

Challow

NEWS

~ April 2026 ~

Celebrate the
resurrection of
our Lord!

Happy
EASTER



5th April ~ 11.00 am

Easter Day

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



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

**Emergency Defibrillator
Locations**

The Old Red Telephone Box
The Village Green, Main Street. OX12 9SR



Entrance Doorway
Challow & Childrey Cricket Club
Vicarage Hill. OX12 9RR

3 - Digit Numbers

999 - Emergency
111 - NHS (non emergency)
101 - POLICE (non emergency)
105 - NATIONAL POWER CUT
SERVICE

Jesus and the thieves on the Cross



Luke's account of the crucifixion (Luke 23:32-43) emphasises the mocking of the crowd, ***'If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself'*** (35,37,39). In their view a Messiah does not hang on a cross and suffer. In considering the two men who were crucified with Jesus, we are also confronted with the issue of how Jesus secures salvation for us.

The words of one of those crucified with Jesus reflected the crowd's taunts: ***'Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us.'***

He highlights the question of Jesus' identity: how can He save others, when He cannot save Himself from death? He failed to see that the cross itself was the means of salvation.

The other criminal's response in his last moments is a moving expression of faith. When challenging the other man, he spoke of the utter injustice of the crucifixion: ***'this man has done nothing wrong.'***

He perceived the truth that Jesus was indeed the Messiah. In a wonderful picture of grace, ***'remember me when You come into Your kingdom'***, the second thief confessed his guilt and secured Jesus' forgiveness and mercy.

In reply, Jesus promised the man life from the moment of death; ***'Today you will be with Me in paradise.'*** Jesus used the picture of a walled garden to help the man understand His promise of protection and security in God's love and acceptance eternally.

Each one of us has to choose how we react to Jesus on the cross. Do we want Him to 'remember' us when He comes into His kingdom, or not?

If you were to die tonight, how confident would you be of going to be with Jesus?

'For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God' (1 Peter 3:18).

East Challow Parish Council

Next Parish Council Meeting

will be held in the Village Hall

Wednesday 22nd April 2026 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

Parish Councillor Vacancy....

We have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. The Parish Council represents and serves the whole community of East Challow and is responsible for maintaining the local environment and amenities. If you are interested in joining the team please contact the clerk for more information. clerk@eastchallowpc.co.uk

Can you help to reduce speeding in our Village?

Community Speed Watch Volunteers needed...

Thank you to the residents who have volunteered to become part of the CSW team, this will be an important part of reducing speeding in East Challow. Training for the volunteers will be arranged in the coming weeks. We still need more volunteers please see below.

Community Speed Watch is a volunteer-led initiative where residents work with Thames Valley Police to monitor and report speeding in their areas.

- Volunteers are trained to use speed detection devices and report vehicles exceeding the limit.
- The training will be online via a link supplied and will involve watching a few short videos and answering some questions.
- You would become part of a team; we estimate the ongoing time commitment will be 2 hours per month.

The goal for drivers? Education, awareness, and long-term change – not punishment.

If you are interested and could be part of the CSW Team, please email clerk@eastchallowpc.co.uk

Dog waste in salt bins...

Filled dog waste bags have been left in some of the village salt bins, please can we ask dog owners to use the designated bins. The salt bins are an important part of keeping the roads in East Challow safe.

MUGA opening times...

Dear residents, the MUGA (Multi use games area) will re-open on the 30th March 2026 once the clocks have changed. The MUGA will be used by Challow Sports Netball for a weekly training session every Thursday from 5.30pm till 7.00pm. This is to provide a training area for school aged children year 3 and upwards in the village. During these times the MUGA will be closed to the public.

East Challow Parish Council apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

Newly planted hedgerow Recreation Ground...

Please can the Parish Council ask residents to respect the newly planted hedgerow on the recreation ground. Unfortunately, an incident recently occurred where tree guards/tubes had been removed and damaged.

Resident's Urged to respond to Government consultation...

The government has launched a consultation on options to reorganise local councils across Oxfordshire and West Berkshire. Local Government Reorganisation is a government-led reform to change how councils in two-tier areas are structured, replacing county and district councils with single unitary structures responsible for local services. The upcoming consultation asks residents for their views on each of the three proposals put forward for Oxfordshire.

The consultation is open from 5 February to 26 March 2026. Respondents can either take part in an online survey or write directly to government with their views

Residents can take part in the consultation by visiting <https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation/oxfordshire>

Residents reminded to buy their new garden waste permit...

Residents who receive garden waste collections in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse are being reminded to buy a new permit if they wish to continue receiving collections from 1 April through to 31 March 2027.

Garden waste permits expire on 31 March each year and residents must buy a new one annually to keep receiving the service. The quickest and easiest way to buy a new permit to do so online at southandvale.gov.uk/gardenwastepermit

Anyone who needs help to buy a permit can call the councils' Customer Services team on 01235 422422.

When residents receive their new permit sticker, they are asked to keep their current permit on their garden waste bin until after their final March collection. The new permit should then be placed on the bin lid ready for April collections.

Temporary Road Closure and "No Waiting" restriction at Stanford in the Vale, A417 Faringdon Road...

In the interests of public safety, it will be necessary for Oxfordshire County Council to close the road and impose a 'No Waiting' restriction to facilitate surface sealing works.

The temporary closure will operate 11 May 2026 up to and including 15 May 2026. This will operate between 04:00 and 18:00.

- Liz Belcher -

Challow Chatter

Hello Everyone...

April already, and spring has definitely sprung I hope. I have been enjoying the beautiful blossoms around the area while out and about with Roxy my dog. Everything bursting into life after a wet and miserable winter. The

Magnolia trees around the village are in bud at the time of writing, I hope that they are as magnificent as ever, I love to see the one on the village green, as it is near to my house, it usually has an amazing show. The peony in our front garden is looking to be as impressive as ever, it was here when we moved into the house and was big then, so is over forty plus years old and doing well. Peony blooms don't survive long but they are very vibrant while they last. My plum tree has buds on it I was hoping for a better harvest of plums this year, but the pigeons seem to be enjoying the buds, so I won't hold my breath. Last year my neighbour Peter told me that in the early morning he had seen muntjac deer stripping the bark from its trunk, so it must be a tasty tree even if I don't get to enjoy much of it. I can still watch the birds enjoying it though.

The daffodils on the banks and village green gave a lovely display as always. It's so good to see them especially when the sun shines. Of course, the primroses are also making the village look cheerful and cared for, especially in the churchyard.

I noticed over the winter that the daisies never stopped flowering so it must have been very mild weather. The daisy is a pretty and complex plant despite how simple it looks. Every white petal on what looks like a single bloom, is an individual flower, and the centre cushion is also made up of individual flowers. The Latin name is *Bellis perennis*, meaning pretty and everlasting, so it is very well named. The word daisy comes from "days eye," as it opens at sunrise and closes at sunset, it's blooms following the sun during the day. As a child I can remember making daisy chains for short lived necklaces, bracelets or coronets. I love to see them in lawns, and they are so forgiving when the lawn is mowed, coming back and probably thriving after a trim.

Mothering Sunday was on 15th March, and the service was led by Alec. We had a delayed start as Alec was hampered by a road closure, but it didn't hinder us too much. It was good to be able to honour Mother Church and the mother figures in our own lives. It was very well attended, with Beavers, Cubs and the newly formed village Scout troop joining us and contributing to the service. It's good news to have Scouts back in the village after probably two decades. In the service every lady in the congregation was presented with a small posy of flowers to mark the special day.

We also had members of Hazel Browns family joining us on the tenth anniversary of her death. Hazel had played a big part in Saint Nicholas church and our village. She was our organist for years and treasurer on our parochial church council. She was a founder member of the Open the Book team, which goes into the school every week. She was another person who did things quietly behind the scenes. An altogether lovely lady with a lovely sense of humour and has been very much missed in fact we named our kitchen area the Hazel Brown room when it was installed.

Of course, after the service we had refreshments and were able to chat and catch up with people.

Easter is the most important festival of the year in the Christian calendar, celebrating the fact that Jesus rose from the death of the crucifixion, to save us.

Holy week starts with Palm Sunday on 29th March when we remember that Jesus rode into Jerusalem in triumph on a donkey, people were cheering him, and the rode was strewn with palm branches and cloaks.

Maundy Thursday, the fifth day in Holy week is the feast that commemorates Jesus washing the feet of disciples and the Last supper. That night Jesus was betrayed by Judas Iscariot, arrested and suffered humiliation and trial.

Good Friday is when we remember that Jesus was crucified, and his body was placed in the tomb.

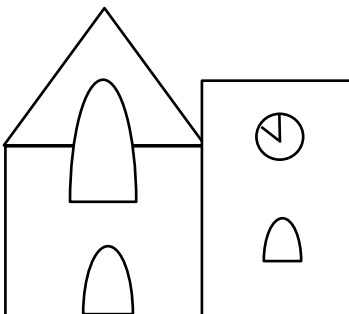
Easter day is when we can rejoice that the tomb was discovered to be empty and the realisation that Jesus had risen from the dead. Still celebrated in the Christian world as the ultimate miracle.

We would like our Church to look beautiful for Easter day. We will be decorating the church on the Saturday so if you want to help or want to contribute any flowers it would be most welcome. Of course, we would be very pleased to see people at any of our services which are advertised on our notice board and in this magazine. We are a friendly lot and there is always time for refreshments and a chat after the service.

The first of April is of course All fool's day or April fool's day. It has been the custom (but not compulsory) for people to play harmless tricks on friends and neighbours. This has been going on for hundreds of years going back to the Middle Ages and is also worldwide. The origin is not clear, but it may have come from the Roman era when they had a celebration to welcome spring. This would explain how it has spread across Europe. There have been some famous pranks played over the years, one of which was in 1957 when Richard Dimbleby did a feature on the spaghetti weevil eradication which led to a bumper spaghetti harvest. Even the starchy BBC had a sense of humour. The tricks should cease at midday so the BBC must have had special exemption.

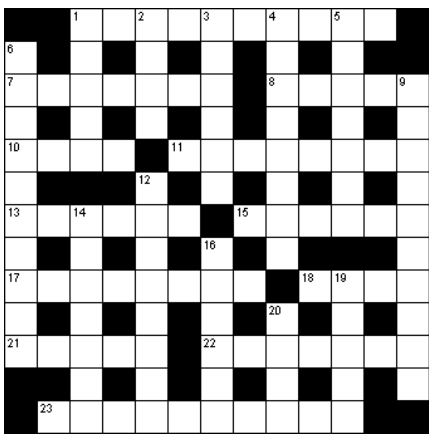
I hope you are enjoying the springtime, I hope to see you about the village.

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



Details of all our Easter Services
can be found displayed on the
Church Notice Board
and also inside this Newsletter

All entries and advertising inquiries for the **MAY 2026** Challow News
must be submitted by ~ **15th April 2026** ~ Email: nigel.langford@me.com



Across

- 1 Qualms (10)
- 7 Not fact (7)
- 8 Sudden alarm (5)
- 10 Minor chess piece (4)
- 11 Brothers (8)
- 13 Doubting apostle (6)
- 15 Deer's horn (6)
- 17 Finally (2,3,3)
- 18 Sophistication in dress and manner (4)
- 21 Hard work (5)
- 22 Prickly bush (7)
- 23 Unnecessarily (10)

Down

- 1 Type of parrot (5)
- 2 Jump with a rope (4)
- 3 Cold-shoulder (6)
- 4 Powerless (8)
- 5 Army rank (7)
- 6 Discouraging (10)
- 9 Became smaller (10)
- 12 Gifted (8)
- 14 Stare down (7)
- 16 Make possible (6)
- 19 Leisure pursuit (5)
- 20 Deep-voiced male singer (4)

What Home Gadgets

do you regret buying?

You know what they are: those things you never knew you needed until you saw one in an advert. Then suddenly you felt that life would never be complete without one.

And so, you brought home the spiraliser that makes vegetables look like spaghetti. And the pasta maker that you can't quite figure out how to use. And the ice-cream maker that makes everything sticky and helped you put on another three pounds. And the robot vacuum which terrorises the cat. As for the bread maker, well at least it makes a good shelf on the kitchen counter.

If this is you, you are not alone. A recent survey by Saga has found that 65% of us have experienced 'gadget regret'. It occurs when we buy something and then wonder why we ever bothered, because who needs it anyway?

Top of the list of regrets is the spiralizer – 62% of us woke up one morning to realise that no one needs vegetables to look like spaghetti. Second place belongs to digital picture frames, which 52% of us regret buying. After that comes the pasta maker (45%), the ice-cream maker (42%), VR headsets (35%), the bread maker (31%), the internet-connected exercise equipment (31%) and finally, the robot vacuum (29%).

What do we do with all this stuff? 46% of us keep it, even when we don't want it. 15% of us try and sell the things, while a desperate 14% of us simply throw them away. And 19% of us grimly hang on to them for a year or so, before passing them on to an unsuspecting friend.

Challow Scouts

Exciting News for Our Village!



Back in September 2021, East Challow welcomed the reopening of a village Beaver and Cub group. Over the past 4+ years we have grown into a thriving group, with both our Beaver Colony and Cub Pack now at full capacity.

We're now delighted to share some exciting news – Challow Scouts has reopened!

The Scout section in Challow closed more than 25 years ago, so it's fantastic for our village to once again have all three sections running locally.

To keep our groups running and to give more young people the opportunity to join, we need more volunteers. You don't need any previous Scouting experience - just enthusiasm and a little spare time. Whether you can help regularly, occasionally, or behind the scenes, every bit of support makes a difference.

Volunteering with Scouts is a great way to:

- Support young people in your community
- Learn new skills
- Meet new people
- Have fun and make a real difference

Meeting nights:

- Beavers – Tuesday evenings
- Cubs – Monday evenings
- Scouts – Tuesday evenings

If you're interested in helping or would like to find out more, please get in touch!

Steve - 07706 105032 stevehouseman@kascouts.org.uk

SKY SPORTS

SHOWN HERE
- LIVE - Super
Sunday Football

Planning an Event or Party

Our Main Hall
with Kitchen
Facilities
are available to
hire
~ Contact ~
01235 763430

Hand Bell Ringers

10.30 am
Every Tuesday
New Members
Welcome
01235 763430
For more details

Challows

Afternoon Club

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

Challows RBL Club



Call in and see all that
the Club has to offer

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

Opening Hours

Monday - Thursday

7.00 pm - Close

~ ~ ~

Friday - 6.00 pm - Close

Saturday 1.00 pm - Close

Sunday 1.00 pm - Close

Saturday Night Entertainment

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

April 11th

MOVE IT

8.00 pm

Admission £10.00

[Cash on the door]

Sunday Night Cash Bingo



(Eyes down at 8.00pm)

Monday Night Poker



Saturday 4th April - Family Easter Egg Hunt

arrive 12.30 to start at 1.00pm
£1 entry per person (under 3 free)

Easter Egg hunt around the village followed by Raffle, Disco



Sunday 12th April
3 - 7pm

Evening of Mediumship

Wednesday 15th April ~ 7.30pm

with Sharon Higginson

£7 per entry per person

Club Membership is NOT a requirement to attend any events here

National Parks Fortnight - 4th to 18th April

This month would be a good time to visit at least one of our 15 National Parks, and to appreciate once again the role they play in conserving our environment and encouraging people to enjoy outdoor activities.

Just some highlights:

Oldest: The Peak District was designated as the first UK National Park in 1951.

Largest Park: Cairngorms National Park in Scotland, covering 1,748 square miles.

Smallest: New Forest National Park, at only 150 square miles.

Most populated: South Downs National Park, with about 12,000 people living within it.

Most visited: Lake District National Park, with about 18 million visitors a year.

Longest coastline: Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, with a coastline of 186 miles long.

Altogether, there are ten National Parks in England, three in Wales and two in Scotland:

England - Dartmoor, Exmoor, the New Forest, the South Downs, the Broads, the Peak District, the Yorkshire Dales, the Lake District, the North Yorkshire Moors and Northumberland.

Wales - Snowdonia, the Brecon Beacons and Pembrokeshire Coast.

Scotland - Loch Lomond & the Trossachs and Cairngorms.

Altogether, the National Parks make up roughly 10% of the total landmass in the UK.

More details at: <http://www.nationalparks.gov.uk/>

National Marmalade Week 18th – 25th April.

If you really want to celebrate, go to Dalemain Mansion and Gardens in Cumbria, where they hold the World Marmalade Awards & Festival. It celebrates, preserves and promotes artisanal marmalades, with thousands of entries. (Even Paddington Bear will be in attendance!)

If you like marmalade, have you ever wondered where it comes from?



One tradition traces it to a storm-damaged Spanish ship which took refuge in Dundee Harbour in 1700. It was full of Seville oranges that the captain was desperate to sell before they went mouldy. A local down-on-luck merchant, one James Keiller, bought the lot. He didn't know what to do with the oranges either, but fortunately he had a resourceful wife. She set about turning a shipload of Seville oranges into a preserve, and so the first marmalade factory was born.

Marmalade has been at the heart of British breakfasts for centuries. Winston Churchill fought the Second World War on it (washed down with a flute of Pol Roger each morning). DH Lawrence wrote novels on it. Paddington Bear's sandwiches were all marmalade. If you also want to get your fingers sticky, visit: www.marmaladeawards.com.

Parish Church of St. Nicholas - Service Information & Rotas

Sunday	1st Reading	Psalm	2nd Reading	Gospel Reading
5th April Eucharist Rev Dr. Miriam Jones Easter Day	*Acts 10: 34 - 43	118 1 - 2, 14 - 24	Colossians 3: 1 - 4	John 20: 1 - 18
12th April Eucharist Rev Dr. Miriam Jones Easter 2	*Acts 2: 14a, 22 - 32	16	1 Peter 1: 3 - 9	John 20: 19 - 31
19th April Eucharist Rev Dr. Miriam Jones Easter 3	*Acts 2: 14a - 36 - 41	116 1 - 4, 12 - 19	1 Peter 1: 17 - 23	Luke 24: 13 - 35
26th April Morning Worship Jeff Penfold Easter 4	*Acts 2: 42 - 47	23	1 Peter 2: 19 - 25	John 10: 1 - 10
* Acts ~ MUST BE READ				

	Date	Sacristan	Sidesperson	Prayers	Readings	Organist
1st Sunday	5th April	Ruth	Frances / Nigel	Linda	Ruth	Ruth
2nd Sunday	12th April	Louise / Claire	Linda / Noel	Louise / Claire	Graham	Ruth
3rd Sunday	19th April	Jenny	Liz / Jeff	Jenny	Fiona	Graham
4th Sunday	26th April	Nigel	Trish / Sue	Nick / Paul	Claire	Graham
~ If you are unable to attend please arrange cover for your week ~						

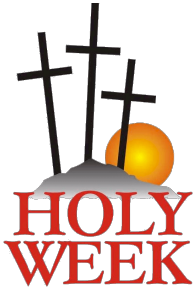
Thursday	Sacristan
2nd Apr	No Service
9th Apr	
16th Apr	Heather
23rd Apr	Mandy
30th Apr	Nigel

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

The Parish Church of

St Nicholas

Notices



Palm Sunday

29th March ~ 11.00 am

Wednesday

1st April ~ 7.30 pm

Good Friday

3rd April ~ 1.00 pm

Easter Day

5th April ~ 11.00 am

APCM

**Annual Parochial
Church Meeting**

Sunday 3rd May

12.30

[after morning service]



4th April

J. Penfold

18th April

D. Perkins

2nd May

D. Roberts

Thursday Coffee Mornings
at St Nicholas Church have been
suspended until further notice

St. Nicholas Church



February

£50 - N° 57 ~ Mrs L. Shaw

£20 - N° 164 ~ Mr D. Alder

£10 - N° 165 ~ Mr & Mrs Mc Gill

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Would you like to join?

For further information please contact
Tricia Shand - 01235 764222
the.shandies@btinternet.com

Good Friday.... The day the Son of God died for you

Good Friday is the day on which Jesus died on the cross. He was crucified at 9am in the morning, and died six hours later, at 3pm. It is the most solemn day in the Christian year and is widely marked by the removal of all decorations from churches. In Lutheran churches, the day was marked by the reading of the passion narrative in a gospel, a practice which lies behind the 'passions' composed by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 – 1750). Both the St Matthew Passion and the St John Passion have their origins in this observance of Good Friday.

The custom of observing a period of three hours' devotion from 12 midday to 3pm on Good Friday goes back to the 18th century. The 'Three Hours of the Cross' often take the form of an extended meditation on the 'Seven Last Words from the Cross', with periods of silence, prayer, or hymn-singing.

Easter Day... The most joyful day of the year

Easter is the most joyful day of the year for Christians. Christ has died for our sins. We are forgiven. Christ has risen! We are redeemed! We can look forward to an eternity in His joy! Hallelujah!

The Good News of Jesus Christ is a message so simple that you can explain it to someone in a few minutes. It is so profound that for the rest of their lives they will still be 'growing' in their Christian walk with God.

Why does the date move around so much? Because the date of Passover moves around, and according to the biblical account, Easter is tied to the Passover. Passover celebrates the Israelites' exodus from Egypt, and it lasts for seven days, from the middle of the Hebrew month of Nisan, which equates to late March or early April.

Sir Isaac Newton was one of the first to use the Hebrew lunar calendar to come up with firm dates for the first Good Friday: Friday 7th April 30 AD or Friday 3rd April, 33 AD with Easter Day falling two days later. Modern scholars continue to think these two Fridays to be the most likely.

Most people will tell you that Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox, which is broadly true. But the precise calculations are complicated and involve something called an 'ecclesiastical full moon', which is not the same as the moon in the sky. The earliest possible date for Easter in the West is 22nd March, which last fell in 1818. The latest is 25th April, which last happened in 1943.

Why the name, 'Easter'? In almost every European language, the festival's name comes from 'Pesach', the Hebrew word for Passover. The Germanic word 'Easter', however, seems to come from Eostre, a Saxon fertility goddess mentioned by the Venerable Bede. He thought that the Saxons worshipped her in 'Eostur month,' but may have confused her with the classical dawn goddesses like Eos and Aurora, whose names mean 'shining in the east'. So, Easter might have meant simply 'beginning month' – a good time for starting up again after a long winter.

Finally, why Easter eggs? On one hand, they are an ancient symbol of birth in most European cultures. On the other hand, hens start laying regularly again each Spring. Since eggs were forbidden during Lent, it's easy to see how decorating and eating them became a practical way to celebrate Easter.

London Marathon Fundraiser – Please Support!



My name is Michael Culverwell, and I'm lucky enough to be running the [London Marathon](#) on **26th April 2026** in support of a wonderful local charity.


I'm raising funds for [Team Mikayla](#), a charity that grants special wishes for children with cancer.

100% of every donation goes directly towards creating Wish boxes for children facing cancer, bringing them moments of joy and hope during incredibly difficult times.

If you are able, please consider sponsoring me. Every donation, big or small, will make a real difference.

Simply scan the QR code to visit my online sponsorship page.

Alternatively, donations can be left at **The Funky Teapot in Wantage** to help me reach my fundraising target.

Thank you for your support! 



SlimmingWorld

Monday - Wantage

5:30pm & 7:00pm
Comrades Club,
OX12 8DJ

Tuesday - Grove

4:00pm, 5:30pm & 7:00pm
Old Mill Hall, Dixon Suite,
OX12 7LB

Saturday - East Challow

7:30am & 9:00am
Challow & Childrey
Cricket Club, OX12 9RR

Would you love to feel slimmer, fitter, healthier without going on a diet? or compromising on your favourites? with a famous eating plan backed by over 55years of science...? with proven results - my own included.....

Come and join us to begin your journey today

Call or WhatsApp Becky on 07359 531030 to find out more

real food, real support, real results



New team launched to help tackle criminals on our roads

Last month I joined Thames Valley Police Officers for the launch of the Force's new Roads Policing Unit (RPU) Tasking Team.

The RPU Tasking Team will deliver a more strategic and targeted approach to road safety across the Thames Valley using data and intelligence to identify areas of greatest risk and highest harm. The team will then proactively deploy to these locations to directly address the behaviours and offences driving those risks.

The creation of the Roads Policing Unit Tasking Team will be a major boost to Thames Valley Police's capability to bear down on the dangerous and illegal drivers who put others at risk and criminals using our roads.

In addition to their proactive work, the team will support local policing operations wherever possible and will also target those individuals known to us through intelligence, including those involved in drink or drug driving.

In a two day operation last month to mark the launch of the new team, police officers were joined by other agencies including Immigration Enforcement, HMRC, taxi licensing and Environmental Health.

During the operation 16 arrests were made for drug driving and immigration offences along with over a hundred dangerous vehicles taken off the road.

Of course this kind of work is what Roads Policing Officers do each and every day, but the purpose of this team is to be much more proactive. Previously officers would often be called on to respond to collisions on our roads or to assist other officers with arrests. The RPU Tasking Team is intended to focus more dedicated resources to take criminals and dangerous drivers off our roads.

www.matthewbarber.co.uk



Matthew Barber
Listening. Serving.
Taking Action

WANTED

Record Collections

LP's - Singles & Memorabilia

Rock - Blues - Folk - Jazz - Reggae

Large or Small

Collections in Ex Condition

> Cash Paid <

07789 158485 / 01235 760383



*My sermon today comes from
Apps Chapter 1 beginning at verse 2...*



UFFINGTON MUSEUM

Caroline Grundy

Opening Saturday 4th April

Now we're headed into Spring we're delighted to be opening for the season on Easter Saturday, 4th April! The Launch Party for our Friends and supporters will be immediately followed by our first open afternoon between 2-5pm.

We are open every weekend 2-5pm and Bank Holidays from now until the last weekend in October.

Every year we hold a new exhibition, alongside our regular displays. This year it is **Myths, Monuments and Memory** curated by Jane and Lauren Golding. They explore the myths and legends woven into the Uffington White Horse landscape — from St George and the Dragon to the story of Weland the Smith. It highlights how this landscape and its monuments have carried significance from prehistory to the present day.

You may have seen our flyers asking people to share their stories and memories. There's still time to contribute to the exhibition as we'll continue to collect your memories throughout the year. Click on this QR code to fill in our online form or contact us using Uffington museum email below.



Monthly Talks in Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall, Uffington 7.30pm - £5, £3 Friends

This year's talk programme has got off to a flying start, with Uncovering Oxfordshire's Dinosaur Highway in February bringing in our largest audience ever, followed by the enjoyable Black Wantage in March, describing the den of iniquity that Wantage became in the early 19th century.

Our next on **6th April will be Coleshill – Nerve Centre of the British Resistance**. Coleshill House in the Oxfordshire countryside served as the top-secret General Headquarters (GHQ) for the Auxiliary Units, often called "Churchill's Secret Army," during World War II. This secluded estate trained roughly 3,000–3,500 volunteers in guerrilla warfare, sabotage, and assassination to combat a potential German invasion from behind enemy lines. This retelling includes a cast of characters ranging from 13-year-old schoolchildren, saboteurs bristling with explosives to the terrifying village postmistress!

Our upcoming talks and recordings of past talks are available to view on our website <https://www.uffingtonmuseum.co.uk/talks.html>.

Contact Us

We're looking forward to welcoming everyone back to the museum after Easter! In the meantime, for anything museum related please email our curator Karen Pilcher at uffingtonmuseum@gmail.com

CHALLOW & CHILDREY



CRICKET CLUB

HERE COMES THE 2026 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 18th April and the Youth training starts on Friday 24th April

see our website

www.challowcricket.co.uk / www.challow.play-cricket.com

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 everyday, 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



**Wantage & Grove
Neighbour Hood Police Team**

Drug Dealing Arrest

□ Wantage & Grove NHPT □

We rely on your information – what you see, hear, and report – to help us keep our community safe. The following is a perfect example of how vital that support is.

A member of the public spotted what they believed to be a potential drug deal and called it in. Acting swiftly, our team located and detained the vehicle within half an hour.

The driver was arrested on Canal Way, East Challow.

Following a search, officers recovered a number of Class A deals along with over £1,000 in cash. A 28-year-old male was arrested on suspicion of possession with intent to supply Class A drugs. The drugs were seized, and the cash was seized under POCA legislation.

The male also provided false details to officers — and for good reason. He was wanted for recall to prison.

□ Police Dog Skye also assisted with the search, helping officers locate key evidence quickly and safely.

Let this be clear:

□ Don't come to Wantage to deal.

□ We will find you.

□ And we will deal with you.

Thank you to everyone who continues to look out for their community and report concerns to us.

Your information makes a real difference.

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Community Notices



East Challow Community Warm Spaces

Join us for a Hot Drink and friendly conversation at Challow and Childrey Cricket Club from 11.00 am on any of the following dates.

Friday 10th April

Friday 24th April

Friday 8th May

Friday 22nd May



KING ALFRED QUILTERS

Are you creative?

Do you like Hand Sewing or Machine Sewing?

Then come along to the King Alfred Patchwork and Quilting Group in East Challow. We don't just quilt we like to get involved in all sorts of needlecraft and are open to all age groups and all skill levels.

We meet on the 1st Wednesday evening of the month where we have speakers, or demonstrations. The 3rd Wednesday of the month is a sewing day where you can hone your skills and get advice and chat.

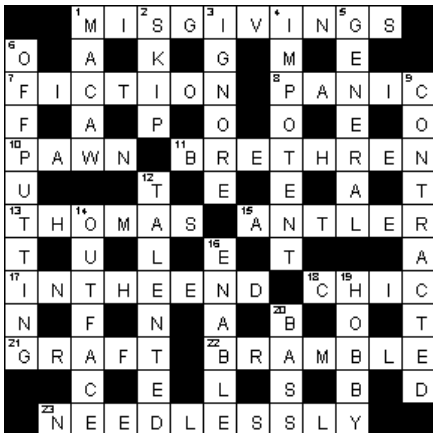
Wednesday 1st April, 19.00 hours we have our AGM all welcome. After the AGM (which shouldn't last very long) we have **Thie Veg Fabric Pop Up Shop**. They will be bringing a fantastic range of fabric, patterns and kits for us to purchase. They can take cash or card payment.

Wednesday 15th April 10.00am Sewing day.

Come along to see what we are about and join our friendly group. Visitors are welcome at both events (fees apply).

For more information visit our website

www.kingalfredquilters.org.uk



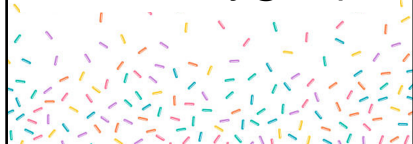
2025-2026

East Challow Village hall committee meetings

18th May

Start at 8.30pm

AGM - 27th July @ 7.30pm



Community Notices

Save the Date

> Community Day <

Sunday 7th June
2026



East Challow
Village
Hall

Saturday 25th April

Doors open 6.15pm

Eyes Down 7.00pm



in aid of

1st Grove Brownies



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~ Serving persecuted Christians worldwide ~

"With God all things are possible."- Matthew 19:26

April is the month when we celebrate Easter and suddenly, Jesus words, 'with God all things are possible', become a real thing as his followers see him resurrected after crucifixion, appearing several times to them after his death! So, I'm going to stick with this same Bible verse, this month. It is the verse that Open Doors is using in all of its communications, this year, and can be a good focus for us all, lifting our eyes beyond present difficulties to the hope of what can be.

I'm writing this article at least a couple of weeks before you read this, so it's possible that even in that short time, the events in our world may well have moved on apace. Nevertheless, I want to use this page to ask you to pray for our brothers and sisters in Iran and the Middle East. It can be hard to find the words to pray in the face of such a complex international landscape, so here are some simple prayers to the God of the impossible:

Powerful God, we pray for the protection of prisoners, that they would not be used as human shields or exploited in times of conflict. We ask you to guard their lives, uphold justice, and surround them with your mercy and presence. With you, Lord, all things are possible.

*Lord our Creator, we pray for **pregnant mothers** who are in the last weeks of pregnancy, facing intense stress and limited access to hospitals and medical care. Please give them peace, safe deliveries, protection for them and their children, and divine provision of medical help where it seems impossible. With you, Lord, all things are possible.*

*Good Shepherd, we lift up **children** who constantly hear bombing and live in fear. We ask for emotional healing, protection over their minds and hearts, and that you would be their refuge and comfort. With you, Lord, all things are possible.*

*Lord Jesus, Son of Man, you fed five thousand with five loaves and two fish, we pray for **families struggling** under severe economic pressure. We ask for provision, job opportunities, daily bread, and wisdom for leaders to make just and stabilising economic decisions. With you, Lord, all things are possible.*

*Light of the World, we pray for the protection of **churches and all believers** in vulnerable regions. We ask that you give them strength, endurance, boldness, wisdom, and multiplied grace in these challenging times. We pray that churches would be a light, a refuge, and a source of hope. With you, Lord, all things are possible.*

*Prince of Peace, we ask you to protect **civilians in the Middle East** and other countries affected by war. We ask for an end to violence, protection for the innocent, and the establishment of peace. With you, Lord, all things are possible.*

*Wonderful Counsellor, we pray for unity, perseverance, solidarity, and wisdom among the **people of Iran**. We ask you to guide the process of seeking justice and freedom, and to protect those standing for righteousness. With you, Lord, all things are possible. Amen.*

For the latest reports and stories from the persecuted church go to [Home - Open Doors UK & Ireland](#) or ask Nick or Claire Page for more details.

Waste & Recycling Information



*Wednesday 8th April	Green + Brown + Food
Tuesday 14th April	Black + Food
Tuesday 21st April	Green + Brown + Food
Tuesday 28th April	Black + Food
*Wednesday 6th May	Green + Brown + Food



***Change of collection day due to BANK HOLIDAY**

*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

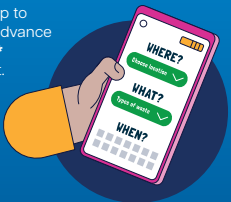
Please take any Large Items to the
Waste & Recycling Centre at Stanford
in the Vale

Faringdon Road, SN7 8LD

From 14 January 2026 you will
need to **book a time slot** before
every visit to our Household
Waste Recycling Centres.

You can book up to
two weeks in advance
or **30 minutes***
before you visit.

*Subject to
availability



The booking system
will help manage demand
and make your visit
quicker and easier.

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[oxfordshire.gov.uk/hwrcbooking](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/hwrcbooking)

Unable to book online?
Call 01865 519800 Monday to Friday.



Garden Waste Service and Permits Information for Residents

Brown Bin - Garden waste is an optional paid-for service.

For an additional annual charge, residents can get their garden waste, such as hedge clippings, grass cuttings, dead leaves etc collected regularly from their home using one of our brown wheeled bins.

Those who pay for the service will receive a permit sticker which runs from:

1st April until 31st March

When you receive your permit, you will need to stick it on the lid of your brown bin. We will only empty garden waste from bins displaying a valid permit.

Permits run until 31st March each year.

If you wish to continue receiving garden waste collections from 1st April, you will need to buy a new permit.

<https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/recycling-rubbish-and-waste/garden-waste/>

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