

the guardian angel

your community's news & views



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

Summertown's Traffic Conundrums - Have Your Say

North Oxford's traffic infrastructure is at breaking point.



Every day there are nose to tail traffic jams on the Woodstock and Banbury Roads. The proposed Northern

Gateway would bring another 500 homes and 8000 extra jobs to our area. The County Council's own figures estimate that traffic will increase by 44% on the Woodstock Road and by 27% on the Banbury Road by 2026. How will our roads cope?

The Council is hoping that people passing through Summertown will take buses, cycle or walk to work at the Northern Gateway rather than use their cars, but many will not be able to do that. Improving the bus service would seem to be the answer, with dedicated bus lanes to avoid traffic jams. The new Oxford Parkway railway station that is due to open in September should help. Remember that we can do our bit to reduce traffic by leaving our cars at home and opting for the healthier alternatives of walking, cycling or taking the bus. At a recent meeting of the Neighbourhood Forum, congestion charging, flexible use of road space and charging for private parking in the city centre were all suggested as means of reducing traffic in Summertown. We could also encourage cycling and walking by improving cycle tracks and foot paths. Let me know what you think about Summertown's transport problems and solutions.

Neil MacLennan, Convenor, Summertown St Margaret's Transport Group: neilsstmntransport@gmail.com

Summertown Neighbourhood Forum

Good progress is being made on the Neighbourhood Plan. Residents in the Forum district should have received our information sheet and questionnaire. It would help us greatly if you could complete and return the questionnaire. www.surveymonkey.com/s/SQJF5SS We will announce shortly a meeting to discuss the City Council's latest thinking about the Ewert House/Diamond Place site. The Forum and its steering group welcomes help and support from anyone who is interested in the future of the area. Please go on to our mailing list: www.summertownstmargaretsforum.org.uk

Community Emergency Food Bank - not just about the food

Jane Benyon set up the Community Emergency Food Bank 8 years ago, when she retired as a social worker. It operates from St. Francis Church in Headington, and another centre will open soon in Littlemore. The majority of donations come from over 40 churches. It also receives public

donations made at Waitrose in Headington and Asda in Wheatley. To access the scheme you need vouchers obtainable from over 50 agencies, including Children's Centres, health and social work professionals and your



Making up the food orders

local vicar. The Food Bank is designed to be used by people three times a year in times of emergency during a financial crisis. Zero hours contracts, job insecurity and changes in benefits can all lead to a temporary lack of cash to buy food. In many cases there is no extended family to help when a family hits a lean patch. Over 3,300 people used the service last year, (1,750 in 2012/13), so there is definitely a need for this service!



Coffee and a chat with volunteer welcoming

When you walk into the CEF café, a volunteer will offer you a cuppa and discuss your food requirements. The volunteer will then put together a food package to last the family four or five days. As Jane explains "It's the chat and the human face that really matter. We don't ask, we don't judge, but we

can often suggest other organisations that can help such as Mind, Steppin' Stone, Christians Against Poverty and the C.A.B." CEF are grateful for donations of both money and food. Tinned meat has a long sell-by date, and donations of long-life milk and fruit juices, tinned vegetables, puddings and sauces for rice or pasta are particularly appreciated. All the food needs to be non-perishable. Contact info@cefoxford.co.uk. Ky Prevet is our local Summertown CEF Representative. You can donate food at St. Michael's Church or via Ky on: ky@prevetteresearch.net

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

The deadline date for the next edition is May 7th; We look forward to hearing from you.

March 2015 (9)



Modern Baker - Feel Good Food



Just south of Diamond Place in Summertown you will find Modern Baker, a new bakery that's deliciously hard to define. A wonderful variety of organic, sourdough breads are baked freshly on the premises every day,

including gluten-free; no additional yeast or additives are used in sourdough. A range of healthy cakes is available as well as an intriguing selection of hot drinks, including organic matcha green tea made with almond milk. In a small café area you can enjoy home made soups, filled sourdough baps, salads and smoothies. You can also buy health products such as muesli and chocolate raisins. Melissa, the co-owner and manager, set up the business 5 years ago, when she was diagnosed with a serious illness. Wanting to do something to help herself, she learnt all she could about using food to promote health and managed to escape the worst side-effects of chemo- and radiotherapy. You can find details of her health food products and her philosophy behind using them in the diet at www.modernbaker.com Open 6 days a week, closed on Mondays.

New Windows are a Winner!

The original windows of Summertown Church Hall have been replaced with brand new, double glazed units, in the same Georgian style. It is a wonderful improvement. A regular attendant of classes in the Hall comments; "The whole ambience has changed, it's lovely - bright, quiet and warm, and t'ai chi classes are even better now!"



The old windows, believed to be the original ones from the 1920s were beyond refurbishment and there were 68 windows to replace

on both floors. A very generous grant of £20,000 towards the cost came from The Landfills Community Fund, through WREN (Waste Recycling Environment Ltd) and we are indebted to them. The Hall is extensively used for many recreational and educational activities, such as martial arts, ballet, t'ai chi, mother and baby and preschool classes, junior bridge, salsa, swing dance, and Scottish dancing, fitness, and pilates. There are also meetings and social events for private, charity and civic occasions. Now comfort and energy saving in this Hall is assured for the long term. summertownchurchhall@tiscali.co.uk

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BBC Oxford: a local, friendly voice



BBC Oxford has been at the centre of our community since 1970, and in its present building since 1989. One of the BBC's core principles is respect in the workplace, and this is amply borne out by the warm and helpful reception which greets

everyone who comes in, whatever their role or status. When you meet Pat, who staffs the morning reception, this is immediately clear; people are her priority and focus of interest and she deals with everything sympathetically, calmly and efficiently. She is always interested in people's stories, always ready to listen and to help. This is true of the whole operation - all the presenters, and all those behind the scenes are ready to make you feel at ease, and to enable you to tell your story well.

BBC Oxford is the place for individual voices to be heard, and plenty of us go through the door in Banbury Road - to deliver local news, advertise events, or tell tales of achievement, celebration, heartbreak or woe. "Many local people look on BBC Oxford as family", says Pat. We are very lucky to have this great community asset on our doorstep.

Yours truly... Sid Denton A local entrepreneur

Sid "the bike" Denton, whose original name is Sylvanus, is a self-educated entrepreneur who was born in Marston in 1934 on the "wrong side" of the river. He has always lived in Oxford, with a lifelong interest in repair and rental of bicycles (and many other vehicles!).



At 33 years old, with a heavily pregnant wife and a young son, Sid took out a £500 bank loan to purchase his first shop - a tiny run-down bicycle repair shop in Magdalen Road. His business grew over many years and culminated in four Denton's Bicycle shops renting over 700 distinctive yellow bikes in the Oxford area. The largest shop was in Summertown where Barefoot Books now stands. Aged nine, Sid swam across the Cherwell river to the Dragon School where he found an old 'broken bat' which he took home and repaired. For this misdemeanour, he ended up in front of the headmaster, Jock Lynam. Following an old fashioned dressing down Jock kindly gave Sid a swimming permit for the river making him the only child allowed to 'land on the far side'. Sid still lives in Summertown and has a keen interest in art and ceramics.

Community Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday April 4th

Cotteslowe Park and Primary School
Organised by The Friends of the School

Contact Becca:

rebecca.williams@law.ox.ac.uk





St Michael's School



St Michael's Infants School,
Hobson Road, 1932-1977

The first school was built in 1848 in Church Street, now Rogers Street. After Mrs Ingle, the first headmistress retired, she was active in raising money to build a new infant school; this she did by having popular rummage sales, and

in 1914 enough money was raised to purchase a large garden in Hobson Road. Miss Ingle carried on the good work after her mother's death. I remember I had a pony and cart and my job at 11 year's old was to go round Summertown and collect the rummage. When in 1932 a new school was finally opened, it was a Red Letter Day for Summertown. I should think everyone in Summertown was there; people filled the playground and the overflow stood in the road. As a Church school it was managed by local people elected by the Church Council. We had good benefactors, including Sir Walter Gray who lived in the lodge in Middle Way. I remember at Christmas, he would send a case of oranges and clothes baskets full of packets of sweets for all the children! (Author: the late Roy Bruce, by kind permission of his son)

Join the Club-Sponsor our Bus!

Wolvercote Young People's Club has a problem. It is unable to safely collect and return home younger members on club nights because their old minibus has completely died on them. Its normal route for this would be down the Woodstock Road and back up the Banbury Road, dipping into Cutteslowe and Waterways. This



great club, a charitable trust, offers six age graded sessions a week in the North Oxford area, two at the Cutteslowe Community Centre and four at the Wolvercote Centre. It provides a safe and sociable venue for young people, with hands on support and guidance from its leaders. Activities include craft work, table tennis, pool, worry dolls sessions, films, sport, I.T. workshops, dance and lots more. Every club night members learn to cook and enjoy eating a hot meal for just 50p! On Tuesdays there's a trained sports coach who also arranges football tournaments. The club highlight of the year is a residential week, paid for by funds raised by members; this cannot now go ahead without the minibus. To JOIN the club or be a bus SPONSOR Tel: 01865 559374 or email hello@wolvercoteypc.org.uk

Bridge is Fun—Start Young

Junior Bridge Club in Summertown Church Hall

Sundays term time, 2.30-4.30 pm

Tuition (by volunteers), competitions, fun!

All welcome, 8 – 18 years. £3 per session.

Contact **Holly Kilpatrick**: juniorbridgeoxford@gmail.com;
www.bridgewebs.com/bridge4schools

Cool for School

Cherwell School's extended day

There is now an optional, but popular two hour extension to the school day Monday to Thursday for Year 7 and 8 pupils. Sport and games is between 3.20 and 4.20 followed by homework and academic study between 4.20 and 5.20pm The scheme has flexible attendance and there is a small fee. Support staff and 6th form supervisors are in attendance. Good for Cherwell!



Lynam's green-fingered 'Dragons'

Each class has been busy in the polytunnels this year clearing beds, weeding, planting seeds, collecting leaves for mulching, building bug hotels and scarecrows and also tasting lots of delicious home-grown Dragon salad and vegetables. They are looking forward to chitting the potatoes in March and hope to set up a stall to sell their summer produce for a charity.

Teddies 2-Wheeler sponsored ride

Sunday 26th April: Join Teddies 2 Wheeler Cycle event, a school and community sponsored cycle ride in the countryside, graded from beginners and families (5 miles) to experienced riders (100 miles). Start at St Edwards School OX2 7NN. Get sponsored and /or pay event fee to include complimentary breakfast, lunch and refreshment stops. In aid of SeeSaw Child Bereavement Charity and the school bursary fund.



www.stedwardsoxford.org/about-us/teddies-2-wheeler/

Cutteslowe Primary School - young chicken farmers



The children love their chickens, Piper, Plonk and Hermione. They've reared and nurtured them since their hatching last Spring and are now rewarded daily with half a dozen free range eggs, (cooked and consumed by the pupils!). The hens roam in a large pen in the school field and are settled in an enclosed area in the evenings or for their weekend retreats. Now there are plans to improve the fox proofing of their outdoor pen with a concrete base three feet underground, topped with a chicken friendly dirt mix.

Summertown Library Corner

Volunteer computer buddies needed for adult beginners who use the library computers. Could you spare 1 or 2 hours a week to help the librarians (not Wednesdays).

Please contact Caroline: Tel: 01865 558290
Email: caroline.ising@oxfordshire.gov.uk



St Michael & All Angels Church *All are welcome!*

Sundays

8.00 am Holy Eucharist - a short service.

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 which includes chants and silent prayer.

3.30 pm 3rd Sunday of month: Messy Church
Cutteslowe Community Centre, Wren Road, OX2 7SX

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 Tuesdays: 20s/30s (Twerties Group)

For fellowship, fun and learning

Contact Daisy and Yin at yinyaodong@yahoo.co.uk

10.00 am Thursdays: Holy Eucharist

Ministry of healing on the 1st Thurs 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 Saturdays: Men's Breakfast

An informal social on 1st Saturday of the month

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.



Hire the Church Halls



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

Contact Juliet Field

summertownchurchhall@tiscali.co.uk

Ebola Crisis

The partnership churches have recently raised £554 for protective clothing for a group of volunteers from Kings College Hospital working in the Connaught Hospital, Freetown, Sierra Leone. Added to other money collected elsewhere, this meant a total of £1520 was raised. This direct and positive response came through a personal link to a relative at the hospital in Freetown, who had outlined the urgency. An order for items of protective clothing has been placed with the UK company Durbin PLC and shipped to Sierra Leone. For more information and to make a donation, go to:

kslp.org.uk/about-kings-sierra-leonepartnershibebola



Cutteslowe Good Neighbour Scheme



Do you know anyone in your neighbourhood who is lonely or vulnerable? Loneliness is a terrible problem today. But there is a way to address this issue. Good Neighbour Schemes can enhance community life. Various

people are proposing that we consider starting such a scheme in Cutteslowe. The aim is threefold: To befriend the vulnerable; to give people access to transport; to provide practical support. Perhaps we could develop a scheme which has a volunteer representative from each road in Cutteslowe to notify where care is needed? Vicar of St Michael's, Gavin Knight comments, "I will be happy to coordinate this scheme. If you would like to get involved, I would love to hear from you."

vicar@stmichaels-summertown.org.uk

Crossing the Threshold

Plans have been approved for St Michael's to open up its doors as well as the whole of the west end of the church! A new extension will include a kitchen, toilets, an office and space for meeting and greeting. The nave of the church was abruptly shortened when, in the early 1900s, the church ran out of money! The Development Team at St Michael's are keen to share this new 21st century vision with the local community. "We want more people crossing the threshold and experiencing this wonderful resource, which is there for everyone in Summertown" said Jonathan Scheele who is heading the fundraising for the church. If you would like to know more, please contact Jonathan: jonathan.scheele@virginmedia.com



St. Michael's goes LED



A big new lighting scheme is being installed throughout St Michael's. The LED lighting will save on energy and give the church a sense of theatre. Uplighters will illuminate the beautiful wooden ceiling whilst dimmer switches will control the mood of the space. The church, which is renowned for its acoustic, will now have a lovely lighting ambience too. **Come and see!**