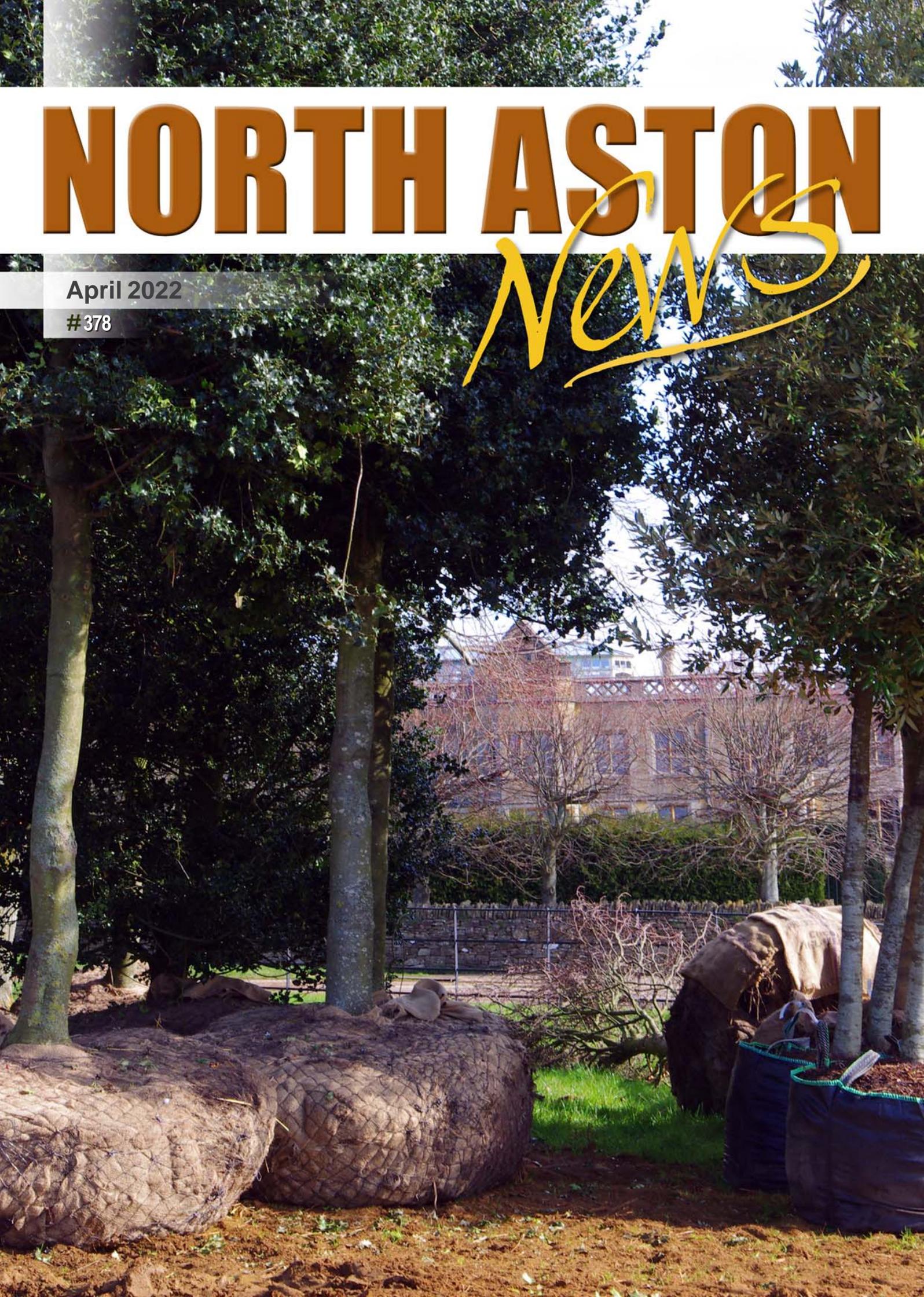


# NORTH ASTON

*NEWS*

April 2022

#378



# NORTH ASTON NEWS

APRIL 2022, No:378

## Useful Contacts

### North Aston News

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### Annie Savage, NAPM Secretary

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### North Aston Gardening Club

Tuck Hatzigeorgiou, Acting Chairperson

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### North Aston Pet Alert

Please notify of any Firework Parties

Eileen Gilmore: Tel (01869) 347210

Also email: [info@north-aston.co.uk](mailto:info@north-aston.co.uk)

### North Aston Farms

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### North Aston Organics

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### Hillcrest Care - Park Farm House

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### Nicholson Nurseries

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### North Aston 100 Club

Beverley Rees. (01869) 347434

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### Village Marquee Bookings

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### CDC Local Councillor

Bryn Williams, Deddington

Telephone: 07836 271998

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

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

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

# Notes from the Chair

## *Spring is here....*

*Well at least it was for a couple of days! I hope that you all enjoyed the brief bit of sunshine that we had last month, fingers crossed for a little bit more.*

*As Easter approaches I am in deep conversation with the Easter Bunny and I am pleased to announce that he has confirmed he will be leaving a few eggs on The Green for you all to find on Easter Monday. So, if you would like to join the hunt please do come to The Green at 10 am on Easter Monday... I do believe there will be coffee and cake afterwards so it is sounding like the perfect excuse for a little get-together. All welcome! Don't forget the Village Meeting will be held on Tuesday the 3rd of May, as we haven't had one in such a long time I am sure that there will be plenty to discuss.*

*Happy Easter everyone!*

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

*Lucinda*

## North Aston Village Meeting & AGM

**Tuesday 3rd May 2022**

The Village AGM will take place on Tuesday May 3rd and there's lots on the Agenda, so do keep the date free as it will be a lovely opportunity to reconnect properly.

One of the most important things is the election of new Officers. A huge request from the current committee is for new members to come forward, as the current Officers have all served for many years and now feel it is time for a change. The work is not time-consuming or onerous and it's a great opportunity to meet new people in the village, so please do give it serious thought.

As always, not electing a new Village Committee would mean that we would be merged with either Duns Tew or Steeple Aston Parish Councils, and that would mean local decisions being taken outside the village.

A full Agenda will be posted on the Notice Board later this month.

*Many thanks, Annie Savage (secretary@north-aston.co.uk)*



A date for your diary!  
Saturday 23rd April, 2:00 - 4:00 pm

**Prelove + Recycle**

The Old Bake House

Full details on Page 6

**Front Cover:** Planting has started of the new semi-mature trees in The Park, on the land towards the south side of The Hall. Most of the trees arrived in the last week of March, and planting began almost immediately. Some are 40 feet tall .. or 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.

The CDC Planning Department has been busy again. Some applications have moved ahead at speed, while a couple of others are currently stalled.

**North Aston Hall, St Mary's Walk North Aston OX25 6AA.** An application has been made to permit the replacement of all sash windows in the Hall with double-glazed sash units, including replacement sliding sashes. Reference No: 22 / 00881 / LB

**Bradenstoke Barn, St Mary's Walk North Aston OX25 6AA.** Various conditional discharges have been made lodged relating to details of fireplace installations, flues, plumbing, chimneys and window cills as required to facilitate the restoration and renovation of the Barn. Reference No: 22 / 00881 / LB

**North Aston Hall, St Mary's Walk North Aston OX25 6AA.** A decision relating to the application to permit the reinstatement of windows to the east elevation of the North Aston Hall, with new blind windows on north elevation and replacement French window on the second floor at the Hall, is expected on or before 5th April. Reference No: 22 / 00354 / LB

**North Aston Hall, St Mary's Walk North Aston OX25 6AA.** A decision regarding the application for the construction of an estate office and vehicle storage facility was expected on 23rd March. Reference No: 22 / 00276 / F

**North Aston Hall, St Mary's Walk North Aston OX25 6AA.** The application to make alterations to the roof, chimneys and guttering of the main house has been approved. Reference No: 22 / 00280 / LB

**North Aston Hall, St Mary's Walk North Aston OX25 6AA.** The decision on an application to replace the agricultural storage barn is now overdue. Reference No: 22 / 00224 / F

### Easter Egg Hunt and Coffee & Cakes

The traditional **Easter Egg Hunt** will take place on The Village Green on Easter Monday, 18th April, starting at 10 am. Open to children of all ages!

The Hunt will be followed by **Coffee & Cake** from 10.30 until eleven-ish. All welcome! There's no charge – just bring your own mug and plate – and chairs will be available.

All cake contributions gratefully received! The event may be cancelled if it's pouring with rain.



The winners of last month's draw were:

1st Prize (£10): Marcus Potts (#69)

2nd Prize (£5): Tuck Hatzigeorgiou (#114)

Congratulations to this month's winners! For more info on the Club, call 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!**



### About SJB Hearing Company Ltd

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

# North Aston Nature Notes

## With Stephen Rees

I still meet and talk to people who think Climate Change is a load of old rubbish. I'm really not an eco-warrior, and I've never been very good at getting involved in things, as some people will have noticed by my absence from Village Meetings, but there's no doubt in my mind that things are different ...

When we were kids the river would flood every winter (yes, every winter!) and the flood meadows would fill to two foot deep with river water.

Every year, (every single year!) those flood meadows would freeze solid. All of us would go down to the frozen floods and chop off a bit of ice to play football. We had sliding competitions, chopped holes in the ice, and even lit fires on it. Now I really can't remember the last time we had a big flood freeze over, and while we do have floods, they're often at strange times of the year.

Things have definitely changed since we were kids, particularly with the weather and its affect on nature and the environment.



Anyway, let's get on with what I'm supposed to be writing about. Carrying on from last month's *Bird of the Month*, Wendy and I saw two Curlew down on the flood meadows on the 20th March. It was a true delight to listen to the eerie call that they made while flying and to see them return to us once again, hopefully to mate and rear some young.

We haven't seen any Swallows or House Martins yet, but there's still plenty of time.

Our favourite ditch was full of frog spawn, which we love to see, and more than one person has told me that they have tadpoles and even small frogs already appearing in their gardens. It's a fascinating transformation for children to watch.

A bit of sad news. Trudy had a hen taken by a fox a couple of weeks ago. We have had this many times, and it's not nice, but it happens. The foxes have got young at the moment and they're hungry, so it's always a bad time for hen keepers.

I remember one night years ago when my brothers and I were in bed and heard our chickens going mad. We ran down the garden to find every single chicken dead. Dad had forgot to lock them up and the fox went into a frenzy and killed the lot.

The Blackthorn down by us is now in blossom and on a couple of our afternoon walks we've noticed the air full of its perfume. Also the two ponds down below the Hall are turning into real wildfowl havens. One afternoon I spotted five Mallard, two Coots and two Dabchicks.



### Bird of the Month ~ The Swallow

It's been an easy choice again this month, and it's already had a mention; the Swallow.

Easily distinguished from House Martins because of its long V-shaped tail feathers. They come to us from Africa in March and April and make their nests in barns, sheds and outbuildings. We used to have hundreds come here every year, but there are very few now. It's always been a competition to see who sees the first Swallow. The earliest I've seen one here was March the 6th.

Folklore for Swallows. In medieval England a baby born at midnight was given a Swallow charm for good luck, and anyone found stealing their eggs would be beaten up by a mob.

The Chinese used to believe that they were created from the tears of gods, and they are seen as good luck, as they are in Africa too. I love it when the Swallows and Swifts come back, and listening to the Swift screaming on a summer evening while catching flies is a wonderful thing.

That's about it for this month. Keep an eye out for the first Swallow and let me know if and when please.

March was a very dry month this year except for the 16th when we had 23mm in one day

Regards, Steve & Wendy

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# From the FIRE STATION

After a frenetic last month, the fire station paused for a slight breath, accumulating 18 shouts. With a majority of standbys, the crew were also turned out to fires, rescues, RTCs, humanitarian assistance and a suspected hazmat incident.

Towards the end of the month, the Deddington crew was involved at a new training venue at Upper Heyford, being assessed with their RTC and IEC skills at the TVP training compound. In conjunction with Rewley Road and Banbury whole-time crews, scenarios were run through in both the morning and afternoon. Two three-car RTCs presented themselves, the first with a car on its side and the second with a vehicle on its roof. Adding to the realism, live casualties



were “trapped” within the vehicles. Throughout both incidents, Station Commanders, Training Centre Officers and SC Ambulance crews observed incident command decisions, RTC techniques and stage management, and IEC techniques and processes were continually monitored, and helpful feedback given to all individuals.

Particular attention was paid to the 6 full stages of an RTC:

- Scene assessment and safety
- Stabilisation and initial access
- Glass management and SRS (airbag restraint)
- Space creation
- Full access, and
- Casualty extraction and care.

Over and above standard drills, the vehicles used had been deliberately smashed and crushed to mimic a real-life high-speed accident, testing all with their cutting, spreading and door removal techniques. The casualties were continually monitored, and their vital signs taken - some remaining stable and others deteriorating / exhibiting diverse injuries. Both incidents, from time of the 999 calls to the real-life casualty being extracted from the vehicle into the ambulance came in at just over the hour – an hour being all rescue crews’ notional goal.

Crewing levels have been high again this month, with a full compliment of fire fighters making cover easier to provide.

*James Greenwood FFD james@cyclogicalshop.co.uk*

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



A date for your diary!

**The Old Bake House ~ Saturday 23rd April, 2 - 4 pm**  
**Cash Purchases only**

Every brand new purchase has a substantial carbon footprint attached to its manufacturing, but the amount of new energy used when buying preloved / vintage is practically zero. Contributing to others wardrobes or homes by passing on your items is a step forward to a more sustainable future – less bought means less damage to our planet and less emptying of our pockets.

We are expecting some quality pieces of clothing at the sale - some barely worn. What a great opportunity to look for bargains and wardrobe refreshers at reduced prices or even free. We need lots of lovely customers to buy or receive all the goodies we are accruing so please spread the word to family and friends. Do come and have a browse, we have such a variety of articles to offer,

Drop off your items to The Old Bakehouse from 4-6 pm on Friday 22nd April or 10am to noon on Saturday 23rd. All items should be clean and clothes on hangers please

**The choices are**

- Items which you wish to sell and retain the proceeds, labelled and clearly priced by you.
- Items which you are happy for us to price, sell and donate proceeds to the *Joanna Simpson Foundation*.
- Items you would simply like to donate freely for others.
- We will catalogue all Items and add a label and code for your privacy. Unsold pieces must be collected after the sale. We will remain open until 5.30pm on the day.

As I mentioned in the March edition of the *North Aston News*, the charity of my choice is the *Joanna Simpson Foundation*. I was very moved when listening to a radio programme with the patron of the charity, Diana Parkes. Her daughter Joanna was the victim of domestic abuse through many years of intimidation, isolation and control. She had found the courage to begin divorce proceedings, and one week before the finalisation was expected, was beaten to death by her husband within hearing distance of her two children aged ten and nine.

Domestic abuse has no social or economic barriers and has certainly come to the fore since the Corona Virus epidemic and the resulting pressures it has put on so many families. Every year approximately two hundred children are bereaved with perhaps the remaining parent serving a long custodial sentence, and thousands more are living in high risk households. The charity intends to raise awareness of their suffering and aims to heal, rebuild and support these traumatised children in many ways, including investment into child bereavement training, funding immediate counselling for children following a traumatic event and funding children's centres dedicated to dealing specifically with domestic abuse.

I do hope you all agree this is a well deserved charity. I have contacted the foundation informing them of the sale and have requested some literature. Please do call if you would like to know more.

*Julie Al Nugaidi ~ 07827 888880 ~ 01869 340989*

## Heyford Park Pantry

I am very aware at the moment that there are many requests for help, particularly with the horrendous situation in Ukraine, so I'm conscious of asking you again to dig deep and help with donations for the food bank as I will be putting the boxes out again at the weekend.

With Easter approaching, it may be that you have additional food costs etc so anything you feel able to give, no matter how small, will be hugely appreciated.

I worry that with collections for Ukraine, local charities in the UK will be stretched and it is a very difficult thing to choose between them. Food poverty is running high in the UK and I hope we are able to support the Pantry. *Thanks, Annie*

## Steeple Aston Choral Society

Following a very successful concert in March, Steeple Aston Choral Society is now preparing for the group's Summer Party Concert. This is a much more informal event, and is open to singers of all abilities. Why not join and give it a go? All are welcome. No auditions.

The first rehearsal is scheduled for 7:45 pm on Monday 4th April at Steeple Aston Village Hall. You can just turn up or, if you like, ring Margaret beforehand on 01869 347346.

The concert will be in the Village Hall on 19th June. The programme includes Irish and English folk songs, a specially arranged "My Fair Lady" medley, an ABBA medley and an audience sing-a-long. For more information, visit

[www.facebook.com/steepleastonchoralsociety](http://www.facebook.com/steepleastonchoralsociety)



## A level playing field ...

As a kid, I was one of those who hated being lined up on games day so teams could be chosen. You know the experience - captains pick their mates, and then pick the best players, and then it's a shame parade. I wasn't especially sporty as a child, and would often find myself somewhere near the end of the process.

One of the amazing things about the Easter Story is that none of this goes on. Sure, Jesus has friends around him in his disciples, and sure, there are folk who don't like Jesus, but as Holy Week leads up to the Crucifixion and then Easter Sunday, Jesus shows his friends no favours - and never shames even those who would stop at nothing to take his life.

Everyone around Jesus is on a level playing field. I'm amazed by this, and I love it.

We get to see Pilate's indecision and weakness, for sure. But so too we see Peter's betrayal. We see Judas' handing Jesus over to the soldiers - but we also see a soldier confessing Jesus as the Son of God, and two Pharisees (Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus) caring for his crucified body after all the disciples have fled. We see crowds praising and cursing, men's bravado and women's bravery. There's no sense of hierarchy or order or an 'in crowd'.

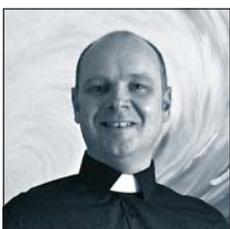
We are simply presented with the holy chaos of people. Some getting it partly right; some getting it mostly wrong; all as human as each other and as loved by God. One of the reasons I hated those schools games afternoons, or those playground sports as a kid, was that I never felt I fitted in. There were people who were better than me who belonged on the football team. Much as I hated it, I pretty much deserved to be picked last! And I know that some folk don't come to church much now because they feel just that way - they don't feel they fit in. Others seem to belong there. Not them.

I apologise for this, if that rings anywhere near true for you. Easter tells a different story, and it's a much better one.

Everyone around Jesus is on a level playing field.

When it comes to faith, there are no experts, no team captains - except one. And that Lord Jesus walked through the first Holy Week leading up to Easter talking to absolutely everyone, including absolutely everyone, ignoring absolutely no-one, because at the end he died and rose so the love and hope he brings might be for absolutely everyone. He chooses us all.

I very much hope you might come to one of our Easter services this April as we celebrate God's love which is for you and for me, and which, through these difficult days, brings hope that changes life. But if you can't come, I pray you'll find on TV, on the radio, on the web, some touch of Jesus brings this much better story of love home for you.



*Revd Marcus Green*

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

More news is always available on the website at [www.sntchurch.com](http://www.sntchurch.com)

## Church Services in April 2022

N. ASTON	S. ASTON	TACKLEY
<b>Sunday 3rd April - Passion Sunday</b>		
9:30 am Holy Communion <i>Book of Common Prayer</i> <b>Revd Marcus Green</b>	11:00 am Holy Communion <i>Book of Common Prayer</i> <b>Revd Marcus Green</b>	5:30 pm Evensong <b>Revd Marcus Green</b>
<b>Sunday 10th April - Palm Sunday</b>		
9:30 am Family Service <b>Revd Marcus Green</b>	9:30 am Family Service <b>Revd Marcus Green</b>	10:30 am Service with <b>Tackley Methodists</b>
<b>Maundy Thursday - 14th April</b>		
7:30 pm Informal Communion <b>Revd Marcus Green</b>	No Service	No Service
<b>Good Friday - 15th April</b>		
No Service	12:00 noon Good Friday Reflection <b>Revd Marcus Green</b>	No Service
<b>Sunday 17th April - Easter Day</b>		
9:00 am Easter Communion <b>tbc</b>	11:00 am Easter Communion <b>Revd Marcus Green</b>	9:30 am Easter Communion <b>Revd Marcus Green</b>
<b>Sunday 24th April</b>		
No Service	No Service	10:30 am Holy Communion <b>Revd Marcus Green</b>
<b>Sunday 1st May</b>		
9:30 am Holy Communion <i>Book of Common Prayer</i> <b>Revd Marcus Green</b>	11:00 am Holy Communion <i>Book of Common Prayer</i> <b>Revd Marcus Green</b>	5:30 pm Evensong <b>Revd Marcus Green</b>

You can also contact members of the PCC:

Church Wardens: Clive Busby, ([casb@north-aston.com](mailto:casb@north-aston.com), 340470) and Annabel Bevan, ([annabelbevan@hotmail.com](mailto: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 23rd April. For further information and the latest news, visit the website: [www.deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk](http://www.deddingtonfarmersmarket.co.uk)

### Wednesday Fish & Chips: 7:25 pm to 7:40 pm

Van 99 continues to bring the treat of freshly-fried Fish & Chips to The Green each Wednesday evening, from 7:25 pm to 7:40 pm. Please support Howe's van when you hear the bell. You can pre-order by emailing [van99orders@gmail.com](mailto:van99orders@gmail.com) or calling 07484 360719. You can also track the van's progress on [bit.ly/findvan99](http://bit.ly/findvan99)

### Birthday Wishes ...

Happy Birthday to our gorgeous Princess, Evelyn. Have a super duper day darling. We love you to the furthest star and back! Lots of love Daddy, Mummy, William and Sebastian xxxxx

### Baby Sitting Service

Susie Taylor is still looking for babysitting work on Friday or Saturday nights, or on weeknights during school holidays. She has plenty of experience with looking after younger children. If you'd like to book her services, call Vicky on 07483 291277.

### Bridleway Closure

OCC has announced a temporary closure of the Bridleway from the Middle Aston Lane, past Grange Farm, across to Somerton Mill, and from there to the Somerton-Upper Heyford Road.

The closure will enable remedial work to be carried out to a number of culverts that run under the Bridleway, and will come into effect on 5th April. It is anticipated that the works could take up to 6 months to complete. This will mean that the Bridleway could be inaccessible to horses and riders until the end of the summer. It is hoped that pedestrian access will not be impacted.



Introducing the Anne Robson Helpline - if you or someone close to you is dying, you can talk to us.

At the Anne Robson Trust we aim to be there to listen to anyone who faces dying or the imminent death of someone they care about. We know that facing the end of life can leave you feeling isolated and alone.

Being able to access support is so important. Gaining knowledge of what may happen towards the end of life and being prepared helps both the person dying and their loved ones to feel a sense of control.

Calls are free and confidential. Call us on 0808 801 0688 - we have time to talk

Please visit [www.annerobsontrust.org.uk/helpline-service](http://www.annerobsontrust.org.uk/helpline-service) to find out more.

## April Birthdays

Tracy Boss  
Evelyn Fuoco  
Harry & Tony Godwin  
Liz Hite  
Mary Hoare  
Mario Lemme  
Franca Potts  
Annie Savage  
Susannah Taylor  
Dawid Waszynski  
Norman 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.



DEDDINGTON  
CRICKET CLUB



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## 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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