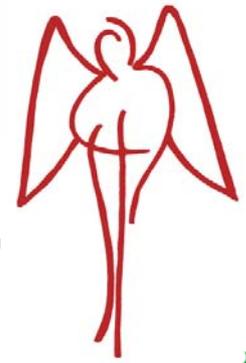


the guardian angel

your community's news & views



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



"Gardeners' Delight" in Cutteslowe Park

There's a real treat for garden lovers right on our doorstep at the new Cutteslowe Nursery and Garden Centre. Three large council greenhouses in Cutteslowe Park, left derelict for 20 years, have been reopened to the public as a not-for-profit business by the charity People in Action.

It is now a joy to wander through the 60m by 26m nursery of flowers, fruit, vegetables and herbs where there is enough choice to tantalise even the most seasoned gardener. Rob Bell, the garden centre



The newly refurbished greenhouses

manager, has great pride in the many varieties of tomato, chili and other vegetables, especially as everything is grown peat free and without pesticide.

There is a shop for the visiting public and sales also go to local community outlets. Christmas wreaths and spring bulbs are popular at this time of

year, and it's warm in the greenhouse if you're out for a stroll in the park! The centre offers horticultural therapy with placements available for those with learning difficulties or mental ill-health. It is a peaceful setting with work experience to suit each individual and people can visit on a daily or weekly basis.

Volunteers with previous experience in horticulture or gardening also come to the centre. Some are retired and the social side of being out and meeting others is important to them.

To find the garden centre from Harbord Road, walk to the left of the train area and it's on the left before the pond. A volunteer will wheel your purchases to your car if necessary.

Winter opening hours 10am - 4pm, Monday – Saturday.

For more information contact Rob Bell, Centre Manager at rbell@people-in-action.co.uk or 07825 806938. Search Facebook: Cutteslowe Nursery and Garden Centre.



Manager, Rob Bell, with some of the many varieties of tomatoes

Summertown Library's new out-of-hours scheme



There is now a wonderful opportunity for people to use and explore the library outside normal opening hours even though the library is unstaffed.

Summertown Library, together with Eynsham Library, has been chosen by Oxfordshire county council for a novel "unstaffed access" pilot scheme.



Library Manager, Caroline Ising, demonstrates the access system

The new access hours are Monday and Friday 6pm-11.30pm, Tuesday and Thursday 7.30pm-11.30pm, Wednesday 9.30am-11.30pm, Saturday 5pm-11.30pm and Sunday 10am-11.30pm.

To use this service, you must be 16 years or over, so children must be with an accompanying adult. First register at the library, then the procedure is simple. Insert your library card and PIN number in the machine outside and smart systems will give access and switch on appropriate heating, lighting and security.

You can use the computers, find and return books, CDs and DVDs, or just sit and read or study.

If proved successful, this exceptional scheme could roll out to all of the county's 43 libraries.

More improvements planned

At the end of next year The Friends of Summertown Library have plans for a complete library upgrade. Fundraising and local business sponsorship have so far achieved £63,000 of the £83,000 objective.

The children's space will move to a safer area at the rear of the building, with computer and information services coming to the front. There will be modern shelving design and mobile shelves to create space for library events.

There is also icing on the cake! In view of the great community support for the library, the council has agreed to fund a much-needed facelift for the facade and forecourt.



This is **your** newsletter; if you would like to contribute in any way, please email: guardianangel.newsletter@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

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Neighbourhood Plan nears completion

The Summertown and St Margaret's Neighbourhood Development Plan is approaching its most important milestone.

The plan is the result of three years' work by the Neighbourhood Forum, chaired by Sam Clarke. It was drafted by local volunteers, and incorporates feedback to a questionnaire circulated to 5000 addresses in February 2016, and input from a consultation meeting in July. It proposes specific planning policies that must be taken into account by the city council when making decisions in the key areas of community and health, environment and sustainability, housing, retail and business, and transport. It



also expresses local views about how the area should develop – for example, a wish for a new health centre in Diamond Place.

According to Sam Clarke, this will be

the only democratically formulated plan for the area for the next 15 years and should improve the quality of life for all.

In January every address in the two wards will be leafleted, explaining how the plan can be accessed, and how to communicate comments and suggestions. This will be the last opportunity for public input before the plan is submitted to the city council for approval by the planning inspector.

The final stage will be a referendum (probably May 2018), when voters in both wards will have the opportunity to approve or reject the plan.

The Neighbourhood Forum will need volunteers during the consultation period, and is also requesting donations toward the costs of the exercise.

If you are interested in contributing in any way, please contact Sam Clarke:

sampc.clarke@gmail.com

For more information please visit:

www.summertownstmargaretsforum.org.uk

Helmet saves Sue

Local cyclist, Sue Smith, works for the Shared Lives scheme, looking after vulnerable adults in her own home. She also organises the Cutteslowe Community Bingo.

Recently Sue was riding on the Woodstock Road cycle lane when her coat caught on her saddle, she lost balance and fell sideways towards an approaching bus. Sue's head, in its helmet, hit the curb with a resounding crack and the bike fell on top of her. The bus's wheels stopped just inches from her head. Another cyclist, who wasn't wearing a helmet, went to Sue's aid and was very relieved to see that Sue could stand. As she rode off the cyclist said: "I'm going to wear a helmet from now on." Fortunately Sue always wears a helmet, even when she's just nipping to the shops.



yourstruly... Jess Casey Cutteslowe community worker



Jess has always been interested in sport and working with young people and studied Sports Science at Leeds University. It was there that she linked up with Christians in Sport, a Bicester-based charity, and was accepted for one of their internships. Soon she started volunteering for "Jam", a youth group for 11- to 16-year-olds run by St Andrew's Church

at Cutteslowe Community Centre, and decided to train as a youth worker. She completed her training whilst continuing to work at Cutteslowe and then stayed on to work there full time.

Jess explains: "Youth work is all about informal education. We help young people grow and learn through new experiences and quality time together. We discuss friendships and teach life and social skills with activities like cooking and designing community projects. We also go on residential trips for activities like rock climbing and bushcraft. I enjoy seeing the young people's potential and helping them to flourish."

Jess lives in Cutteslowe and, in her free time, coaches football and enjoys long bike rides.

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Silverfork - local, quality food deliveries

Sometimes there just isn't time to visit lots of different independent food shops and, no matter how much you'd like to support them, you end up doing a one-stop shop at a big supermarket instead.



Mark Knowles, and fellow software engineers Al McNicoll and James Lawton noticed this problem and realised, too, that most independent shops can't afford their own online delivery service. So together they have developed Silverfork - a sophisticated but easy-to-use website that enables you to order from high quality independent shops, including LB's Deli and Alcock's Butchers in Summertown. Their van collects the food and delivers it to your door for a charge of £3.

There are ten retailers on the site already and Mark has plans to extend the list to include more cheeses and luxury ice cream. It's an ideal place to order drinks and party food for those Christmas celebrations. **Contact:** www.silverfork.co.uk

A family game for Christmas

The simplest games are often the best, especially at Christmas time, so why not get the family to try this fun dressing-up game? It's perfect for all ages.



Put some chocolate on a plate with a knife and fork beside it. Then assemble a simple outfit of, say, a man's jacket, a hat, a scarf and a pair of gloves - the funnier-looking, the better.

Everyone sits in a circle around the items and takes turns to throw a dice. Whenever someone gets a six they must quickly try to put on all the clothes and then eat the chocolate with the knife and fork.

Meanwhile everyone else continues to throw the dice and, as soon as another player gets a six, the first person must stop, take off the clothes and give them to the second player - who then tries to get to the chocolate before yet another person throws a six. Much laughter is guaranteed!

Cool for school

Cotteslowe Primary School – musicians wanted!

The school is looking for adults who play an instrument to a reasonable standard to come and share their talent with the children either at a whole school assembly on a Monday afternoon or Thursday morning, or at a music class on a Wednesday or Thursday afternoon. Instruments could be: viola, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, acoustic or electric guitar, piano, drums, flute, oboe, clarinet, or violin.



Please contact: Miss McLuckie through the office on 01865 558944

The Cherwell School – number one for cycling



With over 58% of students travelling to and from school by bike, Cherwell is the top cycling school in the UK.

The school is keen to promote best practice for cycling safety and the Cherwell Travel Action Group meets every term to discuss issues such as the needs of pedestrians and how to park bicycles securely. Staff cycle marshals are on the cycle path every day to ensure good



cycling discipline and teachers encourage the use of helmets, lights and high-vis clothing in the dark winter hours.

Christmas fun at Cotteslowe School

Christmas is a magical time for children and school activities add to the excitement. First, there is the Winter Fair, including a Santa's Grotto, organised by the School Friends. Next, there are two school Christmas plays for different age groups, then a carol concert with lively singing of seasonal songs for the older children. On the final day of term, it's time to wear those Santa or Rudolf winter woollies for "Christmas Jumper Day", a sponsorship event in aid of charity.



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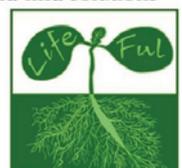
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St Michael & All Angels Church All are welcome!

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

Phone: 01865 311762

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We advise early booking.

Email: bookings@stmichaels-summertown.org.uk

Phone: 07745 130956

Celebrate the mystery of Christmas at St Michael's

The Advent calendar provides a month of surprises – sometimes chocolates, other times pictures. It leads us through December to the moment when divinity and humanity embrace. Christians call this event the Incarnation, God made flesh. Churches



throughout the land celebrate by embracing friends, foreigners and strangers. Christmas is a time when goodwill reigns, if but for a little while. Come and be part of this embrace at St Michael's:

Sunday 18th December: 6.30pm Candlelit Service of Lessons and Carols.

Sunday 24th December: 10am Parish Eucharist; **4pm** Crib Service for children, welcoming the Holy Family to church and **11.30pm** the Midnight Mass of Christmas.

Monday 25th December: 10am Holy Eucharist for the Nativity of our Lord, for all the family.

Somebody else's shoes

Art installations are often viewed with scepticism but the best art can be life-giving as well as arresting. German-born artist Katrin Hattenhauer is presently studying in Oxford and will be exhibiting her social sculpture, *Do I know you?* in St Michael & All Angels Church from 14th – 20th January 2017, 10am – 2pm.



Katrin (right) with Angela Merkel

Katrin has a fascinating story to tell. She is a civil rights activist as well as an artist. She organised demonstrations in East Germany and was imprisoned for her campaigning before the Berlin Wall fell. Katrin documents how people

might live together in freedom with one another. She says: "If we could truly step into someone else's shoes, we would have more understanding, express more empathy and ultimately our world would be a warmer and fairer place for all of us."

The social sculpture features carefully arranged pairs of shoes with questions placed on the floor: "Do I know you?", "Do you know

me?" and "What kind of world do we want to create together?". The shoes become objects of intrigue, living things to be celebrated, as we see and hear, via YouTube, clips of their owners talking candidly to camera.

At a time of such social discord you are invited to see if you can put yourself into somebody else's shoes and experience life as a gift.



A pair of shoes from the installation