

The Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter



May 2026

FROM REVD JANE WILLIS, RECTOR OF DORCHESTER

Happy Easter!

Yes, it's still Easter... The resurrection is way too significant to celebrate for just one day. The gospels tell us that over a forty-day period the risen Jesus appeared to his followers – including, at one point, a crowd of over five hundred. Lastly, he called his disciples together and commissioned them to share the good news of his coming with all the world – but first they are to wait, and to pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus then blessed his followers and was taken up into a cloud and into heaven. Those disciples who had been bewildered and bereft at the crucifixion are bereft again. But this time they gather in that upper room, faithfully watching, waiting and praying for the coming of the promised Holy Spirit – who would equip them and empower them to share the gospel with the world. We read how at Pentecost the Holy Spirit came, with what seemed to be tongues of fire and the sound of a mighty wind – and we see the disciples transformed and sent out as the good news of Jesus begins to be shared around the world. Two thousand years later church exists because the news of that same transforming relationship with Jesus has been passed from one generation to another. But like those first disciples, we cannot do this in our own strength – we too need the power of the Holy Spirit.

So since that time Christians have kept that 'novena', nine days of prayer, from Ascension to Pentecost. In the last ten years, beginning with the Church of England, but now internationally and interdenominationally, this has found new energy and focus in a season of prayer called 'Thy Kingdom Come'.

Jesus taught us to pray for the coming of God's kingdom on earth, as it is already in heaven. In biblical times a monarch ruled with absolute power – their kingdom was where their will was done. Every time we pray the Lord's Prayer we pray for the coming of God's kingdom – for God's good and perfect will to be done, as it is in heaven – in our lives and in our world.

So I invite you now to join in that season of prayer – beginning on Ascension Day, 14th May. I've heard wonderful things about an Ascension Day service on Wittenham Clumps in 2004, where the Clumps were fittingly lost in low cloud. Maybe we will repeat that some time (though we cannot promise the same weather!) – this year we will be at another high point in our Dorchester Team area – at Toot Baldon. More information will follow – and we will have resources to offer you. Of all the 'high points' in the church year, Ascension Day is the most prone to be forgotten (maybe because it's on a Thursday?) – but let us remember this year, explore its treasure – and join with those first disciples, as we watch and wait and pray.

Every blessing
Jane

DORCHESTER TEAM Ascension Day



Join us as we celebrate Ascension Day and
pray for the coming of God's Kingdom

Thursday 14th May at 7.30pm
at St Lawrence Church
Toot Baldon OX44 9NF

**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

THE ANNUAL PLANT SWAP

ON SUNDAY 3rd MAY

10.30 TO 12.00 Marsh Baldon village hall

Bring seedlings and plants to swap OR just come and buy with a donation.

PLEASE TRY to bring something with you so we have a good variety and quantity of plants.

The more you bring.... the more we have to swap/sell

So now is a great time to pot up your surplus seedlings/cuttings/and divided plants

COME AND ENJOY TEA, COFFEE AND DELICIOUS CAKES WHETHER YOU BUY PLANTS OR NOT.

ALL ARE WELCOME.

Profit this year goes to maintenance of the village orchards.

We look forward to seeing you.

**For more info please contact Lizie or Diana
liziegiraudeau@gmail.com
Dianabelli@btinternet.com**



All local villagers are warmly invited to come and join the local school children as they perform the traditional Maypole Dance.

The Friends of Marsh Baldon will also be hosting a bake sale and pre-loved uniform sale, helping to raise funds for the Summer Science trip.

Gates will open at 1:45pm on 1st May.

Cash is preferred for purchases, and we'd be very grateful for any donations.

We'd love to see you there!

BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Annual Village meeting

Our Annual Village Meeting will be held on the 14th May at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Marsh Baldon.

The agenda will be circulated. It is an informal meeting where you can come along and hear about the works and activities of your Parish Council and updates from our village charities, committees, and businesses this past 12 months. It's also an opportunity to enjoy some refreshments and talk to your councillors about village matters. We hope to see you there.

Works on the Green

The ditch across the green has been cleared of overgrown vegetation in preparation for it to be dredged as part of the flood alleviation works. You will see works being completed over the next month to inspect and repair damaged culverts and water flows.

Gully and drain clearance and maintenance works

We have had advice from the OCC drainage team that the works that were not completed in February of this year have been scheduled for the new financial year starting April 2026. We have to wait for that schedule to be published later this month and will update when we have more information.

Fly tipping

As we are sure you will have noticed, over the last few months, there has been a marked increase in fly tipping in both Marsh and Toot Baldon, with the road from Toot Baldon down to the B480 having been particularly targeted by the tippers.

We are working with some residents and are in communications with the authorities regarding the correlation of the increase in these events with the timing of the introduction of the new booking system at waste and recycling centres in Oxford. There is also a possibility of aid to set up monitored CCTV cameras via an initiative with "Clean up Britain".

Thank you to Darren Baber and his family for consistently reporting fly tips quickly, the data from those combined with all other reports from residents and the parish council is invaluable in making our case. Thanks also to Phil Collins who is spearheading the approach to Clean up Britain and the relevant authorities.

We will update as we learn more. In the meantime, if you see a fly tip and can report it, please email: admin.southoxford@biffa.co.uk with a photo and a location (via what3words if you can) and copy clerk@baldonspc.org so we can add to the data we have.

Baldons village website

Work is nearly complete for the new website to go live. Until the new site is available, we will post meeting minutes and agendas via Baldons info and any other important updates also.

Future Parish Council meeting dates 2026

11th May 2026

14th May 2026 - Annual Village Meeting.

13th July 2026

14th September 2026

9th November 2026

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

NUNEHAM COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Very little to write about this month. But there are two meetings to tell you about: one that I think you might enjoy and one about which I can't honestly say the same thing.

Annual Parish Meeting – New date

The parish council had to find a new date for the Annual Parish Meeting, which was supposed to take place on Thursday 14th April. It will now take place on Tuesday 19th May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Everyone is very welcome. Refreshments will be available and it's a chance to meet your neighbours and talk about things you want to see done in the parish. I hope to see you there.

I must apologise for my oversight. At the beginning of April, I prepared to issue the notice for the meeting thinking a fortnight must be enough time, but when I checked the legislation – it's the kind of thing we parish clerks do – I found to my horror that you have to give twice as much notice if the meeting is going to discuss winding up a parish council, which it is. Not a piece of legislation I have ever had to worry about before – and probably not one I will ever have to think about again. I hope to see you at the meeting on 19th May. I will be the person sitting in the corner wearing a dunce's cap.

Parish Council's annual meeting

This meeting that takes place on Tuesday 5th May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall is the one where the council elects one of the councillors to chair the council for the year ahead. The parish council also does lots of very dull stuff amending or re-adopting all its policies and procedures, approving stuff to send to its auditor and dealing with any really urgent business.

Do come if you're interested to watch or if you wish to address the council, but don't say I told you it would be exciting, because I haven't. If you want the freedom to voice hopes and concerns, you're much better attending the Annual Parish Meeting a fortnight later – see above.

Geoffrey Ferres - Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer
clerk@nunehamcourtenay-pc.gov.uk

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Items for the June 2026 newsletter
by **16th May 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

LUNCH CLUB

After 14 years of running Nuneham Courtenay Adult Lunch Club, Georgia and the team have decided to hang up their aprons and retire.

Regrettably therefore, unless new volunteers come forward, the last monthly lunch for nearly 50 residents of Nuneham and the neighbouring villages will be served in December.

Club members have said how much they will miss the opportunity to gather together in the village hall and share a meal with friends.

If anyone is interested in organising the continuation of the Lunch Club, please contact Georgia Gillett by emailing whisperinggeorgia@hotmail.com by 31st July.

The current committee will be on hand until Christmas to advise and assist any new volunteer leaders.

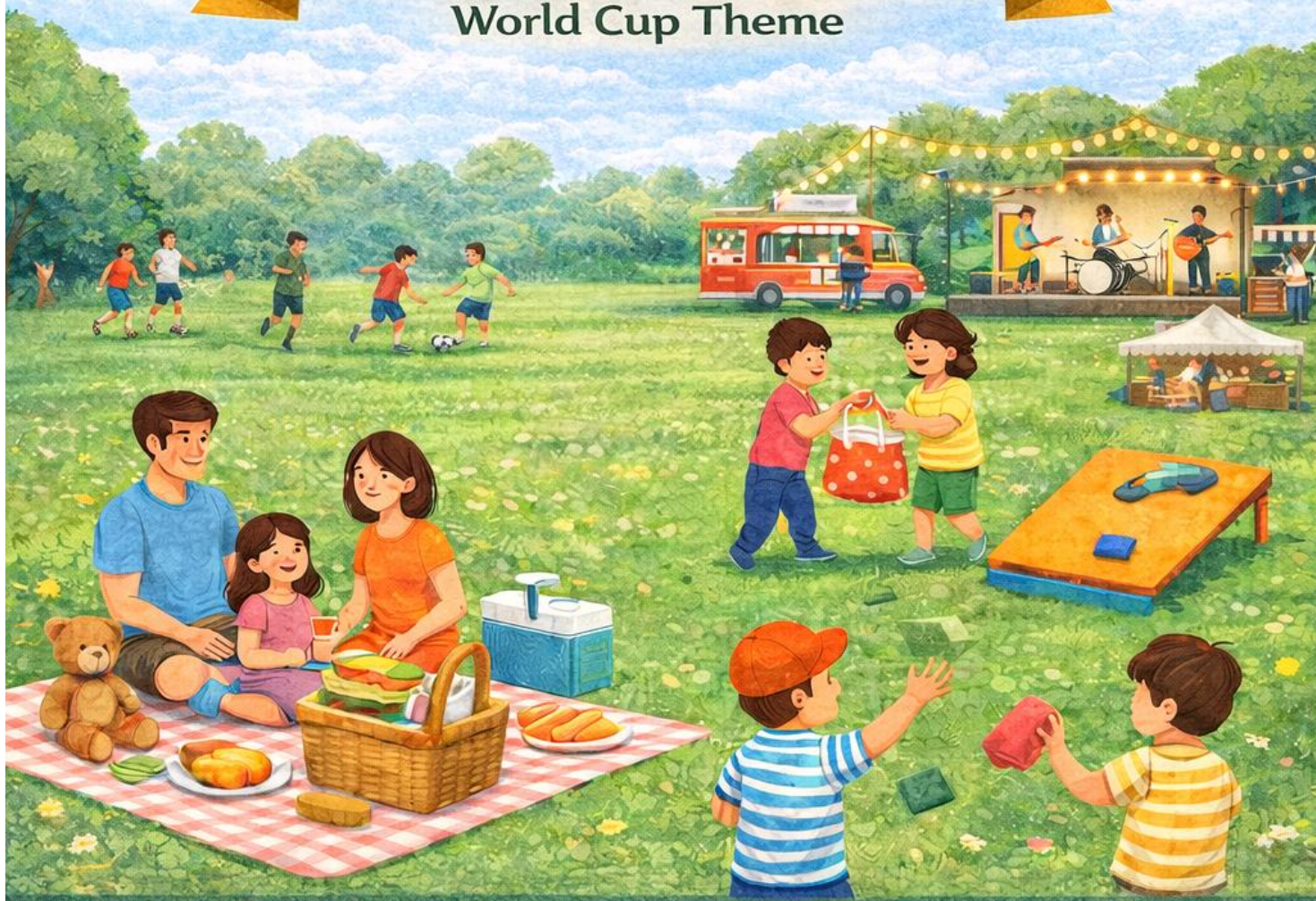


Baldons

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

NUNEHAM COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL NEWS



Quiz Night – 15th May!

Come along for a fun quiz evening. Form a team of no more than six people. No team- no problem! Come along and we will organize teams on the night. Drinks and refreshments available to purchase. Please remember due to licensing rules only items purchased from the hall can be consumed at the event.

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 below:



Looking forward.... Vintage tea party – date tbc

FLOWERS FROM TOOT



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UPDATE FROM OLLY GLOVER MP

Spring is a beautiful time across the constituency, with warm sunshine at last, and so many roadsides and woods enhanced by daffodils and bluebells.

Trump's illegal military actions in Iran have caused significant death and global disruption to gas and oil supplies, which rural areas have felt the brunt of. Many constituents have expressed concerns over tripling oil prices and the need for urgent support for rural communities, many of whom are dependent on heating oil for warmth. I signed an Early Day Motion to introduce a three-month zero rating of VAT and price caps to help alleviate some of this financial burden. The government must take further action to protect rural residents who are vulnerable to sudden price rises.

In Parliament I raised concerns about local government funding, road safety, and improving women's health. In a debate on the condition of rural roads, attended by MPs representing dozens of counties all frustrated by the state of their roads, I spoke about the need for better approaches to road design, maintenance, and repair across the country. Funding to maintain our roads must be spent both on fixing potholes, and on long-term, preventative work, such as drainage improvements and surface dressing.

Back in the constituency, I have spent time with some incredible community organisations, education facilities, and local businesses. I had a beautiful tour of the nature reserve at the Sutton Courtenay Environmental Education Centre, near Milton Park, run by the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT), which educates the community about protecting nature and local wildlife. In addition, I answered questions from Year 12 Politics students at Wallingford School.

I had a fascinating visit of Moderna Innovation and Technology Centre, a biotechnology company manufacturing vaccines based on Harwell Campus, and learnt about Infinis, based in Sutton Courtenay, who are turning gases from landfill sites into renewable energy.

These constituency activities help me understand the day-to-day challenges faced by people and organisations in the local area, and I will continue to hold the Labour government to account and push for change at a national level.

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.

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Live Music

Come and listen to
Jubilee Brass (Oxford) Band
Saturday 23rd May
4-6pm



Seven Stars at Marsh Baldon CLASSIC CAR SHOW



19th May

FROM 5.00 pm onwards

AT THE GREEN MARSH BALDON

A MUST-SEE EVENT FOR THE CLASSIC
CAR ENTHUSIASTS BROUGHT TO YOU BY
THE SEVEN STARS

EVENTS INCLUDE:

CAR SHOW - FOOD & DRINKS

MORE INFORMATION:

01865 343337 info@sevenstarsatmb.co.uk

Made with PosterMyWall.com

Thali dates - 14 & 28 May

Quiz nights - 6 & 20 May

Classic Car Show future dates - 16 June, 21 July, 18 Aug, 15 Sept

Aunt Sally Season starting soon - For fixtures watch this space.

Seven Stars At Marsh Baldon

OPEN

BANK HOLIDAY

MONDAY

4TH & 27TH MAY

FOOD 12PM -6PM

DRINKS 12PM - 8PM

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CHURCH SERVICES FOR MAY 2026

3 rd May	10.30am	Marsh Baldon	Holy Communion
10 th May	4.00pm	Toot Baldon	Evensong
14 th May (Thursday)	7.30pm	Toot Baldon	Team Holy Communion for Ascension Day
17 th May	9.30am	Toot Baldon	Holy Communion
24 th May	11.00am	Marsh Baldon	Holy Communion & Baptism
31 st May	10.30am	Marsh Baldon	Team Service

CHURCH FLOWERS

Date	Marsh	Toot
3 rd & 10 th May	Iris Wright	Ann & Heather
17 th & 24 th May	Beth McLaughlin	Linda & Elaine
31 st May & 7 th June	Laura Martin	Vanessa & Tracey

OTHER CHURCH DUTIES

Date	Sidesduty	Reader 1	Reader 2	Intercessions
3 rd May	Claerwen	Natasha	Veronica	Catherine
10 th May	John & Catherine	Sara	John	-
14 th May	Natasha	Peter	Catherine	-
17 th May	John & Heather	Claerwen	Natasha	Sara
24 th May	Sara	-	-	-
31 st May	Natasha & Peter	-	-	-



UPCOMING WEDDING

John Kingsman and Melissa Beale (from Horspath) will be married at St Lawrence, Toot Baldon at 3pm on Sunday 24th May.