

# NORTH ASTON

*NEWS*

January 2021

#363



# 2020 - 2021

# NORTH ASTON NEWS

JANUARY 2021, No:363

## Useful Contacts

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Website: [www.nicholsonsgb.com](http://www.nicholsonsgb.com)

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### Old Bakery Bookings

Mary Healy. Tel (01869) 347702

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### Village Marquee Bookings

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### CDC Local Councillor

Bryn Williams, Deddington

Telephone: 07836 271998

Email: [Bryn.Williams@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk](mailto:Bryn.Williams@Cherwell-DC.gov.uk)

**Thames Valley Police non-emergency:** 101

**Out of Hours Doctor:** 111 or 08453 458 995

# Notes from the Chair

## Happy New Year!

*I do hope that everyone has had a truly wonderful Christmas and has been able to get suitably merry!*

*I for one am still getting over the stress of assembling Christmas presents, sorting out which battery goes with which toy and, if I'm totally honest, I'm probably still a little 'merry' myself so I'll keep this short and sweet.*

*When Marcus asked me to write up a short piece entitled 'Review of the Year' I must admit my first thought was....what on earth shall I write? 'Not a lot due to Covid' but a six word review might not have cut the mustard!*

*This year has been the year of socially distancing, sanitizers, shielding, furlough, Rule of Six and smiling behind a mask, so my review for 2020 could be described as a bit rubbish.*

*But then I thought ... along with all of these new restrictions came solidarity, a unity like no other, and WhatsApp groups designed so that nobody be left without help, food or a friend. It gave us time to be in the garden, time to bake with our children, time to reflect, time to read a book, time to do the things that we never normally have time to do, and time for ourselves to just 'be'.*

*And actually, when I look back, although this year has been a hard one, it has also been the year that has seen the very best in people, the very best of our little community. I had to go through this year again I couldn't think of a better place and with better people to do it with than in North Aston with my neighbours and friends.*

*Happy New Year again and here is to a fantastic 2021!*

You can telephone Lucinda on **340588**  
or email: **[chair@north-aston.co.uk](mailto:chair@north-aston.co.uk)**

*Lucinda*

## Village Meeting & AGM

**Thursday January 7th 2020**  
**On Zoom from 7:00 pm**

The on-going Covid-19 restrictions mean it is again impossible for the Village Meeting to be staged in the Old Bakery. Instead there will be a Meeting on Zoom, starting at 7:00pm. If you would like to take part in the Meeting, please email Annie Savage ([secretary@north-aston.co.uk](mailto:secretary@north-aston.co.uk)) and she will add your details to the list. A full Agenda will be published on the Noticeboard, but subjects included for discussion are:

- Approval of Minutes from 2020 AGM (see January issue 2020).
- Election of Officers.
- Treasurer's Report.
- Setting of the Annual Precept.
- Update from Transport Committee.
- Any other business.

If you have any additional topics you'd like to raise, please let Lucinda or Annie know as soon as possible, or attend the Meeting and raise them under *Any Other Business*.

*Front cover: Most of us will have raised a glass to celebrate the end of 2020 on New Year's Eve, happy to see the last of what has been a miserable year for many people in Britain. Perhaps we can now look ahead into 2021 with hope and optimism, tinged with just a little trepidation. We are fortunate, and some are grateful, that we live in an isolated yet close-knit community. Time ticks by, but whatever comes about, we face it together.*

## Planning

### Planning Applications

Notice of various Planning Applications have been received from CDC. Visit <https://planningregister.cherwell.gov.uk/> and keyword search "North Aston" for more information.

**The Coach House St Mary's Walk, OX25 6AA.** Applications have been made to allow for the removal of modern extensions; external alterations to infill existing modern window openings; internal alterations including removal of floor structures and partitions; replacement of existing roof structure and roof coverings and addition of a new glazed gallery at ground floor level. Comments due 11-01-2021 and 28-01-2021, with References 20 / 03472 / LB and 20 / 03471 / F

**North Aston Hall St Mary's Walk, OX25 6AA.** Discharge of condition 3 (removal of utility services method statement) of 20 / 01616 / LB. Comments due by 04-02-2021. Reference 20 / 03575 / DISC and 20 / 03512 / DISC

**The Green, Somerton Road North Aston.** Works to tree in a Conservation Area, ref T5609. An application has been submitted to allow for the selective end-weight reduction of a mature sycamore (upper primary limbs) by 2-3m on the north western portion of crown, all limbs/branches with evident compromised structural integrity, wood pecker holes, squirrel damage. (This is the tree beside the sarsen stone). Decision due 216-01-2021. Reference 20 / 03565 / TCA

There will be a brief discussion relating to traffic issues, the Great Wolf Resorts proposal and the Middleton Stoney "busgate", during the Village Meeting AGM (on Zoom) on 7th January.

## Announcements

### Deddington Farmers' Market

The Farmer's Market is currently scheduled to take place on Saturday 23rd January, from 9 am to 12:30 pm. However, this may be dependent upon this region's "tier status" at the time. Please check [www.deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk](http://www.deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk) for the latest news. If the market is allowed to proceed, please socially distance and wear face coverings when dealing with traders.

### Church Services

The situation with regard to church services during the on-going Covid-19 situation remains very fluid. A schedule of services is published on the back page, but whether these are able to go ahead as planned remains subject to prevailing tier-status at the time. Please check with [www.sntchurch.com](http://www.sntchurch.com) for the latest news.



The winners of last month's draw were:  
**1st Prize (£10): Ian Pocock (#84)**  
**2nd Prize (£5): Peter Evans (#36)**

Congratulations to this month's winners! If you'd like to know more, contact Bev on 347434 or email [info@north-aston.co.uk](mailto:info@north-aston.co.uk).

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

## January Birthdays

Iona Le Clercq (11th)

Kyle Hite (19th)

Lisa Honess (31st)

Ava Obinna (4th)



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.

## Notices

### Festive Thanks ...

Over the Christmas period we had reason to be grateful to a number of North Aston residents for giving their time and energy to community projects.

The village was unable to stage the traditional *Carols on The Green* on Christmas Eve, but the event did go ahead, with a virtual singalong on Zoom. Just over 30 people attended. This fell a little short of the hundreds that usually gather on The Green, but what may have been lacking in numbers was compensated for by spirit and enthusiasm. Many thanks to Niel Nicholson for organising the event, and to the musicians who braved the weather to stand on The Green, play their instruments with cold fingers, and face the camera.

We have seen numerous expressions of thanks for the gifts that were circulated this Christmas on behalf of the village. These were given not only to our senior residents, but also to the children this year. Book Tokens were distributed to the youngest members of our community, while those at the other end of time's scale received tasty edibles.

The village noticeboard is looking especially tidy just now, thanks to Tony Buxton, who has very kindly carried out a full refurbishment of what is, in truth, a relatively new addition to the village. He has installed an all-new backing board and added several coats of varnish.

Throughout the festive period, as well as both before and since, the village WhatsApp group has continued to be an active and useful feature of village life. Content varies from idle banter (inevitable while we're all locked down at home!) to generous sharing of resources and information. More participants are always welcome, so please drop a note to [secretary@north-aston.co.uk](mailto:secretary@north-aston.co.uk) if you'd like to be added.

### CDC Winter Hardship Fund

Cherwell District Council, in association with Citizens Advice, has launched a Winter Hardship Fund in recognition of the fact that some residents are facing financial difficulties as a consequence of the Covid-19 situation. If you know of anyone who may be struggling to pay utility bills or source basic necessities, ask them to contact Citizens Advice by phone on 01295 221448 or email [advice@cano.org.uk](mailto:advice@cano.org.uk)

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# North Aston Nature Notes

## With Stephen Rees

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I hope everybody has had a half-decent Christmas, and made the best of what we could. I think I've said this every month this year

Strange old times ...

So, the day after good old BoJo told the country that Christmas was only going to be one day, and to keep it small and local, we chucked most of the provisions we'd bought and then decided a good long walk was the best thing to do. Get some air and get away from all the depressing news!

To make it more fun I took a little notebook and a pencil with me, and Mrs Rees and I had a competition to see who could spot the most variety of birds. It was really good fun, with surprising results too, but it did give me a neck-ache and I tripped up more than once.

We walked down to Somerton, then along the canal to the railway crossing, across the field to Grange Farm, up the long hill to the road, then down through the wood behind Liz and Neil's, and back home. The grand total was 30 different species. Blimey! That really surprised us both.

Here's the full list: Robin, Rooks, Blackbirds, Goldfinch, Gulls, Coot, Mute Swan, Moorhen, Hedge Sparrow, House Sparrow, Mallard, Fieldfare, Pheasant, Jay, Blue Tit, Pigeon, Collared Dove, Kite (five of them!), Magpie, Carrion Crow, Bullfinch (my favourite spot), Great Tit, Starling, Long-tailed Tits (a big family of them!), White Farm Pigeons, Jackdaw, Chaffinch, Goldcrest, Buzzards, two Sparrowhawks (my favourite birds) and a Cormorant.

It was a really enjoyable walk and Wifey said we should do it again, on the other side of the village, to see if it's any different.

On Boxing Day I walked up our track with old Penny to see leaves rustling and flying about on the edge of the wood. It turned out to be two squirrels having a right old scrap, with fur flying and lots of screeching. One ran off and the other one chased it from tree to tree until I lost sight of them. I've never seen the like before! (*We had three doing this in the trees along Hall Close that same day, and they kept it up for half an hour! Ed*).



After telling Wifey about it, we decided to have a walk down to the floods to see what was about. All the gates near and around the flood meadows had logs and branches piled up against them from the amount of water we have had. We haven't seen that much floodwater for a few years.



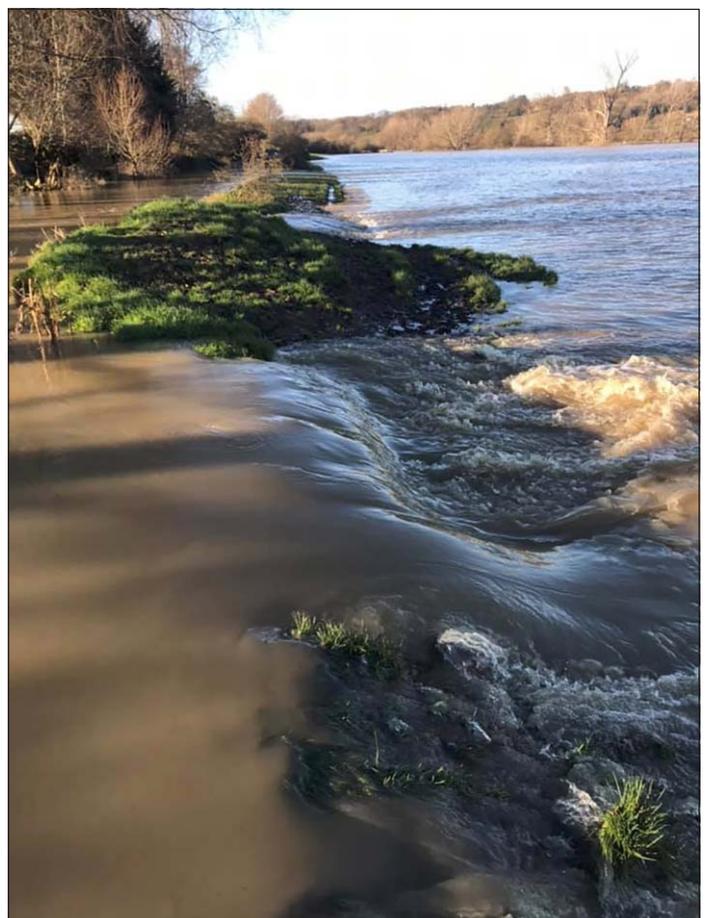
There were lots of waterfowl, including a nice flock of Teal, swimming round and round, and masses of Mallard out in the middle. In amongst them was about a dozen Shovelers, which was a great spot.

The rooks in the wood on The Green are very busy, re-building their nests. Soon they will start nesting properly. We love their noisy chatter in the spring, and I've always liked rooks – first up and last to bed!

I've got a new friend in my workshop. It's a massive (I kid you not!) humongous spider. He (*she?*) had me jump the first time I saw him, but we are used to each other now. His name is Dave, and he's brown, furry, ugly and flipping big! I'm going to try to catch some mice to feed him ... really he's that big!

Think that's about it for now. If anyone has any good spots, please let us know.

*Regards from Stephen, Wifey & Penny the dog.*



*Thanks to Minna Möller of Somerton for permission to use this atmospheric photo of the floodwaters along the Cherwell valley.*

# SJB HEARING COMPANY LTD

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[email: booking@sjbhearingcompany.co.uk](mailto:booking@sjbhearingcompany.co.uk)

Ashcroft Therapy Centre, Hudson Street, Deddington, OX15 0SW

## It all makes census

Every ten years, at least since 1841 (excluding 1941) the UK has carried out a national census. This year looks likely to be the last. The decision has been taken that so much information is now collected about us, through official records as well as unofficial ones, that the census is almost superfluous. Nevertheless, it will be compulsory for every UK citizen to participate in this year's survey, which will take place on Sunday 21st March.

For the first time, the 2021 Census will largely be collected on-line. Everyone will receive an access code by post from the Office for National Statistics, allowing them to log-in to the official website and complete the Census. Those without Internet access can either use someone else's computer, visit a library, or contact the nearest Census Support Centre to request a conventional paper-based form. Details are expected to be posted out in four to six weeks' time.

## From TVP

A timely warning from Thames Valley Police, with reports of an increase in break-ins to garden sheds and garages in our area over recent weeks, as well as a spate of "attacks" on cars, with catalytic converters, removed in the middle of the night. Please be vigilant. They also warn of yet more spam emails (failed courier deliveries being common) and bogus phone calls from 'Amazon', 'Netflix' and 'British Telecom'.

## Dear 'Village',

Thank you very much for the tin of Christmas shortbread shapes. I wish you all a HAPPY NEW YEAR. *Elizabeth H-L*

# NICHOLSONS



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### The Yurt Café - Delightful treats under canvas

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# NORTH ASTON ORGANICS

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- Wide variety of fresh seasonal organic veg at affordable prices
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- Supporting the local economy



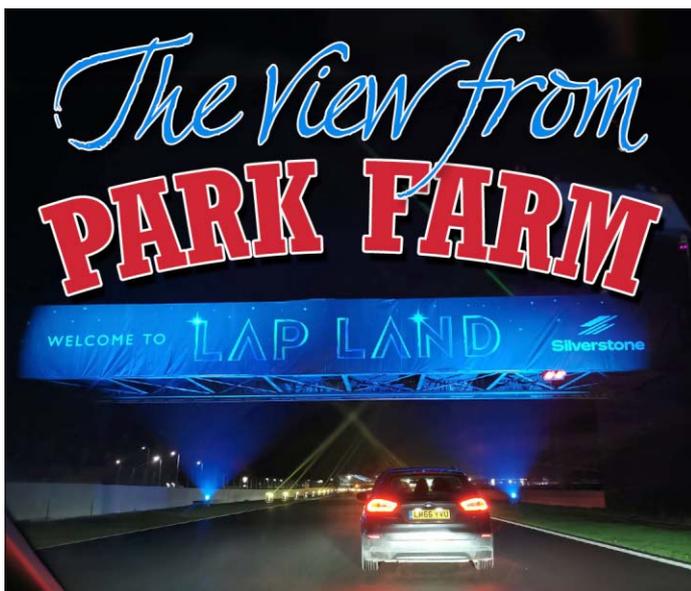
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Tel: ((01869)) 347702

visit the website at:

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



Here at Park Farm we have been very busy, and when things were opening up more and becoming a little more normal, all of the girls took part in fun, memorable activities, including cooking, make-up lessons, story times, Korean food making and much more. The girls have done so well at keeping themselves busy during the second lockdown, and they have continued to do really well at school also.

A new resident has recently started primary school and she is loving it; doing really well and making new friends.

The girls have also done VR sets which they loved and are still doing, they have been doing drive-through cinemas and lots of arts and crafts. The girls have also been to a firework show, which they enjoyed, and were looking forward to Christmas and New Year very much, when they planned on going to Silverstone to see "Lapland", as well as visiting Blenheim to see all of the Christmas lights, which are amazing!

*The Park Farmers*

# From the FIRE STATION

Busy, busy this month – 13 shouts and a lot of training has been keeping Deddington's crew on their toes. Seven stand-bys, three fire calls, two alarms (false) and a serious RTC on the M40 comprised the callouts.

An electrical fire in Duns Tew fortunately caused little damage to the property in question – a lot of smoke, two days without power and that acrid electrical stench probably being more inconvenient than the fire itself. The family were deeply appreciative and visited the station, socially distancing of course, to say a big thank you.



The RTC saw Deddington and three other crews extract two casualties from a car that had a tyre blow out in the outside lane of the motorway. The motorway was kept open to ease traffic flow, with the hard shoulder being used and Deddington marshalling four lanes into one.

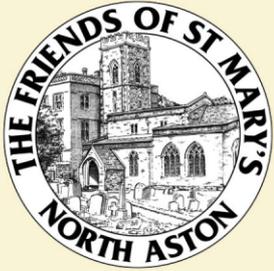
Training wise, Deddington took part in a further 'scenario day' at Moreton Fire College and a full day's water training at Minster Lovell. A big congratulations to Adam Perry for passing his competency exam and finally being able to delete that lower case "d" after those capital Fs!

Whilst writing this, a further flurry of calls came in, with Deddington being called out to the nursery fire in the centre of Banbury and two caravans near the station. Deddington singularly saved Christmas as they were able to free Dasher (yes, a deer), stranded down a storm drain!

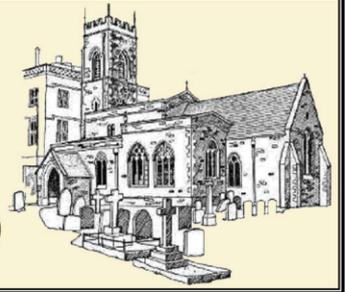
As we head into the New Year, please be mindful of leaving candles unattended and overloading plug sockets and multi plug extensions – we would prefer not to visit you in a professional capacity. Best wishes for the New Year everyone.

*James Greenwood FFD*  
[james@cyclogicalshop.co.uk](mailto:james@cyclogicalshop.co.uk)





# The Church MATTERS



## One year on ...

I began this article in January 2020 with these words:

*If I had a pound for every time someone stopped me in the pub and said 'I don't need to go to church to worship God', I'd ... well, I wouldn't exactly be rich, but I'd certainly be able to afford a decent holiday!*

I went on to talk about fixating on old familiar things - and needing to let go of the stuff that takes hold of us. Here's how I put it:

*At the beginning of a new year, I need to go to church to worship God because I need to let go of the things that I hold on to - but don't ultimately matter. I need to let go of the stuff that clings on to me. I need not to dwell on the past but to see that even today God can make streams of joy flow in what feel like the wastelands of our lives. It's not a building that tells me this story, but the people I worship with. And that's because the church isn't a building, it's a family - people just like me and you, whose lives are filled with the same reality, the same ups and downs, and yet who shine with the gift of Jesus. Love come down at Christmas.*

Of course, a year on, there's both a deep truth in those words, and a real irony ... For much of last year, worship wasn't about 'going to church' at all - it was about clicking a link and watching a service online. It wasn't about a building, and (really sadly) it wasn't about being with other people either.

Yet still we carried each other - in our prayers, in acts of kindness, as we got to grips with technology, as we met each other in the street, as we started to worship outdoors and as some of us started to find our way back to worship together too. We carried on because God's love never stops, and our worship is simply a response to that great love.

All our plans were tossed to the wind. Well, the Spirit can do that. As Jesus said, no-one knows where the wind comes from or where it goes ... Some of us have known bereavement over these months; all of us have known sadness and bewilderment, if not outright anger at times. Our plans are the least important things in such times: our worship is what matters most, because as we keep turning to God, we keep finding the One who loves us - everyday, come what may, always.

When the world changes, God's love does not. It is more certain than the sunrise.

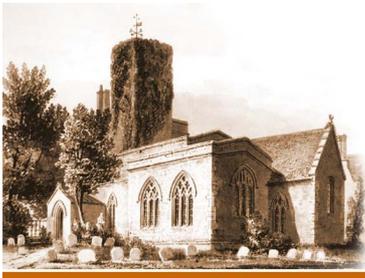
And as we look to the year ahead, what comes next? Well, that's beyond my pay grade! I'll email the Bishop and see if he knows! What I know is this: we'll keep on loving each other and caring for everyone and we're going to try to re-start weekly worship in all our churches, and if there are times regular services can't happen, we'll try other things, and come what may, these verses from that great Song of Sadness in the Bible, Lamentations, hold true:

*"Because of the Lord's great love, we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning. Great is your faithfulness."*

Rev'd 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: [steeplerector@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:steeplerector@hotmail.co.uk) or tel: 340903  
You can also email Clive: [casb@north-aston.com](mailto:casb@north-aston.com) (tel: 340470) 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, Ginny Stay, Ted Short, Jeremy Taylor and Norman West.



# CHURCH SERVICES

## PARISH WORSHIP ~ JANUARY

While this region is classified as Tier 4, the services below are suspended. Our main worship during this period will be our **Online Services**, available every week via [www.sntchurch.com](http://www.sntchurch.com). For those unable to access the website there will be a short **Morning Prayer** each Sunday at 10am at Steeple Aston Church. The services below will recommence as soon as we leave Tier 4.

### NORTH ASTON

To book a seat at any service at North Aston call  
**Clive on 340470**

### STEEPLE ASTON

To book a seat at any service at Steeple Aston call  
**Eileen on 340099**

### TACKLEY

To book a seat at any service at Tackley call  
**Julian on 331252**

#### Sunday January 3rd - Epiphany

9:30 am  
Morning 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**

#### Sunday January 10th

9:30 am  
Morning Prayer  
**Revd Marcus Green**

11:00 am  
Holy Communion  
**Revd Marcus Green**

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

#### Sunday January 17th

9:30 am  
Morning Prayer  
**Revd Marcus Green**

11:00 am  
Holy Communion  
**Revd Marcus Green**

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

#### Thursday January 24th

9:30 am  
Morning Prayer  
**Revd Marcus Green**

11:00 am  
Holy Communion  
**Revd Marcus Green**

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

#### Friday January 31st

9:30 am  
Morning Prayer  
**Richard Bailey**

11:00 am  
Holy Communion  
**Revd Marcus Green**

9:30 am  
Morning Prayer  
**Revd Marcus Green**

#### Sunday February 7th

9:30 am  
Morning 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**

For the latest information, please check [www.sntchurch.com](http://www.sntchurch.com). Please remember to wear face coverings or masks to all services. Children and families are always welcome. *Worship at Home*, our online service, will continue each and every week, and is accessible through the website. Our phone service for those without Internet access can be found by calling 929021 - it's a local call.

### North Aston News

The North Aston News is designed and produced by CMC Graphics, printed by Nicholsons of North Aston, and distributed monthly, free of charge, to all the residents of the Parish of North Aston. A full-colour edition in electronic format is also available and is sent out to an extensive emailing list every month. To be included in that list, please contact the News, stating your wish to be added to the mailing list. We welcome contributions, which need to be in an electronic format (except Classifieds and Announcements, which may be hand written). To submit an item, including high resolution photographs suitable for use on the front cover, please email: [info@north-aston.co.uk](mailto:info@north-aston.co.uk).

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