

# NORTH ASTON

*News*

February 2021

#364



# NORTH ASTON NEWS

FEBRUARY 2021, No:364

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Out of Hours Doctor: 111 or 08453 458 995

# Notes from the Chair

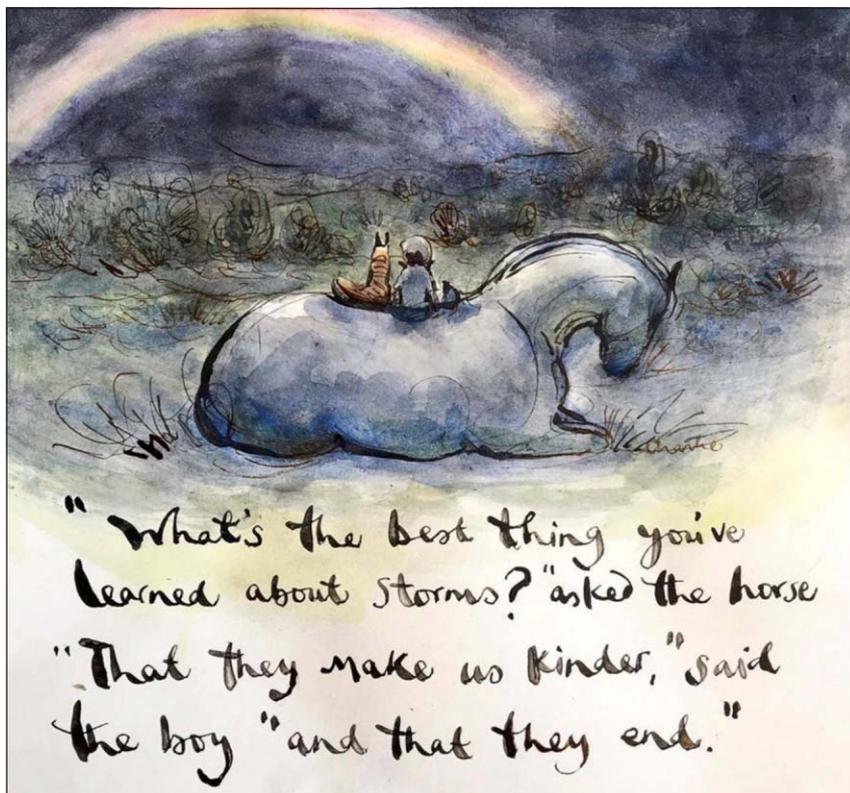
## Thank You!

Thank you to all that attended the AGM last month, it was lovely to see so many of you on there. If you missed it then you can read the minutes further in the newsletter.

Unfortunately, as a result of the current lockdown and the uncertainty of the restrictions that may be in place in the summer it was decided that the village fête will not be able to go ahead again this year. However, all is not lost! We did discuss the possibility of an impromptu village picnic in the summer months (restrictions permitting), so that is hopefully something we can look forward to.

With lockdown having been extended I would like to say, as I do every month, that if anyone needs anything please do get in touch!

And one last thing I'd like to share is a beautiful drawing by the very talented Charlie Mackesy and I think that it seems rather fitting.



"What's the best thing you've learned about storms?" asked the horse  
"That they make us kinder," said the boy "and that they end."

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

Lucinda

Lucinda's picture is taken from Charlie Mackesy's charming book entitled *The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse*. We asked Charlie for his permission to use the image again here. If you haven't yet read the book, then it is available direct from Charlie's website: [www.charliemackesy.com](http://www.charliemackesy.com). You can also find it on Amazon and stocked by most good bookshops.

Front cover: The view across Banbury Grounds, taken during the January snows by Lucinda Fuoco. This issue is decorated by several other similar scenes submitted by NA residents, tempted outside with a camera or phone to capture the bright purity of fresh snow. Thank you all. If anything catches your eye this month, please don't hesitate to send in a high-resolution copy and we'll do what we can to incorporate it into the 'News'.



Photo: Marcus Poits

## 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 and The Hall, St Mary's Walk, OX25 6AA.** The application relating to the removal of modern extensions and associated alterations, internal and external, and addition of a new glazed gallery at ground floor level to the Coach House has now gone to consultation. So too has the discharge of condition 3 on The Hall. References 20 / 03472 / LB, 20 / 03471 / F, 20 / 03575 / DISC and 20 / 03512 / DISC

**The Green, Somerton Road North Aston.** The application to carry out selective end-weight reduction of a mature sycamore on The Green (closest to the sarsen stone) has been approved. Reference 20 / 03565 / TCA

There are no other planning notices currently in process that directly effect North Aston. However, as referred to in a recent Village email, an enquiry into the Great Lakes proposal to create a new 498-bed hotel and associated water park and leisure complex in Chesterton will begin on February 9th, and could take up to five weeks to reach a conclusion. The "Great Wolf Lodge" project has now been opposed by all 33 neighbouring parishes, and MP Victoria Prentis has weighed in with a strong objection on behalf of her constituents. Nearly 800 local residents have written letters of objection, and on-line petition has garnered thousands of 'signatures', while organisations as diverse as *Friends of the Earth* and *Bicester Millennium Cycle Club* have voiced collective concerns. We will know more in March.

## Announcements

### Deddington Farmers' Market

The Farmer's Market was scheduled to take place on Saturday 27th February. However, at the time of preparing this edition, the chances look very slim, with the lock-down not scheduled to end before 8th March. For the latest news, please go online and check [www.deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk](http://www.deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk) If the market is allowed to proceed, please socially distance and wear face coverings when dealing with traders.

### Happy 11th Birthday William!

We hope that you have a wonderful day! We love you to the furthest shooting star and back! Lots of love Mummy, Daddy, Evelyn and Sebastian xxxxx



Photo: Lucina Fuoco

## February Birthdays

Tuck Hatzigeorgiou  
William Fuoco  
Mia Obinna (9th)  
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.

## Notices

### Vaccination Appointments

More snow is forecast, and we're facing typical wintery weather. While roads and footpaths may be icy, there's every chance that some of our senior residents may receive their appointment for a Covid vaccine. If that includes you, and you're concerned about how you're going to get there, don't worry. Help is at hand, via the village WhatsApp group. Even if you're not signed up to the Group, you can still access its services by calling Annie on 347767 or Marcus on 347356, who'll put out the call for someone to help with suitable transport. If anyone else isn't yet a member of the Group, but would like to be, give Annie a call.



The winners of last month's draw were:

**1st Prize (£25): Franca Potts (#100)**

**2nd Prize (£5): Basil Buxton-Savage (#131)**

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!**

## Long term rental wanted for a woman and her dog

I am looking for a long term property rental in North Aston or the surrounding villages. I am flexible regarding my requirements and am able to wait for occupancy if necessary. I need a minimum of 2 bedrooms and the property must be pet-friendly. I have a beautiful 12 year old border collie who goes to doggy day care when I am at work. I am an excellent tenant and will look after your property as if it were my own, and I am looking forward to becoming part of the community.

Contact Ingrid

email: [ibcjam@yahoo.com](mailto:ibcjam@yahoo.com) mobile: 07918904255

# North Aston Nature Notes

## With Stephen Rees

Back on Sunday 24th, last month, it proper snowed! By 11 we had about three inches, making for some lovely pictures and a bright clean feel to all the fields ... and a delightful change from all that mud!

We got dressed up and went for a nice walk out across the fields. We found and followed rabbit tracks, pheasant's and foxes' – all good fun. On the top of Hilly Ground there were seven kites in among the trees, and they got up and flew low over us, really close, making a real spectacle.

Further on, up by Dane Hill, we stopped and leaned against a gate to watch nine Roe Deer running across the fields. As soon as we got back home I thought I'd write it up, while everything was fresh in my mind.

Just a few other bits from last month. On the last Sunday we walked across the fields to Steeple shop, and saw lots of snowdrops flowering under the hedgerows, and catkins hanging from all the Hazel trees, giving hope of spring not too far away.



In the fields behind us, for the last week now, we've heard two vixen calling every night, around dusk, for mates to come and find them. It's such a lovely sound, but a little bit eerie too.

Me and wifey were talking about our walks one evening, and realised we hadn't seen a Peewit in over two years. I hope someone else has. One of the true wonders of nature is to see a big flock as it twists and turns in bright sunlight.

Last and best bit this month. One morning last week, on my way to work, and just by the Mill at Somerton, sometime around seven in the morning, there was an Otter on the road. It lolloped along the road in front of me for 50 yards, then went through the hedge into the ditch. What a lovely way to start the day! It gave me something nice to think about.

With the colder weather, we are putting an extra scoop of corn in the hen run now, every day, and really scattering it about, for the sparrows that live with us down here. Mrs R has also got her peanuts and fat-balls hanging up too, as it's important to help the garden birds at this time of year. Finally, I've sent away for directions on how to make hedgehog houses, which will give me a new project for this year, along with making even more bee hotels! Got to do our bit to help.

Bye for now, and enjoy the snow

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



Thanks to Angie Hanna for these wintery views of The Mill and the copse opposite The Hall, taken during last month's snowfall.

## SJB HEARING COMPANY LTD

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

# North Aston Village Meeting & AGM

Thursday 7th January 2021 ~ On Zoom ~ The Minutes

**Officers present:** Chair Lucinda Fuoco (LF), Treasurer Sue Hatzigeorgiou (SH), Secretary Annie Savage (AS).

**Those present:** Tony Buxton (TB, Chair of Transport Subcommittee), Niel Nicholson (NN), Marcus Potts (MP), Les Parry (LP), Jane Durnin (JD), Bev Rees (BR), Tony Rees (TR), Mark Stay (MS), Kildare Bourke-Borrowes (KBB), Alice Blezat (AB).

LF welcomed everyone to the meeting and commented that the turnout was good and, although Covid forced us to meet by Zoom, it was hoped that life would return to normal in the not too distant future.

## 1. Approval of AGM 2020 Minutes

The minutes for the AGM held on 19th January 2020 had been published in the *North Aston News* and circulated by email with the Zoom invitation. LF asked if anyone had any comments, additions or amendments, but none was made.

MP proposed approval. Seconded by TB

## 2. Election of Officers

LF confirmed that the current village officers (*Chair, Secretary, Treasurer*) were willing to continue in their current positions and asked the meeting whether or not anyone else would like to stand. There were no requests and it was proposed that all three were re-elected.

NN proposed and BR seconded and the officers were duly confirmed.

## 3. Treasurers Report

SH presented the accounts to the meeting and commented that due to Covid, there had been no expenditure other than the Insurance premium which had been placed with an alternative insurer. AS had shopped around and found a significantly cheaper premium with improved cover so the policy had been transferred to the new Insurer in June.

## 4. Setting of the Annual Precept

Historically the village has limited the precept to match the Insurance premium although in the last two year, an increased sum had been applied for as we aimed to complete the work of kerbing the green.

AS and LF attended a training course in 2020 run by the *Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils*, which covered many aspects of Village Meetings which were not previously known. We have sought to comply with the rules applying to Parish Councils but the training course was very useful in setting out the obligations under the legislation for Village Meetings, and we now understand there is more restrictive range of obligations and entitlements.

A discussion took place surrounding the funds held in the Village Meeting Account and it was acknowledged that contributions could be made towards costs which may crop up in relation to lighting/traffic safety from the balance. In consequence of this, it was proposed that we apply for £300 precept to cover the cost of the Insurance premium.

Proposer: MS. Seconded: JD.

## 5. Update from the Transport Subcommittee Chair

TB has chaired the sub-committee over the past few months, which was established to respond to the proposed Heyford Park 'Busgate' at Middleton Stoney. It was agreed that, aside from any development issues in that context, the village still has a problem with heavy traffic and speeding motorists.

TB summarised the current position with regard to the Heyford Park Development. Cherwell District Council approved the overall scheme in November but, as there was such strong reaction to the 'Busgate' and the consequent increase in traffic, approval had been granted subject to further conditions:

- 1 A traffic survey will be commissioned to examine the issues which arose in consequence of the 'Busgate' objections.
- 2 The proposed 'Busgate' has been suspended
- 3 A working group has been established to connect all the villages in the valley and is being coordinated by Martin Lipson, who was the Chair of the *Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan*. TB said he was more than happy to represent North Aston on this group.

4 The issue of Section 106 funding is to be resolved on completion of the traffic survey which will inform each village in the valley of necessary traffic mitigation. It is as yet unknown what impact Covid will have on working and transport conditions.

5 It is unclear what the current position is with regard to improvements at the Fox crossroads. Funding had been offered by The Dorchester Group but TB was uncertain where discussions had reached.

LP offered thanks to TB for his efforts on the village's behalf. As a member of the traffic subcommittee he wanted to note two points:

- 1 We require clarification of the baseline for the traffic survey.
- 2 With regard to finance, LP strongly urged that the emphasis of the financial aspect of this issue must be on engaging OCC and CDC in their commitment to traffic safety and their proposal and how they were going to resolve it, rather than simply focussing on a pot of money which we were left to manage.

TB said that in Martin Lipson's view, the developers had simply offered each village a sum sufficient to build a chicane but this was not a sufficient sum or approach to offset the impact.

TB also updated the meeting on the proposed development of a large leisure complex at Chesterton, outside Bicester. The developers, Great Lakes, had applied for permission to build the Great Wolf resort, which includes a 500 bed hotel. It is intended to attract visitors to the area which will inevitably impact the transport infrastructure of the whole area and CDC rejected the application initially. It has gone to appeal and the decision will be made in February.

SH offered thanks to TB and all the members of the traffic subcommittee for working on behalf of the village. LP reminded the meeting that regardless of the outcome of any traffic census or Heyford Park development, we continue to have a traffic problem. A discussion followed around possible measures and it was agreed that NN and TB would work together on managing the installation of posts on the edge of the village green as agreed last year. NN will discuss with Jeremy Taylor. It was further agreed that village children could be invited to design posters to put up to discourage speeding and even if the impact is low, any difference helps. LF committed to these matters being finalised at the next meeting.

## 6. Any Other Business

a) LF thanked Marcus for his continued excellence with *North Aston News*, Niel and Liz for all they do for the village including the printing of the *NA News* and Clive and Trudy for delivering the *News*. She confirmed that payments had been made to Clive Busby for mowing and Marcus for the work on the *News* as previously agreed.

b) A number of thanks had been received from residents for the biscuits for the pensioners and children for the book tokens over Christmas.

c) LF thanked TB for the renovation of the noticeboard and TB suggested material could now be pinned inside. AS has a number of items to place and MP has almost completed the village map.

d) KBB reminded the meeting of the reinstated *Clap for Heroes* on a Thursday night at 8pm and commented on the amazing work of the NHS and other support services.

e) MS offered thanks to the officers for their work during the past 12 months.

f) The meeting discussed the fête and agreed that there would not be one this year, as the virus would still need consideration despite vaccines. It was agreed that once the position became a little clearer, a village-only party may be held on The Green. It would be possible to organise at short notice

## 7. Date of Next Meeting TBA

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## A Sorry Tale

Haven't we all been peering into the trenches dug by the groundworks team all over the village, hoping to see something interesting? Perhaps the fact that nothing has been unearthed is interesting in itself?

Recently found in a house near the Church is a cast iron grave marker, and a sad one. In the shape of a Celtic Cross, it marked the grave of a 10-year old boy.

On the obverse side is moulded "J.T. SEWELL" across the top arc and "AGED 10 1 MARCH 1889" below, with "SUFFER LITTLE CHILDREN TO COME UNTO ME" across the middle. On the reverse is "SISTE VIATOR". There are about four other letters on this reverse side which are now too eroded to read, and which may be a foundry mark.

The base of the cross is formed into a blunt blade to stick into the ground. The whole is 51 cms (20") high and 28 cms (11") wide.

This was for John Thomas Sewell, and we know what happened because the proceedings of the inquest, held the following day at The Fox, were reported in the local paper (many thanks to Jos and Clive Busby for the research).

It was a Friday, he had almost certainly been to Dr Radcliffe's that day (then on North Side). He will have gone home to their cottage in Middle Aston, probably got a quick bite to eat from his mum and then walked across the fields to Warren Farm. Here his father George, the cowman, with Henry Wyatt (a very North Aston name) and William Southam of Steeple Aston, were sweeping and tidying the barn ready for the new season; it was five o'clock, towards the end of the working day. There was a sack truck with a big half-hundredweight weight on it. He went and started to wheel it forward, the weight slipped, the truck stopped suddenly and jerked backwards, and he slipped and fell violently onto the handle. He died in the cottage there within half an hour, before the doctor arrived. "Death from shock to system through accidental fall against a sack truck". His last words were 'Oh father'.

There's nothing very unusual about cast iron grave markers (or more properly 'gravestones'); they are found all over the country, but I personally have never seen another in the



churchyards in our area. Are there any? They were produced in the 19th Century by foundry/ironmongers to help replace some of the business they had lost from the reduction in demand for small agricultural machines, tools and implements. They created a range of designs and sent out illustrated catalogues, often to the clergy. The deceased's family then chose one, and the lettering they wished was added for the casting. They were comparatively inexpensive; this one will have cost around 10/- (around £100 today) and tuppence per letter, while a stone memorial would cost £3-£4, and 4 pence ha'penny per letter; delivery was generally by rail. This particular model was very probably cast by the Manchester foundry of J.M. Bennett & Sons, who almost invariably moulded *Siste Viator* on the reverse.

*Siste Viator* means 'Stop Traveller' in Latin, and was often inscribed on Roman memorials, especially out-of-town ones along roads. You can interpret it in various ways as you wish, perhaps 'Pause and contemplate' or even 'Journey's End'. Journey's end indeed for a little Victorian boy; you can only begin to imagine how devastated his family will have been.

*Kildare Bourke-Borrowes*

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## Covid Vaccines Scam

Perhaps it shouldn't be a surprise, but it is a disappointment to think that there are people in the world who are prepared to exploit the concerns of the elderly and vulnerable by trying to scam them over fake Covid vaccines.

TVP warns of several sophisticated scams seeking to take advantage of the pandemic. One involves an email which appears to come from the NHS and asks the recipient to click a link to accept or decline an invitation to receive the vaccine. If they click 'accept', they are taken to a site which appears to be a legitimate NHS portal, where they are asked to input personal information, including bank card details.

There is a second warning about a similar scam that arrives as a text message, again purporting to be from the NHS, and also trying to extract personal details.

In the UK, coronavirus vaccines will only be available via the National Health Service, and you will be contacted directly by the NHS, a GP surgery or local pharmacy to arrange an appointment for you to receive your vaccine. The vaccine is

free of charge and you will **never** be asked for payment.

If you receive any calls you suspect to be fraudulent, just hang up. If you are suspicious about an email, forward it to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk). Suspicious text messages should be forwarded to the number 7726, which is free of charge. If you believe you are the victim of a fraud, please contact Action Fraud as soon as possible by calling 0300 123 2040 or visiting [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk).



## Getting Friendly with the Bees

One of the first things the British government did in January, flexing its muscles in the wake of Brexit and asserting its sovereignty, was to lift the otherwise Europe-wide ban on the use of neonicotinoid pesticides. Known to be universally harmful to bees and other valuable pollinators, this move doesn't seem to meet most people's expectations of what leaving the EU was all about ...

The onus now falls upon us all to do what we can to encourage bees and other invertebrates. We're fortunate that NorthAston is free of pesticides, and we have a head start when it comes to making our gardens even more bee-friendly. Steven does this with his miraculous Bee Hotels, and others among us could do the same, but the most effective way is to plant the kind of flowers that bees and other pollinating insects adore.

Over the next few issues, with the help of *Wild Oxfordshire*, we'll be looking at garden projects that we can all do to help bring this about. Just now, however, we're ploughing through the depths of winter, and it's more a case of what we *don't* do that could be most important.

### Winter Wildlife Tips

Hollow stalks like sage, dead nettle, allium, fennel and golden rod will become homes to insect eggs and larvae during the winter, so don't tidy them out of your garden. Wood piles are important habitats for beetles and other insects that are the bottom of the food chain, and scrubby areas of the garden provide refuge for small mammals and amphibians, who need shelter from predators, especially domestic cats.

Now that we're into the winter, bear in mind the shrubs that are still flowering, such as viburnums, lonicera and mahonia.



These provide vital nourishment for bumble bees and other pollinators that may emerge from hibernation, perhaps only briefly, on sunnier days. Ivy is important too, with flowers that last well into winter and help prepare insects for their long winter sleep, to be replaced by berries that many birds also like to eat, such as thrushes, blackcaps, wood pigeons and blackbirds. Resist the temptation to cut back your ivy, and better still, leave that task until the spring.

When buying bulbs for a showy Easter, check that the supplier hasn't treated the bulbs with pesticides, which will harm pollinators as well as the other insects that they are designed to kill.

In general, if you maximise the biodiversity of your garden, you will have a healthy predator/prey balance which means that the critters you don't want around (like aphids) will be taken care of by their natural predators (such as ladybirds and parasitic wasps). If you use chemicals to kill aphids, the wasps will be killed too.

Next month we'll look at preparations for spring.

NICHOLSONS



NEW YEAR, NEW GARDEN

At Nicholson's, we want to make lockdown useful! We have made it our mission to help and inspire you to plan and prepare the garden of your dreams to enjoy over Summer.

### Our offering

Our Plant Centre remains open for outdoor plant sales

Fully stocked 23-acre plant nursery

Free horticultural expert advice

Inspirational blogs

Design ideas

Receive all of this content by following our social media accounts, or visit our website for more information and to get in touch.

*Please note: In line with advice from the government and in an effort to keep us all safe, we have unfortunately had to close our Yurt Café and Shop.*



@Nicholsonsgardendesign



@nicholsonsoxfordshire

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

01869 340342





# From the FIRE STATION

Yet another bonkers month, with regulation and tier changes, the wrong types of masks and the right type of sanitiser. Sometimes you don't know if you are coming or going, but you do the best you can. We dealt with a total of 19 shouts encompassing alarms, rescues, fires and standbys. However, the day that sticks most in the mind is Wednesday 23rd December – floodgate.

I was not even on call, but a short crew alert allowed me to sign-on and be picked up for our first call in Somerton. Changing in the back of the pump proved challenging, as did getting the right kit on whilst on a blue-light run. Blocked road drains and pure volume was causing water to enter several properties. Residents were busy diverting water, with Deddington unblocking all they could. Back to the station for five minutes before a call to Witney came in. A full crew arrived there to be greeted by multiple flooded roads and fields.

Straight away, we were called to pump out flooded buildings in Coombe – water entering the kitchen and lounge of a residential house from a flooded road. We quickly employed our small “pondy pump” and generator – a small pond filter pump that can suck water out quickly and efficiently, working in as little as half-an-inch of water. Some of the crew were mopping and brushing out the water, whilst others inspected drains and removed flagstones to create an exit channel.

We were using a loan fire engine, as ours was in for service, and unfortunately the MDT, our main link with control and SatNav, decided to go down, so we used the old-fashioned radio comms and utilised our mobiles to find call-out addresses as we were unfamiliar with the area. More flooded roads meant



we had to do three sides of a square to get back to Witney, finding ourselves in Fawler, totally flooded, and a house with living accommodation under water. After closing the road, we brought out the pumps and brushes and pumped out as much as we could, before setting up the resident's own pump to continue once we had left.

Straight away, we were called to Crawley to aid the Eynsham crew pumping out a residence. Ultimately, we were not required so tried to make our way back to Witney, but closed roads and diversions caused us to pick up a call to Ascot-under-Wychwood, to a flooded house with a disabled resident. Water was coming up through the shower drain and introducing raw sewage. With the residents upstairs, the *pondy pump* proved invaluable, as we were able to seal it to the shower drain and remove the water and sewage mix immediately. In conjunction with this, the Light portable pump was employed to lower the water level. Both pumps were then shut off and the shower sealed off with clay, usually used to seal drains in an environmental incident. During this, we also helped the resident who had managed to fall over and become trapped.

We'd now been on the go for over 10½ hours straight and had survived on half a box of mince pies and some chocolate biscuits. Fatigue was setting in, so back to Deddington, relieved to find a relief crew waiting for us! We were warmly greeted with cups of tea, sandwiches, crisps and Mars bars – thanks all! No sooner had we cleared out our kit from the truck than the bells went down, and the second crew was off to Fritwell and Chipping Norton to deal with further flooding, eventually getting back at 2am.

So, not your average day by any means, but thoroughly enjoyable and worthwhile, despite being soaked ...

Happy New Year everyone.

James Greenwood FFD  
james@cyclogicalshop.co.uk



## NORTH ASTON ORGANICS

### Vegetable Stall

Open Mon-Sat from 9.00am  
In the car park behind the Old Bakery

- Wide variety of fresh seasonal organic veg at affordable prices
- Minimal packaging & zero food miles
- Supporting the local economy



Too busy? Why not try our Veg Box Scheme? Fresh vegetables delivered straight to your door!

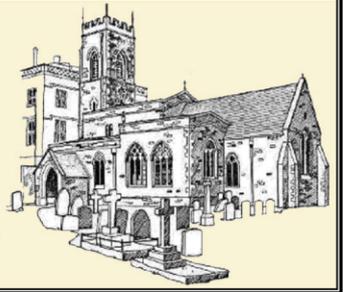
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[www.northastonorganics.co.uk](http://www.northastonorganics.co.uk)



Photo: Kildare Bourke-Borrowes



# The Church MATTERS



## The Rector's Ramblings ...

Every week I send out two emails to our address list. There are something over a hundred people who receive these emails. Most are local, though some live much further afield.

I began these emails (called *The Rector's Ramblings*) right at the beginning of the first lockdown, just over forty weeks ago. As I write this column, there have been eighty editions of the *Ramblings*. We have exchanged news about people who have held celebrations but not been able to hold parties, we have prayed for folk in great need, we have mourned loved ones, we have shared good news stories that have cheered us all up, we have swapped links to music and theatre and art and sport and all sorts online that have kept our spirits up, we have seen and admired great creativity in others and we have even found the energy and heart to be creative ourselves.



For example: we couldn't replicate last year's amazing Advent Calendar Boxes, where all sorts of groups in Steeple Aston made Nativity scenes in cardboard boxes, and a new one was revealed every day during Advent. So Mary suggested people send in photos of cribs they had, and a different one was put up on our website every day. And all of it was organised via the *Ramblings*.

We watched all kinds of people doing fancy recorded-in-isolation songs and music. We lacked some of the technology we observed, but Martin said let's have a go! So a group of folk responded via the *Ramblings* and we put a couple of hymns together - they're terrific and still up on the website. We then did some much simpler ones, and use these regularly in our weekly online services.

Email is email. We all want weekly services back in church. We all want to be safe when we go shopping. We all want to be able to drop in on friends, or meet in groups to do the things we love. We all want the school to be straightforward and the same every week -for teachers and for the children. But in the meantime...

We will make our community where we can. On the phone. By Zoom. Through an email community of good news and hope. By watching church services each week on YouTube. But if you'd like to receive the *Ramblings* and join our crazy, hopeful, wonderful community of faith - just drop me a line at [steeplerector@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:steeplerector@hotmail.co.uk) and I will gladly add you to our list.

I try to end each message with a prayer - whether from the Church of England's weekly prayers, or from Canon Robin Gibbon's Twitter feed, or from somewhere else that has caught my eye.

And I so long to put up a regular list of church services for everyone! For now, while we are in Lockdown, or if we simply return to Tier 4, online **Worship at Home** is what we are offering. It's a simple, short service that's new every week and you can find it on the website [www.sntchurch.com](http://www.sntchurch.com) (or just search for 'worship at home Marcus Green' on YouTube). If you don't have internet, don't worry: dial 929021 (that's a local number) and you can choose to listen to the whole service, or just the prayers, or even just the sermon!

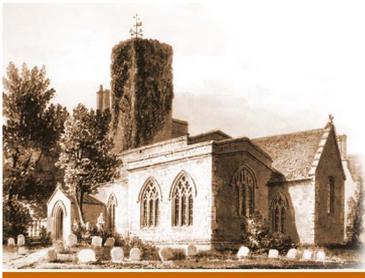
If and when we get back to Tier 1 or 2, then I promise we will have 9:30 am Morning Prayer at North Aston, 11:00 am Holy Communion at Steeple Aston and 5:30 pm Evensong at Tackley (with a 9:30 am service once a month). Watch the church noticeboards and the church website for details.

Looking ahead, Feb 17 is *Ash Wednesday*, March 14 is *Mothering Sunday*, March 28 is *Palm Sunday* and April 4 is *Easter*. I very much hope we will have services in our churches for all these events, so do look out: but whether we are in church or online, God is good. And we are a community of hope and faith that will always find ways to stick together, to welcome everyone and to share God's love gladly.

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: [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 ~ FEBRUARY

NORTH ASTON

STEEPLE ASTON

TACKLEY

Church Services are suspended for the time being ...

All public worship has been paused during the on-going COVID-19 infection. There will be no Sunday services at St Mary's for the time being. However, the Rector has been posting a regular 'Worship at Home' video every Sunday on the church website. This is available for anybody who would like inspiration to pray, listen, seek God and feel connected to the community. Those without Internet access can access a phone service by dialling 01869 929021 - it's a local call. The Rector is also sending out regular emails to everyone on the benefice email list. If you're not currently on that list but would like to be added, send a request to: [steeplerector@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:steeplerector@hotmail.co.uk). He can also be contacted on the usual number: 340903.

THE UNITED BENEFICE OF STEEPLE ASTON WITH NORTH ASTON AND TACKLEY  
[www.sntchurch.com](http://www.sntchurch.com)

home about us activities news

bringing the love of Jesus to the heart of our communities through worship, word and works of witness

**Come and Worship with us!**

**Your Kingdom Come**

**Steeple Aston Church:**  
St Peter & Paul, Steeple Aston OX25 4SF  
Sundays at 11am

**North Aston Church:**  
St Mary the Virgin, North Aston, OX25 6JA  
Sundays at 9.30am

**Tackley Church:**  
St Nicholas, Tackley OX25 3AF  
Sundays at 5.30pm

The United Benefice of Steeple Aston with North Aston and Tackley

### North Aston WhatsApp Group

The group remains very active and continues to be a useful – and sometimes amusing – way of staying connected.

The Group is a place where people can ask for help, share experiences, and offer support during this time. If you have a smartphone and wish to join, contact Annie by calling her on 347767 and she will explain what you need to do and add you to the Group.

## Church Services During Lockdown

While we are in Lockdown or Tier 4 our Church Services in Steeple Aston, North Aston and Tackley will mostly be online:

### Worship at Home

can be found every Sunday on our website

[www.sntchurch.com](http://www.sntchurch.com)

(Or listen to the service on the phone: ring 929021 if you don't have Internet)

When we return to Tier 2 or lower we will resume weekly services in all our churches:

- North Aston** – 9:30 am Morning Prayer
  - Steeple Aston** – 11:00 am Holy Communion
  - Tackley** – 5:30 pm Evensong
- (Tackley – 9:30 am Morning Prayer once a month)

Please watch out for updates on our website, on Church Noticeboards and via email

### Special Dates & Services Coming Soon:

- Wednesday February 17 – Ash Wednesday
- Sunday 14 March – Mothering Sunday
- Sunday 28 March – Palm Sunday
- Sunday 4 April – Easter Sunday

### 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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