

Produced for the parish of St. Michael & All Angels, Summertown  
April 2017

## Low Carbon Oxford North launches food initiative

Food that's good for our planet is also good for our bodies and taste buds! This is the message from local community group Low Carbon Oxford North (LCON), which is launching a food campaign this spring to encourage healthier, more sustainable eating. According to LCON committee member Alison Hill, the focus will be on reducing meat consumption, increasing vegetarian choices, and encouraging the use of seasonal and locally grown food.



Hannah Fenton (GFO) and Alison Hill (LCON) present Florence Waters with a hamper for completing the survey

LCON has partnered with Good Food Oxford (GFO), a local food network. Together they conducted a survey of people in North Oxford, recently reported in the *Oxford Mail*. Nearly half of those questioned claimed to be reducing their meat consumption for health or environmental reasons, and many felt it important to eat local and seasonal food.

The initiative will include a vegetarian food event featuring a celebrity chef, a social media campaign, and a collection of low carbon recipes. Also, LCON and GFO will encourage local restaurants to offer more vegetarian choices, and to participate with *Too Good to Go*, the app enabling people to find good food, free or at low cost, which would otherwise be discarded. LCON will also work with local educational institutions that have in-house catering, encouraging them to sign up to the Soil Association's 'Food for Life' initiative.

Low Carbon Oxford North (LCON) is a group of local residents offering practical advice to help people in North Oxford shrink their carbon footprint.

**For further information please contact:**  
[lucy.dickinson@lcon.org.uk](mailto:lucy.dickinson@lcon.org.uk) or see [www.lcon.org.uk](http://www.lcon.org.uk)

## The North Wall celebrates its 10th anniversary

The North Wall in South Parade is currently celebrating its 10th year in Summertown.

This popular arts centre is a shared space: in the evening it's a venue for drama, music and comedy at reasonable prices - most tickets are £13; during the day, in term time, it provides drama facilities for St Edward's School; and there's also a free art gallery open daily from Monday to Saturday.

Over the past 10 years the North Wall has built a reputation for fostering relationships with contemporary theatre companies and introducing high quality acts such as opera company OperaUpClose, comedian Sarah Millican or award-winning playwright Barney Norris whose new play, "While We're Here" will be opening in June.

There's community involvement too, with a family day once a month, and a Family Arts Takeover day in October with exciting free workshops in topics like circus skills, storytelling and puppetry.

The North Wall also runs ArtsLab, a charitable programme which provides opportunities for new and emerging artists. There are free residencies during the school holidays that allow 18- to 25-year-old actors, writers, designers, musicians and directors to work with a professional team and produce a show.

ArtsLab also collaborates with top professionals to run a programme of workshops, and a new writer-in-residence will soon be in place to run workshops for aspiring writers.

The North Wall is offering a special 10th anniversary membership with a range of benefits including reduced priced tickets and invitations to

ArtsLab events and gallery openings. **To find out more see:** [www.thenorthwall.com](http://www.thenorthwall.com)



Fun on a family takeover day



Comedian Susan Calman will present her new show on May 20th



### Compiling and cracking cryptic crosswords

Cleverly concealed in our community are three cunning crossword cognoscenti! All three live in our area and, until recently, could sometimes be seen together sampling the best beers in the locality.

Of course Oxford icon, Colin Dexter's, fictional detective, Inspector Morse, is known for his crossword abilities, but you may not know that Colin himself is a national crossword champion and has been one of the crossword setters for *The Times*. You may also not recognise the others by their real names. *Observer* crossworders will have tangled with retired OUP editor Jonathan Crowther or Azed who has compiled their puzzle every week since 1972; Jonathan also judges their monthly clue-writing competition. The third member of this talented



Jonathan Crowther, Don Manley and Colin Dexter with fellow crossword setter Tim Moorey

group, Don Manley, is also a retired OUP editor. Don has contributed to many publications, including *Radio Times*, *The Spectator*, *The Financial Times* and *The Oxford Times*, under one or other of these Don- or Donald-related pseudonyms: Duck, Pasquale, Quixote, Bradman, Giovanni, or Izetti.

Don and Colin, both individually and together, have brought out books for crossword addicts and beginners, and Don has contributed to radio and TV programmes on the subject.

As this issue went to print we learned that Colin Dexter had died peacefully at home on March 21st. He will be much missed by all his friends and neighbours in Oxford.

### FairPlay - a new social justice network



Homelessness, poverty, the refugee crisis - these are just some of the big issues we face today. Considering the number of problems it can sometimes seem hard to do anything meaningful to

help, but FairPlay, a new group in our area, believe it can be done. They are trying to network with local groups or individuals already involved with social justice issues, or who have expertise to offer, to see if they can complement their work. FairPlay is hoping to hold a social justice fair in Summertown in early June. This will be an opportunity for groups to network and for local residents and businesses to see how they, too, might contribute. To find out more about the fair and begin a network with FairPlay which could be of benefit to all, please contact Michael:

[mhandamtaylor@btinternet.com](mailto:mhandamtaylor@btinternet.com) or Helen: [hedodd@gmail.com](mailto:hedodd@gmail.com)

### yourstruly... Marcus Ferrar Author and chairman of Friends of Summertown Library



When Marcus moved to Summertown in 2010 the council was threatening to close 22 libraries in Oxfordshire. Marcus joined the campaign to save the library and is now known for his fundraising work as chairman of the "Friends". Bilingual in German - his mother was a refugee from Nazi Germany - Marcus landed his first job with Reuters in East Berlin at the

height of the cold war. After working for 34 years, first as a journalist and then in management, Marcus started a second career as a communications consultant and writer. He is interested in the stories of people who became morally compromised either during World War II or living in the Soviet Bloc afterwards. Marcus's books are historical memoirs; true stories put into a historical context. He says: "My challenge is to get people to talk to me, and to help them to make sense of their past." Marcus' latest book *The Fight For Freedom* was published in 2016.

[www.marcusferrar.org](http://www.marcusferrar.org)

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**Cotteslowe Garden Project**  
 is having a re-launch this Easter weekend. On sale there will be shrubs, perennials, alpines and spring bulbs.

You can visit our new tropical house where there are colourful plants on display. It also holds butterflies and bugs from all around the world!



### Allotment club – volunteers wanted!

The Cutteslowe Community Association rents a double plot from the Cutteslowe Allotment Association and, until last October, was running a successful after school gardening club for local children aged 11 and under. The CCA is now looking for a group of volunteers to re-start the club. All the tools and seeds are provided and there is even a poly tunnel. It's a golden opportunity for anyone who would like to share their enthusiasm with the younger generation and help children learn valuable practical skills.



Mr Cotter and Jason from Cutteslowe School potting strawberry runners

**Please contact:** [pamwoolley.cca@gmail.com](mailto:pamwoolley.cca@gmail.com)

### Wild Honey – keeping it local



Matt Sage and Jessica Howie are passionate about community and want to support local growers and producers. They opened their organic health store, Wild Honey, in South

Parade last September and sell organic vegetables, dairy products, bread, cereals and food supplements, as well as ethically sourced beauty products and household cleaners. They like products that are of high quality and beautifully made so it's a good place to buy a gift.

Matt explains: "It's an antidote to the faceless, soulless shopping experience that has become a permanent feature of our daily lives. If you spend £5 in our shop, we can pass that on to the baker and help boost the local economy. When you buy from a supermarket 90% leaves the local economy."

Prices are competitive and many items stocked are not available in the supermarkets. They also run taster sessions where you can meet local producers and find out about nutrition.

**Contact:** [www.wildhoneylove.com](http://www.wildhoneylove.com)

### Cool for school

#### The Cherwell School - garden rooms project

The PTA, staff and students are working to enhance the visual appeal and use of the outside space at Cherwell's two sites. Talented design



volunteers have proposed themed zones or garden

rooms for music, sport, drama and art. The zones would provide areas for art displays, drama and music performances and possibly outdoor gym equipment. Being in a green space aids students' ability to learn and can have a positive effect on behaviour. Nature, too, will thrive with the installation of bird and bat boxes, and planting for habitat and food sources. Work has started on the central garden but donations of money or materials, and volunteers with gardening, building or publicity expertise, or who can help with planting or other team work are most keenly sought. **Please see:** [www.cherwell.oxon.sch.uk/garden-rooms-proposal](http://www.cherwell.oxon.sch.uk/garden-rooms-proposal)

#### Cutteslowe School's big birdwatch



*Clare Sowman, Forest School Coordinator at Cutteslowe School writes:* This term the children are taking part in the Big Schools' Birdwatch. Organised by the RSPB, the campaign takes place in thousands of schools across the country and is one of the nation's most valuable data sources on bird numbers. As part of their eco efforts, the

school's "green ambassadors" have been taking groups of children down to their temporary bird hide on the school field. The children have really enjoyed sightings of robins, woodpigeons, blackbirds and red kites. Bird boxes have also been going up around school and the children have been taking part in lessons on bird migration and food sources. We look forward to submitting our results and inspiring more children to take a closer look at the world around them.

### Windmill Windows Est 1999

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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 coffee/tea 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/tea 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

Open Monday and Wednesday: 9am - 12 noon  
Leah Mattinson - Parish Manager  
Email: [office@stmichaels-summertown.org.uk](mailto:office@stmichaels-summertown.org.uk)  
Phone: [07745 130956](tel:07745130956) or [01865 311762](tel:01865311762)

#### For 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)



### Thinking about another exit

The Brexit referendum has created a great deal of discussion about shifts in social and cultural traditions and the church is interested in these conversations not least because its own membership is reducing.

Alongside this slow march away from our national institutions, people are choosing to live (and die) using different codes of conduct. Fewer funerals take place in church, or are led by Christian ministers, and fewer



people are buried in sacred grounds. It seems that the populist vote today prefers an exit which is not dependent on the structures of organised religion.

Yet there is a wealth of pastoral care, theological sensitivity and liturgical profundity on offer at any parish church. Priests are trained to prepare their parishioners for a good death and to take great care of those whom the deceased leaves behind.

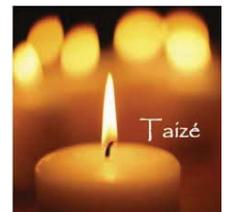
As a result, the church is beginning to adapt to new demands and meet the more unusual requests of some funeral parties – providing a James Bond cardboard coffin, projecting a slide show of the deceased, organising a chamber orchestra – but only if reverence and dignity is maintained.

Some deep and sacred values lie at the heart of the Christian funeral ministry, understanding that remembrance, thanksgiving and consolation are key to our letting go. This is ancient wisdom built on generations of lives loved and lost. If you would like to discuss your funeral plans, I would be delighted to listen.

[vicar@stmichaels-summertown.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stmichaels-summertown.org.uk)

### Candlelight, music and silence

On Sunday evenings from September to June at 6.30pm the church flickers into life. Candles are lit preparing for a short service inspired by the remarkable community of brothers in Taizé, in south east Burgundy. The service lasts for half an hour and consists of simple songs based on Bible verses, with prayers and Bible readings, all surrounding a ten minute meditative silence. This is a contemplative service at which you can recover from the toils of a busy week and prepare yourselves in God's company to start again.



The services are conducted by a team of lay people and clergy, and the format varies. The singing can be unaccompanied, sung with recorded music or accompanied by live music. Please come along and join this moment of tranquillity. The live music is a popular option, so if you would like to play an instrument at the service please get in touch.

[vicar@stmichaels-summertown.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stmichaels-summertown.org.uk)