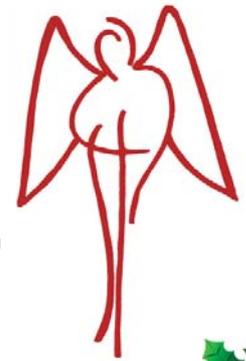


# the guardian angel

your community's news & views



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

## Go Ultra Low pilot opens in Oxford

Electric vehicle charging points are being installed at 30 locations across Oxford, including Hawksmoor Road and Islip Road, in a pilot designed to find the best technologies to support residents who require access to on-street charging.



Trial participants Yousef and Ruby Mehmood, and Leslie Horne

Photo: Oxford City Council.

Funding has come from the government's Go Ultra Low initiative, which is also funding eight other trials across the country. The City and County Councils are overseeing the project in partnership with several organisations including technology suppliers and the Co-Wheels Car Club. The University of Oxford's Transport Studies Unit (TSU) is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the trial.

According to Dr Brendan Doody of the TSU,

comprehensive usage data will be gathered, including the amount of electricity used, the frequency and timing of charging events, and preferred locations. Users, local people and other stakeholders are also being interviewed before, during and after the trial, to gain their feedback.

19 of the chargers will be available to the general public, another six will be exclusively for Co-Wheels members, and five will be for individual households.

Some chargers will be incorporated into existing lamp posts, while others will be purpose-built stations.

Households in the trial will have cable channels installed to the pavement edge, enabling the use of their private electricity. Car club charging point sites, and some available to the general public, will have dedicated parking spaces.

Once the results have been analysed, a further 100 charging points will be installed around Oxford in 2019. Results from the trial will also inform local and national government planning and investment, and will contribute to similar initiatives worldwide.

In support of this research, Brendan Doody would welcome your experiences of using electric vehicles and car club cars: [brendan.doody@ouce.ox.ac.uk](mailto:brendan.doody@ouce.ox.ac.uk). If you are interested in participating in this or future trials, please contact: [goultralow@oxford.gov.uk](mailto:goultralow@oxford.gov.uk) and for further information and a map of charging point locations visit: <http://www.goultralowoxford.org>

## Aspire comes to Cutteslowe

The award-winning, Oxfordshire-based employment charity Aspire is setting up a new project in Cutteslowe. Its aim is to help local unemployed people get back to work.

Rosa Curness, Pathways to Employment Coordinator, explains: 'Anybody can come to us; a homeless person, an ex-offender, a lone parent, a 17- to 25-year-old who is not in education or training, or a refugee. We help to remove the barriers that prevent them from working.'

Aspire runs its own businesses to create work experience for its trainees. These include grounds maintenance, property services and textile recycling.

Trainees start by meeting with a support worker to discuss their needs and aspirations. They are taught how to apply for vacancies, create a CV and develop interview skills. Most importantly, they get the opportunity to gain work experience on Aspire's



Aspire trainees work as part of a team

'enterprise teams' for one or two days a week, and are encouraged to try out different types of work. The trainees are not paid but get expenses for travel and lunch.

With the help of their support workers, trainees build up their experience, skills and confidence until they are ready to make the move into paid employment.

Aspire has formed strong relationships with local employers to ensure that trainees have access to an excellent range of job opportunities. Their clients include councils, blue chip corporations, academic institutions and private customers. Former trainees have found employment in hotels, restaurants, shops and gardening firms.

So, if you have been out of work for a while and need to take your first step towards employment, or if you are an employer looking for well trained and motivated staff, please contact Rosa Curness:

[rosa@aspireoxford.co.uk](mailto:rosa@aspireoxford.co.uk) or 0793 1400108.



Trainees learn useful new skills



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

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### Lifelong learning for all

Oxford University's Department for Continuing Education offers more than 1,000 part-time courses, which attract nearly 14,000 students a year. Most of the weekly classes take place in Ewert House in Summertown, next to the Diamond Place car park, so the opportunity to study anything from Spanish to cyber security is on our doorstep!

The University has a proud history of making its scholarship available to the public. A movement called Oxford Extension was set up nearly 140 years ago by a group of Oxford academics who felt that widening access to education was essential to the nation's welfare and future. The fast-growing rail network enabled academics to give lectures throughout the country, whilst also helping students to attend them. Soon 'Extension centres' were appearing all over England.



The movement was originally introduced for 'men of promise' and the 'sons of parents of narrow incomes', but women, who were largely excluded from attending universities at that time, were quick to take advantage of an opportunity to extend their education beyond secondary level. By 1889, just eleven years after the scheme began, women made up around two thirds of Oxford's Extension students.

In fact, J.A.R. Marriott, who oversaw Oxford Extension from 1895 to 1920, felt that the scheme played an important part in providing a generation of women with a 'liberal training in citizenship' before they won the right to vote in 1918.

Nowadays the Department for Continuing Education offers a wide range of different ways to learn, including online courses, weekly classes, day and weekend events, summer schools and even Oxford awards and degrees - so maybe it's time to consider giving those little grey cells a work-out!

For more information: [www.conted.ox.ac.uk](http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk)

### Angel Tree at Christmas

Every year a volunteer from the local branch of Prison Fellowship goes to Toys R Us with a very long shopping list and buys over 100 toys. The toys are Christmas presents for the children of prisoners at HMP Bullingdon in Bicester. Some are specifically requested, others have to be carefully chosen. Each present, costing around £15, is gift-wrapped including a personal message written by the parent for their child. It is then posted as though it were from the parent in prison.



Prison Fellowship is an international Christian charity and this scheme is just a small part of their work, known as Angel Tree. Angel Tree helps support prisoners' family relationships, which in turn has been shown to reduce re-offending. If you would like to donate, volunteer or find out more about Prison Fellowship please see: [www.prisonfellowship.org](http://www.prisonfellowship.org)

### *yourstruly*... Nighat Malik Administrator, fundraiser and volunteer



Summertown resident Nighat Malik was born in Pakistan, completed a degree in hospitality at Michigan State University, and worked in Pakistan, before moving to Oxford in 1989. When she retired as the accommodation manager at Worcester College, Nighat decided she wanted to do something for disadvantaged people in Oxford

and, together with two friends, she organised a meal for the homeless in Gloucester Green. This led to the setting up of a lunch club for homeless people, which now takes place every fortnight at the Asian Cultural Centre in Manzil Way. Nighat fundraises for the project and has been impressed by the generosity of the local community whose donations of food and money enable the volunteer 'aunties' from the Asian community to cook delicious curries for the club. The RAF also donates tents, sleeping bags and boots.

Nighat now works part-time at the Cherwell School, and also finds time to volunteer at the North Oxford Association.

[www.oxfordhomelessproject.org.uk](http://www.oxfordhomelessproject.org.uk)

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### Great news for the under-fives!

There are different play activities every week at the Sunnymead Minnows Stay and Play sessions – a community initiative launched in September to replace the lost Children’s Centre. The Minnows meet at the Cutteslowe



Community Centre every Thursday from 10am to 12.30pm. The sessions are free and all local under-fives and their parents, grandparents or carers are welcome. You can even stay for an affordable, healthy hot lunch. There are also Rhyme Time sessions on Thursday mornings from 9am to 9.30am and much more is planned for the future, including health visitor drop-ins and midwife clinics.

The Minnows are often looking for volunteers to help out at their sessions and would also welcome donations of toys.

[www.facebook.com/sunnymeadminnows](http://www.facebook.com/sunnymeadminnows)

### An Aladdin’s cave of stationery

Established by local businessmen Nicholas Mills and Andrew Morse, Pen to Paper first opened in Summertown in 1990 and is now one of the few surviving independent shops. Manager Emma (right) and long-time assistant Angie (left) front the shop with quiet, polite efficiency.



Not an inch of space is wasted and their diverse stock includes greetings cards; art supplies; toys and games; calendars, pencil cases and even Oxford memorabilia.

If a customer requests something they do not stock, Emma and Angie will do their best to order it. Pen to Paper also offers a useful service which is fast dying out: the chance for local people to advertise goods and services via a postcard or flyer in their shop window.

**Opening hours:** Monday to Friday 8.30am – 6pm, Saturday 9am – 6pm, Sunday 10am – 4pm.

### Cool for school

#### Cherwell switches off

The Cherwell School recently took part in Switch-Off Fortnight, promoting awareness of ways to reduce energy consumption, carbon footprints and bills. Energy monitors made sure unnecessary electrical equipment was turned off during breaks and after lessons, and all computer screens displayed the special Switch-Off logo as a reminder.



### Northern House children bake for charity



This term the ten-year-old students in Falcon Class organised a coffee morning to raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. The children baked cakes and parents and friends came to give their support. Over £100 was raised for the charity. The children even spent some of the afternoon at the school gate selling leftover cakes to delighted members of the public!

### Bow by Bow

Two 16-year-olds from The Cherwell School and Magdalen College School are making waves in the Oxford music scene with their interesting fiddle and cello combo.



Noah Wolton (fiddle) and Alex Duncalf (cello) are known as Bow by Bow. They make lively and unusual music by mixing traditional tunes from Britain, Ireland and beyond, with gypsy jazz, Beatles’ music and their own compositions. You can hear them play and book them for gigs or parties at <https://bowbybow.wordpress.com>

## Windmill Windows Est 1999

[www.windmillwindows.com](http://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.



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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 Wednesdays: 9am - 12 noon  
Leah Mattinson - Parish Manager  
Email: [office@stmichaels-summertown.org.uk](mailto:office@stmichaels-summertown.org.uk)  
Phone: 07745 130956 or 01865 311762

#### 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)



### A Christmas message from the vicar



Christmas is a time for messaging. Cards are sent and received and the Queen gives her traditional message on Christmas Day. In church, the Christmas message lies at the heart of the narrative between God and his people. So here is

my message via the Guardian Angel. I would like to welcome all our readers to church this Christmas to share in the joy which new life and new hope brings. We have a variety of services including Lessons & Carols by Candlelight on Sunday 17th December at 6.30pm and the atmospheric Midnight Mass at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve. Or what about bringing children to the Crib Service, at 4pm on Christmas Eve? You are always welcome at St Michael's. **See the website for more information.**  
[www.stmichaels-summertown.org.uk](http://www.stmichaels-summertown.org.uk)

### Justice forums - get involved!

Poverty and climate change have been the subject of conversation and action at St Michael's. Two groups have recently been formed from the church and local community. FairPlay, the social justice network, is particularly involved with issues such as homelessness and the plight of refugees in Oxford, while the Eco-Team at St Michael's is concerned with global climate issues as well as caring for the local ecology. Both groups welcome all comers to participate and get involved. There is no better time! **Contacts:** The FairPlay Network: [mhandamtaylor@btinternet.com](mailto:mhandamtaylor@btinternet.com). The Eco-Team: [vicar@stmichaels-summertown.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stmichaels-summertown.org.uk)



The Lord Mayor of Oxford, Jean Fooks, at the FairPlay social justice fair

### An appeal for help



Site manager, Lee, is in charge of quality control

The new extension currently under construction at the west end of the church will finally complete the building 100 years after the foundation stone was laid. The opening ceremony with the Bishop of Oxford will take place on 22nd April 2018. Would you like to get involved in the exciting developments at St Michael's? Do you have experience and wisdom to give for the sustainable use of our buildings and gardens? We would love to hear from you. **Contact:** [vicar@stmichaels-summertown.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stmichaels-summertown.org.uk)