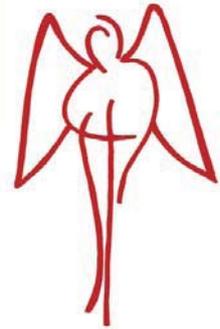


the guardian angel

your community's news & views



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



A space for young people

The Wolvercote Young People's Club is unique to our area in being an open club for young people aged from 7 to 19 that isn't attached to a church or a school. The club, which is based in St Peter's Road, has been running for over 75 years. It draws from a wide area including Cutteslowe, Summertown and Waterways.

Sasha East, the Youth and Community Development Officer who joined the team last summer says: 'Young people enjoy having their own space where they can be loud and messy and try new things. They can also confide in the youth workers.'

There are currently five groups running in the evenings with separate clubs for 7- to 11-year-olds and older teenagers. They provide opportunities to cook, play games, get creative with music, art and drama, or just relax with friends. There is also a five-a-side football pitch.

The club has its own minibus which is used for outings and also to make sure everyone has a safe journey home if they need it.

A recent initiative is the 'Detached Project' where, on Wednesday nights, two youth workers walk the streets of Cutteslowe and Summertown meeting and chatting with young people.

The WYPC receives some income from hiring out some of its rooms including a conference room and an art room but, since 2011 when Oxfordshire County Council withdrew financial support, funding has become challenging.

Local people can help by making a donation or joining the club's pledge scheme. There is also a variety of voluntary roles available ranging from serving as a trustee to helping with the activities.

To find out more visit: www.wolvercoteypc.org.uk or email: hello@wolvercoteypc



Youth workers Charlie and Jake out and about in Cutteslowe

New-look library for the digital age



Over 200 new members have joined the Summertown Library since it re-opened in July and the library is now becoming the front line for accessing county council services,

an increasing number of which are only available online. There are twelve computers available for public use and library staff are on hand to help process bus passes, blue badges or resident's parking applications. People who aren't computer literate can also have a one-to-one session with a volunteer digital helper. Other people work on their own laptops in the computer section, taking advantage of the free wifi.

The out-of-hours service continues to thrive, using the latest technology to enable visits when the library would normally be closed - in the evenings, on Wednesdays and at weekends. The newest generation of library users is well catered for too.

Children love their new area with its bright furniture and individual reading pod. Rhymetime on Thursdays is particularly popular with up to 30 toddlers and their carers enjoying stories and sing-a-long songs - and Spanish Rhymetime takes place on Fridays! There is also a new initiative called Stay, Play and Learn on Tuesday afternoons where toddlers and their carers can read and play together with library staff and volunteers.

Thanks to the efforts and contributions of the library staff and many local people, the Summertown Library is now refreshed, refurbished and ready to face the future!

For more information or to volunteer to help with children's activities visit: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk or phone: 01865 558290



Library staff celebrating the opening of the new library



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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Public talk on climate justice

On 18th January at 7.30 pm at the North Oxford Association Layla Moran, MP and Professor Myles Allen, Head of the Climate Dynamics Group at Oxford University will discuss the outcomes from December's UN climate change conference in Poland.



The talk is part of a campaign to raise awareness about climate justice organised by FairPlay, a network of 30 organisations in North Oxford, including Low Carbon Oxford North, the churches and Christian Aid, all working for social justice in various forms.

The central issue of the campaign is that countries which have contributed most to greenhouse gas emissions are wealthy and have sufficient resources to adapt to the impacts of climate change, whereas countries that pollute the least - such as Bangladesh and Kenya - suffer the most and have fewer resources to defend themselves when they lose their land to rising seas or can't grow their traditional crops due to drought.

According to Michael Taylor, Chair of FairPlay, the ultimate aim of the campaign is to encourage individuals both to take personal actions, such as switching to green electricity and reducing car usage, and to push their representatives to support wider measures. Ultimately governments must be persuaded to provide the expertise and economic support that poorer countries need.

It is hoped that as many people as possible will come along to listen, ask questions and take part in the discussion of these important issues.

For more information see:

<http://climatejusticenorthoxford.org.uk>

Cotteslowe Seniors celebrate Christmas

The Cotteslowe Seniors' Christmas lunch is a festive occasion with turkey, vegetables, delicious desserts, a raffle, beautiful table decorations, carol singing and even a visit from Father Christmas! The Seniors Club is open to anyone over 60 who lives locally. It meets at the



Cotteslowe Community Centre on the second Friday morning of the month for coffee, biscuits and a talk, with the option of lunch at the community café afterwards. There is also a monthly outing to a local place of interest. Club co-ordinator Sylvia Barker says: 'The club gives people a chance to meet on a regular basis and support each other. Transport is provided so everyone can attend.'

To find out more about joining or volunteering contact: Cotteslowe Community Centre: **01865 311172** or barkersylvia@gmail.com

yourstruly... David Potts

Teacher and Chair of North Oxford Association



David Potts was born in Altrincham, near Manchester and studied at Leeds University before training as a teacher at Newcastle University. In 1972 he came to Oxford as head of geography at The Cherwell School where he continued to work until his retirement in 2003.

David is a keen gardener and a lifelong stamp collector. He is currently secretary of the Oxford Philatelic Society. Church membership has always been a major part of David's life and he is the city coordinator for Christian Aid, and also supports several other charities. David became vice-chair of the North Oxford Association in 2002 and chair in 2008. NOA is our local community centre, run by members and volunteers, and David and his wife Meriel have enjoyed meeting interesting people and working on varied projects during their many years spent volunteering there.

To find out about volunteering opportunities at NOA contact: info@northoxfordassociation.org.uk

Would you like to join our team?

Do you have experience of desktop publishing? Could you spare a few hours three times a year to help with the layout of this newsletter? If you would like to join our friendly team of volunteers, please contact Liz on: guardianangel.newsletter@gmail.com

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Music at St Michael's

Walk by St Michael's Church on any day of the week and you are likely to hear music. The church is regularly booked for public performances of choral and chamber music, as well as regular choir and organ practices. The central space, made up of the quire and two transepts, is exceptionally high, and produces a long reverberation that is recognised to be particularly fine. The acoustic is further enhanced by stone walls and floors in wood and stone. The large space, so quiet and yet so near to central Summertown, has also attracted recording companies. So, whether you want to make music or just listen to it, St Michael's Church is definitely the place to be!



Classical guitarist Manus Noble performing at St Michael's

To make a booking email: office@stmichaels-summertown.org.uk

Phone Friends - volunteers needed!

An elderly widow has nobody to talk to except the staff at her local supermarket; a man in his eighties is housebound and feels isolated - it has been estimated that 1.2 million older people in Britain are lonely.

Age UK Oxfordshire is combatting loneliness through their Phone Friends project. Volunteers ring a few lonely older people at a set time once a week. The relationship is purely one of chatting and can be rewarding for both parties. A volunteer says: 'I hear such wonderful stories from the people I call. I love talking to them and feel we are real friends.'



Phone Friends volunteer Jan Albers

If you would like to volunteer please contact Paula on 07557 038 278 or phonefriends@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk. You will be asked for references and be given a short training session.

Cool for school

Cherwell dancers at The Playhouse

Dancers from The Cherwell School performed in a star-studded gala evening at the Oxford Playhouse recently as part of The Playhouse's 80th year celebration.



The black tie event, organised by Summertown resident Victor Glynn, featured amateur and young performers as well as household names like Toby Jones, David Tennant and Craig Revel-Horwood, but the Cherwell students' high-energy performance from the stage musical Footloose was described as one of the highlights of the show!

Volunteer librarian works wonders



Local author and volunteer librarian, Nesha, has breathed new life into Northern House School's relocated library, making it a warm and welcoming space. Not only has Nesha given up her time to

share her experiences of writing books for children, but she has also donated a number of attractive and interesting books to the library. The school believes that such positive community links are an excellent way of developing a love of reading in their young pupils.

A happy Christmas at Cutteslowe

Christmas is an exciting time at Cutteslowe Primary School. There's a Christmas Fair with Father Christmas in attendance and this year Key Stage 1 children will perform their play *The Inn-Spectors*, followed by the Early Years Foundation Stage performing *Busy, Busy Bethlehem*. The older children



are singing Christmas songs and carols at their Key Stage 2 Concert, and on the day of the school Christmas lunch, Christmas jumpers will be worn in support of Save the Children.

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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, OX2 7ES
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 552738

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



Baptism is all about welcome

Vicar, Gavin Knight writes: Baptism is the initiation of a person into a new life in the Church. In 2016, about 9,000 adults and 40,000 children were baptised in the Church of England (C of E) although statistics demonstrate a downward trend in infant baptism.

Here are some frequently asked questions about baptism:

Is christening different from baptism?

No – it means the same thing. The term 'to be christened' means 'to be likened to Christ' who was baptised by John the Baptist in the River Jordan.

As an adult, am I too old to be baptised?

No, you are never too old or too young to be baptised.

Can I thank God for my baby's birth but let my child decide whether to be baptised?



Chloe was baptised with her baby son Oliver

Yes. Parents can have a service of thanksgiving, and a baptism can take place later in life.

At St Michael's we invite people to think about baptism as an important step in faith and belonging within the church and community. Caroline and Jeremy decided to have both their children baptised as infants, while this year, Chloe, mother of baby Oliver, was baptised together with her son. In short, if

you live in this parish, you can choose baptism at any age and you will be certain to find a warm welcome.



Caroline and Jeremy's daughter Olivia was baptised as an infant

The Christmas kiss

I love the sense of wonder which Christmas brings to young and old. There is one particular prayer which sums up this feeling for me – it talks of heaven and earth kissing! At Christmas we celebrate the coming together of divinity and humanity, when Jesus, God in human form, takes on our world. In church, this Christmas-time we will share greetings of peace, as we always do when we meet in God's name. Come and celebrate the wonder of God's love and carry the Christmas kiss into Summertown and beyond!

