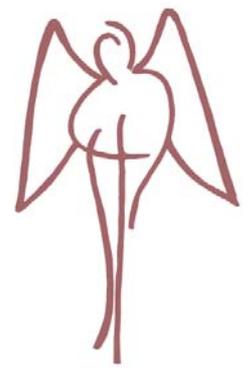


the guardian angel

your community's news & views



This publication is produced by a team at St Michael & All Angels Parish Church, a member of the Summertown-Wolvercote Church Partnership.

Local Star Line up for the Library

The North Wall Arts Centre
Saturday 18th October 8pm



Compère Will Gompertz



Upgrade needed for library

Will Gompertz, local resident and BBC Arts Editor will compère a star-packed evening of readings and talks. Acclaimed local authors Margaret Drabble (*The Pure Gold Baby*), Mark Haddon (*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*), Barbara Trapido (*Sex and Stravinsky*) and Tim Pears (*In the Light of Morning*) will be taking part. There will be a musical interlude from international opera star Christopher Purves, who took the central solo baritone role at the First Night of the Proms. There will also be an opportunity to buy signed copies of books or have your own copy signed.

Tim Pears has brought this talented group together. He explains "In 2011 the Friends of the Summertown Library successfully campaigned to keep the Summertown Library open, now the campaign has changed from protest to fundraising. We really are lucky to have a cultural hub in South Parade. There's a thriving independent book shop, library, theatre and art gallery, with restaurants to go to afterwards."



Author Barbara Trapido joins a star cast (photo Tony Kaplan)

The plan is for more bookshelves, walkways and seating in the library. There is also a need for a more flexible layout to enable meetings to take place, and provide more space for children and their parents. Wi-fi would be another useful addition. Marcus Ferrar, Chairman of the Friends, adds "Funds raised so far total £34,000. We need plenty more, so please remember what this library has meant to you and your children." So now's our chance-let's make this evening a roaring success! Tickets £15; concessions £12.

www.thenorthwall.com Tel: 01865 319450

Home... and a Loan?

You will need more than a small loan in order to get on to the property ladder in Summertown, Cutteslowe or Waterways. According to surveyors Knight Frank in Summertown, house prices have increased 40-50% over the last 5 years.

For young people or low wage earners who aspire to buy and settle near family or friends, spiraling property prices render their hopes almost impossible. There appears feverish building development in all corners of



A large housing development in Summertown - but how much of this is social housing?

Summertown and beyond for private sales. However, there seems little evidence of provision for an inclusive mix of private and social dwellings. Questions remain regarding the amount of social housing to be incorporated into future developments - the Ewert House/Diamond Place site in Summertown, to name but one.

The Northern Gateway, a large development being planned just north of the Woodstock Road roundabout is aiming to provide up to 500 new homes. Oxford City Council states: "The project provides the opportunity to deliver additional housing including affordable housing to help address the growing need in Oxford." It goes on to say, "In particular there is a specific and pressing need for affordable housing in the city. As such a minimum of 50% affordable housing will be required, with 80% of those provided as social rented..." (Northern Gateway Area Action Plan Proposed Submission, July 2014). However, it will not necessarily be North Oxford folk who are allocated houses in this new scheme. It seems that the provision for social housing for the people of Summertown, Cutteslowe and the Waterways is still a long way off. Although studies for new home builds in Oxford are investigating urban extension into the Green Belt, pockets of urban capacity for social housing still need careful scrutiny, if we are to provide for local people.



There are still good size plots for housing development in Summertown

Please email comments or contributions for the next edition of Guardian Angel to guardianangel.newsletter@gmail.com or write to The Parish Administrator, Summertown Church Hall, Portland Rd, OX2 7EZ.

The deadline date for the next edition is November 5th; we look forward to hearing from you.

September 2014 (7)



A Threshold Experience

The church of St Michael & All Angels, Lonsdale Rd is possibly the largest indoor public space in Summertown. Not known to everyone in the local community, it is hoped that in the future this space will become more hospitable and accessible. The intention is to complete the building which was abruptly finished with a temporary wall some hundred years ago. The threshold plans are for a lobby area with glass entrance doors and windows, opening up the very light interior of the church within. Within the wings of the lobby will be new toilets, a kitchen, meeting space and office.



Gavin Knight, vicar of St Michael's says, "We are dedicated to welcoming people in every

situation of life, and this light and airy threshold we hope will extend that welcome and accessibility, enabling the church's potential within the community to be realised." Gavin has called this work a 'threshold ministry.' He used the term in a recent BBC interview, and it also features on the church's website welcome page.

An exhibition of the plans can be viewed in St Michael's on Sunday mornings or other open times; see www.stmichaels-summertown.org.uk

Our Waterways Scrummy

From my flat I look out on to the lively ever-changing canal-scape that I love.... but I still sometimes miss pottering around in a garden; when I feel like this I take myself down to the Trap Grounds. Here I can revel in the wonderful trees and rediscover the childhood joy of pond life and wildflowers. At this time of year I am harvesting the bountiful blackberries and finding a few cookers to go with them too – I am back home just now cooking up a scrumptious



crumble and pondering, "Who needs a garden anyway?" (Trap Grounds are one bridge on towards town from Elizabeth Jennings Way). *Jan Cook*
<http://trap-grounds.org.uk>

The Book House — Service for 35 Years

Go into The Book House on the corner of South Parade and the Banbury Road and you are likely to be served by one of the three co-managers. Renée is a bestselling children's author in her native Germany, David is an author and publisher, while Kate has an interest in fine art and illustration. Kate acknowledges that electronic publishing is a



Co-Managers Kate, David and Renée

threat but says "there are still a lot of people who like the smell and feel of a real book." Online shopping is also a challenge, but The Book House supply a personal service, offering friendly advice that is particularly useful if you want an unusual or quirky book. If they don't have the book you want, most can be delivered by the following

morning. Almost half the floor space is given over to children's and teen books, and youngsters are encouraged to sit on the bean bag and browse. It's also a great place to pick up cards, wrapping paper, toys and games. There is also a generous Loyalty Card scheme.

www.thebookhousesummertown.co.uk

Yours truly... Sophie Grigson

Cookery writer, celebrity chef and Pop Up Kitchen owner

Sophie grew up and has lived in Oxford for many years, for the last five in Summertown. Inspired in her career by her mother, the legendary English cookery writer, Jane Grigson, she has won awards, appeared in numerous TV series, and written many successful cookery books, as well as feature columns in major newspapers and journals. She and Raymond Blanc are patrons of The Oxfordshire Children's Food Festival. Her first article ever was for a student magazine, whilst



in Manchester studying Maths; 'How to make a perfect cheese souffle to impress your boyfriend.' Food meant more than 'just recipes' to Sophie, even then! Her magic answer was to use only good, strong, mature cheddar. Today Sophie runs a successful Pop Up Cookery Class business in which she enjoys teaching her recipes. Her first instruction to students in class is; 'Sharpen your knives every time you use them! It's the commonest error in the kitchen not to do this.' Back to Maths. 'That's what I use when inventing a new recipe,' says Sophie. 'It's all about quantities, order, proportion, timing and getting the correct answer at the end!'

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Neighbourhood Forum
AGM meeting
30th October 7.30pm
at NOA, Diamond Place, Summertown,
 when elections for the Steering Committee will proceed.
 2015 promises to be a year with major planning issues including spin-offs from the Northern Gateway and the new Water Eaton railway station. Help on this committee would be much appreciated.
www.summertownstmargaretsforum.org.uk



Unwelcome Graffiti-Talk and Report

The recent spate of graffiti in and around Summertown spoils our neighbourhood. What can be done? Talk to your neighbours. When did it happen? Was the culprit seen? Report it to the police, who currently hope to press charges with certain suspects. You may like to work with



neighbours and scrub it off (some is easy, some impossible) or even paint over it, but take photos first, should the police need evidence later. Approach the manager of any local shop or company which has been vandalised, asking when they can remove the graffiti; it's in their interest to please their customers! Flag up *all* new graffiti on the Council's website - search *Report It* - hate crime or racist graffiti reported is fast tracked for removal the same day. Contact the Council's 'Streetscene Service' which pursues the Council's anti-graffiti policy. All council owned buildings and utility boxes will have graffiti removed free of charge; for BT phone boxes and Royal mail post boxes, or property belonging to Network Rail, staff will inform these companies to remove. For all other private buildings and businesses, Streetscene can inspect, send owners a quote, and log details for future reference.

streetscene@oxford.gov.uk Tel: 01865 252957
www.oxford.gov.uk

Shared Lives

Well we all have this, don't we? We have a structure of support in our daily lives as part of a family or a community, which gives us degrees of tolerance, love and acceptance. Vulnerable adults are those who live with physical disability, mental health issues or learning disability, whose lives have been a series of losses and breakdowns, without the nurturing of a family for support.

Shared Lives (a country-wide scheme) run by Oxfordshire County Council seeks to find carers for vulnerable adults; long term and respite carers welcome 'guests' into their homes, where they live as part of the family. We have been **Shared Lives** respite carers for 4 years and have six regular 'guests'. This gives their own carers a vital break and our guests can receive some family nurturing in the wider community. Visits to the cinema, ten pin bowling, pub grub or just chatting are some of the things we share together. Do you have a spare room? Could you do this too? Talk to us, Sue & David Smith to learn more:

Tel: 01865 559433 or email me: susan@sharetoo.co.uk or visit



NOA – Foundation and Future

Since its early establishment in 1967, the North Oxford Association's (NOA) aim has always been: **'to find out what the community wants and strive to provide this'**. In the early days, NOA held youth clubs, drama groups and other urgently needed social groups



in various Summertown venues. It now operates from its main centre in Diamond Place, Summertown, (past the Co-op into the car park and it's in the far right corner), and also from the Cutteslowe Pavilion. NOA

members manage the Centre, where its main hall is hired for clubs, groups and wide ranging courses from Pilates to Lip reading to children's Monkey Music! It's also used for public meetings. NOA arranges outings for the elderly, hospital transport assistance (where there is a real need), regular health walks, lunch clubs and a variety of social events including a folk club. The Centre also runs a good and reasonably priced all day coffee and snack bar with soup lunches available. This is a friendly 'drop in' coffee corner for all local residents with an advertising board and a reception/ information area if you need that too. There are toilet facilities for the disabled and a baby changing room.



NOA purpose-built Community Centre

All this needs volunteers. As the older members retire, new members are needed who can commit to an hour or two, or more a week. All skills are needed, from a friendly face in reception, to computer work, driving, coffee bar duties, library maintenance, organising outings, stock taking, to reporter and writer for NOA's quarterly journal. New plans are being discussed for redevelopment of the Diamond Place area in the local Neighbourhood Development Plan. Let's give NOA and the Centre our full support now to provide and maintain this brilliant service and community initiative for Summertown's future. If you are interested in becoming a member of NOA, please contact David Potts, Chairman: info@northoxfordassociation.org.uk Tel: 01865 552295



An early harvest!
Vines grow well in Summertown!

~ Autumn crop hanging over a Lonsdale Road wall

An invitation for all to the

 **Summertown** 

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Friday 26th September 10.30-12.00 noon

'West end' St Michaels' Church
Lonsdale Rd

Fresh coffee and yummie pastries provided by local retailers!

In aid of cancer support



St Michael & All Angels Church All are welcome!

Sundays

8.00 am Holy Eucharist - with a short sermon.

10.00 am Parish Eucharist - with choir and hymns. Have a coffee and a chat afterwards.

Children's Church - Meets in the church during 10.00 am Eucharist. **We have a Godly Play session every 4th Sunday.** On the 1st Sunday of the month the children participate in the All-age Eucharist.

6.30 pm Taizé Worship - A short candlelit service including chants and silent prayer. (Quiet Time in July/August).

3.30 pm 3rd Sunday of month: Messy Church
Cutteslowe Community Centre, Wren Road.

Weekdays

9.30 am Morning Prayer

10.00 am Tuesdays: Baby & Toddler Group
Play for children and chat for grown-ups!
Contact Juliet Field (see below for details)

8.00 pm Keeping Faith through the Seasons
1st Tuesday of the month: for fellowship, fun and learning. Contact Samantha on 01865 557449
curate@stmichaels-summertown.org.uk

10.00 am Thursdays: Holy Eucharist
Ministry of healing on the 1st Thursday of the month.

5.30 pm Thursdays: St Michael's Choristers age 3+:
Term-time only. Contact Alice on 07791 328108

6.30 - 7.45 pm Thursdays: Adult Choir Practice
Contact Stephen on 07717 852020

9.00 am 1st Saturday of the month: Men's Breakfast
An informal social group.
Contact Steve on 01865 552475

Contact Details

Revd Gavin Knight (vicar)
01865 556079 / 07833 251939

"No matter where you are on the journey of faith, you are always welcome at St Michael & All Angels!" Find us just off the Banbury Road opposite BBC Oxford.



The upper and lower Church Halls (with kitchens) are available for hire. We advise early booking.

Contact Juliet Field
01865 311762 or email:

summertownchurchhall@tiscali.co

The parish church of St Michael & All Angels warmly invites you to experience a host opportunities for fellowship, hopes and memories:



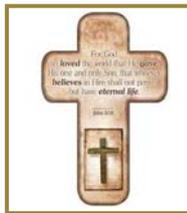
St Michael & All Angels Patronal Festival (Michaelmas)

Sunday 28th September, 10am Holy Eucharist
This is the celebration of the church's patron saint, Michael and all of God's angels. This special service is followed by an informal lunch with a quiz and an angel hunt!



Harvest Festival

Sunday 5th October, 10am All Age Eucharist
All the family are welcome at this informal service. We are raising money for the Oxford Food Bank, all donations gratefully received.



All Souls' Choral Evensong

Sunday, 2nd November, 6.30pm

Following the Book of Common Prayer, this is a time to remember those we have loved and see no longer. If you would like the name of your loved one read out, please inform Gavin.



Remembrance Sunday

Sunday, 9th November, 10.00am

This service of the word is a dignified occasion that involves a procession from church and short act of remembrance at the War Memorial in the gardens of the church hall.



Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols

Sunday, 14th December, 6.30pm

Listen to our choir in full voice and enjoy their growing reputation as well as anticipating Christmas.



for your supper...
...whatever your age!

Would you like your child to learn to sing and gain confidence? All children can learn to sing! If they are between ages 4 and 10 they can join **St Michael's choristers**. **Rehearsals on Thursday at 5.30pm for ½ hour**, where there is already a thriving group of young local singers. The choristers sing at St Michael's on the 1st Sunday of each month, led by experienced director, Alice Stainer. **For more details telephone Alice on: 07791 328108.** Older children and adults are welcome to join the church's senior choir.