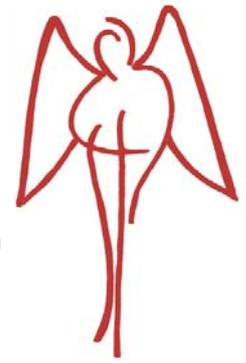


the guardian angel

your community's news & views



Produced for the parish of St Michael & All Angels, Summertown
April 2018

Dockless bikes make inroads



Everyone will have noticed the recent appearance of brightly coloured and quirky-looking bicycles across Oxford. They are part of the dockless bike phenomenon which started in China with ofo bikes and has rapidly spread worldwide.

The bikes are available for rental but unlike 'Boris bikes' do not require a fixed dock. They are located via a mobile phone app and a tracking device installed in every bike. Anyone with the appropriate app, which is specific to each operator, can find the nearest available bike and unlock it. The bike can then be ridden to any destination within the city and left there. Users are charged to their previously set-up account - typically 50p per half-hour.

To manage any potential problems, while encouraging bike usage, the City and County Councils have issued a code of conduct requiring a cap on the number of bikes and provision of good quality, well-maintained bikes with lights. The bikes must not be left in dangerous locations or where they cause obstruction, and must when necessary be redistributed around the city. Companies must sign up to the code or risk having their bikes impounded.

The three companies currently operating have a combined 850 bikes in Oxford. Ofo (yellow bikes) has 200, Mobike (orange wheels), which also started in China, has 200 and works in collaboration with bike-sharing company Cycle.land. By contrast Pony, with 450 blue/green bikes, only operates in Oxford and in Angers, France. All three companies are hoping to increase their numbers by the summer.

According to Isabela Nomura of Pony bikes, 40% of their users are students, 40% local residents, 15% tourists and the rest unknown. When asked who are Pony's main competitors, Isabela says: 'Cars!'.

www.getapony.com; <https://mobike.com/uk>;
www.ofo.com

Cotteslowe Nursery branches out

The nursery and garden centre in Cotteslowe Park is a valuable community asset. It offers horticultural therapies for people with learning difficulties as well as employment and volunteer opportunities for those who enjoy gardening and being out in the open air. It's also a great place for keen gardeners to buy plants.

But Noel Tuckwell, lead worker at the garden project, has always had a passion for wildlife as well as for plants, so last year he set up a butterfly house in one of the nursery greenhouses, creating a perfect, warm environment



Noel Tuckwell with one of the guinea pigs

with plenty of plants for shelter and food.

This addition has proved to be very popular and the new generation of butterflies are eagerly awaited. They will be hatching out in May. You can see about ten varieties of butterflies from around the world during the summer, including the beautiful tropical Blue Morpheus. There is a drop pond with a small waterfall for fish, and a bigger pool for terrapins.

Birds, stick insects and even guinea pigs have also moved in and for a small donation you can walk through this fascinating and peaceful natural environment. It's a great educational tool and

children love it. Children's groups often visit, and may well be intrigued by the recently acquired tarantula.

There's a shop selling arts and crafts as well as locally grown produce such as apple juice and eggs. You can pick your own vegetables in season and stop for refreshments in the community café. There's even a 'bring and share' lending library. It's the perfect place for an inexpensive family outing.

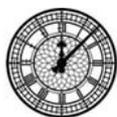
For more information contact Rob Bell:
rbell@people-in-action.co.uk or 01865 511938



A Blue Morpheus butterfly

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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It's fun to run!



Every Saturday morning at nine o'clock several hundred runners of all ages and abilities can be seen

taking a 5000m course around Cutteslowe Park. This is a Parkrun, a free event entirely organised by volunteers. Anyone can join, simply sign up online and then print out a barcode to take to the park. At the end of the run the barcodes are scanned and shortly afterwards times and positions are available on the website.

The first Parkrun was held in Bushy Park in 2004 and the idea proved so popular that the runs now take place in over a thousand parks across five continents. In November 2017 the total number of registered runners passed four million. **To register or volunteer see:**

<http://www.parkrun.org.uk/oxford>

Could you sponsor a library chair?

The Summertown library is due to be transformed this summer with a refit designed to make the library more user-friendly and better adapted to modern needs. This is due to the efforts of The Friends of Summertown Library and other well-wishers who together have contributed over £80,000 during the past few years to fund the project.



But the fundraising isn't quite over yet! The Friends are inviting people to kindly consider sponsoring a chair for the talks area. Each chair costs £60.

If you would like to help you can send a cheque made out to Friends of Summertown Library to Marcus Ferrar, 7 Capel Close, Oxford OX2 7LA or pay electronically through the website. Please mark payments 'Chair'.

www.summertownlibraryfriends.org

FairPlay for climate justice

The FairPlay social justice network is planning a campaign starting in July to raise community awareness of climate justice issues.

The central issue is that countries contributing most to climate change have sufficient resources to protect themselves whereas those that pollute least have few resources and suffer the most.



FairPlay plans to launch the campaign jointly with Low Carbon Oxford North at a public meeting and to continue through the year with related events including films, talks, and displays. Local organisations including schools will be encouraged to produce artworks for the campaign. These activities should encourage people to act, for example, by switching to green electricity, or by pushing for wider measures such as disinvestment from fossil fuels and re-investment in developing countries.

Contact: fairplayoxford@gmail.com

yourstruly... Tony Dale

Editor, writer and Rambler



Tony grew up in Brighton and as a boy enjoyed walking on the South Downs. He went on to gain a degree in Social Anthropology from Cambridge, followed by a year's voluntary work in Botswana. Tony subsequently worked as an

editor in India and Hong Kong and spent time travelling in South East Asia. He arrived in Summertown in 1979 and joined the Ramblers while working as a managing editor for Oxford University Press. After his retirement in 2006 Tony not only became footpath officer for the Ramblers but has also found time to serve on the transport committee of the Neighbourhood Forum, gain a master's degree in history, and continue working as a freelance writer and editor. Tony has helped set up a new website with a wealth of information on walks and walking in Oxford. It is a joint initiative from Ramblers Oxford, Oxford Civic Society and Oxford Pedestrians Association.

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

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Summer Fields builds pre-prep school

Building work is currently taking place on one of Summertown's most historic buildings. The handsome Georgian house on the north side of Mayfield Road was built as Newton Lodge in 1824 when it was home to the



The extension on the east side of the building

owner of the University and City Brass and Iron Foundry. At the end of the nineteenth century it became part of Summer Fields - a school almost as old as Summertown itself - and now the school is renovating and extending its 'Newton building' to create a new pre-prep school for boys aged four to seven. There will be learning spaces, a library and other offices, with parking, gardens and a playground outside. The new school will welcome its first pupils in September.

For more information see: www.summerfields.com

A new health gym in Summertown

Recently opened above Starbucks is Viavi:be, a gym for people who value their health but may not be comfortable in more conventional gyms.



Physiologist Tom Walker can devise a specially personalised health programme by testing muscle mass, cardiovascular strength, joint movement and blood sugar levels. The atmosphere is tranquil with no mirrors and subdued music. In the centre of the room is 'smart gym' equipment that adjusts to your individual requirements, and on the perimeter are exercise mats, an agility wall and a meditation pod. There is also an infrared sauna to help you detox and relax after your workout.

Viavi:be believe that their fitness programme can also help control weight, improve sleep and energy levels and diminish stress. Contracts are available on a month-by-month basis. See: www.viavi:be.com

Cool for school

New school bus routes in Oxford

The Oxford Schools' Bus Partnership is a collaboration between five schools: Headington, D'Overbroeck's, Oxford High School,



Magdalen College School and Rye St Antony, to provide safe, reliable transport for their students and help reduce the traffic on Oxford's roads. There are ten routes from as far away as Chipping Norton and Reading. 'Across Oxford' travel is also possible so students in our area can join the buses en route to their schools. See: www.osbp.net

Sixth-former wins silver medal



Congratulations to Phoenix Sremcevic (centre), from The Cherwell School, who won a silver medal at the International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics in Thailand.

Phoenix's team of five sixth-formers representing the UK brought back more medals than any of the other 51 nations attending. It wasn't all about the competition, however. The team agreed that experiencing the culture of Thailand and meeting other people who are passionate about Astronomy and Physics from all over the world was more valuable than any medal.

'Young Voices' concert - think big!

Over 40 children from Cutteslowe School joined 7,000 others in the O2 arena recently to raise the roof with a wonderful medley of dance and song. The children had rehearsed for an hour every week after school since September and accessed the 'Young Voices' website to learn lyrics and practise dance moves at home. One of their favourite numbers involved jumping and dancing on stage, and a dance-off with the parents!



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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: 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

Contact - Leah Mattinson
Email: 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



Threshold project complete



Architect's impression of the new interior

We are delighted to report that the building work for the Threshold Project – the new west extension to the church – has been completed on budget and, more or less, on time! Vicar, Gavin Knight said: 'We are inviting everyone in the community to

have a look at the modernised church and see if it is a space that they might like to use or simply spend time in. This is a community space; not just for a few but for many. All are welcome!' The new facility provides a kitchen, an office, toilets (including one for disabled users) and a large, light meeting area. Whether or not you have already seen the new facilities you are warmly invited to come to the official opening on 22nd April at 10am when the Bishop of Oxford, Steven Croft, will bless the new building.

Come and celebrate Easter!

Easter is traditionally celebrated by the church as the feast of feasts. After 40 days of fasting and preparation during Lent, Easter comes as a joyful celebration. Remember that St Michael & All Angels is your parish church. You are welcome to come at any time. However, if you would particularly like to share in the various festivities over Holy Week and Easter, then please check out the services which are listed on our website: www.stmichaels-summertown.org.uk

The twitter is about going green!

The Eco team at St Michael's are not only planning to re-design the gardens in the churchyard, they are also aiming to raise awareness about the issues leading to global climate change and poverty. The group has grown as its members focus on reducing the church's carbon emissions as well as on other modes of sustainability in public and domestic life. If you have thoughts about these or any other green matters we would love to hear from you.

See our eco-church twitter feed at: twitter.com/stmichaelssu



Members of the Eco team and the men's group at Ardley Energy Recovery Facility