39, agreed to the move, while pointing out that the booklet had already been printed, there

was no room immediately available for the musicians, and the harpsichord needed some repair. These problems were overcome.

Bach was already highly regarded, but primarily as a harpsichordist and organ expert. Later seen as one of the best composers of all time – renowned for such works as the **Brandenburg Concertos** and his **Mass in B Minor** – he was one of a large family of north German musicians. He is widely praised as a great synthesiser of styles and traditions.



The **St John Passion**, written during his first year as director of church music in Leipzig, was designed to be used as part of a church service. It follows John 18 and 19 in the Luther Bible, but the writer of the libretto is not known. A possible earlier Passion, written in Weimar, is lost.

Nowadays the **St John Passion** is heard mainly in the 1739–1749 version, which was never performed in Bach's lifetime, though he made many revisions to the original before his death.



Serving persecuted **Christians** worldwide

‘With God all things are possible’ – Matthew 19:26

What's the first thing you see as you walk in the door at St Nicholas church? Most likely it will be the friendly face of someone who loves Jesus. And there's more than a 50% chance it will be a woman – someone's sister, daughter, mother, wife. No great surprise there, but in many places around the world, Christian women and girls might not be able to attend church. Instead, they face persecution because of their faith and gender.

Sara*, in Iraq, was 15 when she decided she wanted to become a Christian. In Iraq, Christians form a very small percentage of the population, and it can be very difficult for a girl from a Muslim family to go against the grain. Parents feel hurt, shamed, and can react in very violent ways. The moment Sara told her family, she was put under house arrest. Her dad took her phone and locked her in her bedroom without food. “Let's see how your God will get you out,” he taunted her. She wasn't allowed out for ten days.

Persecution against women is often complex and hidden. When women or girls like Sara have few rights in society, they are vulnerable. House arrest, violence, forced marriage, or even so-called ‘honour’ killing can be so blended into the culture's everyday treatment of women that it's unlikely anybody would protest or do anything to bring rescue.

Sara was shocked when her father, with whom she had always enjoyed a close and loving bond, treated her as if she was worthless. She was even more shocked when he told her she was to be forcibly married to a Muslim relative. Nevertheless, she remained faithful to her original decision to choose Christ and, in fact, if you read her story – either on the Open Doors website or in the magazine - you'll discover that some amazing things happened. God did not desert her. But without the support and protection of her Christian family, she would have been extremely vulnerable.

Open Doors' vision is to ensure that every woman who is persecuted for her faith and gender is seen, valued and empowered to reach her God-given potential. Through the six years of the See. Change. campaign, so far, thousands have written, prayed, and given money to support and change the lives of women and girls around the world. There is still so much more to do. But there are lots of ways to help.

One way is through prayer. On Saturday 13 April there will be a special See. Change. Prayer breakfast at the Open Doors office in Witney to pray for persecuted Christian women and girls and hear their inspiring stories of courage. If you'd like to attend, you'd be very welcome.

For more information visit opendoorsuk.org/seechange or speak to Claire Page.

**Closer to home, you'd find a warm welcome at St Nicholas or any of the local churches,
as at Easter we celebrate new life, resurrection, and the God of the impossible!**

*Name changed for security reasons



Cllr Dr. Paul Barrow

Report from District Councillor for April 2024

Flooding and Highways

Flooding remains a major problem. Water levels have not yet gone down far enough for the culvert under the A417 to be inspected. I and our parish councils have contacted Leigh Travers for a meeting but this has not been successful and I will approach the county officer.

Apart from the A417 at Mellor's and Haynes's in our parish and the back road (Bablake's Farm) in Letcombe Regis the two most difficult stretches of Highways in terms of localised flooding are Court Hill leading down to The Mill in Letcombe Regis and Gramp's Hill and the road down to the cress beds in Letcombe Bassett. I am trying to start a conversation with Highways to ensure that drainage is improved at those sites.

I will be asking a question and supplementary question at the April County Council meeting to try and clarify Highways Strategy. Maintenance of Highways infrastructure is woefully underfunded.

SIDs

Our two SIDs are now in place funded by Crest Nicholson with support from the county council. Although one of the posts is in the incorrect position they seem to be having a positive effect on traffic speed already.

The Crest Nicholson staff member also contacted me to say that she had been in contact with the contractor about covering the "bear trap" drain sump along Main St. A very rough fence has been put around this but it is still not safe to my mind.

Recycling Talk

On Feb. 26th we had an interesting and useful talk on recycling from the Vale recycling officer. It was a shame that so few residents were there. I have received the Powerpoint presentation and will ensure that it is posted on the websites of Challow and the other villages.

Sustainable Farming in the Vale and Men's Breakfasts

I met Neil Rowe, a retired dairy farmer, on March 2nd at a Men's Breakfast in Marcham to explore whether farmer clusters could be set up in the Vale in the same way that they are set up in the North Wessex Downs AONB (now called National Landscape) to support sustainable farming in a mutually supportive group. I will be discussing this further with the NFU.

Men's breakfasts are a great way for new residents to get to know each other. Women often meet via schools and other activities but men rarely do. These informal meetings involve a cooked breakfasts and sometimes a talk. Great idea for villages with lots of new housing.

East Challow Village Sign

The village has money from the Crest Nicholson development for a nice Suffolk Sign, similar to the one in Childrey. The parish council has consulted the county council and the Vale regarding its position and we had one agreed. We had to apply for planning permission to erect it as we wanted it on the green space in front of the Old Goodlake Arms so that it would be visible as you enter the village from Wantage.

Planning have to consult Oxfordshire County Council Highways and – it was refused! We are now trying to find out what has gone on.

Challow Sports

Challow Sports have started junior football, currently based at the cricket club and are planning to use the football pitch on the recreation ground. It will be great to see football played there once again. The Cricket Club also want to use it for one of their teams! All good!!

What is desperately needed is a decent Pavilion / Changing Room which can double up as a base for Cubs, Beavers, Guides and other community uses. Serious discussions are underway but it will take some time (understatement!).

The 68 Community Bus Service

Please use this bus if you want us to keep it! I have used it several times. It runs Mon-Sat. The money will run out in March 2025. We have some thoughts about continuing it with the help of the Oxford Bus Company but don't hold your breath.

A new 85 Community Bus Service

We have just been told that from April a new community bus service will connect Wantage (marketplace and health centre), Grove, Denchworth, West Hanney, Lyford, Charney Bassett, Goosey, East Challow and back to Wantage. If I read this correctly it will be a Wednesday only service and starting April 17th (I believe that this is to make sure that the buses do not stand idle during the middle of the day). I am sure that we will be told more in due course.

Street Lights opposite the Crest Nicholson site

The 8 street lights on the north side of the Main Rd (A417) in front of the Fuller's Grove Development are not working and as far as I know have never worked.

This has been put on FixMyStreet and it's got into the Herald. It's about time Highways fixed them.

Cllr Dr. Paul Barrow

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

Paul.barrow@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Mob: 07557 953862

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

Instagram: [Dr Paul Barrow](#)

EAST CHALLOW ~ PARISH COUNCIL

www.eastchallowpc.co.uk

Slide and Carousel Replacement

East Challow Play Area

Dear Villagers,

East Challow Parish Council will be replacing the Slide and the Carousel in the play area behind Reynolds Way.

The proposed date for this is the end of April, and we wish to inform you in advance that the play area will need to be closed for approx 2 weeks to allow this installation to take place.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause and we look forward to being able to provide a new Slide and Carousel.


We let you know when we have a confirmed date for the works to take place.

Many thanks,

ECPC

Waste & Recycling Information

Normal Collection Day	Revised Collection Day	Which Bin
Tuesday 2 nd April	Wednesday 3 rd April	Black + Food
Tuesday 9 th April		Green + Food + Brown
Tuesday 16 th April		Black + Food
Tuesday 23 rd April		Green + Food + Brown
Tuesday 30 th April		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

Please take any Large Waste Items to the Recycling Centre at Stanford in the Vale

Faringdon Road, SN7 8LD

The Next Parish Council Meeting

will take place in the Village Hall on

Wednesday 10th April at 7.30pm

All villagers are invited to attend Parish Council meetings as observers and there is a 10 minute public discussion time early in the meeting when you can raise any matter you wish with the council.

The minutes of each meeting are available on the website.



Parish Councillors

*Paul Barrow, Vanessa Bosley,
Ian Crump, Andy Gregson,
Trevor Hayes, Bryan Miller,
Frances Webb*

Clerk to the council - Jane Smith
clerk@eastchallowpc.co.uk

Ofcom
making communications work for everyone

3-digit numbers

999	Emergency (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 10p. Calls to 123 may vary in cost: check with your provider for details. 105 is available to callers in Great Britain.

Parish Council Website

<https://www.eastchallowpc.co.uk/>

The minutes of all the Council Meetings can be found here

<https://www.eastchallowpc.co.uk/the-parish-council/minutes-and-agenda/>

Archived copies of the Challow News can be found here

<https://www.eastchallowpc.co.uk/local-information/challow-news/>

LJ&CA
Cannings

Garden Machinery Centre
Sales - Service - Hire - Repair



- After Sales Support
- Friendly Service
- Garden Machinery Hire for Trade & DIY
- Collection & Delivery Service available



TIGA®

Mountfield

Local Dealer

*Dickies Workwear - Buckler Boots
PPE - Hoggs of Fife Country Clothing*



- Special Weekend Hire Rates
- Competitive Prices
- Friendly Service
- Parking



Trade & DIY Hire Centre
Plant & Tool Hire

LJ&CA
Cannings

Challow House Farm, Main Street, East Challow, OX12 9SR
Tel: 01235 763103 www.ljcannings.co.uk

A helping hand to shape your land