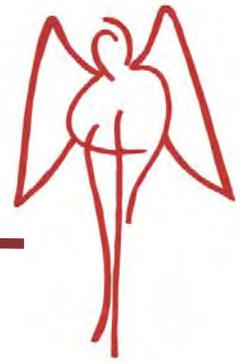


# the guardian angel

your community's news & views



Produced for the parish of St. Michael & All Angels, Summertown  
March 2016

## Host Oxford – compassion and accommodation



There was a well attended demonstration in Oxford on 6th September in support of refugees coming to Oxford. Since then there has been an outpouring of compassion in the city.

Wyon Stansfeld, who coordinates

Host Oxford, a hosting scheme run by Oxford City of Sanctuary, says: "The response from the public has been extraordinary. Since September our hosts have provided over 500 nights of accommodation for homeless sanctuary seekers. Eight are currently housed in the scheme, while a further seven have moved on to other forms of accommodation." Wyon emphasises that this has been achieved without cost to the taxpayer or changing anyone's place on the social housing ladder. Each stay is negotiated individually; guests could stay for a few days or much longer.

It has clearly been a massive relief for sanctuary seekers to find a home. Sometimes it's the first time that they have been inside the home of a British person. Encountering a host family can help them to integrate and feel welcomed. The relationship can be enriching for host as well as guests - a cultural exchange.

### More hosts needed

22 host families have so far been approved, but Host Oxford is still looking for more people with spare rooms and open hearts. They are also looking for whole houses that could be let at a rent affordable for a sanctuary seeker with limited funds. City of Sanctuary is an unincorporated association staffed by volunteers. For more information contact: <https://oxford.cityofsanctuary.org/host-oxford>

## Goodbye Cibo, Yoga Garden and Barefoot Books

Antony di Pinto and Matthew Lebus set up the Yoga Garden in South Parade 15 years ago. Soon the original health café turned into Cibo and the Spa Centre became a 1000



square foot space used primarily for yoga and pilates classes. The lease has come up for renewal



and the site is now going to be redeveloped, so it is goodbye to both Cibo and the Yoga Garden. Cibo was a friendly, informal, independent restaurant. The food was all cooked from fresh, and was as authentically Italian as possible. The owners will miss

the relationships built up with their customers over the years. They are looking for new premises in Oxford. If you can help please contact them on: [mail@cibooxford.co.uk](mailto:mail@cibooxford.co.uk)

The yoga and pilates teachers who taught at the Yoga Garden have had to find new premises to hold their classes. Ro Turan for instance, is now renting space in Cowley.

Barefoot Books formerly in the "Twinings House" has now closed down. They sold their own books, but also provided a café suitable for small children and their carers. There was also space for children's parties, classes and activities. All this leaves Summertown with greatly reduced public space. Rooms are available at the Cutteslowe Community Association and North Oxford Association. Various churches have halls to let, as well as sometimes letting out the church itself. It's also worth trying schools who rent out hall and gym space. This highlights the need for the proposed Ewert Place/Diamond Place development to include adequate public space.





### Tell the bride

Since the marriage act of 1994 people have been able to marry in a wide variety of premises approved by local authorities. You can now have your wedding in a stately home, a castle or a smart hotel. The impact of the act has been huge. Now only 30% opt for a church wedding, with the vast majority (85%) of civil ceremonies taking place in Approved Premises.



Anna and Andrew leaving church in a rickshaw

Gavin Knight, vicar of St Michael's, explains how the church has moved with the times: "The church has come to terms with changes in society. Most couples live together before marriage, so the 'giving away' words can be omitted from the service. Divorcees can now marry in church but the decision rests with the individual vicar".



Phil and Hazel walking up the aisle together

There are about eight weddings a year at St. Michael's. Gavin feels that couples opt for a church wedding because it will be done professionally, and they will be taken seriously. They have various meetings with Gavin to discuss the service and a rehearsal the day before the ceremony.

Tom, who runs Oxo's in Islip Road, explains his and Stacey's decision to get married at St Michael's. "We got to know Gavin as he worked with our children at Cuttleslowe Primary School, and Samantha, the curate, has recently moved close to us. We felt welcomed and blessed the minute we entered the church. It ticked every box and more.... Thank you St Michael's Church for making our day as special as it was."



Stacey and Tom signing the register

### Plans for 333 Banbury Road revealed

A new school site for all sixth form teaching is planned to open on the site of the former Masonic Lodge in September 2017.



It will provide communal and recreational space as well as teaching rooms for d'Overbroeck's school. The buildings will include five science laboratories, spacious and well equipped suites for art, music and drama, and a library area. See more <http://www.doverbroecks.com/oxford/school/333.php>

### yourstruly...

### Lady Sedhar Chozam Ball

#### Actor and voluntary charity supporter



The story of Sedhar's life would make an amazing film! Born in Chinese-occupied Tibet, she escaped over the Himalayas at the age of only five and arrived in India as an orphan refugee.

She was educated at Dr Graham's Homes, a Scottish missionary school in Kalimpong, near Darjeeling and later trained in Edinburgh as a nurse - and then as an actor. There she met her husband, John, a renowned professor of mathematics and they moved to Summertown with their young family in 1997.

But Sedhar has never forgotten her roots and, in between acting (most recently in the CBeebies series Teacup Travels) and bringing up three children, she has initiated many community-based projects, raising funds and taking aid herself to Tibet and Dharamsala. Sedhar is especially concerned with the slum children of India - "the poorest of the poor" - and feels strongly that people should be given hope and empowerment as well as financial aid.

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### Allotments - the good life?

The Marston Ferry and Blackhall Allotment site is a tranquil place on a chilly spring afternoon, where Ingrid Lunt is busy shovelling compost recently delivered from the council. She enjoys the peace and quiet, and today is accompanied by a friendly robin. Ingrid explains: "There is a good social mix here. We swap surplus plants and produce, as well as gardening tips. The best thing about it is cycling home from work, calling in at the allotment, digging up some potatoes and then eating them for supper half an hour later." She also grows beans, courgettes, beetroot and soft fruits. The allotment is on the north side of the Marston Ferry Road, between the Cherwell School playing fields and the River Cherwell. A full plot is 275 square metres, but new members are usually offered half a plot or less. Rents currently range from £16 - £38 a year. Contact: <http://marstonferryandblackhall.co.uk/>



### Community Transport update

Any local community group, which requires transport for those with special needs, can register for membership with Community Transport Oxford (CTO) a not-for-profit travel club with its own 16-seater bus. Trips can then be arranged through a local booking organiser with the help of passenger assistants. A second community bus with wheelchair access is

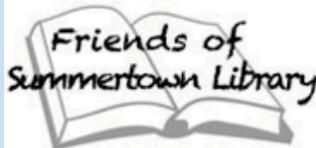


Community Transport volunteers

arriving on 31st March. Both buses are likely to be in demand as the OCC funded Red Cross bus services stop at the end of March and the number 17 service will be finishing in June. Cutteslowe already has its own booking "hub". There is now an urgent need for volunteers to act as a booking organiser and passenger assistants in the Summertown/St Margaret's area. If you think you can help, please contact: Christopher Gowers, CommunityTransport Oxford; 01865 512047; [cwwbuscaptain@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cwwbuscaptain@yahoo.co.uk); [www.cwwcommunitytransport.weebly.com](http://www.cwwcommunitytransport.weebly.com)

Friends of Summertown Library are expanding their popular talks programme this spring. The last talk, by Richard Davy on *Putin – what drives him?* filled the library space to overflowing.

**Look out for more talks by local speakers in the months to come.**



### Cool for school

#### Cutteslowe Primary School opens new bank!



This junior branch of HSBC operates with Year 6 pupils as bank staff, and with teacher Louise Greenway as manager. Pupils over seven can take out an account as at a normal bank, completing a form and bringing in ID documents. Each account holder receives a small bankbox for saving at home and they can deposit and receive interest on a minimum of £1. The bank is open for deposits on Tuesday mornings at 8.30am, then funds are collected and transferred to the local bank by a member of the bank staff. Happy saving children!

### Cherwell School knitting together!

The new student *Knit and Natter Club* is advertised in school as somewhere to learn a new skill in a social, calming and creative atmosphere. This hobby they say, will focus your mind and help with revision. It will give a great score on intergenerational skills too - you'll find no end of talented, older folk ready and willing to pick up wrong stitches and demonstrate their cable pattern!



### St Edward's School pupils walk for refugees

Two fifth formers, Theo Ross and Frank Wates have raised more than £2500 in sponsorship for Asylum Welcome by walking the Camino Pilgrim's Way in Spain during the Christmas holiday. They covered 25-30km a day, crossing lots of forests and getting lost on occasions. All the arrangements were under their own guidance. "Although not always easy going, it was not as tough as the refugees have it," said the boys. **Share their journey** on video: <https://vimeo.com/150698193> (password **Camino**). Their donation site is: [www.justgiving.com/Theo-Ross](http://www.justgiving.com/Theo-Ross). done lads!

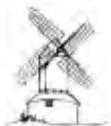


### Windmill Windows

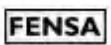
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### St Michael & All Angels Church All are welcome!

#### 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 am Eucharist. **We have a Godly Play session on the 4th Sunday of every month.** On the **1st Sunday of the month** the children participate in the All-age Eucharist.

**6.30 pm Taizé Worship** - A short, meditative candlelit service which includes chants and silent prayer.

#### Weekdays

**9.30 am Morning Prayer**

**10.00 am—12 noon Tuesdays: Baby & Toddler Group**

Drop-in play for children and chat for grown-ups! Contact Juliet Field on 01865 552640

**10.00 am Thursdays: Holy Eucharist**  
Coffee and biscuits are served afterwards.

**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

The 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!"***

#### Parish Office Opening Hours

Mon-Wed: 9am – 1pm  
Thursdays: 10am - 2pm  
Steve Allen – Parish Manager  
Leah Mattinson – Church Administrator  
Email: [office@stmichaels-summertown.org.uk](mailto:office@stmichaels-summertown.org.uk)  
Phone: 01865 311762

Find us just off the Banbury Road opposite BBC Oxford.

#### Church Hall Bookings

The upper and lower Church Halls (with kitchens) are available for hire. We advise early booking.  
Email: [bookings@stmichaels-summertown.org.uk](mailto:bookings@stmichaels-summertown.org.uk)  
Phone: 07745 130956



### A study in peace



The Oxford-Bonn Churches Link is alive and well in 2016 with Oxford hosting German visitors between 26th and 30th May. The theme of this year's exchange is *Modern Art in Oxford Churches*. Claire Sadler's celebrated *Stations of the Cross* in St Michael's Church will be one of many ecclesiastical works which our guests will view. Summertown residents, among others, will become hosts for our

twin city and the organisers are hoping to draw more people into this year's exchange, especially host families and translators.

Please contact David Field for more information: 01865 552640; [dai.field@btinternet.com](mailto:dai.field@btinternet.com)

### Supporting others at home and abroad

Did you know that St Michael's Church donates to four different, chosen charities each year, as well as giving ongoing support to a number of other charitable organisations both here and abroad? In 2015 we raised and donated £1500 for Crisis, £5170 for Christian Aid, in excess of £1700 for Save the Children Fund and £1500 for our local Cutteslowe Community Association. This Christian Aid Week, 15th - 21st May, let's raise even more. The money goes directly to projects on the ground in the world's poorest countries or in humanitarian disaster areas, including projects involving the current refugee crisis. To volunteer to join the house-to-house collection team, please contact us by email at: [guardianangel.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:guardianangel.newsletter@gmail.com)



### Fundraising fashion



Fundraising for the Threshold Project is over half way there and we are beginning to realise our dream of a narthex (or lobby) for the west end of St Michael & All Angels, building a space of welcome for the local community.

On Saturday 19th March at 7pm there will be a Fashion Show in the church with designer wear modelled by people of all shapes and sizes, a raffle, an auction and much more! Tickets are £5. Please come along! If you can't make it to the show your donation can still make a difference. **£20** could buy a brick; **£250** could buy a window; **£750** could decorate the office. You can donate on-line: <http://www.stmichaels-summertown.org.uk/threshold/donate>