

The logo features the word 'Challow' in white, bold, sans-serif font, centered within a blue oval. This oval is surrounded by a white elliptical ring. The entire graphic is set against a red rectangular background with rounded corners. In the top right corner of the red background, there are two small white four-pointed stars.

Challow

NEWS

~ OCTOBER 2025 ~

Vale Benefice

Baptism & Confirmation Service



St Johns Church, GROVE

Sunday 19th October

at 10.15 am



Main Street, East Challow.
OX12 9SH

Churchwardens

Mrs Liz Belcher: 01235 763966
Dr. Jeff Penfold: 01235 763173

Vicar: Rev Alec Gill

07739 563894

Email: vicaralec@valebenefice.org.uk

Associate Vicar:

Rev Dr. Miriam Jones

07474 095190

vicarmiriam@valebenefice.org.uk

Licensed Lay Minister: 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



Details of all Services and Festivals
can be found on the

St. Nicholas website page of

A Church Near You

[www.achurchnearyou.com/
church/5811/](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/5811/)

East Challow Parish Council

clerk@eastchallowpc.co.uk

Cricket Club - 01235 763335

R B L Club - 01235 763430

Village Hall - bookings.ecvh@gmail.com

Challow News - nigel.langford@me.com

Mably Way Health Centre

Church Street - 01235 770245

Newbury Street - 01235 639521

3 - Digit Numbers

999 - Emergency

111 - NHS (non emergency)

101 - POLICE (non emergency)

105 - NATIONAL POWER CUT
SERVICE

Being a pastor in the Ukraine

Pastors in the Ukraine are continuing to minister to their beleaguered congregations, bringing comfort and hope into the most frightening and desperate war-torn situations.

So says Transform Europe Network, a Christian ministry which serves alongside indigenous Christians in Eastern Europe and the Balkans. In a recent report, it gives an update from one of its partners on the ground:

Pastor Evgeniy serves in the war-torn Kherson region of southeastern Ukraine. Since 2022, he and a small group of volunteers have brought food, comfort, and hope to people living amid the destruction.

Evgeniy and his team recently came to a village that had been shelled. One family's home was reduced to rubble, and their vital documents were buried. The team arrived in bright, civilian clothing, deliberately chosen to identify them as volunteers, not military. As they began to pull back the rubble, they remained calm, focussing on their priority to help the family escape.

40 minutes later, the volunteers heard and saw a reconnaissance drone circling above them. They couldn't tell who it belonged to, but its presence was ominous. Then came a different sound — sharper, lower, and closer. A small military drone was heading straight for them. In a moment that could only be described as divine intervention, the drone clipped a tree branch and crashed to the ground next to the team's car.

The team cautiously approached the drone, still twitching and sparking. Minutes later, a second drone appeared. It aimed for the fallen drone, possibly to trigger an explosion by striking the first. But it too missed its target—crashing about six meters from the car, hitting a nearby concrete wall rather than the group. No one was injured.

But the volunteers knew then that they were under attack. They gathered their tools, helped the family into the vehicle, and drove away. Just seconds after they left, a third drone struck — right where their car had been parked moments before. The resulting explosion could have easily taken their lives. But once again, by what they all believe was God's hand, they were spared.

Reflecting on the events, Pastor Evgeniy was asked if he ever felt hatred or the desire for revenge. His answer was quiet, but unshakable

'No. I just understand. I understand the pain. I understand the fear. But if we don't bring light into this darkness, who will?'

For Evgeniy, war is not a reason to harden the heart—it's a call to deeper compassion. Even as drones fly overhead and homes crumble, he continues his ministry, bringing food, prayer, and humanity into places others flee from.

This is what faith looks like in the ruins. It looks like a small group in bright vests, carrying hope into danger. It looks like a pastor who chooses grace over vengeance. And it looks like a God who protects, even when the bombs fall close.

Since the talks involving the US and a possible ceasefire, the local leaders testify that instead of de-escalation, they've experienced a significant rise in attacks and shelling.

Transform Europe Network (TEN) asks Christians in the UK:

Please pray for pastors and church teams, exhausted by serving many people on the frontline. Pray for those who are confused, discouraged and angry, even with each other. Pray for healing and comfort from the Holy Spirit. Churches in Ukraine do all they can to reconcile local people, but it is getting harder and harder.

Mothers are afraid that their teenage sons will be taken away for conscription, which has become increasingly aggressive. This also causes men to run away from home and so many families are fractured and deeply stressed as the war grinds on.

More details at: <https://ten-uk.org>

Next Parish Council Meeting

will be held in the Village Hall

Wednesday 8th October at 7.00pm

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

The minutes of each meeting are available on the website.

www.eastchallowpc.co.uk

**Remembering South and Vale's New Waste Services Number
is as easy as 123**

From today (8th September 2025) residents in South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse should use a new number for District Council Waste and Recycling enquiries: **01235 422 123**

The previous number (03000 610 610) is being phased out and will be switched off soon. The new number is already active, so residents should update their records and start using it right away.

01235 422 123 is the new number for all household waste, recycling, food, garden waste (collections only*), bulky waste collections, clinical waste collections and street cleaning services.

It is also the number to call to report fly-tipping and abandoned vehicles.

*For queries about garden waste permits, residents should continue to call 01235 422 422.

For enquiries relating to Household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRC's), please continue to contact the County Council on 0345 310 1111.

AUTUMN CLEAR UP....

It's the time of year when we are all tidying up our gardens for the winter.

Please could we remind villagers to cut back any vegetation overhanging public rights of way.

DOG FOULING....

With increased usage of the recreation ground for sport, please can I remind you that Under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 a person who is in charge of a dog must clean up after it when it fouls any footpath, highway, verge or other open space to which the public have access.

Please clean up after your dog.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Change of Date for a Parish Council Meeting

The Parish Council have changed the meeting date in April 2026.

The Parish Council meeting will now take place on

Wednesday 22nd April 2026.

Advanced Warning

Temporary Road Closure to apply to a section of

Letcombe Hill, East Challow up to the Royal British Legion

from **29th September 2025** up to and including **10th October 2025**

(24 hour daily road closure)



Community Buses

In addition to the No 68 bus which runs through the villages west of Wantage, including East Challow, the Wantage community transport group is planning to run a community bus from immediately east of Wantage into and around town. It will include the hospital and Mably Way practices. This service is likely to begin late 2025/early 2026. We had a discussion with the county council and the consultants employed by Grove Business Park about extending this service to include the business park. Most employees live in Wantage/Grove so this does not really affect the No 68.

Flooding at Mellor's on the A417

The weir which will modulate flow of water from the canal down to the drainage system on the A417 around Mellor's should be in place before the winter with its expected heavy rain. After the rain that we have had there has been no flooding so far (at time of writing) but the ground has been very dry and we will have to wait and see how the system behaves if we again get more prolonged and heavy rain this winter.

County Health Committee (HOSC)

We met on Sept 11th and had a full agenda of scrutiny of GP access and primary care estate and our ophthalmology services. The NHS is going through some pretty tough times with further changes. There is concern over recruitment and retention of GPs. Much of the work of a GP is very routine for such highly trained specialists and quite a few spend part of their week doing clinical work elsewhere, either doing surgery or working in care homes, for example. The current primary care model comprises GPs, nurses, other assistants and pharmacists who we see at the GP practice plus services at the community hospital or at Mably Way, plus the neighbourhood teams who might be responsible for long term care at home and all supported by the county council who are trying to improve our health to avoid us seeing GPs at all. This complex approach is needed to meet the needs of our increasing population – Oxfordshire and the UK have both increased by ca. 10-11% in the last 20 years and our increasingly ageing population. This puts huge strain on the space in the primary care buildings where the work is done. The NHS agrees that with these huge changes they must explain them better to residents otherwise we all just get confused! HOSC is likely to delve into these problems in greater depth with a specific working group.

The eye services are also causing the NHS problems. Central govt wants more involvement of private companies (for financial reasons) and this is hugely destabilising for the eye hospital especially in terms of its effect on training staff.

I am afraid that this will be my last newsletter as District Councillor as I have recently resigned for health reasons. I have had prostate cancer since 2019 and although the combination of drugs that I am on currently keeps everything in check it is likely that in the next year or two things will start to get "interesting" again. We will be retiring to Suffolk hopefully within the next year to be closer to our sons and their families. Thank you for your support over the last 6 years and comments back, whether positive or negative, as these have always been useful for improving our council services whether at district or parish level. Support for our parish is important. I didn't start as councillor until I was close to retirement and we all have busy lives but the more people who contribute, in whatever capacity and however little, lighten the load on those few who do most of the work.

I will remain on the East Challow Parish Council for a few months yet. I understand that there will be a by-election for District Councillor.

Former Cllr Dr Paul Barrow

Email: paul.barrow@surrey.ac.uk

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vibrant Christian community at...

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Home, Wantage

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wantage@pilgrimsfriend.org.uk

 www.pilgrimsfriend.org.uk/framland



All entries for the **NOVEMBER 2025**



Issue of the Challow News Must be submitted by

15th OCTOBER 2025

Email: nigel.langford@me.com



Hello Everyone...

It doesn't seem possible that October is here already, but it is. I suppose the shops will soon be decorated for Christmas! Only joking, I hope.

It's really quite autumnal now with the daylight hours getting shorter. We have had a very dry summer and when the hosepipe ban was put in place it made garden watering hard work, but the ban was necessary I suppose. There was an abundance of apples, damsons and other fruits this year, so the cupboard and freezer are well stocked for winter with jams, pickles and relishes.

Clergy update...

Well, it has happened at last; we have a full complement of clergy in the benefice. Rev. Dr. Miriam Jones was installed and licenced as associate vicar in the Benefice on September 4th. So, a huge welcome to Miriam and her family. It was a beautiful service led by Bishop Gavin and Alec, with representatives from all the parishes taking part. I am looking forward to getting to know her. I also want to thank Alec, we all appreciate how much he has been doing while we have been without a full team, we have been very fortunate to have had the retired clergy in the area so willing to give of their time to cover services. Also, a thank you to Alecs family who must have also been feeling the pressure. We can breathe a sigh of relief. We have been fortunate at St Nicholas to have had some of our services of Common prayer led by members of the congregation, so we never missed a Sunday. Yet another thank you to all those people that led the services.

Its a been a dogs life...

After telling you about my lovely dog Meg, I was asked about my other dogs so I thought I would tell you a bit about them. When I was growing up there was always a dog at home, but not mine, they were my dad's. When I got married, Mitch was the first dog we had, the reason being, that my eldest son Adam aged four at the time was telling everyone at his playgroup that he had hundreds of pets, when asked what these pets were, it turned out that they were wood lice that we apparently kept under the stairs. We decided that under the stairs was in need of attention, and also a pet was needed, so we made enquiries, and we got Mitch as a rescue dog from the RSPCA. He was a beautiful liver and white, two-year-old Springer Spaniel. He was wonderful with the kids; he was obsessed with fetching and catching a ball and dropping it to be thrown again. In hot weather mid walk Mitch would take a dip in a cow trough if one was available often dropping his ball in it. Not a pleasant job for me feeling about in the silty bottom of a trough to retrieve his ball. He would catch the ball before it even bounced, even when launched with a Whanger. Over the years we walked miles around the local countryside in all weathers. He had all his bits so unfortunately would sneak off on amorous adventures if he caught a sniff of a female dog in an interesting condition, (spaying and neutering weren't thought necessary in those days.) Mitch would just evaporate into thin air, and was off, how he got out was a mystery, we thought it was a secure garden. I even had phone calls informing me where he was. He didn't mind jumping in people's cars, several people who knew him brought him home at different times. He even got in a police car once and a very kind police officer delivered him back, albeit with a lecture about loose dogs. The roads were not as busy back then, but he did get knocked down once, he recovered and lived a long happy life. He was sixteen when we lost him, of course we were heartbroken, but he had a very happy life and certainly our lives were all the better for having him with us. It took me two years to have the heart to get another dog, I didn't want to replace him. It was because both my sons were leaving home, and I knew the house would be so empty with just my husband and myself at home.

Due to not going on as many walks as I would normally do, (I really can't muster up the enthusiasm without a furry friend beside me,) I have not collected my conkers so it will be interesting to see if there is an increase in the amount of spiders that inhabit the house.

And finally...

The annual Ride and Stride was on 13th of September, Jeff Penfold was our strider this year, we had quite a few people riding and striding, calling in to our church on their own mission.

It is with a touch of sadness that I tell you, that one of Saint Nicholas long term congregation, has passed away, Miss Marie Betteridge at the age of 96. Miss Betteridge was a local woman and had lived in her house since 1954. Marie played a big part in church life, for many years contributing both ideas and practical help over the years to the vicars that have served our parish. Marie was an accomplished needlewoman and made and designed our wedding kneelers and some of the other furnishings that contribute to the fabric of the church. Although she has not attended the services for a while due to ill health, she will be missed.

Rest in peace Marie.

We had our Harvest Festival on 14th September; the Church was decorated on the Saturday. I really want to give a huge thank you to everyone who contributed with donations of flowers and produce and made Saint Nicholas church look so beautiful. Our local Cubs and Beavers also did a lovely display with wooden spoon scarecrows amongst the produce. It looked great. They also participated in the service which was led by Alec, and we were able to meet Miriam our Associate vicar who did the address. The perishable goods were sold off at the end of the service and with the collection money will be donated to Water Aid. Non-perishable goods will be taken to the local food bank, so nothing is wasted. Once again, a thank you to everyone involved.

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



Would you love to feel slimmer for yourself, your health or an upcoming trip, without going on a diet, or completely cutting out your favourites...? Come along to any of my groups to discover how...

*Saturday	*Monday	*Tuesday
*7:30am & 9:00am	*5:30pm & 7:00pm	*4:00pm, 5:30pm & 7:00pm
*Challow & Childrey Cricket Club	*Wantage Methodist Church Hall	*Grove Old Mill Hall, Dixon Suite

Call or Message Becky on 07359 531030

real food, real support, real results

Slimming
WORLD
touching hearts, changing lives

"Whoever sows sparingly, will also reap sparingly, whoever sows generously will also reap generously." – 2 Corinthians 9:6

At this time of year, in harvest services, lunches, and suppers, we give thanks for the food and fruits of the earth and share what we have. 'Harvest' used to be the word for 'autumn' - the period between August and November - but by the mid-13th century, it came to mean 'the time for gathering crops'.

Reading the Bible broadens our understanding of what harvest can look like. Pentecost (which we celebrate in June) was not only harvest time in the Jewish calendar of Jesus' day, but after his resurrection came to mean a time when the Holy Spirit initiated an explosive start to the life of the church. Jesus said, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few,' and Paul, echoing Jesus' parable of the talents, encouraged new Christians in 1st century Greece to sow generously with their money and lives, so that God could 'enlarge the harvest of your righteousness'.

In Burkina Faso, Pastor Soré is reaping that kind of a harvest. He and his family were displaced by violent persecution and are now living in the middle of nowhere with vulnerable children and adults who are also displaced and need their care. In the last year alone, the community of people they support has grown from 17 to 44.

"God gave me a vision to receive the people who are persecuted and have lost their family," Pastor Soré says. "Many of the children are orphans, so we take care of them. I receive children who are not Christian, and they come to know Christ. We are sure the presence of God is with us. God is increasing our town and lots of people are coming here." The family have very little but have recently expanded their church— a clay brick building with a tin roof and a few wooden benches outside in the shade – to fit more people in.

Last year, when Open Doors reported on Pastor Soré and his family, in the magazine and website, as part of the ongoing Arise Africa campaign, many people were struck by his comment, "We are displaced, but Jesus is not and will never be displaced from our lives." Andy W, part of Open Doors' Church Relations team, recently visited Pastor Soré in Burkina Faso and as soon as he told the pastor how people had reacted to his words, his face lit up. He looked amazed and started to cry. "We're just doing our little bit here," he said. "We didn't think it would have any impact on anyone else."

The prayers and giving of Open Doors supporters are aiding Pastor Soré abundantly in his mission, Andy says. "I could see the evidence all around me – the chickens, goats and cows that they've been able to buy, along with seeds to get them started in self-reliance. Over and over again, Pastor Soré said, 'Thank you. We are so grateful for all you've done – your prayer, your support. We could not have done this without you'."

Many other displaced believers who Andy met, he says, understandably have very heavy hearts and are in survival mode but Pastor Soré is driven by God's purpose in his life. "If God wants me to stay here, I'll stay," he says. "My vision is to create some opportunity for the children and educate them. The seed we sow in them is important. God is really helping us move forward. Despite the challenges, we are still strong and bold to keep the vision."

Is it really your Bank calling?

Sadly we know that one of the most common crimes that we can all be vulnerable to is fraud. It can take many forms but impersonation of your bank, a government agency or even the police is a tactic that many criminals will use.

If you receive a suspicious call, independently contact your bank or the relevant agency using an official telephone number – do not use numbers given to you by the cold caller. But who has the time to dig out and verify a number for your bank?

That's why the 159 service was created. If you get a call from someone claiming to be your bank you can simply call 159 and you'll be put through to an automated service which can put you through directly. The system is supported by most of the major banks.

The idea is to give one trusted number that the public know they can call safely in order to be put through directly to their bank.

In some cases however, fraudsters will try to keep the line open, so that when you call back, you're actually talking to the fraudsters again.

The best way to avoid that is to wait for 15 minutes, to ensure the line is clear, or call from another phone if you have one available. Then simply call 159 to be put through directly to your bank.

NEVER disclose any personal or sensitive information over the telephone.

Whilst fraud is one of the biggest risks to us all from criminals it is also one of the most easily prevented crimes. A dose of healthy scepticism goes a long way, and always be cautious with unsolicited calls, emails and texts.

If in doubt, take a moment, do not be pressured into sharing information or handing over money.

Check with someone else if you're suspicious.

Matthew Barber
matthewbarber.co.uk



Sunday Night Cash Bingo



(Eyes down at 8.00pm)

Monday Night Poker



Challows

Afternoon Club

for all over 60's
we meet every month
2.00 pm
on the 3rd Thursday

Everyone Welcome

Planning an Event or Party

Our Main Hall
with Kitchen Facilities
are available to hire

~ **Contact** ~

01235 763430

Saturday Night Entertainment

25th October

MR ROCK AND ROLL

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

8th November

FRAUD SQUAD

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

8.00 pm

Admission £10.00

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Hand Bell Ringers

10.30 am Every Tuesday

New Members Welcome

01235 763430

~ For more details ~



Opening Hours

Monday - Thursday

7.00 pm - Close

~ ~ ~

Friday - 6.00 pm - Close

Saturday 1.00 pm - Close

Sunday 1.00 pm - Close

Call in and see all that
the Club has to offer
**Socialise over a drink
from the Bar or a game
of Darts, Snooker or Pool**



STREET FOOD TRUCK

5th Oct

4.30 pm - 8.00 pm

available here

LIVE - Super Sunday Football

SKY SPORTS

SHOWN HERE

KARAOKE

Sunday

5th October

3 pm - 7 pm



Meat Raffle



Every Sunday Afternoon

3 - 4 pm

~ starting 28th September ~

Club Membership is NOT a requirement to attend any events here ~ Everyone is Welcome



OUR AUTUMN / WINTER OFFERING

SKY Sports now shown LIVE

Bar opening times through this period will generally be

Monday	4pm – 9pm
Tuesday	4pm – 9pm (unless Bowls when closed)
Wednesday	4pm – 9pm
Thursday	4pm – 9pm (11pm when Darts match is on)
Friday	4pm – 10.00pm
Saturday	11.30am - 6.30pm
Sunday	11am – 6.00pm

If you would like to join the club as a member it's just
£20 for the year.

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

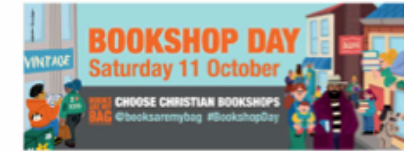
www.challowcricket.co.uk
admin@challowcricket.co.uk

01235 763335

Cornerstone News – October 2025

Christmas lunches

Our Christmas lunch menu was released in September and dates are booking up very quickly. We will be serving Christmas lunches on Friday 5th, Tuesday 9th, Thursday 11th, Monday 15th and Wednesday 17th December. On Wednesday 17th there is already very limited availability but on the other days there is still quite a lot of space. It would be a good idea to book soon if you want a specific date.



In the Bookshop

Bookshop day is 11th October, please support your local Christian bookshop. If you are not able to get in on the day Bookshop.org will be running a free delivery promotion which I will advertise nearer the time.

Advent Calendars, Cards and Candles are now on sale in the shop, along with a large range of Christmas cards and some gifts. We also have a new range of **Prayer Resources** including carved wooden labyrinths to trace as you pray. **Hannah Dunnett** 2026 Calendars are also now in stock.

Dreaming of a Green Christmas

A new book out for this year by Olivia Warburton is "Dreaming of a Green Christmas", we are delighted to be hosting an afternoon with Olivia on 22nd November at 3.30pm. Come along for great idea of how to make your Christmas more sustainable.

Marble Jar

Our jar overflows! The generosity we saw over the summer in paying it forward covered all the vouchers we used over the summer and more, leaving us with a healthy balance and the faith to be even more generous with vouchers for families at half term and to bless people with meals at Christmas. A huge **Thank You** to everyone!

30th birthday celebrations

As we celebrate 30 years of Cornerstone we look forward to welcoming you to our Thanksgiving Service to be held on Sunday 16th November at 3pm at St John's.

We are hoping to make this a joyful celebration of all 30 years, so if you have any pictures or special memories to share of Cornerstone, do get in touch. There is also a memory book at the till to write memories, messages and anecdotes in.



Monthly hot meal special

This will be served on Wednesday 29th October at 12.30pm – please book in advance so that we know how many to cater for.

Prayer breakfasts

Our monthly prayer breakfasts continue on the second Saturday of each month. The next one will be on **Saturday 11th October** at 8.30am and I look forward to you joining us for croissants, tea, coffee, prayer and fellowship.

Cornerstone, 10 Savile Way, Grove, OX12 0PT
Tel.01235 772280 email: office@cornerstonegrove.org.uk

Community Notices



2025-2026

East Challow Village hall
committee meetings

29th September
24th November
26th January
30th March
18th May
Start at 8.30pm

AGM - 27th July @7.30pm



HARVEST FESTIVAL

SUNDAY 26TH OCTOBER
EAST CHALLOW VILLAGE HALL
10AM-5PM

OPEN MIC
MARKET STALLS
CARVED PUMPKIN COMPETITION

EAST CHALLOW, VILLAGE HALL
SUNDAY 26TH OCTOBER
10AM-5PM

St Nicholas Church

Coffee Morning

FREE Coffee, Tea and Biscuits

10.30 to midday



THURSDAY 2nd OCTOBER

Everyone is welcome to our warm and safe place for company
and friendly conversation

Take advantage of the opportunity to meet up with friends and
neighbours in the village

The Poppy Appeal – could you help by giving some time this autumn?



The 2025 Poppy Appeal will be launched this month on October 23rd



The Poppy is a powerful symbol worn by people right across the UK to commemorate the sacrifices of our Armed Forces and to show support to those still serving today.

The Royal British Legion was first set up to help those returning from the First World War. Almost a century on, they're still helping today's Service people, veterans, and their families coping with bereavement, living with disability or finding employment.

However, the Poppy Appeal would not be able to continue without the dedication of the teams of volunteers who stand in the streets, shops and supermarkets. Each town and village has their own Poppy Appeal Organiser - also a volunteer - who runs these teams, arranges for cover, drops off and collects the boxes.

The Poppy Appeal is always grateful for the work of these dedicated people, but the volunteers say they're proud to be selling Poppies to show support for those who sacrificed their lives for us.

If you want to volunteer, or if you would like a visit from a local volunteer who can speak to your community/church group, please go to:

<https://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer>.

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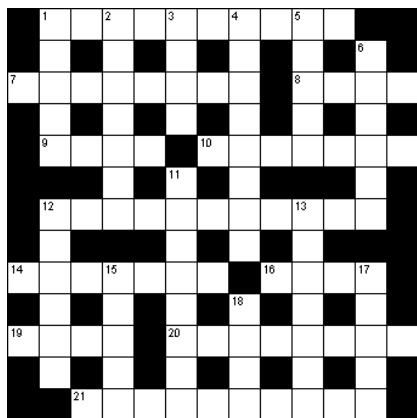
The Croft,
Letcombe Hill, East Challow
Wantage, Oxon. OX12 9RW

01235 769728

07831 247130

sjackrill@gmail.com





Across

Down

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 Exultant (10) | 1 Male singing voice (5) |
| 7 Finally (2,3,3) | 2 Dwell in (7) |
| 8 Clothed (4) | 3 Submissive (4) |
| 9 Precious stone (4) | 4 Spiny creature (8) |
| 10 Daydream (7) | 5 Mother-of-pearl (5) |
| 12 Star-gazers (11) | 6 Half the diameter of a circle (6) |
| 14 Edicts (7) | 11 Forbearing (8) |
| 16 Potato (4) | 12 Tree-lined road (6) |
| 19 Wharf (4) | 13 Heroic feat (7) |
| 20 Flying (8) | 15 Artificial silk (5) |
| 21 Teacher (10) | 17 Giver (5) |
| | 18 Language of Pakistan (4) |

Seats to avoid on passenger planes

Have you flown recently? How was your seat? It seems that some seats are rather weird.

Like the Jet2.com passenger who discovered that his seat came with an armrest that was literally 1.5 inches long. The reason? It was an emergency exit row seat and needed to be kept clear.

Or those planes (like some with Loganair and BA) which offer you rear-facing seats in row one. That means bracing yourself for a difficult take-off, and then you'll spend the trip with everyone else staring at you. And, as going backwards makes some people airsick, they may have to watch you throw up...

Or those seats which should have a window, but don't. Yes, windowless window seats really do exist. Some 777s and some 737s have these – something to do with air conditioning ducts.

As for the worst seats for odours – try to avoid being near the loos and the kitchen. The queues for the loos mean that you keep getting prodded by people's elbows, and the smells can be so nauseating that some nurses on social media even advise bringing along Vicks VapoRub, to distract your nose.

Send your love with these flowers

A flower used by Victorians when they wanted to send a 'hidden message' of love is making a big comeback.

It is the aster. It's popularity in bouquets has quadrupled in two years. Sales at Tesco alone have soared by nearly 350 per cent.

And no wonder: asters are vivid, fast-growing British flowers with a good vase life. They come in blue, purple, pink, dark pink, red and white – all with a bright yellow centre. They originally came from Japan and are related to dahlias and chrysanthemums.

The Victorians believed that asters symbolised love, patience, wisdom, elegance and grace. That made asters a sure winner for bearing discreet messages of affection.

More than five million were grown in the UK this year, so there must be a lot of love about!

Increase in attacks on Cats and wild Birds

The RSPCA has warned pet owners to be 'extra vigilant' after a 30 per cent increase in airgun attacks against cats.

One cat was shot five times in the leg and belly. Another had her spine fractured by a bullet. As one owner demanded: "How could someone do this to a poor, defenceless animal?"

But recent data from the RSPCA reveals hundreds of such incidents against pets over the past three years, involving air guns, catapults and crossbows. Kent and Greater London has had the most, followed by Durham, Essex, Cheshire, Hampshire, West Midlands, Greater Manchester, Somerset and West Yorkshire.

A spokesman for the RSPCA said: "It is unspeakably cruel and totally unacceptable to shoot animals for fun – or to harm them for target practice."

But wood pigeons and swans have also being often targeted. As one resident in Kent said: "It's just ridiculous how bad it's getting. You'll see an average kid here wanting to throw stones at a bird for absolutely no reason whatsoever, and the thing is they seem to have no fear of anything"

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Waste & Recycling Information



Tuesday 7th October	Green + Brown + Food
Tuesday 14th October	Black + Food
Tuesday 21st October	Green + Brown + Food
Tuesday 28th October	Black + Food
* Tuesday 4th November	Green + Brown + 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 help to keep our Village Tidy and free from Fly Tipping

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

Faringdon Road, SN7 8LD

There is a Recycling Bin for Clothing
situated in the car park off Canal Way
There is also a Recycling Bin for Shoes
etc. at the Cricket Club on Vicarage Hill

* Extra Garden Waste Collections

The next extra garden waste period is 27 October to 7 November 2025. During this time, if you have purchased a permit for our brown bin garden waste collection service, you will be able to have extra garden waste collected for free, on your normal collection day only.

Permit Holders will be able to put out a maximum of up to four additional sacks of garden waste, per brown bin subscription, next to their brown bin.

To be eligible for a collection, please follow this guidance:

Only present natural garden waste, such as cut grass, plants or branches.

Please use standard sized (60L) black refuse-style sacks or boxes / containers totalling no more than a standard bin full.

Bags and containers must be left open so crews can easily empty them into the rear of the vehicle.

**Please DO NOT use bags larger than 60L (including one tonne builders' type waste bags)
our crews will not collect any garden waste from these, as they are too heavy to lift.**


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The scary amount of money spent on Halloween

When did you first spot Halloween-themed items in the shops this year? Some were on sale in August. Seriously. August.

But perhaps no wonder – as in the UK Halloween has become the third-largest retail event after Christmas and Easter. In 2019 we spent £474million. By last year it had grown to £776million.

Who spends all this money? Millennials and young children are driving the sales, with about £40 spent on each costume. The supermarkets are the most popular places to buy the costumes, and then there is all the party stuff and trick & treats to add to the shopping trolley...

Some retail analysts predict that America will spend about \$12 billion dollars (£8.8 billion pounds) on Halloween this year. The UK might spend about £800 million. That may be frightening enough, never mind the costumes.

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Younger drivers and Older drivers

Drivers aged 17 to 24 are twice as likely to be killed or seriously injured as those aged over 70. So says recent data from the Department for Transport.

But there has also been a rise in the likelihood of serious accidents involving drivers aged 86 or over.

Police data reveals that older drivers are more likely to cause accidents by failing to look properly. Young drivers who cause accidents are often found to be drunk or high on drugs.

Meanwhile, the Government is preparing to introduce compulsory eye tests for the over-70s. This has been greeted with relief by driving agencies.

One commented that it is "totally inadequate" that drivers aged over 70 "can self-certify that they can see." He remembered a case where it was found that an older driver who caused a death had self-certified his eyesight as being fine, when he could barely see his own steering wheel.

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The Parish Church of
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Notices



SEPTEMBER



£50 - N° 144 ~ Mrs M. Mann

£20 - N° 138 ~ Mr N. Keay

£10 - N° 36 ~ Mrs S. Curl

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Would you like to join?

For further information please contact

Tricia Shand - 01235 764222

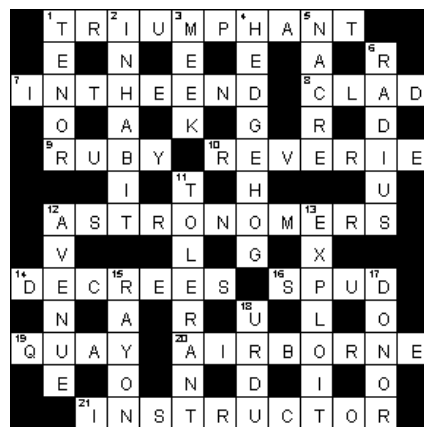
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**BRITISH
SUMMERTIME
ENDS**

CLOCKS GO
BACK BY 1
HOUR
26th October



Crossword Solution



St. Nicholas Church - Service Information

Sunday	1st Reading	2nd Reading	Gospel Reading
5th October Eucharist Rev. Alec Gill	Habakkuk 1: 1 - 4 + 2: 1 - 4	2 Timothy 1: 1 - 14	Luke 17: 5 - 10
12th October Eucharist Rev. Alec Gill Rev. Dr Miriam Jones	2 Kings 5: 1 - 3 + 3: 7 - 15c	2 Timothy 2: 8 - 15	Luke 17: 11 - 19
19th October NO SERVICE	Vale Benefice Baptism and Confirmation Service - St Johns Church, GROVE.		
26th October Baptism & Communion Rev. Alec Gill Rev. Dr Miriam Jones	Jeremiah 14: 7 - 10 + 19 - 22	2 Timothy 4: 6 - 8 + 16 - 18	Luke 18: 9 - 14

SUNDAY	Sacristan	Sidesperson	Intersessions	Readings	Organist
5th October	Ruth	Frances / Nigel	Philip	Alan / Ruth	Ruth
12th October	Louise / Claire	Linda / Noel	Louise / Claire	Graham	Ruth
19th October	Jenny	Liz / Jeff	Jenny	Jeff	Graham
26th October	Nigel	Tricia / Sue	Paul	Claire / Nick	Graham

	Coffee	Flowers	Cleaning
1st Sunday	Mandy	Heather	Linda / Liz
2nd Sunday	Jan / Hilary	Claire	Linda / Liz
3rd Sunday	Val / Barbara	Jenny	Mandy
4th Sunday	Linda / Janet	Mandy	Mandy
5th Sunday	Sue / Trish / Frances	Linda	Sue / Trish / Frances

THURSDAY	SACRISTAN
2nd October	Jenny
9th October	Mandy
16th October	Heather
23rd October	Mandy
30th October	Nigel

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