

Challow

NEWS

~ July & August 2026 ~



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

Contacts



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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

Thursday morning, nine o'clock. The school children sit in neat rows on the floor of the hall waiting for the assembly to begin. Our small team of volunteers has transformed themselves with robes and scarves into a colourful cast of characters, and set out props to take our imaginations from a school hall in East Challow to the ancient near east...



The story begins with Jacob on the run from his brother. Soon, he finds refuge in a new country and falls in love with the beautiful Rachel. The years pass and their family grows. But then it's time for Jacob to go back home... He is worried: will his brother still be angry with him? On the road, a mysterious stranger wrestles with him. Then, the stranger gives him a blessing, and Jacob realizes that he has met with God. He goes home and makes peace with his brother.

Thousands of years and miles separate us from the people in this story, but so much of what really matters to them is still the same for us: navigating family relationships, finding love, having a place to call home. Many of the stories of the Bible are like that: on the surface they may look strange, but on a deeper level they speak about something we all have in common: being human.

Our 'Open the Book' team delivers a Bible story to the children at St Nicholas school every week. As much as possible, we try to let the story speak for itself. The children love it! They are engaged and excited to take part, to listen and watch, to let the story sweep them along.

As Christians, we believe the stories of the Bible are more than just stories. They hold truth that can guide our lives. That doesn't mean they are always easy to understand, or that the people in them are all amazing heroes whose tales have happy endings. But like all great stories, whether based on real events or not, they speak to us about things that are true and that matter. And in wrestling with the story – feeling its emotion, puzzling over the choices people make, wondering what it all might mean – there is a blessing to be found.

Rev. Miriam

East Challow Parish Council

www.eastchallowpc.co.uk

Games Area News...

The Parish Council have completed the improvements to the basketball facilities, new backboards and nets have now been installed.

Recreation Ground News...

A new picnic bench has been installed near the football pitch; the Parish Council hope parishioners enjoy this as we enter into the warmer weather again



An update on the CSW Team...

Thank you for the Volunteers who have now taken the CSW training and are ready to start the very important job of monitoring the speed of vehicles in the Village. The Parish Council would like to add to the team to allow this monitoring to continue on a longer-term basis. If you could help and would like to get involved, please see the information below.

Community Speed Watch Volunteers needed...

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 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.***

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.

Parish Council update and Meeting...

The Parish Council are delighted to welcome a new Councillor to the team, Cllr Barnett joined the Parish Council on the 10th June 2026.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place in the Village Hall at 7.00 pm on **Wednesday 8th July 2026.**

You are welcome to attend, minutes are available on the Parish Council website.

Road Safety...

Footsteps is a fire and rescue service child pedestrian safety programme. It's designed as a short, step-by-step guide and videos for parents and carers to use, to help them teach young children the skills they need to use the road safely. By following Footsteps, parents and carers can support children to become safer, more confident pedestrians.

The graphic features a yellow background with a road sign icon at the top left and a 'Road safety' shield icon at the top right. The central text reads 'It's never too early to teach your child road safety.' Below this is a large teal circle. To the left of the circle is a traffic light with a red light and a pedestrian crossing sign. In the foreground, there is a tablet displaying the 'Footsteps' logo and a video player interface. To the right of the tablet is a book titled 'Footsteps || CHILD PEDESTRIAN SAFETY || A PRACTICAL GUIDE' showing a family walking. At the bottom, there are logos for 'OXFORDSHIRE FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE' and 'OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'.

- Liz Belcher -

Challow Chatter

Hello Everyone...

Half a year has passed already, July is here and I expect many of you are looking forward to the holidays from either work, school or home.

When I was a child we only ever had one holiday away from home, people didn't go away much back then. The other years we had our annual day out at the seaside, either Weymouth or Bournemouth, it was the highlight of the summer. Mum packed a big picnic of sandwiches, her wonderful picnic pie, tomatoes, crisps, cake, and a bottle of squash for us kids, and a flask of tea for Mum and Dad. Early on the big morning, four kids, two adults, provisions, buckets and spades, swimming costumes, towels, and a picnic blanket was loaded into the car, and instructions that if anyone felt car sick, to speak up in good time, I was the main culprit, but it had a domino effect and they didn't want four of us throwing up in rotation. At last we were seaside bound. I remember Dad was always a bit short tempered by the time we were underway but thawed out as we neared to the sea. We played "I Spy" and other games and a competition to see who saw the sea first, probably to avert the aforementioned car sickness. We had a great time building sand castles, paddling swimming and exploring the area, and we had an ice cream as well. The picnic was wonderful and it was always a sunny day. Although we wouldn't have gone if it was raining. It was a great day out and even my Dad enjoyed it. It was dark by the time we got home, we were all tired, but happy, and ready for bed. Dad at last got some peace and quiet.

I have been out walking with Roxy my dog, and the ducklings and Moorhen chicks on the canal are getting big and there seems a good survival rate which is good news. There was also a family of green woodpeckers that had nested along there, I could hear them but not seen them. It's so nice to see new life thriving around us. We have certainly had a mix of weather from baking hot, then cold and wet. Let's hope more sun is to come. There are lots of dog roses about, in varying shades from white through to pink. They look so beautiful and delicate, but are very robust, withstanding wind and rain and thriving in sunshine. It grows in the hedgerows on the edge of woodland and scrubland flowering May and June. The plant is protected by sharp thorns, the fruit or hips ripen to a beautiful crimson in autumn. The flowers are a good nectar source for insects and the fruit are important for our bird life. Many of our cultivated roses started life grafted on to dog rose rootstock. It was once thought that the root of the dog rose could cure a wild dog bite. I am sure that many of us as children were given rose hip syrup as a vitamin C supplement. Talking of roses it seems to have been a very good year for the roses. All around there have been wonderful shows of roses all around the village. My neighbour Peter has white roses in his front garden and they look magnificent, I hope the rain doesn't spoil them.

I think the Community Day Celebrations on the 7th June was a great success, despite the dull weather it didn't rain, and plenty of people turned up. It was opened by Les Cannings and Miriam Jones our Associate Vicar introducing herself to the village. There was a lot happening with a junior Tug 'o' War and the main event the Cricket match. There were plenty of volunteers to play



and everyone enjoyed themselves. It was light-hearted and fun to watch. I personally know nothing about cricket but joined in the applause when warranted. At half time the players enjoyed a cricket tea which is traditional, then play continued.

Meanwhile there was plenty to keep all the family amused for the afternoon, face painting, lucky dip, and Mr Wiggy kept the children happy, and from the happy sounds from that area he was a huge success as always. Various clubs and organisations were represented, including Riding for the Disabled Association, King Alfred's Quilters, Slimming World, Saint Nicholas School, the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers all doing their bit. There was a Cake stall, bric-a-brac and the Church ran the afternoon tea and refreshments, Fish and chips, Milk shakes and ice creams were available, so there was something for everyone. After the cricket match, the Icknield Way Morris Men gave a performance which was really good. Of course the bar was open throughout the afternoon. We are very appreciative of the Cricket Club allowing us to use their facilities to hold this event, I would also like to thank everyone who had a hand in organising it. They must have looked out in the morning and expected a washout but we were lucky. That was no mean feat in itself getting things together, so thanks for all your hard work, I hope it continues to grow and unite our village. I know I was able to catch up with people that I hadn't seen for a while and meet new people. So I hope to see you next year for our Community Day Celebration and hopefully the weather will be better.

This issue covers July and August so I am giving a very advanced notice that our Harvest Festival at Saint Nicholas church will be on Sunday 27th September and all are welcome to help decorate on the Saturday and attend on the Sunday.

So enjoy the summer and your holiday if you are having one,
and I hope to meet you as Roxy and I enjoy our walks together,
and as always stay safe for yourself and others.

Is danger lurking in your fridge?

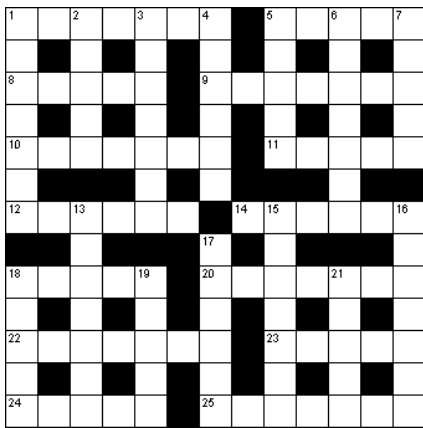
When you look in your fridge, what do you see? Milk, butter, vegetables and last night's leftovers?

So far, so good. But what about the things that you don't see? A recent survey of people's fridges found that more than half of them were harbouring dangerous bacteria such as E. coli, salmonella and listeria. So, it seems that unless we take care of our fridges, they can become playgrounds for germs.

Veggie drawers with bits of slimy carrots or liquefying greens have been found to harbour more bacteria per square centimetre than a toilet seat. Plates of raw meat can be a bacterial timebomb. Even door seals and fridge handles can be a germ hotspot.

The key thing is to regularly wipe shelves and drawers down with a mild disinfectant, remove stale food, and to keep the temperature of the fridge at five degrees. Don't overcrowd your fridge (which can block air circulation) and don't engage in the classic 'fridge food linger,' staring into the open fridge while deciding what you want to eat. Warm air will be rushing in.

Your fridge is the hardest working appliance in your kitchen, but it needs your help.



Across

- 1 Aim (7)
- 5 Squander (5)
- 8 Smallest (5)
- 9 Perfumed (7)
- 10 Humble dwelling (7)
- 11 Attempted (5)
- 12 Hit (6)
- 14 Instructed (6)
- 18 Small tree with white flowers and purple fruit (5)
- 20 French bean (7)
- 22 Section of book (7)
- 23 Calm (5)
- 24 Release (3,2)
- 25 Cradle-song (7)

Down

- 1 Royal residences (7)
- 2 Respond (5)
- 3 Australian wilderness (7)
- 4 Less burdensome (6)
- 5 Cereal crop (5)
- 6 Surroundings (7)
- 7 Finished (5)
- 13 Glowing (7)
- 15 Can containing a spray (7)
- 16 Completely (7)
- 17 Of a choir (6)
- 18 Surpass (5)
- 19 Proportion (5)
- 21 Asian country (5)



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the Club has to offer

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

Saturday Night Entertainment

11th July

Just Keith

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

15th August

AL & The Combo

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

8.30 pm

Admission £10.00

[Cash on the door]

Evening of Mediumship

**Wednesday 8th July
7.30pm**

with Sharon Higginson
£7 per entry per person

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

redtooth
poker



Friday 31st July

Meat Raffle

8.00pm

£1 per ticket.

Club Membership is NOT a requirement to attend any events here

Does your young teenage son have a girlfriend?

Are you sure you would even know?

There is a growing trend for young teenage boys to set up **'AI girlfriends'**, realistic-looking artificial intelligence 'bots' which have been created by using 'companion apps'. These services are widely advertised on the online games which many children use, and on the platforms which they watch, such as YouTube.

Now new research has found that a staggering one in five boys aged 12-16 may be either already in a romantic relationship with an AI companion, or know of another boy who is in one.

The research was carried out by the men's organisation Male Allies UK, which found that about eight in 10 boys (85%) have been in conversation with a chatbot.

It takes a young boy less than five minutes to create his 'dream girlfriend'. He can choose either a 'ready-made' AI girlfriend, or else customise her looks and personality to his personal preferences.

In return, boys admit to quickly forgetting that their AI girlfriend is not real. Research from Bangor University's AI Lab has found that most teenage boys come to think that their bots can really think and understand them. As one said: "She remembered everything that was important to me and always seemed to know the right thing to say."

So – does this matter? Yes, says psychology experts. They are concerned at this blurring of fantasy and reality.


As one children's psychotherapist points out, a boy's relationship to an AI companion is not a "congruent human relationship." And she warns that to have children "designing" the appearance of their romantic partner could cause them to have "a very warped idea of what a body or sex looks like."

Also, the chatbots' agreeableness – or lack of challenge – is worrying. "Their whole engagement model is telling a user what they want to hear, and that's hugely gratifying for a teen. So why would they spend time enduring the reciprocity or the difficulties of a real relationship? But 'frictionless' relationships aren't what life is about."

Male Allies UK is concerned to where this may lead. "We have heard of situations where, when a boy has tried out his online chat in the real world, he's been rejected. Feeling humiliated, he has lost his temper and lashed out. So, there's a chance we'll see more of that frustration being expressed, when instantly gratifying online behaviours don't translate in real life."

In the meantime, there is currently no UK law setting a minimum age for using an AI companion, including the relationship-style chats.

Parish Church of St. Nicholas - Service Information & Rotas

Sunday	1st Reading	2nd Reading	Gospel	Coverings
5th July Eucharist Rev Alec Gill Trinity 5	Zechariah 9: 9 - 12	Romans 7: 15 - 25a	Matthew 11: 16-19 + 25-30	Green
12th July Eucharist Rev Miriam Jones Trinity 6	Isaiah 55: 10 - 13	Romans 8: 1 - 11	Matthew 13: 1 - 9 + 18 - 23	Green
19th July Eucharist Rev Alec Gill Trinity 7	Isaiah 44: 6 - 8	Romans 8: 12 - 25	Matthew 13: 24-30 + 36-43	Green
26th July	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 20%;"> <p style="text-align: center;">NO SERVICE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">at St Nicholas</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Trinity 8</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p style="font-size: 1.2em;">Patronal Festival</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em;">St James - HANNEY</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em;">9.30 am</p> </div> </div>			



	Date	Sacristan	Sidesperson	Prayers	Readings	Organist
1st Sunday	5th July	Ruth	Frances / Nigel	Linda	Ruth	Ruth
2nd Sunday	12th July	Louise / Claire	Linda / Noel	Louise / Claire	Graham	Ruth
3rd Sunday	19th July	Jenny	Liz / Jeff	Jenny	Fiona	Graham

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

Thursday	Sacristan
2nd July	Mandy
9th July	Jenny
16th July	Heather
23rd July	NO SERVICE
30th July	

	Cleaning	Flowers	Coffee
29th June - 5th July	Linda	Heather	Mandy
6th - 12th July	Claire	Claire	Jan / Hilary
13th - 19th July	Savita	Jenny	Val / Barbara
20th - 26th July	Mandy	Mandy	Linda / Janet
	Sue & Trish	Linda	Sue, Trish, Frances

Parish Church of St. Nicholas - Service Information & Rotas

Sunday	1st Reading	2nd Reading	Gospel	Coverings
2nd August Eucharist Rev Miriam Jones Trinity 9	Isaiah 55: 1 - 5	Romans 9: 1 - 5	Matthew 14: 13 - 21	Green
9th August Eucharist Rev Alec Gill Trinity 10	1 Kings 19: 9 - 18	Romans 10: 5 - 15	Matthew 14: 22 - 33	Green
16th August Eucharist Rev Alec Gill Trinity 11	Isaiah 56: 1 + 6 - 8	Romans 11: 1 - 2a + 29 - 32	Matthew 15: [10-20] 21 - 28	Green
23rd August ~ NO SERVICE ~ at St Nicholas	 Patronal Festival St James - Denchworth 			
30th August Eucharist Rev Miriam Jones Trinity 13	Jeremiah 15: 15 - 21	Romans 12: 9 - 21	Matthew 16: 21 - 28	Green

	Date	Sacristan	Sidesperson	Prayers	Readings	Organist
1st Sunday	2nd August	Ruth	Frances / Nigel	Linda	Ruth	Ruth
2nd Sunday	9th August	Louise / Claire	Linda / Noel	Louise / Claire	Graham	Ruth
3rd Sunday	16th August	Jenny	Liz / Jeff	Jenny	Fiona	Graham
4th Sunday	23rd August	~ NO SERVICE ~				
5th Sunday	30th August	Nigel	Liz / Jeff	Paul / Nick	Jenny	Graham
~ If you are unable to attend please arrange cover for your week ~						

Thursday	Sacristan
10.00 am Thursday Services are suspended throughout August	

	Cleaning	Flowers	Coffee
27th July - 2nd Aug	Linda	Heather	Mandy
3rd - 9th August	Claire	Claire	Jan / Hilary
10th - 16th August	Savita	Jenny	Val / Barbara
17th - 23rd August	Mandy	Mandy	Linda, Janet, Sylv
23rd - 30th August	Sue & Trish	Linda	Sue, Trish, Frances

The Parish Church of
St Nicholas
Notices

~ St Nicholas Churchyard ~



11th - 24th July

Mr N. Langford

25th July - 7th August

Mr J. Penfold

8th - 21st August

Mr D. Perkins

22nd Aug - 4th Sept

Mr S. Tyrrell

Sunday 12th July

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St. Nicholas Church



June

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

£50 - N° 133 ~ Mr R. Swift

£20 - N° 90 ~ Mr R. Godfrey

£10 - N° 129 ~ Mr R. Haynes

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Would you like to join?

For further information please contact

Tricia Shand - 01235 764222


the.shandies@btinternet.com

London Marathon 2026



Thank you so much for your generous donations in support of Mike's charity run.

Thanks to your kindness and support, Mike raised just over £2,000, and together with the rest of the team, an incredible total of £20,000 was raised for Team Mikayla.

Your contributions truly make a difference — thank you for being part of something so special 

Kindest regards

Kat Culverwell



Sea Sunday - 12th July

Sea Sunday is the day each year when churches worldwide come together to pray for seafarers, and to support The Mission to Seafarers' frontline ministry to them.

Seafarers are essential to everyday life, yet many work unseen, facing long periods away from home, isolation, and often dangerous conditions. Sea Sunday offers an opportunity to pause, and give thanks for the men and women who keep our world moving.

The Mission to Seafarers works in ports across the world. In 2025 alone, it made over 48,000 ship visits, provided shore leave transport for more than 150,000 seafarers, and ran programmes on family support and suicide prevention.

These moments of care — a visit on board, practical help ashore, or someone to listen — can make a profound difference to seafarers far from home.

For Sea Sunday 2026, the theme is 'Harbours of Hope: The Church Alongside Seafarer', inspired by Matthew 25. This theme celebrates the local church as a place of welcome, refuge, and hope — a community offering both spiritual and practical safety to those who work at sea. It invites congregations to reflect on how they can stand alongside seafarers through prayer, hospitality, generosity, and justice.

There is a wide range of free downloadable resources on Sea Sunday, which can be found at:

www.missiontoseafarers.org

New listed places of worship fund launched

Guidance on applying to a new Government grants fund for listed places of worship to help pay for capital works including fabric repairs and essential improvements, such as electrical upgrades, heating, toilets and step-free access, has recently been published.

The Places of Worship Renewal Fund, for listed places of worship, was launched with details of its remit and eligibility criteria: Places of Worship Renewal Fund | Historic England. The Fund will be administered by Historic England.

The £92 million scheme - £23 million a year - is for England only and will last for four years. It is funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, and replaces the Listed Places of Worship Grants Scheme.

Churches are being encouraged to explore making expressions of interest under the scheme with the application process expected to be proportionate to the size of the grant that is applied for.

The Bishop of Lynn, Dr Jane Steen, the Church of England's deputy lead bishop for buildings, said: "Our church buildings are national treasures for the common good, both for their spiritual, cultural and historical significance and the vital practical help they provide communities across the country.

The majority of fundraising for the maintenance and repair of church buildings is done locally by thousands of wonderful volunteers. The Places of Worship Renewal Fund has a vital part to play alongside this local fundraising, and other funders who support churches.

"We welcome the launch of the Fund and we look forward to working closely with Historic England, in helping encourage eligible churches to make full use of the scheme."

The deadline for submitting Expressions of Interest for the second round of grants will be in September 2026.

The launch of the Fund has come amid concerns over the ending of the Listed Places of Worship Grant scheme, after more than 20 years in operation. The Scheme repaid VAT as a grant on essential repairs and maintenance of more than £1,000.

Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner

Free tool marking as part of efforts to reduce vehicle crime

Last month, in collaboration with Thames Valley Police, I launched a new Vehicle Crime Strategy which aims to reduce cut crime - particularly theft of, and theft from vehicles.

Having your vehicle stolen, or something stolen from it, isn't a trivial crime – it can result in substantial financial loss, emotional stress and, depending on where the theft took place, security and community safety concerns.

Whilst we have seen a reduction in vehicle crime across Thames Valley, with almost 2,000 less incidents of theft from or theft of a motor vehicle in 2025 compared with 2024, there is more to do.

We launched the plan at the latest of a series of free tool marking events.

Tradespeople are significantly more likely to experience vehicle crime because their tools are seen as high-reward, low-risk targets for thieves. According to statistics from Wickes, 4 in 10 tradespeople have experienced tool theft across the UK.

Tool marking is one of the simplest ways tradespeople can protect themselves from tool theft.

Since March, my office has distributed over 500 SelectaDNA tool marking kits to electricians, plumbers, carpenters and other traders across the Thames Valley, increasing the number of tools marked, making them less desirable to thieves and protecting more tradespeople's tools and livelihoods.

There is more information about future vehicle marking sessions and how to get hold of a kit directly if you can't attend one of the sessions on my website: [thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/vehicle crime](http://thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/vehicle%20crime).



Matthew Barber

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All entries for the **SEPTEMBER** Issue of the Challow News

Must be submitted by **15th AUGUST 2026**

Email: nigel.langford@me.com

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When England won the FIFA World Cup



Sixty years ago, on 30th July 1966, the 1966 FIFA World Cup final took place. England beat Germany 4–2.

English player Geoff Hurst became the first (and only) player to score a hat-trick in a World Cup final.

Hurst is also the only surviving member of the England team that started the 1966 final, held at Wembley, where England played all their matches. Others were spread around the country.

The 1966 World Cup was unique in that it was the only one in history that had no matches played on a Sunday, because of the Sunday observance laws in force at the time. Professional football was in fact not played on a Sunday in England until 1973–74, and then to a much lesser extent than it is now.

The 1966 tournament was also significant in other ways – not least for the famous commentary snippet from Ken Wolstenholme, still quoted today. This occurred when it seemed the crowd might be invading the pitch as Hurst advanced on the German goal. “They think it’s all over!” said KW. Pause, then as Hurst’s shot hit the back of the net, “It is now!”

Many matches in the tournament were marred by violent play and contentious sendings-off. Vicious tackles on Pelé, the world’s leading player, put him out of the tournament, and one angry player in another match had to be escorted off the field by police. As a result, the yellow and red cards familiar to us today were introduced, as was the use of substitutes. Inconsistent refereeing was also tackled through training and clearer interpretation of the laws of the game.

CHALLOW & CHILDREY



CRICKET CLUB

SUMMER IS HERE

**The cricket season is in full flow with a home game each Saturday afternoon
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 | 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 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, you can do so via our website.

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

Looking back on 20 years with Twitter....

Twenty years ago, on 15th July 2006, Twitter, the online micro-blogging service, was launched.

It had been developed earlier that year by Jack Dorsey, Biz Stone, Evan Williams and Noah Glass at the podcasting company Odeo. Originally named "twtr", it was thought of as an SMS-based, short messaging service, at first with a 140-character limit. It became Twitter within six months of its launch.

Originally a side project, the free application let users share short status updates with friends by sending one text message to a single number ("40404"). Within a few years, it exploded in popularity until it became one of the world's top social networking platforms.

Its name was obviously inspired by bird sounds, after some other suggestions – including FriendStalker – had been rejected. The first ever tweet was sent by Dorsey on the prototype platform on 21st March – "just setting up my twtr".

The company became more prominent with the election of President Donald Trump in 2016. He used Twitter throughout his campaign and made announcements on it during his administration. Banned in 2021 for allegedly using it to incite violence, he was later reinstated under new owner Elon Musk, who acted as CEO until July 2023, when he was succeeded by Linda Yaccarino. She resigned in July last year. Meanwhile, Twitter had become X, with Musk intending it to expand to become a "digital market place".

Like other social media companies, Twitter/X has faced strong pressure to police content more closely,

in order to deter hate speech, misinformation and pornography, among other things.

But it is used by many Christians to discuss key issues of faith and culture, and for sharing devotional content, prayer requests and #happysunday messages.

Dirty Oven?

I'm here to help...

I'm Tom, your local Ovenu expert. I can bring your cooking appliances back to a showroom shine using 100% eco-friendly, odour free products. I professionally refresh ovens, hobs, extractors and microwaves, giving you more time to savour the moments that matter.



01235 239 938

ovenu.co.uk/south-oxon

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

Life Coaching

and

Neurodiversity Coaching

Orchard House Clinic
Wantage

CreativeChangeCoaching.org



Community Notices

King Alfred Quilting & Textile Group - Monthly Meetings

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 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 July, 19.00 hours: @ East Challow Village Hall. We have our annual summer party. This is our chance to sit and catch up with our members and friends with light refreshments and our summer challenge.

Wednesday 15th July 10.00am: Sewing day @ Challow & Childrey Cricket Club.

Wednesday 5th August 19.00 hours: @ East Challow Village Hall. In house demonstration on Flower and Butterfly making.

Wednesday 19th August 10.00am: Sewing day @ Challow & Childrey Cricket Club.

Come along to see what we are about and join our friendly group. You can come to a day or evening events or both.

Visitors are welcome for all events (fees apply).

For more information visit our website www.kingalfredquilters.org.uk

or contact Helen on 07763 923000 or Janice 07786 333497

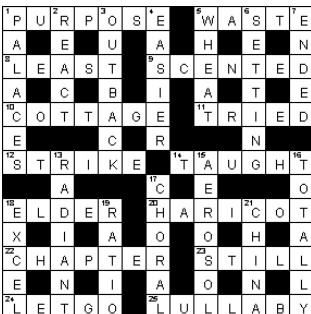
East Challow Community Warm Spaces



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 3rd July

Friday 10th July





**Annual General Meeting
Monday 27th July @ 7.00pm**

~ Everyone is Welcome ~

THE VILLAGE HALL NEEDS YOUR HELP

We have Vacancies on the Management Committee
which need to be filled



Open Doors and the persecuted church

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

What time do you eat your breakfast? And do you ever combine it with prayer? Once a year, Christian MPs gather for an event called the National Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast. This year it's taking place on Tuesday 7 July and Open Doors will be there, running a seminar and sharing resources about the situation for persecuted Christians around the world.

One area that Open Doors is highlighting is the research showing the increased persecution of Chinese Christians, which MPs debated in Parliament on 18 March. Marie Rimmer MP opened the debate, describing Chinese police action against an unregistered church summer camp, and the harsh interrogation and imprisonment of pastors. She noted that: “What is taking place in China is not merely the sporadic mistreatment of a few isolated believers, nor is it the meddling of local officials. What we are seeing is the rolling out of a sophisticated system of repression, in which law, administration, surveillance, propaganda and coercion are all being weaponised to subordinate religion to the Chinese Communist party.”

MPs covered many topics in their speeches, from churches facing forcible ‘Sinicisation’ – i.e., ‘being made Chinese’ (in practice, having to align with the Chinese Communist Party) – to surveillance and digital persecution, to the suppression of illegal house churches. Jim Shannon MP, chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Freedom of Religion and Belief (FoRB), highlighted Open Doors’ work, commenting on the persecution of the rising generation in China. “Children are the future of any nation; we all know that,” he said. “Preventing them from attending worship is not accidental. It is a deliberate attempt to shape the future by erasing faith from the next generation.”

Christians are not the only minority who suffer in China. Open Doors research highlights that Tibetan Buddhists, Uyghurs and Falun Gong practitioners all experience rights violations, too. MPs recognised the UK’s role as a defender of human rights – as well as the risk that China’s failure to uphold human rights would set a global precedent. In response, the UK Minister, Chris Elmore MP, reaffirmed the UK government’s commitment to raise human rights violations with the Chinese government.

All this shows how matters of FoRB are not niche issues. Instead, MPs are very interested in these reported rights violations, and will raise them in Parliament. As a result, the government is also keen to show that it is not failing to respond. China is now a priority country under the UK’s recent Freedom of Religion or Belief Strategy, indicating a welcome commitment to engage the Chinese government on this issue. Nevertheless, as global security and trade become more fragile, there will be a temptation to sideline rights concerns in favour of other needs. The UK government must be held to account regularly for how it promotes human rights – including FoRB – around the world.

Open Doors is asking the UK government to resume publishing an annual Human Rights and Democracy report, and to include FoRB as one of the core topics. In the past, this report gave valuable detail on UK global human rights advocacy, creating opportunities for parliamentary debate and accountability, as well as for wider dialogue. Please pray this call is answered, and as you drink your morning cup of coffee or tea, thank God for those who use their voice in Parliament to speak up for the persecuted church.

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 7th July	Black + Food
Tuesday 14th July	Green + Brown + Food
Tuesday 21st July	Black + Food
Tuesday 28th July	Green + Brown + Food
Tuesday 4th August	Black + Food
Tuesday 11th August	Green + Brown + Food
Tuesday 18th August	Black + Food
Tuesday 25th August	Green + Brown + Food
* Wednesday 2nd Sept	Black + 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

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

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

A helping hand to shape your land