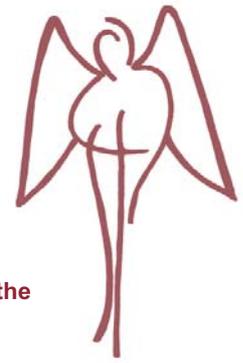


the guardian angel

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.

The Threshold Project - at the very heart of the local community



St Michael & All Angels church in Lonsdale Road is changing! The west end, which was never completed when the church was built over 100

years ago, is having a facelift. Exciting new plans include an ellipse-shaped extension. This "Threshold Project" will place St Michael's at the very heart of the local community – health, creativity and spirituality working in harmony for the local good. St Michael's will become a hub of activity answering the needs of our local community, as expressed in a recent church survey called 'At the Heart of It'. In particular, it will provide a place of welcome, peace, safety and hospitality for everyone in the local community.

The new development will deliver purpose-built facilities including a welcome and meeting area, a kitchen, and functional church offices. These facilities will enable the Threshold Project to achieve its main goal: to work with local organisations providing invaluable support to people suffering from mental distress and related health conditions. The extension will also further strengthen the reputation of St Michael's reputation and our capability to host the best in music and art. With enhanced security and newly manned offices, it will be open to all, 7 days a week. We look forward to sharing our Threshold vision with you.

"Come on in and have a party!"

I am Gavin Knight, vicar of St Michael's, and at 5pm on Saturday 13th June I will be opening the doors of the church and inviting the local community to "come on in and have a party!"

As a Guardian Angel reader you are warmly invited to join me at this launch of our fundraising appeal for the Threshold Project. We are naming the appeal 'Calling All Angels!' It will be a fun evening for all the family with food, drink and dancing. There will be a hog roast, a beer (and wine) tent, and an amazing magician for the kids as well as line dancing. And afterwards, if you still have the energy, you can go to the open-air cinema screening at 9pm run by the 7 Roads Group.

We are inviting all of our friends and the wider family to join this Threshold Project in order to change peoples' lives for the better. We need the



endorsement of local people as well as financial assistance to turn our vision into a reality. St Michael's has already committed £200,000 to the project and needs to raise a further £500,000. The target will be reached through personal donations at: www.stmichaels-summertown.org.uk/threshold

We are also appealing to larger donors who are supportive of projects enabling healthcare and the provision of the arts in the community. **WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT** to make this happen - look how some friends have already responded:

"OXPIP wishes St Michael's every success in their efforts to offer community space and support for therapeutic services." *Adrian Sell, Executive Director, Oxford Parent Infant Project*



"Age UK Oxfordshire is delighted to endorse the St Michael's Threshold Project with its vision to provide space for local community needs. The plans for a welcoming and hospitable new community space at St Michael's will enable us to work in partnership with St Michael's as we look to provide an increased range of opportunities within the North Oxford area." *Ruth Swift, Head of Area, Age UK Oxfordshire*



"Oxfordshire Mind wishes the Threshold Project well as it seeks funding to develop a therapeutic space in the heart of Summertown. We feel this new resource will enhance community facilities in the area and provide a new and accessible social space for people to get the help they need on a one to one, group or peer support basis, from a range of key support agencies." *David Agnew, Head of Community Services, Oxfordshire Mind*



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 August 7th; we look forward to hearing from you.

June 2015 (10)



The Butcher's Apprentice!

Chris came to work for Paul at Alcock's Butchers last summer. He explains "Paul taught me how to do sausages, the mixing, mincing, seasoning, filling the skins and how to link them into nice sausages. I absolutely loved it." In September Chris was signed up as an apprentice with the Ipswich Meat College. There was a small joining fee, and Paul pays Chris, but the course is Government funded. A college assessor phones for progress reports every two weeks and visits every 6-8 weeks; Chris is learning quickly and sometimes passes 3 or 4 assessments on one visit. He has demonstrated how he can butcher a lamb, cut up a pig, and lay out a display tray. There is a written assessment every 6-8 weeks too. Paul enthuses about his apprentice. He says "It's given me a boost. It's good to work with someone who's young and enthusiastic about the trade. It's also investing for the future and safeguarding the shop for the local community." **Alcock's Butchers- 273A Banbury Road.**



Try Training at Any Age

I had been hesitant about enrolling being in our 60's, medical history, and so on, but in the event my husband joined in too. The advert in the Cutteslowe Community newsletter had mentioned a free 5 week, 2 hour course to learn the new (last November) outdoor gym equipment in Cutteslowe Park, off Wren Road. In the event, the time spent was brilliant.



The City of Oxford College had sent their second year fitness instructor trainees to provide the 20 participants, of about 18 to 80+ years, with a three session morning. First it was circuit training indoor exercises in the community hall, all one to one instruction and at whatever pace you could handle. Drinks followed, then outside to the gym machines, with more one to one assistance. Another short break to encourage and get to know each other, and finally an option of instructed ball games, or gentle jogging in the park. Now we no longer feel left behind our grown up children, and can keep up regular exercise on the free outdoor gym facility.

Library Fund-raising nears £50,000

A coffee morning this May, hosted by Philippa & Martin Berry, with open garden, cake, plant and book sales, raised over £1,000 for the Summertown Library upgrade appeal. Earlier, donations after a talk by Mark Holland on using Library facilities for online personal research reached £300. The funds will make better space for children and carers, create a flexible layout for meetings, and brighten the place up. Our first goal has been reached – the Library now has wi-fi. Tell your teenage children. It's becoming cool! Contact Friends of Summertown Library: marcus@ferrar.co.uk www.summertownlibraryfriends.org



yours truly... Paul James Headteacher and Triathlete

It's quite a challenge to head a comprehensive school of 1900 students and almost 250 staff! Each day starts very early for Paul, swimming for an hour or two before arriving at The Cherwell School, where he has been at the helm for the last 5 years. "After some training before school, I'm ready to start the day with a clear head." His passion for triathlon training in swimming, cycling and running won him a Silver medal at the European Age Group Championships in 2013, and he remains in the Great Britain triathlon 40+ age group team. At school he wears several hats. As headteacher his aim is for "a high expectation of every student to achieve academic, social and wider success, with support for individuals from my fantastic staff." The school's position as a National Teaching School means that Paul is responsible for ensuring professional development of staff, support for other schools and the training of new teachers. The Cherwell being, an Academy Trust, means Paul also takes on a third role working with Head of Cutteslowe Primary School which is also part of the Trust. So after a long day, it's home to the family and, yes, some more training every night! At weekends he can also relax a little with involvement in his local village church.



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 from 8-10.30.
Contact Dennis Tucker :01865 863427



Artweek: Meeting our Local Artists

Summertown was buzzing in May, as art lovers came to enjoy the painting, prints, sculpture, jewellery, textiles, ceramics and photography on display in homes, churches, schools and other public venues. The footfall for this free annual event increases each year, with visitors attracted by the diversity of art and the lively café culture. Susan Moxley, one of the local co-ordinators producing the "Artweek in Summertown" brochure, has exhibited in Summertown since 1997. Then there were only 10 exhibitors; now there are over 60! Susan says "The great strength of Artweek is that there is no selection. Professional artists exhibit alongside those who are just starting out. You can find affordable art and talk to local artists exhibiting in their own homes, a unique opportunity you wouldn't get in a gallery. Artists can build up a following and get some useful feedback." Susan says she never becomes lonely in her work! "My artwork is my best friend; as soon as I put a blob on the paper, I start communicating."



Summertown's Touch of the Orient

Enter a kaleidoscope of pattern and colour in Christopher and Angela Legge's rug and carpet shop in Oakthorpe Road. The business began 41 years ago when Christopher bought and cleaned 3 worn rugs from a junk shop to furnish his own home. So pleased was he with the results, that he soon gave up his job as a stage manager at Oxford's New Theatre to deal full time in restoring good quality antique oriental carpets. Christopher says, "The fun part is the buying, the discovering, the cleaning and repairing, but we need to balance what we can buy and what we can sell." Today the shop also holds antique European, Middle and far Eastern textiles and woven tribal artifacts. Customers from London and abroad now buy from the website, choosing from an image rather than visiting the shop. Contemporary designs are also available designed by German designer Jan Kath or Christopher himself. Christopher enjoys his business, where everyday he sees something new. "No two antique carpets are the same," he says. Call into the shop for a visual treat! www.christopherleggeorientalcarpets.com



Cool for School

Cotteslowe Primary School



Elaine and Ganish (Creative Willow) were on site for 4 days early this year guiding the children through a willow adventure to plant and create a willow dome, (large enough for a whole class) and a fedge (a living hedge/fence).

Every child took part in this wonderful willow project which also gave them the opportunity to make willow pencils, wishing stars and bird feeders. The dome is now greening up beautifully!



Northern House School



A group of Year 5 and 6 pupils were lucky enough to visit the Williams Performance Tenders boat yard in Berinsfield. As well as a fascinating tour around the factory floor, the pupils enjoyed a thrilling ride in one of the company's high spec speedboats on Queenford Lake. Not only did this link nicely with the class topic entitled Land Ahoy, it also proved to be an exhilarating experience for staff and pupils alike.

St Edward's School



It's an old Oxford tradition. So on top of a tall tower, (the roof of the school Cowell's building) at 6.45am on May 1st, keen students celebrated the coming of Spring by first singing rude Elizabethan part songs to the

enthusiastic early risers gathered below them. Buns were then hurtled down from the tower, with people below scurrying to catch or avoid them. Tradition is not dead in Summertown! Were there any other 'quaint' Mayday events?



Every good wish for all students sitting exams this summer!

Poly Smart is the Council's new **Graffiti Officer**

To report on new graffiti and for information about its removal email Polly:

psmart@oxford.gov.uk

Phone: 01865 335400



Run Rabbit Run...!

Edith Holt, Summertown potter, has crafted a neighbour's foliage coming through her fence!

Have you any topiary tales? Please send us your photos.



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)
The Vicarage, 33 Lonsdale Road, Summertown
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
Phone: 01865 311762

Email: summertownchurchhall@tiscali.co.uk

Crossing the Threshold – Gavin's vision for the church and the community



When I first came to St Michael's in 2011, I peered through the glass door at the west end of the church and I knew that something wonderful could take place here! I just needed to open the door and cross the threshold. So, for me, the threshold space became the key to the church's future. If the church became dedicated to welcoming others, to inviting people over the threshold, the church's huge potential in Summertown could be realised. I soon came to understand that the church was being asked to enter into a 'threshold ministry'.

The plans for the new extension incorporate central glass doors; everything is revealed within. I would like to open those new doors for all the people who live in our community. The new building will speak the language of inclusivity. As well as being a place of worship, peace, prayer and reflection, the new extended church will be able to host community meetings and events. The Threshold Project will be dedicated to groups and individuals who provide therapeutic care and support. We want to celebrate community living and we want people to 'cross the threshold' and enter in. The Threshold Project has a purpose and a mission – a therapeutic space, reaching out to the people of the community, offering healing and wholeness.

Building a vision together

All churches need people. In fact the Church is people! William Temple, former Archbishop of Canterbury, famously announced that, "the Church is the only organisation that does not exist for itself, but for those who live outside of it". A church is not just a building, it is a community, a gathering.



The church needs you! This project will help us all to 'cross the threshold' by joining up the local community through fundraising and a shared vision of helping others. I want my story to become your story and your story to become my story. If this vision resonates with you, please contact me for a chat. I will be delighted to listen to your thoughts and ideas. Remember, St Michael's is your parish church. It exists for you!