

The Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter



June 2026

FROM REVD CANON RACHEL CARNEGIE, ASSOCIATE VICAR, DORCHESTER TEAM

Our summer in Dorchester started in great style with the Festival. Once again there was so much to relish, whatever our age or interests – or indeed species, as dogs had opportunities for fun too and birds singing in the meadows were star performers.

An excellent offering for everybody: musical delights of every genre; art to inspire; art to create; family fun, with a marathon chicken, a Calendar Girl entrant in the duck race, and the Rector walking on custard. It was uplifting to experience all this as part of the Abbey and community vision for hospitality and outreach through the arts. Woven through this was the spiritual life of the Abbey, with special worship, poetry, biblical portraits, and community art.

Amidst all this rich reflection and joyous entertainment, the Festival has raised much valued funds for the Abbey and its festival partner, 'Be Free Young Carers'. This inspiring organisation supports over 700 children and young people across Oxfordshire who care for a family member with illness, disability, mental health, or addiction. It is a reminder of the extra and hidden challenges that many children and young people face, but that we may not initially see. Those brave individuals abseiling down the Abbey tower raised valuable funds towards this cause.

At this time of conflict around the world and anxiety and tension in our own country, we all need to find time to restore ourselves, to connect with the good, fun and beautiful things in life, such as the Festival, to help us to be more resilient to life's shocks and stresses.

On the Festival nighttime tree walk, we stood in darkness by the Thame amongst towering, shimmering poplars and looked back at the illuminated east window of the Abbey. It was a profound moment, standing on the river bank where perhaps King Cynegils was baptized by St Birinus, where monks had served and people have prayed, and where, centuries later, the community still comes together to love and serve God, one another, and our world. Standing under the poplars, we read a poem by Mary Oliver: When I am among Trees.

Around me the trees stir in their leaves
and call out, "Stay awhile."
The light flows from their branches.
And they call again, "It's simple," they say,
"and you too have come into the world to do this,
to go easy, to be filled with light, and to shine."

So with the glorious activity of the Festival over for this year, we remain in this beautiful place, with the Abbey at its heart, with people of kindness around us, and a precious natural environment to treasure. Jesus said that he came that we might have life and have it in all its fullness (John 10.10). This abundant life, this gift from

God, fills us with light that we can also reflect out into the world. There is so much for which to give thanks.

Every blessing, Rachel

DORCHESTER ABBEY

Sunday 28th June



8.00am Holy Communion

A simple said service in the traditional words of the Book of Common Prayer

10.30am The Ordination of Priests

The service will include Holy Communion and will be conducted by the Bishop of Dorchester, The Rt Revd Gavin Collins.

Preacher: The Revd Dr Isabelle Hamley, Principal of Ridley Hall, Cambridge

Everybody's welcome

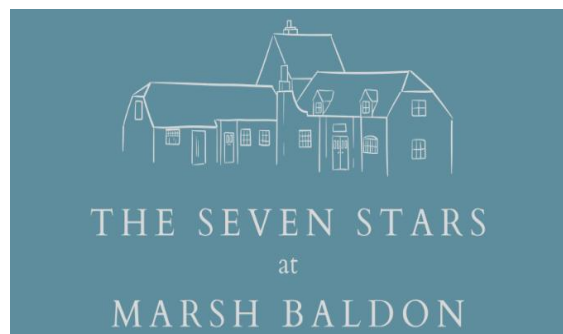
Our vicar is Rev'd Vicky Burton who can be contacted at revvickyburton@gmail.com / 07712 336540

You can also contact the Dorchester Team Office on 01865 340007 or at admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk

Our safeguarding officer is Sara McDouall: saramcdouall@gmail.com

BNCS Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 30th June 2026 at 7pm



Seven Stars – Notice of BNCS Annual General Meeting Tuesday 30th June 2026

To all shareholders of Baldons and Nuneham Community Society Limited, the management committee of the Society hereby gives notice that the eleventh annual general meeting of the Society will take place at **7pm on Tuesday 30th June 2026 at the Seven Stars.**

There will be a refreshment for all shareholders attending, so please do come along!

The business of the meeting will be:

1. To receive from the management committee the accounts of the Society and the report of the auditor
2. To re-elect the Society's auditor
3. To elect the members of the management committee
4. To receive from the management committee a report on performance in the previous year and plans for the future
5. To consider and if appropriate to resolve to pay interest to shareholders at a blended rate of 5.55% (1.5% above base rate) for the year 25 March 2025 to 24 March 2026

Lewis Gerring is standing down at the end of his three-year term. We are welcoming a replacement and new members for the committee. Anyone who would like to stand for election is invited to notify a member of the management committee or email info@bnctltd.com by Wednesday 24th June and to submit by that date a short statement which will be circulated at the AGM.

Copies of the committee's annual report and the accounts for the meeting will be shared on the BNCS website - www.bnctltd.com - by Friday 26th June.

Please, if possible, could you print out your own copies of these documents if you would like to have these at the meeting.

Cover Photo: Buttercups and Dandelions, James Eliot 2018

Baldons Local History Update



We have now put yet more material onto the Baldons History website, which you'll find at www.baldonshistory.blogspot.com. Updates this month include information about:

- The former poet laureate who penned a poem entitled "Toot Baldon"
- The role that Marsh Baldon played in the 17th Century English Civil War
- A Baldons family, records of whom span almost 500 years
- The monument that moved from Nuneham Courtenay to Marsh Baldon and back again
- The Busy Bees children's group founded in the 1940s
- A Marsh Baldon man persecuted for his religious beliefs in 1839.

Here's another of John Wright's short historical "vignettes", courtesy of Sue and Barbara. You'll find Part 2 of this bloody story, along with all of John's other vignettes, on the website. (Golden Balls was considered, for official purposes, part of Toot Baldon.)

Murder Most Foul Part 1, by John Wright

According to one chronicler, the Golden Balls hostelry had a dodgy reputation-which is not surprising considering a sensational murder was committed there.

In 1706 a guest was found murdered in his bed with his throat cut and the landlord standing over him with a bloodstained knife. The landlord was arrested, taken to the Castle jail and subsequently hanged.

However, 18 months later it emerged that although the landlord had intended to do the deed, he was forestalled by the dead man's valet who made a deathbed confession - but not in time to save the landlord's head.

As might be expected, the tragedy inspired a melodrama "The murder at the roadside inn" which enjoyed great popularity for some years.

Acknowledgment to John Owen Oxford Mail 1982

As ever, if you have any comments, queries or feedback please do get in touch. Also, if you have some information of a historical nature that you think others may find interesting and you are happy to share then we'd love to hear about it in person* or via email: baldonshistory@gmail.com.

* The current Baldons History Group are Paul Ardern, John & Ali Barne, Fran Butler, Bruce Don, Alison Porter.

BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Annual Parish Meeting

Our Annual Village meeting was held on Monday 14th May and was well attended. Thank you to all who came along and gave updates and to those who came to participate. Minutes will be issued and circulated as usual and will include a summary of the works and activities of your Parish Council and updates from our village charities, committees, and businesses this past 12 months.

Future CIL Fund Spending - Give us your views please

One of the topics discussed at the APM was the future use of CIL (community infrastructure levy) funds the council has been granted by SODC as part of our allocation of payments from developments in our village. CIL funds can be spent on infrastructure projects within our parish. We have already used CIL funds for many projects, including improvements to Tinny Lane (ongoing), reinforcement of the Green's edges to protect them, and new gates and bridges. If you have any ideas for a project that would be suitable for support from CIL funding, please let us know by emailing clerk@baldonspc.org.

Flood defence works on the Green

Following a detailed application for, and consequent award of, a grant from Oxfordshire County Council, the Parish Council appointed a qualified contractor and work commenced w/c 11th May around the village Green.

The programme started with a CCTV survey of the numerous culverts linking ditches. Following the survey, the contractor carried out a thorough ecological and habitat survey of the areas to be worked on in accordance with the necessary legislation. They then worked carefully along the ditches and culverts to remove the substantial buildup of debris and silt. The silt has been deposited adjacent the ditches and will be levelled and reseeded. The extent of the years of build-up of debris that was preventing the system working properly was significant. Given the changes in climate and increasing rain, the works will help to protect the village from flooding.

A number of culverts were blocked and where possible have been mechanically cleaned and will be jet cleaned in the last weeks of May. A couple of culverts are now known to be totally blocked or collapsed, and we are awaiting details of possible solutions to consider the next steps. A short section of new drain has been installed along from the pond by the school to address the flooding in this area.

We have identified blockages to culverts along Baldon Lane which have been reported to Oxford County Council for them to address as this is their asset. We are being assisted in this by the Flood management Team at OCC and hope for a speedy response.

Fly Tipping deterrent trial

As you will be well aware, there have been ongoing and recently, increasing, incidents of fly tipping on our village roads. The Parish Council has been working with one of our residents, who contacted the Clean-up Britain organization, to enquire about a deterrent scheme they are promoting. <https://cleanupbritain.org/>

We have agreed to fund and have placed, monitored, CCTV cameras and advisory signage, in Toot and Marsh Baldon as a trial to assess if this is an effective deterrent in our situation. You will see signage on the village road advising of the cameras. Whilst the signage may look a bit intrusive, it is an integral part of the deterrent. The National Trust has used the signs and cameras on their land and properties and have reported that it has been very effective in preventing fly tipping.

We will monitor the effects, take feedback, and, if successful, consider expanding to cover other areas that are common fly tipping spots along our village road. Footage from the cameras will only be accessed in the event of a fly tipping event in order to try to identify the offender and then hopefully used to proceed to a prosecution via SODC, who are supportive of the trial. We will keep everyone updated as to the progress and results. If you have any questions or feedback, please email clerk@baldonspc.org

The Baldons Website

As you will read this in early June, we are confident in saying that the launch of the new website is imminent. Look out for a notice on Baldons info and our village Facebook page for the new website address and more details. Until the new site is available, we will post meeting minutes and agendas via Baldons info and also any other important updates.

Future Parish Council meeting dates 2026

13th July 2026

14th September 2026

9th November 2026

All meetings to be held at the village hall and start at 7.30pm.

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Items for the Double Issue July – August 2026 newsletter
by 16th June please

Any villager is welcome to send items for publication in the newsletter.

Please send copy to Natasha Eliot:

tashaandjames@btopenworld.com. Alternatively, I can be contacted
on 343478 or at Baldon House East, Marsh Baldon.

For advertising queries, please contact Leanna Maggs on:

leanna.maggs@gmail.com or on 01865 340 521

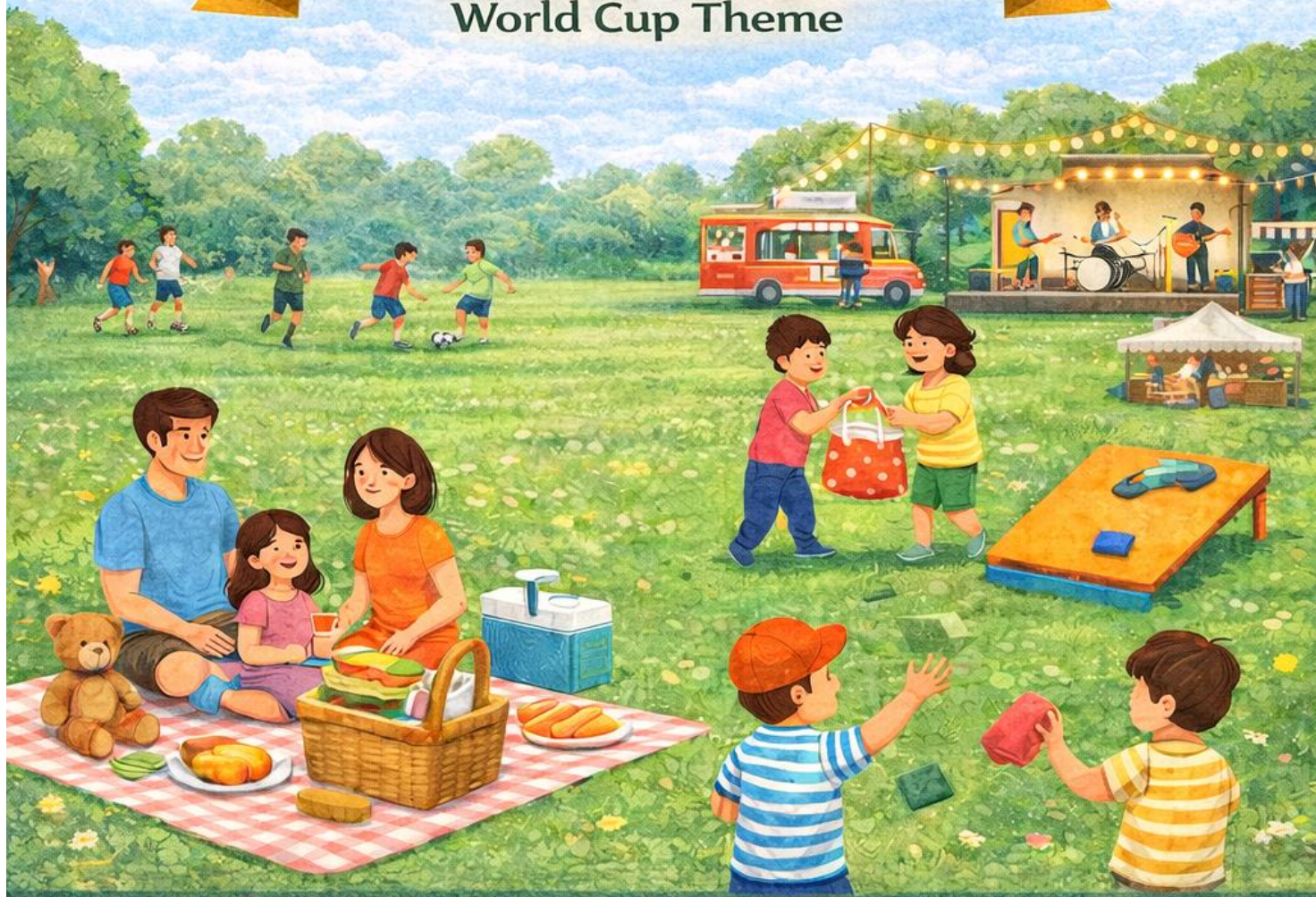


Baldons

FUN ON THE GREEN

BYO PICNIC & GARDEN GAMES

World Cup Theme



Marsh Baldon Green
Saturday, 11th July 2026
2pm onwards

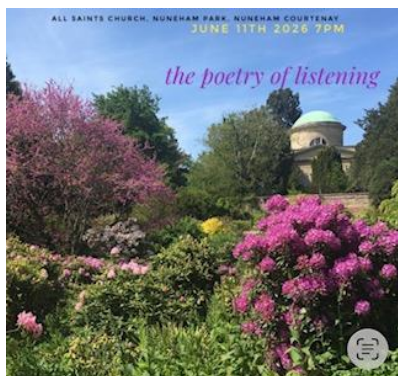


Live Bands • Arrival Drink • Food Tent

SUMMER SOIRÉES TO SAVE A CARPET

All Saints Church in the grounds of Nuneham Park contains a piece of the Coronation carpet which was made for the Coronation of King Edward VII at Westminster Abbey. Sadly the carpet has been damaged over time and needs extensive repair. During the Churches Conservation Trust festival “Celebrate your Church”, which runs from 5th to 14th June 2026, there will be two events to raise funds towards the cost of the repair of the carpet.

The Poetry of Listening: Thursday, June 11th from 7pm



This event will be held in the grounds of Nuneham Park and in the church. Philip Wells, otherwise known as the fire poet, will be performing along with harpist Hannah Skoda from Lower Farm who will play a programme of summary classical pieces to calm and lift the soul and Sirish Kumar who will accompany Philip on tabla. Sirish is making an album with the drummer for The Cure!

Philip is a descendant of the Harcourt family, who built the church. Through his own poetry and poetry across the ages, he will be telling the story of England and the glory of listening, revivifying the priceless promise of the Harcourt family motto, “Le Bon Temps Viendra” - the good times will come. Philip will be sharing poems about his ancestors, as well as poems written by Shelley and Lewis Carroll, who used to visit Nuneham Park with Alice of Wonderland fame. Refreshments will be available.

Come and support what will be a glorious evening in a wonderful setting. Please give generously as any funds received will kindly be match funded by Philip Wells.

Talk on the history of Nuneham Courtenay: Saturday 27th June at 7:30 pm

This event will take place in Nuneham Courtenay Village Hall. The talk will be by Professor Malcolm Airs, the noted expert on the village and the co-author of the new guide to Nuneham.

Tickets are £5, available from the Churches Conservation Trust website or on the door on the night. Copies of the new guide, which are also priced at £5, will be available to purchase on the evening. Refreshments will also be available to purchase. All monies raised will go to the CCT towards the repair of the carpet.



We hope both events will be well supported and look forward to seeing you on the night.

NUNEHAM COURTENAY PLAYING FIELD COMMITTEE

The community really joined together to collect and unload four amazing benches. The benches are reclamation pieces. When Zoe Harris and her partner heard about the project, they gave us a huge discount and the fourth bench for free. The benches were purchased with the funds John raised at a charity gig in London before Christmas. The transport and installation costs still need to be funded. They will form the contemplation area of the playing field. Details of how to purchase a dedication plaque will be available soon. This is the area where we also hope to place the children's handprint steppingstones as well.



The playing field has been awarded an Everybody Active grant. This brings our fundraising total this year to £4,800. Of course, £300 of that has been spent on the benches, as that portion was unrestricted funds. We hope to place play equipment on the field this year with the funds we have raised. A small group met with Bob Bowerman, the head groundman of St Edward's School. He inspected the ground and the grass and has given us advice on what we should do to make the surface of the playing field nicer for all users. We appreciate Bob's advice and his time, which he made no charge for. He kindly gave up a Sunday morning to do this. Our next round of fundraising will focus on ground works, as well as the gym equipment many of you have expressed a desire for.

If you wish to contribute to the playing field, you can do so via the QR code below:

Nuneham Courtenay Sports & Playing
Field Association's JustGiving Page



NUNEHAM COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL NEWS



Vintage Tea Party
Sunday June 14th
1-3 pm
Nuneham Courtenay Village Hall

For one day only the Village Hall will be transformed into a vintage tea shop selling a traditional afternoon tea. Join us for refreshments and music from the 40s and 50s. No charge to attend but cakes, refreshments, and vintage china will be offered for sale.



Book Club

Book Clubs meet once a month. Contact Arooj at nunehamcourtenay.villagehall@gmail.com for further details.

Yoga

Yoga continues most Monday evenings at 7:30ish. Contact Jenny or just rock up if you want to join in. Just £3 a session (all money goes to the village hall).

Book the hall

The village hall is available to book. Contact nunehamcourtenay.villagehall@gmail.com for more information

Connected communities grant

The village hall has benefited from a connected communities grant this year. If you are able to complete a survey for them, that would be most helpful. I have requested a paper version from them and will let you know if they are willing to provide one. The survey can be accessed via the QR code to the right:

The village hall does not usually run activities in the Summer. However, there has been a request to gather to watch the World Cup if England, Scotland, or Ireland make it through, which we will look into. This is not to leave out other countries, just those are the requests we have had. So, cross your fingers!

Demographic Survey Connected
Communities Fund 2025_2026



EVENTS IN DORCHESTER ABBEY

Sunday 7 June, 7pm. Langtree Sinfonia

Gilbert & Sullivan: Overture - The Pirates of Penzance. Hubert Parry: Symphony No. 3 in C major: The English. Elgar: Cello Concerto with celebrated Soloist: Ellen Baumring-Gledhill, finalist in the string section of BBC Young Musician of the year 2020 and Postgraduate at the Royal Academy of Music. Tickets langtreesinfonia.co.uk // or on the Door // £15 / Students £7.50 / Under 16s Free

Saturday 13 June, 7pm Orchestra of St John's

ENGLAND AND EMPIRE with RAPHAEL WALLFISCH Cello. VW's Symphony No 5 is a serene and contemplative work, often called the "Celestial City," completed in 1943 during World War II, which offers a pastoral and mysterious sound world that contrasts with the previous Fourth Symphony. Walton's Crown Imperial, a grand orchestral march from the 1937 coronation of King George VI, is a staple of British state occasions. Elgar's Cello Concerto is a deeply personal and elegiac work written after World War I, in contrast with his earlier, more bombastic style. Tickets £17.50 - £30 www.osj.org.uk

Saturday 20 June, 7:30pm Benson Choral Society

Acis & Galatea – A charming summer romp.

Handel's gem of a mini-opera or masque, Acis and Galatea, is a simple tale of Acis, a shepherd, and Galatea, a sea nymph. It was Handel's most popular stage work in his lifetime. The story is derived from Ovid's Metamorphoses, and it has a fine libretto by John Gay and Alexander Pope. There are many memorable moments, which include Polyphemus' great aria 'O ruddier than the cherry'. Soloists: Anastasia Bevan, Dominic Bevan. William Searle and Ben Davies (who has sung with the Sixteen) and authentic baroque orchestra a return of the Instruments of Time and Truth, all under the watchful baton of Tom Neal. Tickets www.bensonchoralsociety.org.uk £20 reserved or £17 unreserved.

For Full Up to Date Event Listings & All Ticket Links:

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UPDATE FROM OLLY GLOVER MP

This last month has been full of interesting constituency visits, advice surgeries with constituents, and busy days campaigning for change in Parliament. Speaking in debates helps create change for local people and our community. I attended two e-petition debates that a significant number of constituents had signed to represent their views and concerns on maternity services and animal testing. At Prime Minister's Questions I challenged Keir Starmer on social and affordable housing, as new developments in the constituency continue to price out local people and young first-time buyers. The Government needs to support local councils to deliver truly affordable homes, alongside vital infrastructure. In addition, I spoke about the many cases of delayed licence renewal and medical assessments, calling for improvements to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA).

I was proud to represent the Wantage-based charity SUDEP Action in my debate on sudden and unexpected death in epilepsy (SUDEP) prevention. Founded by five women, the charity works tirelessly to support bereaved families and raise awareness. Multiple other MPs attended the debate, sharing their own constituents' stories and highlighting the repeated cycles of injustice that too many families have faced. The minister responded by promising to meet with me, and I look forward to discussing the next steps the Government needs to take.

At a Wantage Chamber of Commerce event, local Wantage businesses raised the impact of changes to business rates, soaring energy costs and changes to employment legislation on their viability. Two weeks later, I made their voices heard to the treasury minister in parliament and will continue to push for a fairer deal for our local businesses.

I also had the pleasure of visiting RAW Workshop, a social enterprise manufacturing high-quality furniture. The organisation channels their profits into their youth training schemes, supporting young people facing mental health and educational barriers, and adults re-entering the workforce. On a sunny day in Wallingford, I attended KatieFest, an inclusive rugby tournament for children and adults with special educational needs and disabilities, chatting with wonderful charities and parents.

At the Didcot Powerhouse Fund Impact event, we celebrated the fantastic work of local groups and organisations for Didcot and the surrounding areas. It is a pleasure to spend time with so many people making a meaningful contribution to their neighbours and our communities.

This month, my hardworking team and I passed the milestone of 15,000 individual cases handled since I was elected. As always, if there is anything you feel I can help with, please do not hesitate to contact me and my team at olly.glover.mp@parliament.uk or by leaving a voice message on 0207 219 7657.

Happy Summer from The Maple Tree!

However, as I write this the day looks very grey and the heat is back on! Whatever the weather, Laura, Becky, Helen, and our lovely volunteers will always have the kettle on and a warm welcome waiting for you. If you are a new parent/carer, do come and visit us – it will only be a new and different place once!



A great place to grow

I'm always surprised when parents tell me that they didn't know that we existed! Do help spread the word, as this village is very fortunate to have a Children's Centre in these times. We rely heavily on our trustees, volunteers, session donations, grants, The Maple Tree Market and our various fundraising schemes and events to survive. Please let us know if you can help support us in any way!

We have a session every weekday morning for families from Wheatley and the surrounding villages. In addition, we have a Family Fun session on the 3rd Saturday of the month. On June 20th we have a Celebration of Twins and on July 18th we have Under the Sea as themes for our Family Fun.

Mondays: Messy Monday at 10:00-11:30am and Twins' Club at 2:00-4:00pm

Tuesdays: Smart Start at 9:30-11:30am

Wednesdays: Maple Babies at 9:30am-12:00pm

Thursdays: Time to Rhyme at 9:30-11:30am and

The Maple Tree at Forest Hill Village Hall from 10:30am-12:00pm

Fridays: Little Learners at 10:00-11:30am

Saturdays: Family Fun at 10:00-11:30am

We will be holding our popular Village Outreach Sessions again this summer. These sessions are designed for 0-5s, but older siblings are welcome too. We will also be holding several Ready for School sessions, which will be very helpful if you have children starting school in September.

Wish List:

- Volunteers for our Wednesday morning Maple Babies from 9:30-12:00 and for our Friday Morning Little Learners from 10:00-11:30.
- A trustee or two or three – someone who cares about children having the best start in life, and/or someone who is willing to take on The Maple Tree finances or fundraising.

We are here to help if you need advice or support: 01865 236700.

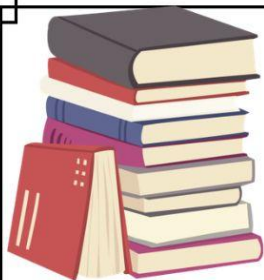
Email: info@mapletree.org.uk

Website: www.mapletree.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheMapleTreeWheatley

Instagram: @themapletreecentre

Laura Spencer- The Maple Tree Centre Manager



Berinsfield Library

News and events

The **Library**

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The **Library**
Oxfordshire



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www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries
www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk



Read to the Beat illustrations by Harry Woodgate, illustrations and logo © The Reading Agency 2026

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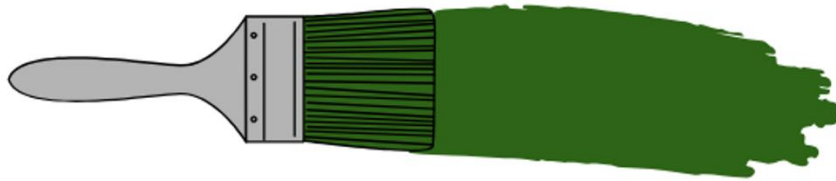
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CHURCH SERVICES FOR JUNE 2026

7 th June	10.30am	Marsh Baldon	Holy Communion
14 th June	4.00pm	Toot Baldon	Evensong
21 st June	9.30am	Toot Baldon	Holy Communion
28 th June	10.30am	Dorchester	Team Ordination Service
5 th July	11.00am	Toot Baldon	Air Crash Service
5 th July	10.30am	Dorchester	Baptisms and Confirmations

KEEPING OUR CHURCHYARDS AS BEAUTIFUL SPACES

We want to keep our churchyards as beautiful spaces and we are very grateful to those who maintain them through the year. However, we also regularly have to clear away rubbish left in the churchyards, including dead flowers, plastic packaging and broken vases, alongside other less pleasant items.



The council do not collect rubbish from the churches and nor, sadly, do we have Wombles living in our churchyards (we're a long way from Wimbledon Common, after all!) so we would be very grateful if everyone could take home any rubbish, rather than leaving it for others to clear away.

Thank you - PCC

CHURCH FLOWERS

Date	Marsh	Toot
31 st May & 7 th June	Laura Martin	Vanessa & Tracey
14 th & 21 st June	Veronica Sandilands	Jenny & Jane
28 th June & 5 th July	Holly Chivers	Ann & Heather

OTHER CHURCH DUTIES

Date	Sidesduty	Reader 1	Reader 2	Intercessions
7 th June	Peter	Ian	Sara	Peter
14 th June	John & Heather	Peter	Catherine	-
21 st June	John & Catherine	Claerwen	John	Veronica



UPCOMING WEDDING

Luke Lobo-Glaister and Rosemary Brook (from Crowmarsh & Toot Baldon) will be married at St Lawrence, Toot Baldon at 1.30pm on Saturday 20th June.