

# NORTH ASTON

## News

February 2019

#340



# NORTH ASTON NEWS

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## Notes from an Empty Chair

Dear All,

Brief clarification - the Village Meeting is our 'official existence' as an independent entity, like a Parish Council but for smaller communities. The Village Fund is entirely separate, has no statutory requirements and it's up to us, the community, how we run it and what we do with it.

As those of who you who are interested in such things will have gathered by now, we have no Chairperson for the Village Meeting. I have said I will carry on as acting Chairman merely to fulfill our statutory obligations until 31st March. So, as I see it, we have three options:

1. Somebody steps forward and we carry on as before. That person may wish to set some limits on what they are prepared to do.
2. The Middle Aston Option (not to be confused with 'The Norway Option'). Middle Aston also maintains independent status as a Village Meeting although in a minimalist way. They have just two officers (chair and secretary) and meet just once per year. They don't raise a precept. They have a separate Millennium Fund for which there is a treasurer and this is used to fund occasional projects such as their Millennium Sundial and a public defibrillator. When a need arises they just ask households to chip in. Our current village events, such as the fête, would be Village Fund affairs, separate from the Village Meeting and would need a separate committee to run them.
3. We lose our status as a Village Meeting and become part of a neighbouring Parish Council, presumably either Duns Tew, Steeple Aston, Somerton or Deddington. This would mean a higher precept per household (with no benefit to us) and we would need to find a couple of representatives to attend.

So that anyone who might consider being chairperson of the 'Village Meeting and Village Fund' knows what's involved, here's a quick run-down of what's currently done:

- Chair four meetings per year.
- Be the contact point for 'The Village'.
- Liaise with the Secretary and Treasurer, and the Editor of the North Aston News.
- Liaise with the organisers of village events.

Please do give this some serious thought. We have brought forward our next village meeting to March 14th when this will be decided.

Telephone: 01869 347 806

email: chair@north-aston.co.uk

Mark

## Village Meeting & Forum

**March 14th 2019  
The Old Bakery from 7:30 pm**

This will be the usual Spring meeting, but brought forward to address the problem of there being no volunteer, as yet, for the office of Chair to the Village Meeting. The Agenda remains open, and will be published in next month's News. The priority will be the election of a Chairperson, although the scheduling of Easter events and planning for the Village Fête will also be discussed.

If you are considering volunteering for the post of Chair, please feel free to contact Mark for answers to any questions you may have.

## Events

### Deddington Farmers' Market

The Farmers' Market this month will be on Saturday 23rd February, between 9am and 12.30pm. One of the most vibrant markets of its type in the country, there will be over 40 stalls offering the very best in locally-produced beer, bread, crafts, eggs, fish, flowers, fruit, meat, preserves and ready-made meals. Our own North Aston Organics will be in attendance.

### Banbury Ramblers

The Banbury & North Oxfordshire division of The Ramblers Association organises regular walks in the countryside around Banbury, and has several walks this month in our area.

The group will be doing a circular walk based on North Aston on Friday 1st February. This is one of their *Easy Friday Lunch Walks* aimed at those who like a gentle amble followed by a relaxed lunch. They will set off from Nicholsons at 10:30 am, walk for a couple of hours, and then return for an optional lunch in *The Yurt*. For further details call 01295 811451 or 07934 14384.

The group will also have a walk centred on Deddington starting from the Windmill Centre at 13:30 on Wednesday 6th, and then they return to North Aston on Wednesday 20th February for a circular walk northwards towards Clifton. That will set off from the Green at 13:30, and the group will complete a walk of around 5 miles before returning to the village. Anyone is welcome to join these walks to see if the Ramblers is for you. Then, once you've enjoyed the views, fun, exhilaration and good company, it's just a case of becoming a member.

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A cartoon illustration of a girl in a red dress walking a brown dog on a leash.

## February Birthdays

Tuck Hatzigeorgiou  
William Fuoco  
Jocelyn Parsons



Many Happy Returns to all the North Aston residents who celebrate birthdays this month. If you're not listed, or know someone who should be, please let us know.

## Announcements

### Happy 9th Birthday!

To our gorgeous William. We hope that you have a wonderful day.

Lots of Love Mummy, Daddy, Evelyn, Sebastian and all of your little animals friends xxxxx



Curling up in front of a log fire may be the purrfect way to keep warm and cosy, but 50% of chimney fires take place between now and March. Take a look at Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service top tips and get your chimney swept at least once a year, or more frequently if you regularly have log fires. Visit the advice website: [www.365alive.co.uk/cms/content/log-fires](http://www.365alive.co.uk/cms/content/log-fires)

**NORTH ASTON**  
**100 CLUB**  
**January 2019**

The winners of the January draw were:

**First Prize (£25): O. Taylor (#123)**

**Second Prize (£5): M. Potts (#69)**

In a few months' time it will be time to start again, and if you'd like to support this worthy cause, then please contact Bev (347434) for further information. Your chances of winning are better than the Lottery!

**You've got to be in it to win it!**

# North Aston Nature Notes

## With Stephen Rees

The Rooks down in our corner have been really busy, and really vocal for the last couple of weeks. They're repairing their nests from last year, and also building new ones ready for their even noisier chicks.

We have an invasion of Ladybirds in our kitchen window at the moment. In the morning they all look dead, but by evening time, when our Rayburn has been going all day, they are quite busy and mobile. They come down on to the worktops too, to drink from little splashes of water.

Yesterday morning at about 6:30, I was stood outside having a tea and a smoke, when a skein of geese flew over, all honking loudly. It was a lovely sound. They were low, but I couldn't see them as it was still pitch black. How the flipping heck do they know where they are and when they've got to where they're going! I have no idea, but they didn't have a torch with them, so they must have built in radar. It's an amazing thought. Well what else this month ...

A Tawny Owl sat in the big lime tree behind Bill and Jean's house on the evening of January 17th, hooting like mad. Wendy's best spot, though, and I've now seen it a couple of



times too, is a hen Blackbird with two big white spots on her neck, making her very distinctive.

My brother Tony had a brilliant spot when out beating a cover crop on a shoot. He looked down, seeing something moving in

the long grass, and then out came a family of 8 or 9 shrews, following each other nose to tail. Brilliant! I love spots like that. He watched them move along before rejoining the rest of the beating line, risking the wrath of Mark the keeper.

Lots of Snowdrops out now, and we have Daffodils up and in bud, although it will be a good while yet before they bloom.

It's Sunday 27th January as I write this, and it's blowing a hooley down here, straight from the North. It's flipping freezing out! The weather forecast on the radio this morning was suggesting there could be considerable snow through into early February, so batten down the hatches and remember to throw your scraps of food out for the little birds.

That's about it for this time, so until next month ...

Steve, Wendy & Penny

SAINT MARY'S CHURCHYARD NOTES ON REMOVALS.	
We publish this enclosed list of memorials that we wish to move to enable the Parochial Church Council to reuse those sites: Abraham Bristow d. 1811, John Goodman d. 1786, John Goodman d. 1757, John Goodman d. 1755, Tabitha Goodman d. 1747, William Goodman d. 1771, William Goodman d. 1826, William Goodman d. 1801, Catherine Goodman d. 1801, George Goodman d. 1799, John Rogers d. 1843, Robert Rogers d. 1831, Sarah Rogers d. 1847, Ann Rogers d. 1826, Catherine Rose d. 1856, James Rose d. 1831, Michael Rose d. 1855, Ann Rose d. 1834, Joseph Rose d. 1829, Thomas Rose d. 1823, Joseph Rose d. 1807, Margaret Rose d. 1809, John Edward Rose d. 1860, Sophia Alice Rose d. 1851, Elizabeth Rose d. 1889, William Rose d. 1860, Sarah Rose d. 1861, Sarah Rose d. 1772, Ann Slatter d. 1853, William Sweatman d. 1766, Alice Sweatman d. 1749. For further information contact Church Warden, tel: 01869 338434.	

## The Churchyard

On Thursday 6th December an announcement (*left*) appeared in *The Times*. It was spotted by a member of the *Oxfordshire Family History Society*, who posted it on social media. It was then shared widely, including to North Aston's own Facebook page.

It's doubtful that any residents of the village would have seen the advert, so we should be grateful to the OFHS for bringing it to a wider audience. It was also the first that anyone outside the PCC knew of the Vicar's intention to press ahead with plans to have a section of the churchyard cleared of memorials, so that the plots could be re-used for over-burials.

The list includes 16 members of the Rose family, nine members of the Goodman family (Ann Slatter was born a Goodman), four from the Rogers family, and Alice Sweatman and her son William. Those with longer memories may be familiar with some of these names, and indeed, there are those still alive in the village who are themselves likely to be related to them. Almost without exception, they were all central to the history and development of North Aston, several having made significant long-lasting contributions to the community.

For almost 300 years the Rose family owned and managed, North Aston Mill. There are records of Roses at the Mill going back to the early 17th century, and the last miller didn't leave until the 1930s. The memorials cited for removal include those naming the grandparents of living descendants.

The Goodman and Rose families were related, and there are several instances of inter-marriage. This probably stemmed from a close trading relationship, since the Goodmans were Maltsters, supplying local brewers including, quite probably, the Rogers family, who were publicans at the *Fox & Crown* at the crossroads during the 17th and 18th centuries. Robert

Roger's son Joseph, born at *The Fox*, went on to be Master of Banbury Workhouse. William Sweatman was Church Warden in North Aston and is mentioned many times in Parish records. His son Job was also the publican at the *Fox & Crown* after the Rogers.

Since the announcement was published, living descendants for 27 of the 30 named have been in touch. Many have already written to the Diocese or the Bishop, and to the churchwarden, expressing their distress and, in some cases, anger at the thought that their family's memorials may be removed. Others, including members of the OFHS, have voiced concern that the relocation of these historic memorials (away from the burials they record) will impact on the work of establishing family ties as well as detracting from the appearance of the churchyard. The photo below shows most of the memorials selected, which all stand to the north of the pathway.



There are sincere hopes that this radical plan will not go ahead, especially in the face of such heartfelt opposition. With practical alternatives available to ensure the churchyard can remain open for future generations of North Aston residents, it seems there can be little justification for pursuing it.

If you would like to know more about the proposal, please contact Clive Busby - details on Page 2. Marcus P



# North Aston Village Meeting & AGM

Thursday 10th January 2019 ~ The Minutes

**Officers present:** Chairman Mark Stay (MS), Secretary Annie Savage (AS), Treasurer Honess (LH).

**Those present:** Councillor Bryn Williams (BW), David Hanna (DH), Clive Busby (CB), Trudy Busby (TB), Robert Hite (RH), Jane Durnin (JD), Linda Brown (LB), Tony Buxton (AB), Tuck Hatzigeorgiou (TH), Beverly Rees (BR), Tony Rees (TR), James Taylor (JT) Franca Potts (FP), Marcus Potts (MP), Niel Nicholson (NN), Adam Pochron (AP), Rhian Thomas (RT), Les Parry (LP), Mary Healy (MH), Jeremy Taylor (JeT). **Apologies:** Chloe Woodhead.

## Village Meeting

### 1. Approval of Minutes

MS welcomed those present and explained for the benefit of anyone unfamiliar with the background, the meeting was in two halves. North Aston does not have a Parish Council due to our size but we have a Village Meeting which gives us independence and allows us to set our own Precept but we are required to run the organisation formally.

The second half of the meeting deals with the Village Forum; the organisation which looks after the money which the village has raised through community events.

The Minutes for the 2018 AGM were published in the North Aston News in February 2018 and a copies were available for inspection at the meeting. MS asked if anyone wanted to make amendments. No changes or comments. The minutes were approved accordingly. Proposed MP. Seconded TH.

### 2. Nomination of Officers

MS is standing down and as Chair and Lisa Honess is standing down as Treasurer. MS asked for volunteers for both roles and at the same time acknowledged the contribution everyone in the meeting was making in assisting with running village matters. As no volunteers were forthcoming for the Treasurer's role, MS announced that a previous Treasurer, Sue Hatzigeorgiou, had offered to step up if no one else did. The meeting applauded loudly!

A discussion was held around the importance of people from the village being willing to take part in village affairs in order that we do not lose our independence and are obliged to become part of the Duns Tew or Steeple Aston Parish Councils. MP pointed out that if we did go down that route, someone from the village would still have to represent North Aston and a lot more work would be involved, so the best option was to divide a smaller amount of work between three officers. It was felt by some that a lack of time residing in the village precluded them but MH pointed out this was no obstacle and she had carried out the role shortly after moving in.

As no volunteers or nominations were received for the role of Chair, MS said we were facing a crisis on the committee and we are left with two options, other than being merged with Duns Tew or Steeple Aston:

- i) Follow the Middle Aston route of one meeting a year involving two officers but no events being organised during the year.
- ii) MS has agreed to stay in post until the end of the financial year in March and see if anyone steps up.

RT asked if we could have an events committee. MS confirmed we have a sub committee for the fête and it doesn't need to be chaired by the Village Chair.

MS described the role and explained it could be as minimal as someone wants to make it, simply carrying out the duties required – chairing the meetings and ensuring the Secretary and Treasurer did what was required of them, and delegated anything else. MS urged someone to step up. RT asked why, if the role was not demanding, was there a lack of volunteers? LP said it could be because people feel ignorant of what's involved. MS agreed to write a job description and publish it in the North Aston news.

RT suggested we could use a principled objection process which assumes everyone present could undertake the role unless they felt there was a reason to refuse. MH said some people might be put off by the difficulty of stepping down with no replacement.

NN said we should pause for a moment and thank MS for all his work as Chair over the past three years. The meeting was in

agreement that he had done an excellent job and applauded Mark.

### 3. Treasurers Report

LH presented the accounts confirming it had been a stable year with few transactions. The precept, as in previous years, had been £600. Funding for the defibrillator is shown in the Village Meeting Account and in addition a donation of £121.62 had been received from the girls at Park Farm, who had raised funds through a sponsored event. The only expenditure was the insurance premium which was lower than last year and an additional fee paid for GDPR compliance.

The assets have not altered but it was noted that the defibrillator needs to be added to the schedule.

MH proposed to approve the accounts. Seconded by ALB. The accounts were duly approved.

### 4. Review of Budget and Setting of Precept

Although we had in the past been asked for £99 towards the neighbourhood plan, we have not been asked for it to date.

LH suggested we set a higher precept to build up funds for the kerbing of the Green, as we have insufficient funds at present for the work. MS suggested grants might be available but needs investigating once we have quotations for the work. A discussion was held over the amount to be applied for and it was proposed to request £2,000. JT proposed, seconded by RT. The meeting approved the proposal.

### 5. Mid Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan Update

The process is drawing to a close and has been approved for submission. There is nothing in the plan which appears directly to affect the village, so no requirement for comment, but individual residents can vote on whether or not to accept the plan. MS expressed thanks on behalf of the village to Chloe Woodhead who is our representative and attends the meetings.

### 6. Traffic Calming

MS advised that Howard Ionescu from Greenside Cottages had approached him and others to ask what is being done about traffic calming, as he is affected by speeding motorists and are concerned for safety.

The Meeting also discussed traffic increase in the context of development plans for the motor museum and 28 lodges at Enstone. The neighbouring parishes have sent out a plea for objections on the basis that traffic will increase and impact negatively. They express a concern about 200,000 visitors and direction via SatNav.

NN said the development of Heyford was more threatening to traffic and if we object to Enstone, we should have considered the application for 40 additional cabins at Soho Farmhouse. MP felt the plea for help was biased. MH expressed her view that all local developments should be subject to consideration and challenge where appropriate. FP commented that when the USAF base at Upper Heyford was operational, traffic was much worse and in particular at shift changes when the volume of cars through the village was higher than current flow.

As Chairman, Kildare Bourke Burrows had summarised all the proposals for traffic calming several years ago and as a result, a second speed display had been purchased. In addition Community Speedwatch has been initiated and in addition, it is hoped that the acceptance of the proposal for kerbing will have a positive impact on slowing traffic by narrowing the road.

The meeting discussed various other ideas but as MH pointed out, we have been over and over the subject on many occasions and no further agreements had been reached. CB proposed we proceed with the kerbing and review the position. MP suggested

we move the 30mph sign when Trudy and Clive move in as the residential area will be extended.

Any Other Business: None

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 14th March at 7.30pm.

## Village Forum

### 1. Treasurer's Report

LH presented the accounts and reported minimal expenditure. The Fête generated £3453 income and £1622 was donated to Church funds, with retained income of £228. JD asked for more details on the items shown against the Fête costs and LH said she would publish a summary of income and expenditure for the event in the *North Aston News*.

**Charitable Donations.** Carols on the Green: MS confirmed all the donations were made to specific local charities as announced in *North Aston News*. The charities are *Banbury Restore*, *Homestart* and *Banbury Young Homeless Project (BYHP)*.

The surplus from the Harvest Lunch was donated to the charity *Hover Aid*.

MP proposed the accounts be approved. Seconded by BR. The accounts were duly approved.

### 2. Carols on the Green

NN reported a rough head-count of approximately 200 people, and it went very well, although the safety cordon of lights was somewhat disregarded. JD & LB both mentioned the parking system seemed to be ineffective. Cones had been put out in an attempt to direct and limit but they were either moved or disregarded, so this will need reviewing next Christmas.

The drinks ran out and Liz Nicholson has offered to co-ordinate refreshments next year.

A discussion was held regarding the adequacy of the insurance cover. JT was concerned about the appropriateness of depending on NA Farms' public liability and AS said that the committee, as the host of the event, would be legally liable for any injury to people or damage to property. The current cover is subject to compliance with all Health & Safety requirements and excludes damage to property within 100 metres of the bonfire. NN advised that Liz had carried out a risk assessment and had a first aid kit. It was agreed to review prior to the event this year.

### 3. Village Fête

The date had been agreed for Saturday July 13th, subject to the Green being available in light of the planned heat-pump work.

### 4. Mikron Theatre Company

The Company has been in touch and want to return for an evening performance on Saturday 19th June.

### 5. Church Graveyard

MP spoke to the meeting about an issue of concern which has been detailed in *NA News*.

Three years ago, Reverend Marcus Green advised the Village Meeting of the problem which the church faces due to the shortage of burial space in the churchyard. Although no further discussions have taken place at Village Meetings, an announcement was placed in *The Times* in December advising that the PCC has scheduled the removal of 30 headstones.

MP showed the meeting an image of those memorials which would be affected and advised that the descendants of the families concerned were entitled to raise objections. A number have already been in touch and have expressed distress. CB confirmed a number of respondents have contacted members of the PCC or the Bishop to express concern. He also advised that the PCC is considering an alternative area on the south side of the graveyard where graves are unmarked and therefore unidentified and are believed to be over 75 years old.

MP informed the meeting he had approached Kevin Cash of North Aston Hall to sound him out on the possible enlargement of the graveyard, allowing for an alternative proposal which would enable the scheduled memorials to be left in place. Mr Cash is happy to recommend the proposal to the Trustees who own NA Hall, and MP asked CB in his capacity of Church Warden if he would be happy to feed this back to the PCC and CB confirmed he was willing to do so.

### 6. Any Other Business

LH reminded the meeting that we had discussed charitable donations and wanted to think about how we as a village could do this. She suggested if residents felt a particular charity would benefit from donations, representation could be made at a Village Meeting for those present to vote. She also said that, given we already make donations and require the available funding for the kerbstone project, it may not be an appropriate time for this discussion.

MS closed the meeting and offered thanks to LH for her work as Treasurer.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 14th March at 7.30pm.

### Treasurer's Note

*As her final task as Treasurer, before handing over the reins to Sue Hatzigeorgiou, Lisa Honess offers the following clarification of one element of the Village Fund account, as published at the AGM, and queried from the floor:*

The total cash costs for the 2018 Fête were £423.02.

The total profit from the Fête was £3235.60 of which 50% was donated to the church.

The figure which appeared under Fête Expenditure on the North Aston accounts, and the details of which I could not bring to mind at the meeting, was the cost of the reusable plastic cups, which were purchased during this financial year for use by the bar at the 2018 and future stagings of Fête. The only reason they appear separately on the accounts from the rest of the Fête accounting is that this was the only Fête expense paid for by cheque. As such, it shows separately on the Village Fund income and expenditure accounting.

I would also like to express, if I may, my sincere gratitude to Sue Hatz for taking on the post of Treasurer again. I very much regret that I have to step down after only a year in post, however my circumstances have changed and as I'm now working full-time, with two small children, something's just got to give.

Lisa Honess



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# Councillor Calling



## Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan

There's not much to report this month, except an update on the Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan, which most of you will be aware of, and the ongoing separation of Cherwell District Council and South Northants District Council.

The examiner has recommended that the Plan proceeds to a Referendum, based on his recommended modifications. The Plan is available to view at CDC's Bodicote House and on the CDC website. Go to the website ([www.cherwell.gov.uk](http://www.cherwell.gov.uk)) and enter *Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan* in the search field to follow the links.

An officer report is being prepared and will ask Cllr Clarke (Lead Member for Planning) to consider the examiner's recommendations and modifications. A Referendum will then take place as soon after the Lead Member decision has been confirmed, and arrangements confirmed by the Governance & Elections Manager.

## Separation of CDC & SNDC

As of the 1st January, Cherwell District Council has separated the two senior leadership teams as well as the Executive Assistants providing support to the two teams. From 14th

January the Economic Growth and Planning Policy and Conservation teams have been separated. These teams were straightforward separations, as they already operated with a high degree of geographic independence, for example working on either the CDC Local Plan or the SNDC Local Plan.

Between now and July 2019, the second and third phase of staff separations will be implemented. By this summer the majority of staff should be settled as working in either CDC or SNDC. We are still on schedule to be fully separated and independent by July 2019.

Thank you,  
Bryn Williams (email: [Bryn.Williams@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk](mailto:Bryn.Williams@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk))

## Note from the Editor

For those who may not have followed this saga, Cherwell District Council and South Northamptonshire District Council entered into a "partnership" in 2010. The intention was that the two adjacent administrations would pool certain resources, where overlaps might be either more efficient, or more cost effective. The hope was that both bodies might save money.

In the early years it worked well, and it is thought that CDC did, indeed, save over £3 million. Unfortunately, as you may have heard fairly regularly over the last couple of years, SNDC encountered serious financial problems as a result of a shortfall in funding. In May 2018 Cherwell announced the intention to bring a formal end to the partnership. The decision came after the running of South Northamptonshire County Council was taken over by government-appointed commissioners, with a review looking into the possibility of creating a unitary authority. In October 2018 CDC and Oxfordshire CC announced the establishment of an alternative long-term partnership between County and District councils, with similar intentions to share resources and save money.

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# On 2 Wheels

## An Enjoyable Cotswold Loop

Before I launch into describing 18 miles of fresh air and beautiful views, a little of my background. I have always been interested in cycling, have competed in Road, Criterium, XC and DH disciplines, and have run (and still do) my own cycle shop for 25 years. Now I simply ride for pleasure when I have the urge (and often, when the sun is shining!).

This first route is quite short, but falls nicely in that spare hour slot that I occasionally seem to have these days. My usual start is from The Cyclogical Shop in Deddington, but for this article I'll begin from the Fox Crossroads. Turn down Dane Hill and enjoy the downhill run before that small but always annoying short climb into Deddington. Follow the main road up to the traffic lights, and then head west, on the nice straight run along the B4031 through Hempton towards Chipping Norton. A short sharp down-hill at Nether Worton levels out, leading you to the invariable uphill (a little longer with a small kick at the end) before some flowing sweeping bends allow you to join the A361.

Turning left towards Chipping Norton, you stay on the A361 for a mere 500 yards before taking a left towards Great Tew. Plunging downhill straight away, you will be doing 35mph plus before hitting a series of S-bends (take care) and then, straight uphill, skirt the village – the steepest gradient being at the end of the climb. As it levels out, you will approach a crossroads taking the left turn past Great Tew Cricket Club (signposted Sandford / Duns Tew).

The road soon straightens out and you pass down a magnificent walled avenue of The Great Tew Estate. Here, the road quality suffers – no potholes but the tarmac is broken up so you'll feel a bit of buzz through the handlebars. You are also likely to encounter the occasional horse rider, so remember not to sneak up on them silently.

At the T-junction, take a right to Sandford St Martin, another long straight that is slightly down-hill allows a good turn of speed. Straight through the picturesque village and a short climb brings you into Steeple Barton and Middle Barton. Through the village and up towards Hopcroft Holt will take you past the hidden Barton Abbey and cricket ground.

At the traffic lights turn left onto the busy A4260 towards Deddington / Adderbury. To avoid the dual carriageway, head down into Steeple Aston and follow the mid-valley route past the school and through Middle Aston back towards home.

The ride is 18 miles long and should take a quick rider 55 minutes, medium paced 1 hour 10, or the leisure rider an hour 25. Overall this is a pleasant, enjoyable ride with two good meaty climbs and several smaller ones, plus a couple of quick down-hill sections. Views are great and the wind will not be in your face all the way around. Enjoy the ride.

James Greenwood (james@cyclogicalshop.co.uk)



Over Christmas, the girls visited Blenheim Palace lights, the Big Wheel, and went ice-skating in Birmingham. We also attended the North Aston Carol Service, which we loved. The girls loved singing along and loved the treats that came around!

At New Year, some of the girls went to the theatre to watch *Dreamgirls* and the others went to the snowdome in Milton Keynes. We then all saw in the New Year watching the fireworks in London on the TV, with some hot chocolate and snacks.

During January we celebrated Burns Night, and the girls tried haggis and black pudding, as well as Scottish shortbread. In addition to this, we have completed a workshop on the National Holocaust Memorial.

The village Defibrillator is located in the porch at 4 Somerton Road, almost opposite the post box. If you would like to attend a CPR and Defibrillator training session please contact Mark on 347806



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# The Church MATTERS



## Church Yard News

I'm very grateful to all who have been helping us publicise our proposed changes to the church yard. The Banbury Guardian put a very good article in their mid-January edition. There is a link to it on the 'NewsBlog' page on the church website; I think their journalist got things spot on.

Some months ago (this will be the fourth time I've written about our plans to keep the church yard open for burials in these pages since our last church annual meeting) I commented that the church yard should always be here, and always be for everyone. I've had some lovely ideas for how this might happen explained to me since then, and I am deeply grateful for everyone's energy and time. We are constrained by what the law allows for Church of England church yards, but within that the PCC, wardens and I are trying to do our best - given that I think everyone is agreed that our 'best' is to keep the church yard open so that North Aston retains its own place for people to be buried in.

Thank you to everyone who has written in to me, to Clive, to the diocese - the process is such that on the whole I am leaving replies to the diocese, as they are in control of the legal side of things. In the end, we can ask for anything we like; as part of the State Church we are governed by the laws of the land, and it will be a legal decision that comes down to us as to whether we get to keep our church yard open. I very much hope that (one way or another) we do - and from all the conversations I've had, it seems that we've all got our fingers crossed the same way!



## Electoral Roll

North Aston, like every parish, has both a civil and a church electoral roll. The church electoral roll is for those who regard themselves as belonging to church life. Qualifications are simple - are you an Anglican, do you live in the parish of North Aston, and do you habitually attend worship with us? Some folk come from other traditions or live outside the parish and yet attend regularly - that's fine, you are very welcome to be on our electoral roll! Being on this list allows people to vote at church annual congregational meetings and to stand for the PCC, but much more than that - it is a statement of commitment to our church life together. Commitment is very meaningful: a church warden (for example) is a volunteer from this list who gives enormous amounts of time and energy; and the Diocese works out how much parish share we have to pay them (this year around £8,000) in part by counting our electoral roll: we are therefore very grateful to everyone who belongs!

Every six years we make a completely new roll, and this is happening in February and March. Norman West is our Electoral Roll officer, and Ted Short our PCC Secretary. They will handle this, and if you would like to be on the roll, please fill in a form and return it to one of them - even if you've been on before. Forms will be available in church. There will be two forms: the electoral roll form, and a GDPR form - which will allow the church to keep your details so we can contact you about any parish events, following last year's changes in data protection law. Thank you.

## Lent

Lent starts late this year, as Easter falls just about as far into April as it can be. Ash Wednesday will be on March 6th, with a service here in North Aston at 7.30pm. Our usual Lent Course follows, joining with all three Benefice Churches and our Methodist friends. Details will follow - keep your eyes and ears open, and please join us as we begin to prepare for Easter!

*Revd Marcus Green*



Any comments about the above are very welcome. More news is always available on our website: [www.sntchurch.com](http://www.sntchurch.com)

Please email our Rector Marcus Green: [ssteplerector@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ssteplerector@hotmail.co.uk) or tel: 340 903

You can also email Clive: [cabs@north-aston.com](mailto:cabs@north-aston.com) (tel: 338 434) or Annabel: [annabelbevan@hotmail.com](mailto:annabelbevan@hotmail.com) (tel: 345153)

Any other member of the PCC will also be very happy to talk, and they are: Richard Bailey, Beryl Greenwood, Vicky Taylor, Jane McArdle, Ted Short, Jeremy Taylor and Norman West.



# CHURCH SERVICES

## PARISH WORSHIP IN FEBRUARY-MARCH

NORTH ASTON

STEEPLE ASTON

TACKLEY

### Sunday February 3rd 2019

9:30 am  
Morning Prayer  
*Revd Marcus Green*

11:00 am  
Morning Prayer  
*Revd Marcus Green*

5:30 pm  
Evensong  
*Revd Marcus Green*

### Sunday February 10th 2019

9:30 am  
Family Service & Baptism  
*Revd Marcus Green*

11:00 am  
Family Service  
*Revd Marcus Green*

5:30 pm  
Ecumenical Communion  
*Canon Robin Gibbons*

### Sunday February 17th 2019

9:30 am  
Holy Communion  
*Revd Marcus Green*

11:00 am  
Holy Communion  
*Revd Marcus Green*

5:30 pm  
Informal Service  
*Revd Marcus Green and Canon Robin Gibbons*

### Sunday February 24th 2019

9:30 am  
Morning Prayer  
*Richard Bailey*

11:00 am  
Morning Prayer  
With Children's Church  
*Revd Marcus Green*

9:30 am  
Family Communion  
*Revd Marcus Green*

### Sunday March 3rd 2019

9:30 am  
Holy Communion  
*Book of Common Prayer*  
*Revd Marcus Green*

11:00 am  
Holy Communion  
*Book of Common Prayer*  
*Revd Marcus Green*

5:30 pm  
Evensong  
*Revd Marcus Green and Canon Robin Gibbons*

Midweek Morning Prayer will be at 10am on Thursday 7th February.  
Bible Study happens most Mondays at 2pm in the Rectory, Steeple Aston.  
Families are welcome to all Sunday services within the parish.  
Visit the Benefice Website for further information: [www.sntchurch.com](http://www.sntchurch.com)

The United Benefice of Steeple Aston with North Aston and Tackley

THE UNITED BENEFICE OF STEEPEL ASTON WITH NORTH ASTON AND ACKLEY

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Come and Worship with us!

North Aston Church: 32 All Saints, North Aston, OX27 4EP (household of 12)

North Aston Church: 32 All Saints, North Aston, OX27 4EP (household of 12)

Tackley Church: 32 All Saints, Tackley, OX27 3AE (household of 12)

For details about our Sunday services please click here.

For more news around the parishes please click here.

For information about the Steeple Aston cope please click here.

Learn more

### North Aston News

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