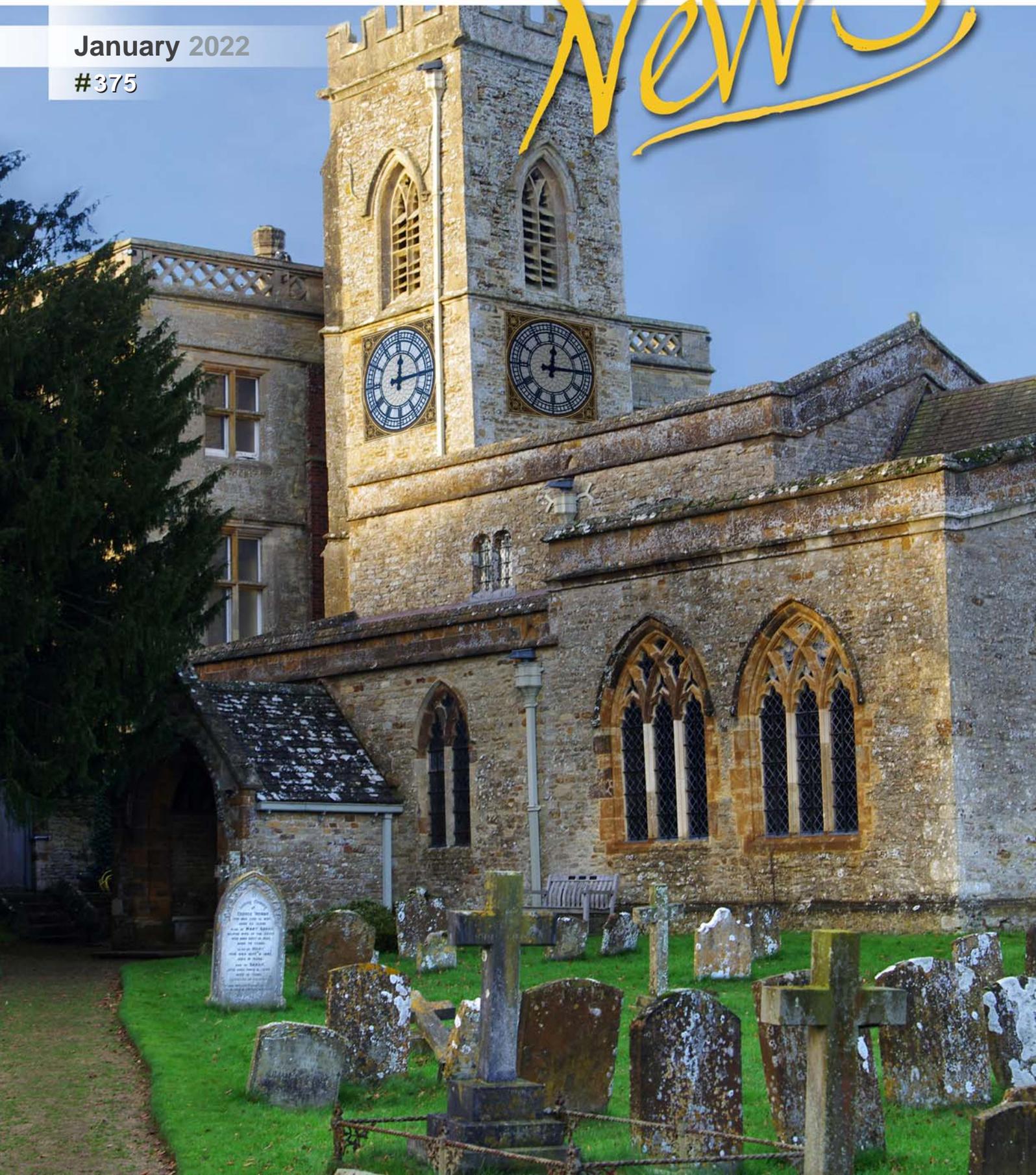


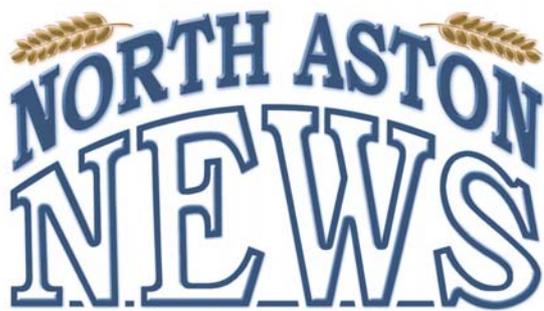
NORTH ASTON

NEWS

January 2022

#375





JANUARY 2022, No:375

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CDC Local Councillor

Bryn Williams, Deddington

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Email: 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!

As the old year chimes out and the new year comes in, I usually like to reflect on the highs and the lows of the year just gone and plan for great things in the year ahead. I, of course, do the obligatory 'New Year's Resolution' and, let's be honest, who doesn't love a good old resolution that usually doesn't see past the middle of January! I must try harder.

First to business....

1. The village bus service is due to start in the New Year and I will attach the timetable on the village notice board for you to have a look at.

2. The AGM has had to be postponed until March, due to the worry of Omicron. We felt that the only way of doing it in January would be via Zoom and so it was thought that this might not be as inclusive as a face-to-face meeting, so we have pushed it back. See Annie's note below.

Secondly, just a few thoughts I wished to share....

This year will see my time as Chair come to an end ... although you have me until March due to Covid you lucky people! I look back over the last three years and I can honestly say, I have thoroughly enjoyed it (for the most part) and I shall be sad to step down. I would like to take this opportunity to say a massive thank you to Annie and Sue for their endless support, without which my job would have been made a whole lot more difficult and certainly half the fun. Also a huge thank you to Marcus, for putting up with me and sending his monthly 'nudges'. Without those, I would have missed each and every North Aston News deadline.

When I took on this role none of us knew what the future had in store for us and with big plans and fêtes in the making, along came the delightful Covid, and halted us all in our tracks. I was truly humbled by the way that this little village all pulled together in those early days, from the swapping of vegetables to prescription deliveries and everything in-between ... With all of the madness of the world at that point in time I was so grateful to be a member of such an amazing community.

I feel so lucky to be a part of North Aston's history, even if it was in such a small way. North Aston has and probably always will be 'home' to me and my family, so to say that I was once 'Chair' is such an honour.

I do hope that 2022 treats you all well, and here is to a fantastic year ahead! Happy New Year!

You can telephone Lucinda on **340588**

or email: chair@north-aston.co.uk

Lucinda

Village Meeting & AGM

In light of the recent spread of Covid, the Officers have decided to postpone the Village AGM, traditionally held in January, and will rearrange when it is deemed that the risk of Covid has diminished.

We felt that to hold an AGM via Zoom could exclude members of the village whose views and input is invaluable and we would rather meet in person. However, we still need to manage the matter of the Precept and are required to submit the annual request to CDC by 14th January.

For the past 2 years, the Village Meeting decided to request no local authority funding and the Officers propose we maintain this position for 2022/23. We will hold an online meeting on 12th January at 6.30 pm with this single item on the agenda and all residents are welcome to attend. Please let me know if you would wish to join the meeting and I will forward the Zoom invitation. Alternatively, if you are unable to be there and would like me to include your comments, please telephone (347767) or email me: secretary@north-aston.co.uk.
Many thanks, Annie Savage

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.

Finally, things seem to be moving in the Planning Department at CDC, and after months of procrastination, nearly all the outstanding applications have now moved through and been approved. Just a handful remain "under consultation":

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, although publication of a decision is now overdue. Reference No: 21 / 03323 / AGN

Traffic Calming and Speed Limits

Tony Buxton continues to work on the question of traffic calming through the village, and has had some feedback from Dave Catling at OCC Traffic. As a start, Dave has produced schemes to offer two alternative revisions to the speed limit:

The first moves the western start of the 30mph limit from the current signed position (near the junction with the Middle Aston Lane) to a new point mid-way between Bee Cottage and Peach Barn. In addition, a new 40mph limit would be introduced from that point, through to the Fox Crossroads.

The second adopts all the proposals of the first, but with the addition of imposing a new 20mph limit within the village itself. Furthermore, a 40mph limit would also be introduced from the existing eastern limit (by the rumble strips) through to The Lodge.

This is in line with the new County Council initiative to introduce 20mph limits to several villages in the Cherwell Valley area, and Somerton is also actively investigating this possibility. There is a link on the OCC website where villages can express their interest in adopting the scheme, and Tony is happy to pursue this for North Aston, unless there are objections. There is no commitment at this stage, but the plan is for the council to review the costs, and deal with a raft of applications simultaneously.

Dave has not as yet come up with a viable plan for the location of speed humps. He is working to source a satisfactory low-level solar lighting option. The law requires that humps must be illuminated, making them (and any pedestrians) visible to approaching traffic. New measures were recently introduced in Adderbury, and for some time they were not illuminated. However, new solar lighting has now been erected, although at the time of writing it is not yet functional. Another local anomaly - the traffic calming in Great Bourton, which is also not currently lit - is due to have new lighting added soon.

Dave has said, however, that chicanes (or "build-outs" as he calls them) do not always require street lighting. These might be a more viable option for North Aston, and could perhaps be introduced at either end of The Green. He is going to do a costing but did not think that the outlay would be much greater than humps, and has suggested having another site visit in January to see where they might be located.

If you have any strong feelings with regard to the proposed changes to the speed limit through the village, please email your comments to info@north-aston.co.uk.

If you have equally strong views on the question of humps versus chicanes, then perhaps you'd like to raise them at the Village Meeting AGM, rescheduled for March ...

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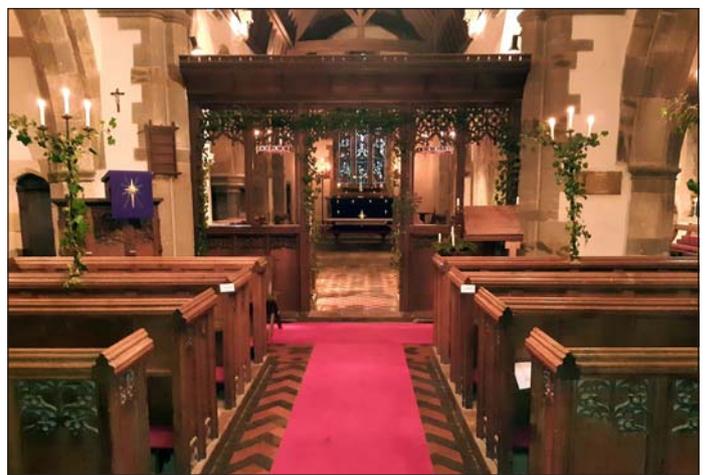
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SJB Hearing Co Ltd is a private, independent practice owned & operated by Mrs Sarah-Jane Brown
www.sjbhearingcompany.co.uk ~ tel: 01869 254 019
email: booking@sjbhearingcompany.co.uk
Ashcroft Therapy Centre, Hudson Street, Deddington, OX15 0SW

Do you deserve a New Year's treat?

Highly recommended is a Tour & Tasting event at the Cotswolds Distillery in Stourton, near Shipston on Stour. For just £20 per head, you enjoy a guided tour of the distillery followed by a comprehensive and well-instructed tasting session in the distillery's own lounge. There's also an excellent café on site offering lunches and teas. See how whisky and gin are made and then savour the flavour! www.cotswoldsdistillery.com



Front Cover: Happy New Year! The Church of St Mary's, with a bit of artistic licence in recognition of the completion of restoration to the clock face on the Elizabeth Tower, Palace of Westminster.

Above: A view of the interior of the church, decorated for Christmas, just before the Carol Service. Thanks to Kildare B-B for the photo.

North Aston Nature Notes

With Stephen Rees

Happy New Year to all! We hope Christmas was a nice time for everyone.

We had Wendy's Dad over for dinner on Christmas Day, and it all went off swimmingly. We had already made up our minds that we were having the whole week off work and going for walks every day, and I thought it might be good to share some of our routes with you all. I know we have a lot of walkers in the village, including Deirdre, Trudy, Aunty Viv and lots others who take their dogs for walks. Ken from Jericho House walks to Hendon Farm, and Les goes to Steeple Aston and back. All good stuff!

Walking is my bestest, most favourite thing now since I retired from shooting. You can't beat a nice walk.

The one we did on Boxing Day was one of my favourites – not far, at about four miles. We head out along the Middle Aston Lane, and then turn left, down passed Grange Farm, over the river, and then along the canal towpath and back to Somerton. We then head up the hill, and just past The Mill, turn right, up the footpath to the old gravel pits. From there you can head back across fields to home. It's just perfect, with good views and easy walking for an old bloke like me.

On the Monday after Christmas we walked out behind the back of our house to Ram Spinney, up the hill past the Spindle Tree and on towards (*Danehill*) Covert wood. From there, head east to Cold Harbour. You can then follow the track through Long Meadow (*and Mobb's Hill*) to Bessemer (*Bestmoor*) flood meadow. Cross it to reach the river (taking care if the river is in flood) and stopping to enjoy any big murmuration of Starlings that may be taking place, depending upon the time of day. Return to Somerton and up the road. It can be a bit sloppy and muddy, but the river opposite Deep Lock is about as perfect a place as you can find.

On the Tuesday we did the same, but in reverse, stopping to enjoy a hip flask and a smoke for me at the gravel pits. The floods had doubled overnight, making for good views, with lots of geese and ducks.



DAVID REED, SOMERTON

The next day we headed across to Dane Hill, walking down to the left-hand corner and over the main road, through the new tree plantations and across to Hill Farm Lane, following that up into Duns Tew village. We then took the back road to cross the dual carriageway towards Middle Aston, and back home for a tea.

At the end of the month we walked to the viaduct at Souldern, and along canal. I leave Wendy to sort out the routes, and this was a good long one.

Best to all for the New Year, from Steve and Wendy.

If you're not familiar with some of the field names and features that Steve describes, they're all in the North Aston book. Almost all the fields, copses and woods are included, some of them with names they've had for hundreds of years. There's a map on page 183, with a full index. There's also another on page 181 showing all the local designated footpaths.

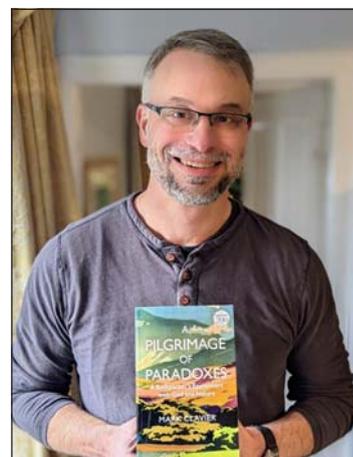
Talking of Walks ...

Congratulations to our former vicar, Mark Clavier, on the release of the paperback edition his latest book: *A Pilgrimage of Paradoxes, A Backpacker's Encounters with God and Nature*.

Published by Bloomsbury, the book examines a series of paradoxes that lie at the heart of Christian faith: eternity and time, silence and words, and wonder and the commonplace. In an intellectual reflection on an overnight trek on *Cadair Idris* in Wales and other wilderness walks, Mark explores the oft-hidden connections between faith, society, and nature.

Each reflection ranges widely through history, folklore, poetry, philosophy, and theology to consider what these paradoxes can teach us about God, ourselves, and our world. Drawing on the recent upsurge in interest in the personal experience of landscapes and memory, this book invites readers to walk with Clavier in the Appalachians, Norway, Iceland, the Alps, and around Britain as he discovers the ways in which Christianity is profoundly earthed.

By weaving together nature-writing, memoir, social commentary, and theological reflection *A Pilgrimage of Paradoxes* uses a memorable mountain journey in the ancient landscape of Wales to draw readers into reflecting about what it means to belong. The book can be ordered through Amazon and all good bookshops.



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Full Fibre Failure

It is with a heavy heart that I post this latest update on the project to bring full fibre broadband to North Aston. If you are an Internet user, and you didn't pledge your voucher in the Autumn, then read on ...

We launched this programme two years ago. Had everything gone to plan, the FFTP installation would have been completed by now, and North Aston would be at the vanguard of rolling out the latest Broadband technology across Britain. Instead, thanks largely to those who hesitated or didn't understand the urgency, we've been relegated to the back of the queue. Put bluntly, if you were one of those who didn't pledge to the scheme, you've let us all down ... your neighbours, your children, and most significantly perhaps, yourselves.

What is so hard to comprehend is that the whole project was free. It was going to cost us nothing, provided all those who'd previously expressed an interest actually followed through by signing up to the scheme.

If you access the Internet – for email, browsing the web, streaming TV, shopping, video-calling your GP, attending Zoom meetings, working from home – any of these things, and countless more besides, you should have signed up. It makes absolutely no sense that you didn't ... so why did you hesitate?

The first survey revealed almost 80 properties in the parish either already connected to the Internet, or with plans to do so. When the "Pledge" website was launched in August, the initial response was excellent, and within a fortnight we'd raised half of the total required. It all looked so promising, but then it tailed off. Despite repeated appeals here in the *News*, and via the village Mailing List, the remaining households failed to follow through.

We now face the prospect of having to start all over again. The website where households were asked to pledge their Gigabit vouchers has closed and our dedicated scheme appears to have lapsed, unfulfilled. This will be exasperating news for those who have supported the project from the beginning. These people understand the enormous value and benefit it will bring to North Aston, not only now, but for years to come. I am so grateful for their support. As for the rest, well, words fail me. I know if I was one of those who'd let everyone else down so badly, I would feel ashamed.

I have set the ball in motion to resurrect the scheme, although I'm not yet sure if that is even possible. If we are able to begin anew, I just hope that this time, which may well be the last opportunity we get, everyone will pull together as a community and get the job done. *MP*

Brown Bin Billing

In case you missed the tag that was attached to your wheelie bin at the end of December, Cherwell District Council's policy on garden waste collection is changing this year.

From March 2022, the fortnightly emptying of the brown bin will no longer be free of charge. Instead, there will be a yearly fee of £40, with a discount for those who pay promptly. There will also be a reduced fee on any second bin, if you have more than one. In addition, each household will be issued with a new bin exclusively for food waste, which will be emptied fortnightly as part of the regular service from CDC.

If you wish to continue with your garden waste collection, you must register by visiting the CDC website. If you do so before 28th February, you will be eligible for a 10% discount on the annual fee. Go to www.cherwell.gov.uk/gardenwaste

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Hi Mum! I've dropped my phone in the sink!

We've heard of several residents who've had this phone text, or a similar message through WhatsApp. It goes on to say ... "I've got a new phone now, and a new number. Please delete the old one, and use this in future." If the recipient responds, and establishes an exchange with the sender, it develops into a plea for help: "I'm having problems transferring my online banking App. Can you help?" The inevitable follows.

Caring parents will often bend over backwards to help a child in trouble, but in this case, it pays to check where that message is really coming from.

It's supposed to be a secret ...

It's amazing to think that an estimated 23 million people use "123456789" as a password to access an online account. It's also believed that even more use "Password". TVP sent out a warning last month, encouraging people to use more imaginative but memorable passwords - strings of words, numbers or symbols that mean something to the user, but would be complete gobbledegook to anyone else. Oh, and don't use that word either ... it's another common one! You should have unique passwords for really important accounts, like email or banking, and not use the same one every time.

Nottingham Knockers

There have been several reports in recent weeks of Nottingham Knockers cold-calling households in the area, including some instances of violent and abusive behaviour. Basic advice - do not open the door to these people, and if you do, don't buy from them, and never, ever, let them into your home. If you're concerned, call 101 and report the visit. You can also send out a message to the village WhatsApp group. Not a member yet? Call Annie on 347767 and ask to be added.



Last month we saw flurries of calls interspersed with quiet times, resulting in 14 callouts, several standbys (four in one day) and a hive of activity in the last days with several large fires. Crewing has been good, with the station continuing to average over 60% availability. Training continues a-pace, with Corrie King passing her BA basic course, Ben Fenemore passing both his BATL Technical and Board and Oral exams, and James Greenwood passing his BATL Technical.

The Station crew has been concentrating on Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) incidents, with realistic drills and refresher courses. WM Chris Fenemore designed a realistic scenario whereby a hapless bystander, acted out by Adam Perry, had an accident spilling chemicals onto himself and becoming trapped beneath a 200-litre drum of Formaldehyde. Upon attendance, the crew cordoned off the area, dividing it into hot, warm, and cold zones. Emma Flint and Garin Wilby performed an immediate snatch rescue whilst under Breathing Apparatus (BA), removing the casualty from immediate danger, undressing, and removing any contaminated clothing, administering first aid, and making the casualty safe and comfortable. The rest of the crew proceeded to set up a makeshift wet decontamination area.



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Ben Fenemore and James Greenwood then donned BA and wore Gas Tight Suits and entered the risk area to investigate the chemical spill and make the area as safe as possible by relaying the exact chemical involved, approximate quantities and to prevent any leakage into the drainage system. The suits are fully sealed but do make working very slow and time consuming as the suits limit one's visibility, dexterity and vision.



With the chemical identification labels relayed to the BA entry control officer, and the chemicals attributes confirmed via the MDT (the mobile computer kept on the truck allowing data retrieval), the area could be made safe, and the incident closed. Mike Swadling, Group Manager CRR North, also observed the drill and offered some expert guidance and tips on how the drill went.

May we all from Deddington Fire Station wish readers Best Wishes for the New Year. We hope you enjoyed yourselves over Christmas, and took the chance to rest, recuperate, and stay safe.

James Greenwood FFD james@cyclogicalshop.co.uk

The

CHURCH MATTERS



Thank you ...

I'd like to begin the New Year with a huge thank you to all of you who have sent good wishes and kind thoughts my way over the past few weeks. At the end of October I had a brief, rather nasty cold, and a couple of days later as I drove to Deddington Health Centre on a routine visit I suddenly had severe chest pains and ended up in hospital.

I'm going to be fine, and everything is being dealt with by medication - so no surgery or anything like that needed - but despite my best efforts to get back to doing what I do, I was signed off all my duties and told to rest up till the end of the year, when a long planned sabbatical kicks in. I have some writing, some travelling, some time here and some time away planned from the start of January till the end of March; you may see me around occasionally, but I am not available for parish matters till the beginning of April.

I'm very grateful to our churchwardens Clive and Annabel, and to all the visiting clergy who have kept our services across the benefice going while I have been unwell, and who will continue to do so for the next couple of months. Especially, thanks to Revd Jeremy Auld, our area dean, who has been terrific, and to Bishop Gavin who has been very kind and thoughtful.

It's hard to step back when you are used to being the person people rely on. It's hard to stop when there is so much to do. When there is so much going on, it's difficult to let other people down just because you need to look after yourself. And - honestly - we all deal with this differently. Many of us are tired anyway after almost two years of the pandemic. Some of us are exhausted. Some wish that a bit of 'me time' were possible, but family and work and just life means it is not. I realise that I am really, really lucky - or perhaps I might prefer fortunate - to have been where I was when the chest pains happened, and to have had such support from work and people around me, and to have had the possibility of a three month sabbatical already planned into my diary. What a gift.

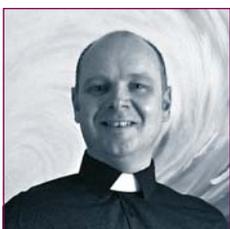
But all of us, at the start of a New Year, with everything that is going on, need to appreciate that we matter. All of us. Enormously. We need to find even just a couple of minutes every day to know that we are precious, loved, valuable to God and not just because we serve a purpose - but because we are people. Human beings. Each of us different from the next, and each of us as wonderful - and fragile.

I don't know what your Resolutions are this year, but may I suggest you find a moment to pray each day and thank God for something or someone - and also remember that you are loved? Loved by friends and family - loved by God. Sometimes we need to remember we are precious before we treat ourselves well; and how can we help others if we don't treat ourselves well?

Of course, I have no crystal ball, so I've no idea how long the pandemic will be with us, adding its threatening cloud to all our days. Here's hoping 'not long' is the right answer.

But however long, here are some words of Jesus that last longer:

'Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'



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 January 2022

N. ASTON	S. ASTON	TACKLEY
Sunday 2nd January - Epiphany		
No Service	11:00 am Holy Communion <i>Book of Common Prayer</i> Revd Stephen Pix	No Service
Sunday 9th January		
9:30 am Morning Prayer Richard Bailey	11:00 am Morning Prayer Richard Bailey	5:30 pm Holy Communion Revd Jeremy Auld
Sunday 16th January		
No Service	10.30am United Benefice Holy Communion Revd Richard Armitage	No Service
Sunday 23rd January		
9:30 am Holy Communion Revd Andrea Russell	11:00 am Holy Communion Revd Andrea Russell	5:30 pm Evensong Revd Stephen Pix
Sunday 30th January		
9:30 am Morning Prayer Richard Bailey	11:00 am Morning Prayer Richard Bailey	9:30 am Holy Communion Revd Andrew Bunch
Sunday 6th February		
9:30 am Holy Communion <i>Book of Common Prayer</i> Canon Chs Chadwick	11:00 am Holy Communion <i>Book of Common Prayer</i> Canon Chs Chadwick	5:30 pm Evensong Revd Jeremy Auld

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

This month's market is scheduled for Saturday 22nd January. 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 usually stays for about 20 or 25 minutes. You can pre-order by emailing van99orders@gmail.com or calling 07484 360719. It is also possible to track the van's progress, street by street, by using this web page: bit.ly/findvan99

Temporary Closure of Middle Aston Lane

A heads-up that an application has been made for the temporary closure of the Middle Aston Lane to allow for the replacement of a telegraph pole. The section effected lies between the lane to Grange Farm and Clock Court in Middle Aston.

The closure will operate from the 23 February 2022 for two, or perhaps three days, and will operate between 08:00 and 18:00 each day. Access will be possible for emergency service vehicles and for those with frontages within the closure area ... although technically, there aren't any. Such access will be subject to the progress of the works and liaison with the works supervisor.

Further information may be obtained by contacting Ash Bowers via email on ash.bowers@freeflowtm.co.uk

Christmas Trees

If you had a real Christmas tree this year, without roots, you can put it out for recycling with the brown bin collection on Thursday 13th January. Cut it into lengths of no more than four feet.

New Booster Clinic

A dedicated Covid booster clinic opened in Banbury Town Hall on 29th December and will operate for at least two weeks. Anyone finding it difficult to find a slot in Chipping Norton, or through the GP Surgery in Deddington, can book an appointment at the Town Hall through the NHS Vaccination Booking System. If you don't have Internet access, call 119 instead.



The winners of last month's draw were:

1st Prize (£10): Tony Buxton (#130)

2nd Prize (£5): Rachael McLernon (#38)

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!

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.

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



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North Aston News

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