

NORTH ASTON

December 2021

#374

NEWS



NORTH ASTON NEWS

DECEMBER 2021, No:374

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Out of Hours Doctor: 111 or 08453 458 995

Notes from the Chair

Goodness gracious ...

... how can it be December already ... where has the time gone!?

We have a couple of things to mention this month, first being the eagerly anticipated Christmas Carols on the Green, which is always a highlight of the festive season. I do believe it will be more of a covert operation this year due to Covid, but I shall leave Neil/Annie to explain more.

Secondly, our AGM will be held on the 12th January, again, further details within the News. This is just a little reminder that this will be my last meeting as Chair, so if you would like to take on the role please do get in touch.

Thirdly, the new bus service will be in full force in the New Year. I was really pleased with the feedback I received in support of this, so let's hope it will be a well-used service for our little village.

And lastly, I would like to wish you all a merry Christmas and a very happy new year!

You can telephone Lucinda on **340588**
or email: chair@north-aston.co.uk

Lucinda

Village Meeting & AGM

Wednesday January 12th 2022

The Annual General Meeting of the Parish Meeting will be held at 7pm on Wednesday 12th January. The main purpose of the meeting is to set the Parish precept for the coming year and the election of Officers. A full agenda will be issued in advance of the Meeting.

We want to add a personal plea for help. Lucinda will be stepping down as Chair and we'd like to thank her for her contribution during the past three years. She has been fun to work with and we will miss her.

We now need a new Chair and, as always, it poses a challenge for the village. So few people feel like volunteering for the roles and enhanced cajoling becomes a bit of a spectator sport at this time. As always, if we are unable to function as a Village meeting, the village organisation will be taken over by a neighbouring Parish Council, so the things which so many of us value and which make the village special will no longer be ours to make the decisions about.

The role of the Chair is neither onerous nor particularly time consuming, and can actually be fun. There are a few moments which involve a little more input but most of the work falls to the Secretary and Treasurer. We live in a strong community but let's keep it that way - if everyone steps up and takes a turn, we can maintain our independence. Please do talk to me about what is involved (347767) and think about doing your bit. Thanks very much.

*Annie Savage (Secretary)
Sue Hatzigeorgiou (Treasurer)*

Christmas Eve on the Green

Carols on the Green will be taking place on the Green again this year, but it will be a lower-key (baritone or bass?) gathering principally for village residents. The details are currently being decided, but we hope to see a modest bonfire and some mulled wine. An email with confirmation will be sent out to the village mailing list later in the month.

Front Cover: A wintery photograph submitted for this month's front cover by Jonathan Wiseman, showing a frosty dawn across the lakes. See Page 6 for more ...

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.

After months of stagnation, progress has finally been achieved on a number of outstanding applications.

North Aston Hall St Mary's Walk North Aston OX25 6AA. The requirement for full planning consent relating to the erection of agricultural buildings for landscape maintenance and storage is now under consultation. Reference No: 21 / 03323 / AGN

21 The Green North Aston OX25 6HX. The application to fell two trees has been approved. Reference No: 21 / 03224 / TCA

Lower House St Mary's Walk North Aston OX25 6AA. A decision regarding the pollarding and height reduction of an elderly tree is now three months overdue. Reference No: 21 / 02749 / TCA

Bradenstoke Barn & Coach House, St Mary's Walk, OX25 6AA. Various applications relating to work proposed on both these properties has now been approved. Reference Nos: 21 / 02003 / LB and 21 / 02002 / F

18 The Green North Aston OX25 6HX. A resolution on the question of the Willow is now six months overdue. Reference No: 21 / 01206 / TCA

North Aston Hall St Mary's Walk North Aston OX25 6AA. The application for a partial strip-out of some floors in The Hall has been approved. Reference No: 21 / 01012 / LB.

Tony Buxton continues to monitor progress on the potential for traffic calming measures through the village, and is in discussion with Dave Catling at OCC, awaiting his response to recent emails. Hopefully, there will be further updates soon.

Peter Durnin

20th April 1951 - 27th October 2021

Peter was born in Somerton, the sixth child of a family of ten. He grew up on the family farm, attended Moulton College of Agriculture in Northampton before joining the farm.

Peter and I met and were married in 1976. We had four children; Daniel, Lucinda, Olivia and Camilla, and lived in School End North Aston from 1985 until 2015.

Peter was lucky enough to purchase his "little piece of heaven", A.K.A. Godwins Farm, in 1997, where he farmed 400 sheep and a few fattening cattle. He would spend many happy hours on the farm with the family all helping to lamb the ewes and make hay when the sun shone.

Peter in his spare time (!!) became the village Chairman and oversaw the refurbishment of the fountain for the Millennium, also a path through the village to the school bus stop, still used today.

Peter was a kind, caring family man who always had time for others. He will be so so missed. God bless you Peter xx.

Jane Durnin & Family

Jane and the family would like to thank everyone for their cards, flowers, messages of sympathy and support during this very sad time.

If anyone was unable to make Peter's funeral but would like to see it, you can if you go to YouTube, type in ARBeventstv and then you will be able to find it there.

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North Aston - Being Our Best

These are the minutes and notes from the second meeting of BoB NAston, which was held on Thursday November 19th 2021 in The Old Bakery.

Initiator & Chair: Annie Savage (AS).

Attendees: Rachel Lindfield (RL), Mary Healy (MH), Jeremy Taylor (JT), Nick Miller (NM), Julie Al-Nugaidi (JA), Freya Stay (FS), Ginnie Stay (GS), Mark Stay (MS), Jo Pochron (JP), Adam Pochron (AP), Gurli Kneale (GK), Sarah B-Borrowes (SBB). Note taker: Kildare B-Borrowes (KBB).

AS welcomed everyone, and reminded us that the idea and aim of BoB is to make inroads into what people CAN do to build relationships within the village whilst carrying out positive actions; a series of smaller actions and events.

It's about pulling together, and using the energy that's around in the village and whilst she is happy to organise and steer the meetings, she herself does not wish necessarily to be involved with all aspects of it.

BoB will work most effectively if individuals identify and lead the projects which motivate them and ask for support from within the group when needed.

An email apology from Amy Gay was read out in which she expressed support and offered her children as volunteers – she would like them to become involved with village activities such as litter pick up, helping the elderly with jobs etc. She also reminded the meeting of the efficacy of using alternative suppliers such as *Give A Crap* for toilet rolls and *Ecosisa* or *Oceanhero* as search engines rather than Google

Meeting times: agreed that Thursdays at 6:30 pm is the time most likely to please everyone.

The suggestions and actions identified included:

1. Establish a BoB NAston **Groups.io** — a platform that organises and shares information in a simple way using email addresses, in which the addressee is in charge of the how, what and when they receive message, with filters to block out topics that don't concern them. This was agreed, and everyone consented to their email addresses being used for this purpose. (GS)

2. RL gave further information about the *Banbury Bridge Street Community Garden*. It's early days in setting this up, but they do need voluntary help now and in the future. Can we provide that? She is talking to Nicholsons about providing plants. They suggested that NA might adopt a bed.

Rachel will write an article for the *NA News*, talk to the NA Gardening Club, and share information via WhatsApp to let everyone know when she will be going. Usually Sundays.

3. NA Organics are giving excess and malformed vegetables to Oxford Mutual Aid (a community support group). There was also the possibility that vegetables could be shared with Heyford Park Pantry.

4. Additional support for Heyford Park Pantry - NA had already sent 100 food items to them in the current week alone, and now well over 1,000 items in total. They are urgently in need. An additional collection for Christmas items could be considered, and a representative from the Pantry could be invited to speak at a BoB Meeting.

5. Enhanced Recycling. *Bicester Green* in Launton Road already accepts a number of items that would normally go to landfill or waste, such as bicycles and laptops, and we should make that known. Further details of recycling to be published in *NA News*. The correct disposal or recycling of old mobile phones should also be investigated.

6. Additional recycling resources via Wastewizard/Repaircafe Oxfordshire should be considered, as well as reaching out to Smalls For All and perhaps Computer Pro in Kirtlington.

7. Regular Swap Shops or Bring and Buy events could be organised, where residents donate things they no longer need and swap/sell them, with the option to retain the proceeds or donate to charity. All items to remain the responsibility of the donor and removed if not sold.

8. Verges and other areas in the village to be kept clear and wild flowers sown.

Other ideas discussed as possible initiatives for the future included: establishing an Arts & Crafts group within the village, as well as a village library (see Page 6), perhaps sited in the Old Bakery. Develop skillshare initiatives within the community. Home brewing, shared meals, and forming a Community Singing group for non musicians, perhaps with links to the Natural Voice Network.

Conclusion

Annie reminded the meeting that the Village WhatsApp Group and the recently-formed BoB WhatsApp Group are both for all of us to use, as a means to share ideas and communicate anything we feel to be relevant or to ask for things that we want or would like to see happen in North Aston.

The meeting closed with everyone helping to clear up the glasses and plates that had been use for drinks and nibbles, and putting away furniture



With a change of season upon us, the fire station has seen 14 shouts this month, encompassing standbys, several fires (both domestic and vehicle), alarms, bariatric moving, hazardous materials on the motorway and two rescues with trapped members of the public.

The station crew have been busy training, with Garrin Wilby passing his BA, Corrie King starting her BA training, James Greenwood and Ben Fenemore attending a Hazardous Materials course; and Ben passing his BA team leader technical exam. Emma Flint will be starting her full Driver Training course next month.



With low sun and greasy roads please be careful whilst driving. The drop in temperature will see home fires being lit so please get your chimney swept and test those smoke alarms regularly – constant call-outs where smoke alarms have alerted sleeping occupants show how

quickly fires can be spotted, put out and lives saved.

James Greenwood FFD james@cyclogicalshop.co.uk

THE OXFORD CHRISTMAS COMPANY

This year with our drive to get *Back To Our Roots* and be more environmentally friendly, Nicholsons will no longer be offering a Christmas service. However, Millie (our Rosara Manager) will be running **The Oxford Christmas Company** (OCC) from her home in Oxford, offering a bespoke online only service. She will be working with reputable suppliers previously used by OCC to ensure that you get top quality, A-Grade, British grown Christmas trees (available to order now). Not only will she be selling the Christmas Trees, but beautiful decorations and lights to make your tree and home something special. Millie has been preparing for Christmas 2021 so lots of lovely festive gifts and decorations are being continuously uploaded on her website.



If you would like to contact me about anything, please feel free to email me on info@oxfordchristmascompany.co.uk or call on: 07950 452711. Please spread the word and I will look forward to hearing from you as we approach Christmas.

Facebook & Instagram / oxfordchristmascompany



www.oxfordchristmascompany.co.uk | 07950 452711 | info@oxfordchristmascompany.co.uk



CHRISTMAS LUNCH AT THE YURT

2 courses - £25, 3 courses - £30 (including a free glass of Prosecco)

Join us at The Yurt for your festive celebrations! Our creative chefs have crafted a choice of dishes to help you celebrate with friends, family and colleagues - choose from our 2 or 3 course options, available from Thursday, 25th November.

Lunch served 12noon – 2.30pm. You can arrive on the day, though you may want to book in advance to avoid disappointment by emailing us at theyurt@nicholsonsgb.com or calling on 01869 340342.

And if you are looking for a private space for up to 6, our huts are now available for booking. Choose from The Reading Room or The Bridge Hut.

www.nicholsonsgb.com/yurt

The Park, North Aston, OX25 6HL | 01869 340342



Winter arrives ...

Some seasonal views from around the village, contributed to the *News* by residents.



Above and lower right: *Snow at The Mill*, by Harrie Hawker. Left: *A crisp view from Dane Hill Farm* by Christie Brooks. Below: *Dawn rises over Heyford*, by Elizabeth Harvey-Lee. Thank you to them all.



North Aston Virtual Library

Dear all book-lovers and hoarders. I'm thinking of starting a village library, with a twist.

After spending several hours sorting through my ever-growing hoard of books last month, I realised that this was potentially an untapped goldmine with enormous value for others in the community. Not my book collection *per se* (unless you have a keen interest in handmade houses, soil biology or adventure travel) but the collective book collection of everyone in the village. A rough estimate would suggest that we have somewhere between 15000 and 30000 books in North Aston alone, and that's quite a sizeable library.

However, all those incredible books, sitting unread, on our shelves and in boxes in the attic, seem like such a wasted resource and I wonder whether we could find a way to make all of them accessible to anyone in the village who would like to read them. Something like a virtual library, perhaps, where the books remain in their current homes but anyone in the village can apply to borrow any of them?

It would be a lot of work to create an inventory of all the books in the village (although it could be done - it took me just two hours on Sunday afternoon to list mine, approx 300). Much easier would be to inventory the categories of books each person/household owns (their main areas of interest).

To start with, just having a WhatsApp group or online forum where you can ask the question "does anybody have this book and please could I borrow it?" would enable village-wide sharing of our book collection.

How it could work ...

1. Express an interest in joining the group.
2. Fill in a short questionnaire about the sorts and number of books you have.
3. Post on the group if you are looking for a particularly book, or are interested in studying a particular subject.

Is your child 3 or 4 years old?

Primary school place - you must apply now

If your child was born on or between **1 September 2017** and **31 August 2018**, you need to apply for a primary school place now.

You must still apply even if your child already attends a nursery attached to the school.

Deadline for applications is **15 January 2022**.

Apply online at

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

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You can get free access to the internet at many of our libraries and children's centres - ask for details at your local facility.

For help and information:

Web: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

Email: admissions.schools@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Tel: **0345 241 2487**



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4. Members who can help can respond directly, or we could refer borrowers to lenders based on questionnaire answers.
5. Arrange to pick up the book.
6. Either choose to keep track of your book loans yourself, or let us know and we'll keep a register.
7. Books get read, books get returned, life goes on.

Village Bookcase

A separate idea that came up when we discussed this at the BoB meet-up was installing a bookcase somewhere in the village that was accessible to all where you could put a few of your favourite or recommended books and people could borrow them without needing to ask first (signing the books in and out). This has the challenge of finding a suitable place where books can be kept safe and dry. Does anybody have a porch or shed they would consider donating access to for this purpose? I'm sure we could arrange to build a suitable, waterproof bookcase quite easily. This would also need some volunteer time to keep in good order.

Why would this be a great thing to get going in North Aston? Amongst other things, it would:

- Reduce our village consumption of new books
- Save our hard-earned cash
- Help us get to know each other/make new friends with similar interests

How to get involved ...

This project is very much in its infancy but also shouldn't take too much work to get up and running, with a little bit of help. At this stage, I'm just keen to gauge interest in the idea and get the ball rolling. I'd be interested in any thoughts, suggestions, ideas, examples of similar things started in other villages, advice, etc - and of course I'd love to come and peruse your bookshelf sometime! To get in touch and/or express interest, please email me at nickjmiller91@gmail.com

In this time of needing to limit our consumption, we need to share what we already have wherever we can. While I'm starting with books, I see no reason this same concept couldn't be applied with tools, cars, sports gear, seeds, films, games, musical instruments, toys, etc.

Thanks for reading and I look forward to hearing from you,

Nick @ North Aston Farms/Organics

Unsure about Recycling?

Are you confused about what you can – or can't – place in your Blue recycling bin? Here's a brief explanation ...

The following items can be placed in the Blue bin:

- Cans, Tins and empty Aerosols
- Bottle tops (plastic and metal)
- Brochures, Catalogues, Leaflets & Junk Mail
- Cardboard, Cartons and Tubes
- Paper (including shredded) & Envelopes
- Foil and foil trays (clean)
- Greeting Cards & Wrapping Paper (non-glittery)
- Magazines & Newspapers
- Plastic bottles, tubs, trays and pots
- Soft plastic food pots and trays (clean)

Please clean off food residue and rinse before placing in the bin. Any item from the following list can NOT be disposed of in the Blue bin:

- Textiles, Bedding, Clothes and Shoes *
- Black Bin Liners and Carrier Bags
- Blister Packs**
- Bubble Wrap and Cling film
- Ceramics, including cups, plates & plant pots
- Crisp packets **, Sweet / Chocolate Wrappers
- Glass, including bottles, jars and drinking glasses *
- Hard, Brittle Plastics
- Absorbent Kitchen Paper or Tissue Paper
- Coffee Pods (Plastic or Aluminium) **
- Lightbulbs and Neon Strip Lights
- Nappies and Needles
- Pet Food Pouches
- Polystyrene and Foam
- Cookware, including Pyrex, Cutlery and Utensils

Those marked with a double asterisk (**) can be recycled through the bins in the bus shelter near the entrance to Nicholsons, and items with a single asterisk (*) can be recycled through the bottle banks by Park Farm (glasswares) or special collecting bins at many supermarkets, including Sainsbury's in Banbury.

However, rather than dumping everything else in the Green bin, which just goes to landfill, consider a visit to Ardley, where most other household waste can be segregated and disposed of sustainably. Separate out metal, hard plastics, wood, ceramics, electrical items (small or large), textiles, motor oil and car batteries, and place these in the appropriate skips - ask the staff for advice if you're unsure.



100 CLUB
November 2021

The winners of last month's draw were:
1st Prize (£10): Jeremy Taylor (#125)
2nd Prize (£5): Will Doggett (#23)

Congratulations to this month's winners! For more info on the Club, call Bev on 347434 or email info@north-aston.co.uk.

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





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Household Support

A new, targeted programme has been set up by Cherwell District Council using money from the government's *Household Support Fund*. It will help pay for vulnerable households' food, energy, and water bills - but other costs can be covered too, including clothing and replacements or repairs for white goods or essential transport costs.

The funds are awarded based on a household's specific situation and needs and will usually be in the form of grocery vouchers or utility bill payments.

Anyone who believes they will need this support is invited to call the local Citizens Advice Household Support Fund helpline on 0300 303 0993. They should leave their details in a voicemail and wait for a call back to be assessed.

Rural Isolation – Healthwatch Survey

Community First Oxfordshire (CFO) on behalf of Healthwatch Oxfordshire is undertaking a short survey to understand better the levels of isolation felt in rural communities. The survey is anonymous and is designed so that individuals can have their say. To complete the survey use this link:

www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RurallIsolationOxon

Anyone who would appreciate help filling in the survey or would like it in another format/large print/language please contact the CFO team on info@communityfirstoxon.org

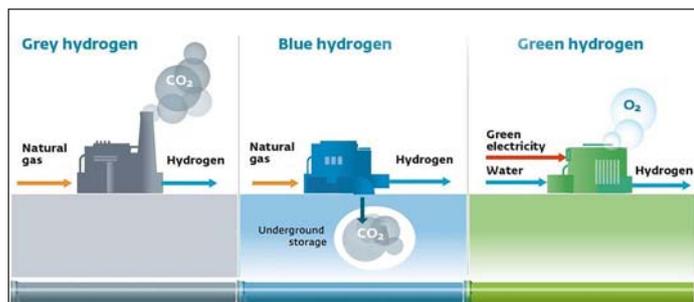
A report of the survey results, which will include recommendations based on these results, will be produced and published in March 2022.

Is Hydrogen our clean energy source of the Future?

I well remember reading an article a good 40 years ago by a guy who said that it was, and that one day soon you would be able to put a cup under your tailpipe and drink the water that came out. That's because when you burn hydrogen, it combines with oxygen to make water and releases a lot of energy. Now that we seem to be inching our way faster towards some such future, this is my understanding of how it works and its problems. No doubt there are those in the village who know more than I do.

There's almost unlimited amounts of hydrogen around in things like water (H₂O) and methane (CH₄). All you have to do is split it out in a cheap and clean way, then store it, distribute it and use it. Big big problems doing all that, but they're really really worth solving, and there's a frantic amount of activity going into this, with hundreds of projects running or planned around the globe. JCB have signed a £ multi-billion deal to buy huge amounts of green hydrogen for storage and distribution to points of use, Air Products is investing \$10Bn into producing hydrogen from renewables, Sir Jim Ratcliffe's Ineos is investing an initial 2Bn Euros into three hydrogen-making plants in Europe, immense new solar fields are being built in Saudi, the Gulf states, the Gobi, the Sahara to power hydrogen manufacture, or ammonia (NH₃) which is more easily transportable. And there's much much more, including Northern Ireland's Wrightbus having made and delivered in quantity the world's first hydrogen-powered double-decker buses (single deckers also).

There are broadly three sorts of hydrogen-manufacturing technologies. 'Grey' (or 'dirty') Hydrogen' is made using fossil fuels, usually natural gas; this is the easiest way but the process produces lots of greenhouse gases, and will have to be phased out. 'Blue Hydrogen' production is when the greenhouse gases are captured and stored, usually underground; because some of them escape in the process, this can be called low carbon hydrogen. 'Green Hydrogen' is produced by directly splitting water into hydrogen and oxygen, usually by electrolysis, using power derived from renewable sources; this is the one that the big money is focusing on.



Although really difficult to store, transport and use, solutions are coming. The price of energy from the vast new solar, wind and hydro sources is becoming so low, that the cost of electrolytic hydrogen production will quite soon fall rapidly. When the infrastructure is in place, it will knock out fossil fuels within a matter of 10 or 20 years. Then gradually one sector after another will come into hydrogen's reach – airplane fuel, trucks, trains, shipping, and big industries like steel, fertilizer, cement, chemicals, etc.

The future is certainly not all hydrogen, we're unlikely to see it in our cars or houses – it's just too difficult and expensive to distribute and store. As I understand, those gazing into the crystal ball of our energy future see wind, solar, hydro and

potentially nuclear prices reducing so rapidly that they will easily outpace the rising costs of fossil fuels within 10 years and, with rapidly rising outputs these green energy sources will become the only ones to power our homes (with a bit from ground-source, air-source & biomass) and cars, with up to 40% of it being used to power production of green hydrogen – the 'magic molecule'.

There are many huge problems. In the short term, one is that investors are shunning fossil industries already, and too soon, meaning that production from oil and gas fields will get progressively more expensive some time before all these other things take big effect. Another is that electrolytic hydrogen production, EV batteries and mass storage of clean electricity currently require the use of a range of various metals and other chemicals, which have to be mined and shipped from places like Africa – a huge vulnerability. China now controls much of this trade.

However, necessity is the mother of invention, and of course it's urgently needed. Sadly COP26 doesn't seem to have made this clearer, although by all accounts just about everyone was talking about hydrogen. The recurring issue was how do you harness this enthusiasm and go from the current fairly early stage to enormous global scale? That's where everyone is still getting stuck.

Sadly too the UK's public investment in hydrogen projects is about 10% that of Germany and 14% that of France. A recent UK government strategy paper promotes to use of 'blue hydrogen', but hydrogen WILL remain a crucially important future clean energy source, however all this pans out.

KBB. November 2021

The View from the Racetrack

Such is the speed at which hydrogen power is being adopted in France, that the famous Le Mans 24 Hours endurance race saw demonstrations this summer of the first hydrogen-powered racecar, the LMPH2G, setting competitive lap times around the famous track.



This was followed by the announcement that, from 2025, a new class will be introduced at the iconic race that will see cars powered by hydrogen and jointly developed by Red Bull Advanced Technologies and chassis-designer ORECA. Then, to counter criticism that the remaining cars (and motorsport generally) are neither green nor environmentally friendly, French oil giant Total, supplier to the event, announced that, from 2022, all cars with conventional engines will be fuelled by a fully renewable bio-fuel derived from agricultural waste, much of it from France's wine-making industry. *MP*

The defibrillator is located in the porch at 4 Somerton Road. CPR & Defibrillator training sessions are arranged from time to time. For more information or to book a session, please contact Mark: 347806



The

CHURCH MATTERS



Christmas ...

The weeks leading up to Christmas are always special. Whether it's the joy and anticipation of opening windows in Advent Calendars, and the promise of parties and gifts and joys to come; or the memories of times past, and the sadness at knowing that the days ahead will not be celebrated with those especially dear to us - there is a special power in these weeks.

We feel an urge, so many of us, to turn that 'special' into something idealised - a fantasy version of life. The perfect Christmas dinner. The perfect Christmas party. The perfect trip somewhere. We want to harness the emotions of these darkening days and infuse them with light. With warmth.

Life refuses to take any notice of such sentiment. Work still has to be done; bins still have to be emptied; COVID tests still have to be taken. Fairy lights and tinsel add a little chintz to the season, but (for most of us) the 'special', the 'idealised' Christmas world of the TV ads and the movies stubbornly remains out of reach. But ...

You know, Jesus wasn't born in a John Lewis commercial.

Nor, indeed, in a school Nativity play.

Christmas card scenes of stables don't carry the scent of a stable, which is probably a good thing; but if they did, they'd remind us that the real excitement of this time of year isn't about decorated trees and roasting turkeys and twinkling lights and familiar songs on the radio and old scarves and bright woollen mittens and mulled wine and last minute shopping ...

God didn't buy presents at Christmas. He came to be present.

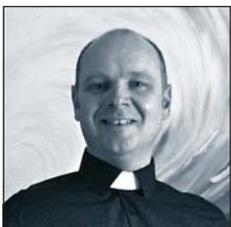
God didn't find a bit of the world that looked nice in which to be born; he chose the most ordinary of places, and simply by being there, with us, transformed that overlooked space and made it unforgettable.

And God still does that today.

It's the point of Christmas. Whether we are filled with joy and anticipation or whether sadness is what storms our hearts, God doesn't look at our lives and choose to pass by and fob us off once a year by buying us presents. In Jesus, God chooses to be present with us, every day. In joy and in sorrow. Never far away. Always ready to hear, to listen, to love us, to make the most humdrum moment magnificent, as we realise afresh the full wonder of well-worn words:

*He came down to earth from heaven
Who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable,
And his cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.*

Details of all our Christmas services are alongside; everyone is welcome to any service across the Benefice. Please wear a face mask if possible; we will try to keep Christmas services short in order to help keep everyone safe. We look forward to welcoming you and wishing you - Merry Christmas!



Revd Marcus Green

Call: (01869) 340903
Email: steeplerector@hotmail.co.uk

More news is always available on the website at www.sntchurch.com

Church Services in December 2021

N. ASTON	S. ASTON	TACKLEY
Sunday 5th December		
9:30 am Holy Communion <i>Book of Common Prayer</i> Revd Mark Speeks	11:00 am Holy Communion <i>Book of Common Prayer</i> Revd Mark Speeks	5:30 pm Evensong, St Nicholas Day Janet Maybank & Revd Geoff Hunter
Sunday 12th December		
No Service	No Service	5:30 pm United Benefice Holy Communion Revd Jeremy Auld
Sunday 19th December		
3:00 pm Carol Service Richard Bailey	7:00 pm Carol Service Revd Clare Hayns	5:00 pm Carol Service Canon Robin Gibbons
Friday 24th December - Christmas Eve		
No Service	4:00 pm Crib Service Richard Bailey	2:00 pm Crib Service Janet Maybank
Saturday 25th December - Christmas Day		
9:00 am Christmas Communion	10:30 am Christmas Communion Revd Marcus Green	9:30 am Christmas Communion Revd Clare Hayns
Sunday 26th December - Saint Stephen's Day		
9:30 am Christmas Prayers & Carols Richard Bailey	No Service	No Service

11:00 pm
CANCELLED
Midnight Communion

You can also contact members of the PCC:
Church Wardens: Clive Busby, (casb@north-aston.com, 340470) and Annabel Bevan, (annabelbevan@hotmail.com, 345153).
Richard Bailey (LLM, ex officio), Vicky Taylor (secretary), Jeremy Taylor, Ginny Stay, Jane Jana, Beryl Greenwood.

Announcements

Deddington Farmers' Market

Last month's market had to be cancelled, due to Storm Arwen, but this month's market should take place as scheduled on Saturday 18th December. Customers are requested to wear masks and to park at the school. For further information and the latest news, visit the website: www.deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk

Wednesday Fish & Chips: 5:50 pm to 6:20 pm

Van 99 will be on The Green every Wednesday at ten-to-six, and is offering some special treats in December, including Brussels Sprout Fitters, Battered Mince Pies and Pigs in Blankets. You can pre-order by emailing van99orders@gmail.com, calling 07484 360719 or visiting bit.ly/findvan99

In a Scurry!

Congratulations to Kevin and Bev Merry for qualifying for the finals in the Double Harness Scurry class at October's *Horse of the Year Show*. Driving Eric & Ernie, Kevin finished fifth in a highly competitive class.

CPRE Oxfordshire Planning Coordinator

Could you help strengthen countryside voices in planning? The countryside charity CPRE Oxfordshire is looking for a part-time Planning Co-ordinator. Could that be you? £25k *pro rata*, 15 hrs a week, two year contract, based from home or at the CPRE's Branch Office in Watlington. Apply by CV & covering letter to: administrator@cpreoxon.org.uk or telephone 01491 612079. More information on the website: www.cpreoxon.org.uk

Online Shopping Scams this Christmas

Online shopping scams cost 28,049 shoppers more than £15 million last Christmas. Don't become one of this year's statistics. Take extra care when shopping online this December. Buy from online stores you know and trust. If they're new to you, research them first – check reviews to see if they're dependable.

Only create an account with a website if it's vital to placing and fulfilling your order and when you're sure you'll use the site again. If you're asked for details that aren't strictly necessary, be suspicious.

When it's time to pay, check there's a 'closed padlock' security icon in the browser's address bar, and that the URL starts with "https".

Use a credit card to make your payment, not a debit card, as this offers better buyer protection should things go wrong.

Be wary of email offers that sound almost too good to be true, because they almost certainly will be!

Check that links go to the website they display, using the 'hover' facility that reveals the true URL, and watch out for fake websites. If you're unsure about a link, don't use the it.

If you've lost money to a scam, tell your bank and report it to Action Fraud. Report suspicious emails by forwarding them to: report@phishing.gov.uk and send text messages to 7726.

December Birthdays

Paul Brown
Clementine Le Clercq
Stefan Liberadski
Joyce Morley
Joshua Potts
Tony Rees
Caroline West & Peter West



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.



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



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Tel: (01869) 347702

visit the website at:

www.northastonorganics.co.uk

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

Advertising is welcome. If you wish to place a Display or Classified advert in the News, please request a rate card by email: info@north-aston.co.uk