

Challow

NEWS

~ June 2026 ~

*The Season of Trinity*



*from Pentecost until Advent*

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

## Contacts



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

# From the Vicar

Rev. Miriam Jones

My very first visit to East Challow was almost exactly a year ago, as part of a whistle-stop tour around the Vale Benefice. Even in that short visit, I remember sensing the peaceful atmosphere of the church, and appreciating the beauty of nature on display in the churchyard. Since then, I have come through the doors of St Nicholas in sun and rain, daylight and dark, winter and spring – but the sense that this is a place of peace remains the same.



Churches and churchyards can provide an important space for local communities: a place to pause and be still, to remember and reflect, to pray and worship. It is always lovely to come into our building and see that someone has been making use of the space – a candle is lit, a new leaf hangs on our prayer tree. We hope that our building feels like a place of welcome for everyone in the village.

This past weekend, we welcomed two families to the church for services giving thanks for the arrival of a child. Together, we expressed gratitude for the gift of new life, renewed a commitment to support one another in the task of bringing children up, and prayed for God's blessing on the children and their families.

As part of that service, I like to read out verses from Psalm 139:

*O Lord, you have searched me out and known me;  
You know my sitting down and my rising up;  
You discern my thoughts from afar.  
You mark out my journeys and my resting place  
And are acquainted with all my ways.  
[...]  
Where can I go then from your spirit?  
Or where can I flee from your presence?  
If I climb up to heaven, you are there;  
If I make the grave my bed, you are there also.  
If I take the wings of the morning  
And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,  
Even there your hand shall lead me,  
Your right hand hold me fast.*

As these children set out on life's journey, I hope they find many good resting-places along the way, where they feel safe and loved, where there is beauty and peace. And I hope they come to discover for themselves that, as the psalmist reminds us, we are never far from God, no matter where our journeys take us.

**Rev. Miriam**

# East Challow Parish Council

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## Next Parish Council Meeting

will be held in the Village Hall

**Wednesday 10th June 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](http://www.eastchallowpc.co.uk)

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## ***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](mailto:clerk@eastchallowpc.co.uk)

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## ***Allotments available...***

East Challow Parish Council have starter plots available for rent, these are located behind Reynolds Way on the recreation ground. The plots all require some preparation work as they have not been cultivated for some time.

The rent for a starter plot is £7.50 per year.

If you are interested, please email [clerk@eastchallowpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@eastchallowpc.co.uk)

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## ***DOG FOULING...***

There continues to be a high incidence of dog fouling in the village. The Parish Council would ask you to be considerate to other Villagers and remind you that dog fouling spreads diseases, which can cause illness and even blindness and carries a maximum penalty of £1000. 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.**

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## ***Parking...***

Please park responsibly around the village, parked vehicles on pavements and grass verges cause problems for pedestrians and other vehicles, especially the Emergency services.

## **East Challow Parish Council - Staff Vacancy Parish Maintenance Warden...**

Applications are invited for the post of Parish Maintenance Warden to carry out a range of tasks to keep the parish neat and tidy and to improve the environment within the Parish Council's boundaries.

The successful candidate will play an integral role in serving the Parish of East Challow by carrying out a range of maintenance tasks keeping areas tidy and Parish Council owned assets in good repair. For a job description please email [clerk@eastchallowpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@eastchallowpc.co.uk).

Apply in writing, including any relevant experience. Please mark the envelope confidential and send to the Chair, East Challow Parish Council, Coach Row, Main Street, East Challow OX12 9SW

**Closing date for applications:** 4.00pm on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2026.

## **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 is currently taking place. **It is not too late!!** 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](mailto:clerk@eastchallowpc.co.uk)

## **Hello Everyone...**

It doesn't seem possible that we are welcoming in June already, but we are.

June is named after the Roman goddess of marriage, Juno. It's considered lucky to have a June wedding hence the saying 'Married in June life will be one long honeymoon' and it's certainly a popular month to be married in.

The longest day is on the 21<sup>st</sup> June which a bit depressing because it means the days start getting shorter, but we won't notice it for a while, and hopefully we will have a lovely summer ahead of us.

Midsummers day is on the 24<sup>th</sup> June, there are many ancient rituals associated with this day as it was important to the druids even before Christianity came to Britain. Stonehenge is a focal point for many to gather and see the summer solstice. Many years ago, with some friends I saw the sun rise on the White Horse at Uffington, on the summer solstice, which was fun, we stayed there all night with food and drink and had a good party. It was a very long night and quite cold as well that year from what I can remember. I don't know if it happens any more or would even be allowed.

I meant to mention it last month that am pleased to say the ladybirds that spent the winter behind the church door have all gone on their merry ladybird way. I hope they come next winter it's nice to think that they safely took refuge in our Church.

I haven't heard a cuckoo yet again, so I hope you have been luckier than me, perhaps it's my hearing failing with age. The last time I heard one was two years ago in Norway. That's a long way to go to hear one.

Roxy and I have been out and about as usual and enjoying our beautiful countryside, I may not be able to go far but I do get out twice a day with her, and the countryside isn't far from my front door. Everything is green and leafy and looking beautiful, a lot of the blossoms are over, but there are flowers are in abundance, buttercups, white bryony, clover, daisies, dandelions and cranesbill, to name but a few, all brightening the hedgerows and fields. The garden flowers are all coming out now and looking really good. The peony in my garden at the time of writing is looking wonderful, the blooms don't last long but look fabulous while in their prime.

I'm delighted to say that there are ducklings on the canal, they really are adorable I hope they survive. I haven't seen any Moorhen chicks yet.

While out on a walk I was lucky enough to have a Buzzard land on a tree as Roxy and I were passing under it. It made us both jump, I had forgotten how huge they are, it's wingspan can be up to 128cm. with a length of 57cm. Weighing 550/1300g. That's very big when it's above your head. It is predominantly brown, with a pale underside and yellow legs and a yellow beak with a black tip. It eats small mammals and birds, when food gets scarce in winter it will even eat earthworms and insects. It must take a lot to keep such a large bird going. Roxy was a bit concerned and kept very close until it flew off.

My little dog is improving slightly with meeting people, actually letting some people get near her at times. So, I think love and patience may be winning her over.

I have been watching some of the programmes about Sir David Attenborough reaching his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. What a truly remarkable man. He really is the voice of wildlife and conservation. I grew up seeing and hearing him on television as nearly everyone else in the country and indeed the world has. It is wonderful to celebrate his life while he is still with us, and to see him enjoying the celebrations that were held for him. He is still working, having a fulfilling life and seems to be a lovely person with a great sense of humour. We have been very lucky to have had him fighting to make people aware of climate change, because people listen to him.

I am now going to have a moan about the disgusting trend that seems to have got worse, of people throwing bags of dog poo into hedges.

It gives all dog owners a bad name. I really can't understand it, why bother picking it up then throw it in the hedge, it's even worse than not picking it up.

We have enough bins about the village so why expect other people to clear up after you.

Rant over... I have just been reminded that people bothering to read a parish magazine probably wouldn't do this anyway.

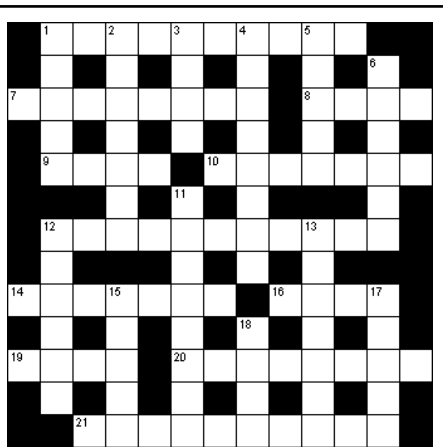
I hope you are able to get to the Community Day Celebrations at the Cricket Club on Sunday 7th June, it is a great afternoon's entertainment with something for all the family to enjoy. If you haven't been before it's a great way to get involved with the village and get to know people.

The different clubs and organisations in the village will have stalls or games and of course the annual cricket match is open to everyone. It's a good laugh, so give it a go. Of course, the club bar will be open and there is also a refreshment stall for Tea, Coffee and Cakes.

That's all for now so I hope to see you while I'm out on my walks or at the Cricket Club on the Community Day.

**So as always stay safe for yourself and others.**





**Across**

- 1 Extra (10)
- 7 Castigate (8)
- 8 Sand hill (4)
- 9 Biblical boat builder (4)
- 10 Everywhere (3,4)
- 12 Quickly (2,3,6)
- 14 Long-necked animal (7)
- 16 Photo (4)
- 19 Jason's ship (4)
- 20 Fighting ship (3-2-3)
- 21 London rail terminus (10)

**Down**

- 1 Very pale (5)
- 2 Remote (7)
- 3 Group of three (4)
- 4 Ignore (8)
- 5 Electronic sound reproduction (5)
- 6 Extension to a building (6)
- 11 Scented (8)
- 12 Building in which birds are kept (6)
- 13 Advantage (7)
- 15 Fragrance (5)
- 17 Small edible crustacean (5)
- 18 Author unknown (4)

**Our British Bumblebees**

Did you know we have about 270 kinds of bee in the UK, including 24 types of bumblebees? Here are just six of them:



**Early Bumblebee:** - Found throughout the UK. Rather small, with distinctive lemon-yellow bands on thorax and abdomen, and an orange tail. An important pollinator of our soft fruit.

**Common Carder Bee:** - One of our most common bees, and often still feeding in November. Fluffy, brown and orange, with sometimes darker bands on the abdomen.

**Tree Bumblebee:** - Found in England and Wales, and recently Southern Scotland. A fuzzy bee, with brown-orange hairs on its thorax, a black abdomen, and a white tail.

**Red-tailed Bumblebee:** - The female is very large, with a big red 'tail', while males are smaller.

**Garden Bumblebee:** - A scruffy-looking large bee, with a long tongue and face. It has yellow bands at the collar, rear of the thorax and at the first segment of the abdomen, and the tip of the tail is white.

**Buff-tailed bumblebee:** - The biggest of our bumblebees, with a yellow collar near the head and another on the abdomen. The queen has a buff-coloured 'tail', while the workers have white 'tails' and black hair on their faces.

Be kind to our bees. They are in steady decline across the UK.



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For more details

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**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

Saturday Night  
Entertainment

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

## June 20th



## Johnny Flinton

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

8.00 pm

Admission £10.00

[Cash on the door]

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

## Opening Hours

Monday - Thursday

7.00 pm - Close

~ ~ ~

Friday - 6.00 pm - Close

Saturday 1.00 pm - Close

Sunday 1.00 pm - Close

## Sunday Night Cash Bingo



(Eyes down at 8.00pm)

Monday Night Poker



Club Membership is NOT a requirement to attend any events here

## Need total darkness to sleep?

According to followers of 'The Dutch Method', it is good to sleep with your curtains open.

That way, in the morning your bedroom slowly floods with natural light, which coincides with your circadian rhythm, the internal body clock that regulates your sleep cycle. Natural light also stops the production of melatonin (your sleep hormone) and triggers a natural rise in cortisol. That lets you know that the new day has begun. It is considered a gentle way to wake up.

Nevertheless, others of us prefer the curtains to be shut, and need pitch black to sleep.

Whichever you prefer, here are some tips on sleep and waking up.

~ Natural light in the morning is good for you. It is better to go for a walk at the start of each day, rather than to head straight for your phone and computer.

~ Melatonin levels decline as we get older, which makes it harder to fall and stay asleep.

~ Our body clock can shift to earlier, leaving us sleepier at night, but more awake earlier in the morning.

~ As we age, we become more sensitive to disruption during the night, and things like stress, life changes, noise or light can have a bigger impact.

~ A good routine before sleep is essential. Aim for bed at the same time, empty your head with a to-do list for tomorrow, clear your thoughts, and relax.

## Hardship in childhood can lead to frailty in later life

A childhood full of adversity will leave its mark on a person. It can even lead to their physical decline later in life, making them old before their time.

Such is the finding of recent research at Kings College London. It also found that adversity as a child and then *again* as an adult will lead to an even greater frailty.

The adversity and traumatic events might include emotional neglect, physical abuse, emotional abuse, sexual abuse and economic hardship.

As one doctor explained: "Frailty is not simply about getting older. It reflects the accumulation of health deficits and a marked decline in physiological resilience."

However, there is good news for those who have had to endure adversity. Leading a healthy lifestyle *now* can go a long way towards mitigating the effects of your past.

As one doctor explained: "Regular light exercise, good nutrition and strong social connections have all been shown to be effective interventions for frailty, providing clinicians and policymakers with a clear means of prevention and management."

The study was published in the journal BMC Medicine.


## Parents blamed for Children's bad behaviour in class

A government schools tsar has said that weak-willed parents are to blame for the increasingly bad behaviour of many children in the classroom.

In the autumn term of 2024-25 alone, 16,000 pupils were suspended for violence against an adult. Some teachers are now forced to wear bite sleeves, to protect themselves from their pupils' teeth. Other teachers keep an emergency radio on hand, so they can call for back-up in the event of their pupils mounting a physical attack on them in the classroom.

Tom Bennett, the Department of Education's ambassador for attendance and behaviour, says there is a growing dispute between parents and teachers as to who is responsible for such disruptive pupils. Bennett claims that unruly children think "*they can do what they want and that they're the most important person in the room and that their feelings are the only feelings that matter*". The schools think otherwise.

# Parish Church of St. Nicholas - Service Information & Rotas

Sunday	1st Reading	2nd Reading	Gospel	Coverings
7th June <b>Eucharist</b> Rev Dr. Miriam Jones <b>Trinity 1</b>	Hosea 5: 15 - 6: 6	Romans 4: 13 - 25	Matthew 9: 9 - 13 + 18 - 26	<b>Green</b>
14th June <b>Eucharist</b> Rev Alec Gill <b>Trinity 2</b>	Exodus 19: 2 - 8a	Romans 5: 1 - 8	Matthew 9: 35 - 10: 8 (9-23)	<b>Green</b>
21st June <b>Eucharist</b> Rev Velma Oxley <b>Trinity 3</b>	Jeremiah 20: 7 - 13	Romans 6: 1b - 11	Matthew 10: 24 - 39	<b>Green</b>
28th June <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"><b>NO SERVICE</b> at St Nicholas <b>Trinity 4</b></div>	 <p><b>Patronal Festival</b> <b>St John the Baptist - GROVE</b> 10.15 am</p>			

	Date	Sacristan	Sidesperson	Prayers	Readings	Organist
1st Sunday	<b>7th June</b>	Ruth	Frances / Nigel	Linda	Ruth	Ruth
2nd Sunday	<b>14th June</b>	Louise / Claire	Linda / Noel	Louise / Claire	Graham	Ruth
3rd Sunday	<b>21st June</b>	Jenny	Liz / Jeff	Jenny	Fiona	Graham

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

Thursday	Sacristan
4th June	Mandy
11th June	Jenny
18th June	Heather
25th June	Mandy
	Nigel

Cleaning	Flowers	Coffee	
1st - 7th June	Linda	Heather	Mandy
8th - 14th June	Claire	Claire	Jan / Hilary
15th - 21st June	Savita	Jenny	Val / Barbara
22nd - 28th June	Mandy	Mandy	Linda / Janet
	Sue & Trish	Linda	Sue, Trish, Frances

*The Parish Church of*



*Notices*

## Sunday 12th July

Charitable Offerings  
will be taken in aid of



<https://homeforgood.org.uk>

~ Thank you for your generosity ~

~ St Nicholas Churchyard ~



**13th - 26th June**

Mr S. Tyrrell

**27th June - 10th July**

Mr N. Page

**11th - 24th July**

Mr N. Langford

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

St. Nicholas Church



**May**

£50 - N° 73

Kindly donated back into church funds

Thank you

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

£20 - N° 7 ~ Mr & Mrs Mawdesley

£10 - N° 32 ~ Mr G. Shand

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**Would you like to join?**

For further information please contact

**Tricia Shand - 01235 764222**

**We are looking for more members  
Would you like to join?**

Subscriptions to the 200 Club contribute towards the £20,000 which is required annually to keep our village Church open, in good repair and available for all who wish to use it.

**The 200 Club is a monthly draw with 3 prizes each month - £50, £20 and £10**

**There is an additional prize of £100 in December.**

The draw takes place on the second Sunday of every month, during coffee after morning service.

The cost is £2 per number per month, which can be paid monthly, 6 monthly or annually, and can be paid for by Cash or Standing Order.

**If you would like to join the 200 Club,  
please contact Tricia Shand**

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



## Cornerstone Café, Grove

**On Tuesday 9th July at 7pm Cornerstone in Grove, will be holding our Annual General Meeting.**

Everyone is welcome to join us in reflecting on the last 12 months and looking forward to the next. It is usually very relaxed and everyone is welcome to ask questions. As we saw at the 30th Birthday Celebrations; our supporters are made up, not just

of friends from our 4 supporting churches or our volunteers but a wide range of people including from other local churches and regular customers. The AGM is another great opportunity for us to commit this important ministry to God for another year.

### **Can you spare two hours on a Saturday once a month?**

Cornerstone is looking for a few more volunteers to join our Saturday rota, particularly on the cafe counter - taking orders and making drinks. Volunteering is a great way to meet people, many of our volunteers have made lifelong friends while working at Cornerstone. All training is provided and if you work 12-2pm you will be treated to lunch at 2pm. You must be 16 or over.

### **Cornerstone Christian Centre**

10 Savile Way, Grove, OX12 0PT Tel: 01235 772280

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## **Our potholes are killing us**

The number of people injured or even killed by falling into potholes has increased by almost 50 per cent in just the last five years. Motorists, passengers and pedestrians are all at risk. From 270 incidents in 2020, it now stands at 393 in 2024, the last year for which figures are available.

In 2024, six people died, 128 were seriously injured and 259 suffered minor injuries. In contrast, back in 2020, five people died, 80 were seriously injured and 185 suffered minor injuries.

The stories range from pensioners on foot falling into potholes and dying, to cyclists having their faces smashed to pieces, or getting their wheels jammed in narrow potholes and dying, to motorcyclists being thrown in front of cars and dying. Never mind the thousands of car tyres that have been torn to pieces in potholes.

Meanwhile the Asphalt Industry Alliance (AIA) has recently reported that the cost of fixing every pothole in Britain could reach £18.6bn and take 12 years to complete. It calls the situation “a national crisis and a total disgrace”.

The Transport Secretary, Heidi Alexander, recently experienced the crisis for herself when a “moon crater-sized” pothole took her Mini Cooper off the road by bursting two tyres in Oxfordshire.

Edmund King, president of the AA, says Britain is in a “pothole plague”. So far this year, the AA has attended an average of 64,330 pothole callouts per month.

And now experts warn that our pothole crisis will only deepen, as the war in Iran increases the price of bitumen, which is mixed with gravel to make asphalt to fill road defects.

## School Assembly Songs to inspire new worshipping communities for children

A major new programme will see the launch of worshipping communities for children and families, based on songs that are already popular in school assemblies.

**iSingPOP** will support 300 churches to create new gatherings where families from local primary schools will be invited to explore faith together, drawing on the energetic worship songs children already know from school.

The aim is to connect collective worship in schools to engagement with church for families interested in growing in faith together. The programme has received £500k investment from the Strategic Mission and Ministry Investment Board (SMMIB).

iSingPOP, from the charity Innervation Trust, produces vibrant worship songs that engage more than 77,000 children every week, alongside resources that equip teachers, clergy and volunteers to lead faith-based music sessions in schools and churches.

It also brings schools, churches, and the community together by giving churches the opportunity to host a large joy-filled concert, teaching children songs that explore the Christian faith over four days, culminating in a whole-school performance to parents. This approach has already inspired many families to explore faith beyond the school gates.

Through the new programme, iSingPOP will help to link worship in schools with the life of local churches.

Miz Porter, Director of iSingPOP by Innervation Trust, said: "For 25 years, we have been working with churches and schools to create inspirational collective worship resources that uplift children.

"We believe intergenerational worship has the power to introduce whole families to the Gospel, and we are delighted that this new programme will help churches across the country to deepen their relationships with local schools."

**iSing  
POP**

<https://www.isingpop.org>

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This month we celebrate the importance of fathers on Father's Day. Unlike Mothering Sunday, this doesn't have a distinctly Christian origin. However, it does provide an opportunity to celebrate God's Fatherhood and what it means for us.

At His baptism, when Jesus came out of the water: *'heaven was opened, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on Him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased.'* (Matthew 3:16,17). What do we learn about Jesus' relationship with His Father, our relationship with God and the role of fathers?

**The Father's presence**

When Jesus was baptised, the Father was present in the Holy Spirit. It's the Spirit who enables us to address God as daddy (*'abba'*, Galatians 4:6) in an intimate way. God is present with us and understands our joys and sorrows, fears and trials. Dads should relate to their children like this.

**The Father's love**

The Father described His Son as *'beloved'*; like us, Jesus was the subject of God's unconditional love. Dads should assure their children of their undeserved love.

**The Father's pleasure**

The Father tells Jesus that He is *'well pleased'* with Him, as He embarked on His public ministry. We need to hear this as well, especially when we feel that we are disappointing God or letting Him down. We should also be aware of the effect of our words spoken to our children. Dads should be using every opportunity to demonstrate their pleasure in their children, especially when things go wrong.



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## 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

## Shutting Down Criminal Businesses

Barber shops with no customers. Car washes turning over hundreds of thousands of pounds. Nail bars that only take cash. These can be signs of criminal businesses acting in plain sight.

I have long been working on a change in the law to increase police powers to issue closure notices. Closure notices are an important tool in disrupting criminal activity on our high streets, but current powers do not go far enough.

A closure notice is a legal instrument issued by the police or local authorities prohibiting access to premises for up to 48 hours to cease nuisance or illegal activity. It mandates immediate closure, the breaching of which is a criminal offence.

With the support of the Shadow Policing Minister and Members of the House of Lords, I drafted an amendment to the Crime and Policing Bill which would have strengthened the powers of the Police, local councils and the courts to shut down criminal businesses.

This would have seen the time limit attached to closure notices extended to 7 days and give the courts the power to shut businesses participating in criminal activity indefinitely.

Disappointingly, this amendment was blocked by the Government despite cross-party support. The Crime and Policing Bill has now received Royal Assent and become law, but without this change it is a real missed opportunity.

There is a ray of hope however. Although not enough MPs backed my amendment, the Government has agreed to consult on implementing similar changes in the future.

I have written to the Policing Minister to urge her to act swiftly to put more power in the hands of the police to tackle illegal activity and stand up for law-abiding businesses.



**Matthew Barber**

Listening. Serving.  
Taking Action

This is about delivering more than temporary disruption. By increasing police powers, we can more effectively tackle criminality; clearing up our high streets and ensuring local communities are protected.

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

All entries for the **JULY & AUGUST** Issue of the Challow News

Must be submitted by **15<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2026**

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

CHALLOW & CHILDREY



CRICKET CLUB

**We're well underway in the new cricket season, with a home game each Saturday afternoon and Youth Cricket training on Friday nights and matches across the week.**

There is a league match at home each Saturday with the bar open from 12 noon see our website

[www.challowcricket.co.uk](http://www.challowcricket.co.uk) | [challow.play-cricket.com/home](http://challow.play-cricket.com/home)

for all of our match details

Youth Training takes place on a Friday evening, running from 4.30pm through until 8pm – the bar is open from 4pm and the BBQ runs from 5pm until 7.30pm

There is normally something on each day at the club, whether that be a youth game on an evening, a senior match on a Saturday, or just joining the leisurely Sunday lunchtime crew for a catch up. Our opening hours are based around our matches and training, so keep an eye on the club website or Facebook page for exact details [www.challowcricket.co.uk](http://www.challowcricket.co.uk) or [@challowcricket](https://www.facebook.com/challowcricket) on Facebook

There really is no better place to sit and unwind after a hard day in the office/spare room/garden, so why not call up for a cold pint and the unspoilt view of the Downs.

If you would like to join the club as a member it's just £20 for the year. If you would be able to help us out in any capacity, then we'd love to hear from you!

We're always looking for players, umpires, scorers, coaches and of course anyone who can give us an hour or so occasionally to do the little jobs that keep the place ticking over

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

[www.challowcricket.co.uk](http://www.challowcricket.co.uk)  
[admin@challowcricket.co.uk](mailto:admin@challowcricket.co.uk)

**01235 763335**

## WELL DRESSING in Derbyshire May - September

Derbyshire is known for its wells and well-dressing. The annual tradition followed in many villages of decorating the village wells, or 'well dressing' attracts sightseers from miles away.

By ancient, centuries-old tradition, five wells are decorated. Boards are set up around each one which is then covered in clay. The clay is then impressed with thousands of colourful flower petals to create pictures and tableaux. Often the stories illustrated are from the Bible.

It is thought the practice may date back to the 14th century, and it may have started as an act of thanksgiving when the community escaped the Black Death. Over the years, and before piped water became available, it also became an act of thanksgiving for the village's supply of clean, clear water.

Today more than 80 Derbyshire villages still follow the tradition, and the season extends through the summer. Many well dressings have a biblical theme, or are inspired by royal occasions or sporting events.



*"Thank you for putting the colour into my  
once black-and-white world."*

## Life Coaching and Neurodiversity Coaching

Orchard House Clinic  
Wantage

[CreativeChangeCoaching.org](http://CreativeChangeCoaching.org)

Proud to be a member of  
**A** Association  
for Coaching



Generally, the Derbyshire wells are not considered holy or named after saints. Most were just the original village water tap. However, Buxton does have a celebrated holy well, where people regularly line up to collect its special waters.

Buxton mineral water is bottled and available in supermarkets, but in the town itself, at St Anne's well, it is free. Through medieval times there was a chapel on the spot, and pilgrims came seeking cures and to leave offerings.

Later the town became a spa and patients came to bathe and drink, much as the ancient Romans had done in pre-Christian times. Today the free Buxton water emerges from a pipe set in a modern plinth containing a statuette of St Anne, the mother of Mary and Jesus's grandmother.

# Community Notices

## KING ALFRED QUILTERS & TEXTILE GROUP

### Do you love the Great British Sewing Bee We have a Special Speaker this Month

Are you creative?

Do you like Textiles, Hand Sewing or Machine Sewing?

Come along to the King Alfred Quilting and Textile Group in East Challow. We're about much more than just quilting; we turn our hand to all sorts of textile arts and needlecraft and a bit of mix media.

Whether you're a lifelong maker or a complete beginner, there's always a warm welcome waiting for you.

We meet on the 1st Wednesday evening of the month where we have speakers, or demonstrations.



**Wednesday 3rd June 7.00 pm we have 2020  
Quarter Finalist Great British Sewing Bee  
Contestant Mark Francis coming to talk about  
his time on the show and his life after the  
show.**

The 3rd Wednesday of the month is a sewing day where you can hone your skills, get advice and chat.

**Wednesday 17th June 10.00 am Sewing day.**

Come along to see what we are about and join our friendly group.

You can come to just our day or evening events or both.

**Visitors are welcome at both events (fees apply)**

For more information visit our website [www.kingalfredquilters.org.uk](http://www.kingalfredquilters.org.uk)

**Helen: 07763 923000 ~ Janice: 07786 333497**



**2025-2026**

East Challow Village hall  
committee meetings

**AGM - 27th July @ 7.30pm**



### 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 5th June**

# VILLAGE SCARECROW TRAIL

WORLD CUP THEME!



Make a scarecrow  
inspired by the footie!

Prizes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>  
and 3<sup>rd</sup> place



Scarecrows will need to be in place from

10am on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June until the St Nics  
school fête at 11am on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July.

Judging will take place over the three weeks  
that the scarecrows are on display.



To enter just go to

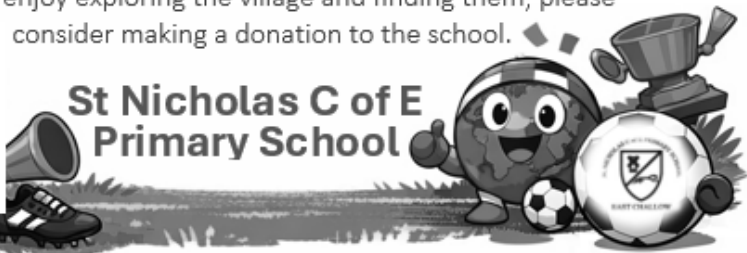
[www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/scarecrow-trail](http://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/scarecrow-trail)

leave a donation (suggested amount £5) and give  
the address where your scarecrow will be displayed.

If you don't fancy making a scarecrow  
but will enjoy exploring the village and finding them, please  
consider making a donation to the school.



St Nicholas C of E  
Primary School





~ Serving persecuted Christians worldwide ~

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

A couple of weeks ago at St Nic's, we had our Annual Parochial Church Meeting where people reported on what had happened during the year, and many were thanked for what they'd done. Mentioned in the many highlights were the arrival of our new Associate Vicar Miriam, as well as the events where village and church joined together to celebrate and mourn.

With so many things to be grateful for, it is hard to read about the reality for churches elsewhere. Syria, for example. This time last year – on Sunday 22 June 2025 – 300 people were gathered in Mar Elias Church, Damascus, at a memorial for a much-loved member of the church. Her nephew Elias and all his family were there, including his two brothers, wife Hanan, and five children. A suicide bomber burst in and in less than a minute at least 22 Christians died – seven of whom were members of Elias' family. His two brothers, Geryes and Boutros, died in the explosion as they courageously tackled the bomber. Elias himself was injured, but thankfully, with his wife and children, survived.

At number 12 on the Open Doors World Watch List, staying in Syria poses a real challenge for the church. Christians find themselves asking, should we stay or should we go? For now, Elias' family wants to stay; they are determined to keep worshipping at the site of the tragedy – because it is still their cherished church, gradually being restored. Many others are understandably too afraid to come back but, despite the cost to themselves, Elias and Hanan won't be deterred. "We go to church, but fear still exists," shares Hanan. "Yet even if we are afraid, we will still go."

Elias agrees. Walking through the church, he picks up a picture of Jesus as the Good Shepherd. It's still marked with dried blood. He reads the text on it: "I am the Good Shepherd, and the Good Shepherd lays down His life for His sheep." It's a truth that means all the more to him now. "We have no ambition but to remain faithful."

In the months after the attack, Elias says, "Studying the Bible made my faith deeper. We live day by day. We have no ambition but to remain faithful. We experienced faith and fear here. We can't deny it." But despite all the family has faced, it is their faith that remains stronger. "I knew the Lord wouldn't forsake us," Elias says with conviction. "We thank Him for everything. We are grounded in our faith. We will go on. Jesus said; 'On this rock, I will build my church.' Our faith is built on rocks, not bubbles of soap."

We are hugely grateful for local Open Doors partners who are providing vital economic aid, Bibles, and prayer support to persecuted Christians in Syria, as well as crucial trauma counselling. More than 60 believers are now equipped as trauma counsellors, bringing professional support to traumatised people like Elias, Hanan and their children.

"We offer Christians different psychosocial, spiritual and counselling support to overcome the impact of trauma and other crises they have faced," explains Raneen\*, a psychologist who partners with Open Doors' local team. "We pray with them and give faith-based counselling to address the deep wounds caused by trauma. Even in the darkest moments, God can bring healing and growth."

*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



Tuesday 2nd June	Green + Brown + Food
Tuesday 9th June	Black + Food
Tuesday 16th June	Green + Brown + Food
Tuesday 23rd June	Black + Food
Tuesday 30th June	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

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***Please help to keep our Village Tidy and free from Fly Tipping***

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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.

Scan me



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

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



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

**Faringdon Road, SN7 8LD**

There is an Air Ambulance **BLACK** Recycling Bin for Clothing situated in the Parish Council car park on Canal Way

There is also a **GREEN** Recycling Bin for Shoes etc. situated in the car park at the Cricket Club on Vicarage Hill

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



**STIGA**

**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](http://www.ljcannings.co.uk)

*A helping hand to shape your land*