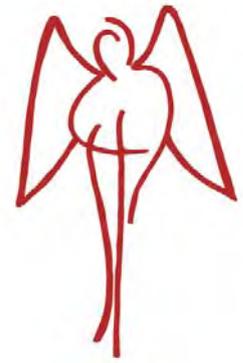


the guardian angel

your community's news & views



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

Alexandra Park – what next?



Celebrating the resurfaced hard courts

Several grass tennis courts could be turned into an open park space with benches, according to the preferences stated in the city council's recent public consultation. The current decrepit buildings could become a refreshments kiosk with adjacent public toilets ... that is, if funds allow.

While the council deliberates, six hard courts and several grass courts are available to the public throughout the summer.

Oxford city courts are managed by Parks Tennis and you can book a court at Alexandra or Cutteslowe Park through their website or by phone. A court costs £6 an hour or £3 if one of the players is under 16 or over 60.

Parks Tennis also organises coaching sessions at Alexandra Courts. This summer there is adult training on Thursday mornings at £6 a session and junior coaching on Monday evenings at £5 a session.

Ali Hudson learnt to play in her forties through the Parks Tennis adult coaching programme and is now their community tennis manager. She explains: "I've got a lot of satisfaction from learning how to play. I lost two stone and made lots of new friends."

You can also meet other players through the web-based organisation Local Tennis Leagues, or by joining Norham Gardens Lawn Tennis Club an inexpensive, friendly club which operates from Alexandra Courts.

Contacts: Parks Tennis: 0845 475 1147;

www.tennisoxford.com;

Local Tennis Leagues: www.localtennisleagues.com;

Norham Gardens Lawn Tennis Club: www.norham.org.uk

The choral sound of Summertown

This month Summertown Choral Society celebrates its conductor's 20th year at a special summer garden party with a rendering of Dvorak's 'Songs of Nature'. Duncan Saunderson is the society's ninth conductor. Under his baton and inspiration the choir has gone from strength to strength and has tripled in size to around 120 members. A charismatic conductor, Duncan has led his singers through a wide and unusual repertoire ranging from 'Murder, Morse and Mozart' - music with a detective fiction theme - and large scale works such as the Bach B Minor Mass, to performances of English folk songs, an African mass and much, much more!



Duncan Saunderson,
inspirational conductor

Exceptional soloists, including Emma Kirkby and James Bowman, have enhanced the high standard of performances. Several works have been especially commissioned for the choir by distinguished musicians such as Andrew Gant, Grayston Ives and Philip Moore.



The choir in concert

© M Chandler

The society was founded in 1961 by Dr Edward Olleson, an Oxford academic and music editor. Singers come from Summertown and beyond, rehearsing in St Michael's Church, Lonsdale Road from 8 to 9.30pm on Thursdays for two concerts a year. As well as choir rehearsals, there are workshops and opportunities to sing in smaller groups. There is an enjoyable social side too, with regular events, parties, and an annual holiday.

New members of all ages, voices and abilities are welcome. There is no audition and there are no prima donnas!

Please visit www.summertownchoral.org.uk for more details.



Have fun, raise money, play bingo!



Fun for all ages

In the last four years Cutteslowe quarterly bingo events have raised £1,850 for the Cutteslowe Community Centre. Adults and children have a great time finding and marking

the numbers called, hoping to be the first to get a single line or full house. There are lots of lovely prizes, some donated by local shops, and refreshments are served at half time. Everyone has a chance to chat and it's a great way to make new friends - so come along and share a fun evening with your local community. The 50p entry includes refreshments, while six games cost £5 and raffle tickets are 25p each. Donations of prizes are welcome too. **Contact:** susan@sharetoo.co.uk

The next session will be Beach Bingo on Saturday 16th July at the Cutteslowe Community Centre. Doors open 6pm, eyes down 6.30pm.

MBE for services to the WI

The WI is the largest women's organisation in the UK and Barbara Gray, a Summertown resident and old girl of Summertown Primary School, has been a member for more than half a century. For most of those years she



was an advisor and trustee. She set up more than 20 of the 140 WI branches in Oxfordshire and was chair of the Oxfordshire WI Federation. For her lifelong work in the WI, Barbara was awarded an MBE in the 2016 New Year Honours List.

WI members enjoy classes and talks on subjects connected to the many roles of women. The WI has helped campaign for equality in women's pay and created awareness of issues such as AIDS, domestic violence, world poverty and climate change.

"Most of all," says Barbara, "the WI exists as an organisation for making friends and being involved in a community."

For more information see: www.thewi.org.uk

Living with dementia

Daybreak is a small local charity that operates day clubs in and around Oxford for people living with memory loss and dementia. The Limes Club meets in the St Margaret's Institute in Polstead Road on Mondays and Tuesdays. People with dementia can become quite isolated and the club is a great opportunity for members to spend time with others and enjoy interesting activities. It also gives family carers a break from their responsibilities. The club costs £12 a day, including an excellent lunch provided by St Edward's School. **For more information about becoming a member or a volunteer at the club please contact Julia Powles on 01865 510719 or see:** www.daybreak-oxford.org.uk



yourstruly...

Councillor Andrew Gant

Composer, singer, author, teacher and politician



Andrew has represented Summertown on the city council since 2014 but he's also had an extremely distinguished musical career. It started with piano lessons from his grandma, a concert pianist herself. This led to a music scholarship at Radley College,

followed by a singing scholarship at St John's College, Cambridge. Andrew went on to gain various qualifications in music, including a PhD. He has sung with most of the country's leading choirs and, from 2000 to 2013, he was organist, choirmaster and composer at Her Majesty's Chapel Royal leading the choir at many national events including Prince William's wedding, and composing the music for the hymn to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee. Andrew is now Stipendiary Lecturer in Music at St Peter's College. He has written several books including a major one-volume history of music due out next year. Latterly his musical taste has been influenced by his three children; he plays bass guitar in the family rock band.

D L HANCOCK LTD
Funeral Directors & Monumental Masons
 Established 19 years and still independent

WE ARE NOW OXFORD'S ONLY
 INDEPENDENT FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTOR

A caring traditional 24 hour service provided by Mr. Hancock and his team personally

Serving Oxford and all Surrounding Areas

Private Chapel Of Rest

Mercedes Fleet of Funeral Cars

Tel: 01865 767780 (24 Hrs)
 126 London Road, Headington,
 OXFORD OX3 9ED
www.dlhancock.co.uk

Perfect Choices
 Funeral Plans

Summertown & St. Margaret's

Neighbourhood Forum

The Neighbourhood Forum has been busy drafting the first Neighbourhood Development Plan for Summertown and St Margaret's. They expect to present their plans over the summer. If you would like to help by volunteering or contributing to their modest funds, contact the chairman: sam.clarke@dial.pipex.com



Summertown diamonds

Have you ever wondered why there are so many “diamonds” in Summertown? There’s Diamond Place, Diamond House, and Diamond Court - and Mayfield Road was once known as Diamond Street, too.



It all began long before Summertown existed when Banbury Road was just a country lane. There was only one building in the area, a lonely inn called Diamond Hall. The inn had a dreadful reputation. It was the haunt of highwaymen and the scene of many a dark deed – and yet its name has never been lost.

Diamond Hall was closed down and demolished at the end of the eighteenth century and four cottages were built in the 1830s. You can still see them today, tucked away up a little path between Rowlands Pharmacy and the Galaxie Hotel. Built on the site of that notorious inn, their name, of course, is Diamond Cottages.

Summertown Clinic - a family affair



Near the corner of Victoria and Banbury Roads, you will find Summertown Clinic. Here 25 complementary and alternative therapists treat over 350 patients a week.

You can see a hypnotherapist to help with anxiety, an acupuncturist to treat infertility or an osteopath to work on muscle aches and pains.

The clinic was started in the 70s by David and Kerry Ruddick, a married couple who are both osteopaths, working from the front room of 362 Banbury Road. As the clinic went from strength to strength David successfully combined osteopathy and acupuncture and more practitioners were invited to join the team. In 2004 the Ruddick’s daughter, Joanna, joined the clinic, followed, in 2006, by her brother, James. James’ wife, Claire Cullen, arrived in 2009. All are osteopaths. In fact, the Ruddicks believe they’re the largest family of osteopaths in Britain! **Contact:**

www.summertownclinic.co.uk

Cool for school

Northern House goes rural!

This year Eagle Class have been to Forest School, Hinksey Hill every week, no matter what the weather. They have climbed trees and explored the woods, built shelters, made fires, cooked food, created art models, learnt about the woodland and had fun! This is outdoor child-centred learning. The aim has been to foster resilience, confidence, self-esteem, independence and creativity.



Delancey UK Schools Chess challenge

This annual competition for 7-18 year olds starts with a first round of seven games played at school level. The most successful players qualify for regional *Megafinals*. A record breaking 241 talented and dedicated players battled all day in the Oxfordshire



Cherwell Megafinalists

“Megas” in Woodstock this year. Their goal

was to qualify for the next stage, the *Gigafinals*, to be held in Reading in July. Cherwell’s four star pupils in the “Megas” included William Gillow, Khalil Jaouni and Victor Coldea. Summer Fields’ boys, Luke Eadie and Eric Huang came 2nd in Under 13s and 3rd in Under 12s respectively, meaning both qualify for the “Gigas”. Congratulations to them. Can they reach the ultimate target this year, the *Terafinals*? Watch this space!



Luke and Eric

Cutteslowe Primary School pupils plan a green future



The school is delighted to have been awarded 50 saplings from the Earth Restoration Service.

The school’s “green ambassadors” (children from the Eco Club) have carefully planted the trees with bamboo canes and tree guards in a new nursery bed. The children will maintain the saplings for two years before they are then replanted into community sites. www.earthrestorationservice.org

Windmill Windows Est 1999
www.windmillwindows.com / Tel: 01844 237070

“A local family run business established in 1999 serving all of Oxfordshire, specializing in supplying and installing a complete range of products in all materials, including uPVC, Composite, Timber and Aluminium.



All our quotes are free of charge and obligation free.”



CONGRATULATIONS
 to Chris Edwards, the former apprentice at Alcock’s. He’s now a fully qualified butcher!





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
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
Phone: 07745 130956



Out of Africa



The small town of Taung is probably not first on your "must see" list when planning a holiday in Africa. However, this tiny parcel of land in South Africa has been the place of pilgrimage for people from our partnership of churches for nearly 20 years. We have built a relationship, a link, with St Chad's, Taung and its school and have had the pleasure of welcoming our African friends to Oxford in the last few years. Last month, St Michael's hosted the wedding of Jennifer Matthews and Jake Collingwood at which the couple generously asked the congregation for donations to be given to the school in Taung which is linked with Wolvercote School where Jennifer teaches music. Taung is situated in the Diocese of Kimberley & Kuruman. If you do go and visit, expect your senses to be excited by dance, song, smoke and drums! For more information on our link parish contact Sue Smith: susan@sharetoo.co.uk

"It's more difficult to go out than it was to come in!"

This remark was said in jest during the three sessions of a course called *Preparing for a Good Death* during April and May. The course was instigated by the concern that we should, as Christians, order our lives as well as our funerals, to help and support those around us. More generally, there has been added interest in end of life issues and funeral arrangements. These have featured in the Church of England Grave Talk initiative and in the "Death Cafés" which have popped up around the country! The pastoral care which involves the dying and the bereaved is a critical aspect of parish ministry. Preparing people to live well and die well, to share anxieties, hopes and fears is, in fact, the very core of the priest's task. For more details about the course go to our website: www.stmichaels-summertown.org.uk/belongingbelieving/funerals

A blog for all seasons

Gavin has recently sent his weekly blog to a worldwide platform. Subtitled "pilgrimage into the everyday", it is hoped that this reflective weekly post will soon go viral! Having a tailor-made blogsite provides various features which help to promote the Christian faith to a potentially wider audience. The blogsite also offers a comment feature which could start a dialogue leading to further enquiry. Gavin commented: "I see the blog as another aspect of my teaching and preaching ministry. In today's digital world the Church is having to use information technology as a force for good. I hope you enjoy the site." www.gavinknight.me



For parish news, services and events go to our website: www.stmichaels-summertown.org.uk
Join the crowd, sign up to **Gavin's WEEKLY BLOG FOR ALL SEASONS:** www.gavinknight.me