



This Link magazine is published by the Link Committee and this issue is edited by Prue Sykes, Lower Farm, Sandford-on-Thames (748848). Anything for inclusion should be sent to Lower Farm or e-mailed to robert.morgan@theology.ox.ac.uk.

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# The Sandford Link

Winter 2024 Issue 176

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

**LAST CHANCE TO HELP SOMEONE HAVE A HAPPY CHRISTMAS:**

Deadline noon on December 7<sup>th</sup>: see page 5



**ST ANDREW'S**

See page 3

**CHILDRENS' CHRISTINGLE**

**MIDNIGHT MASS**

**CHRISTMAS COMMUNION**



**CHRISTMAS CAROLS**

See page 3



The Songs of Advent

Sung in St Andrew's by the Choros Consort

See page 7

**CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING EVENING** with Natalie Ellett  
See page 7



Brighten up January, as **CHILDRENS' THEATRE COMES TO THE VILLAGE HALL**

**FLOTSAM AND JETSOM**

See page 12/13

Don't miss **TALKING SHOP CHRISTMAS MARKET** with lots of great gift ideas (see page 11)



## ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

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

John Findon (*associate priest*) 01865 434256

[john.findon@jesus.ox.ac.uk](mailto:john.findon@jesus.ox.ac.uk)

Bob Morgan (*associate priest*) 01865 748848

[robert.morgan@theology.ox.ac.uk](mailto:robert.morgan@theology.ox.ac.uk)

Teresa Morgan (*associate priest*)

*Church Wardens:* Christian Bradley; Clive Tasker

*Director of Music:* Christian Bradley



### Sunday services

**Every Sunday: 10.0 a.m. Parish Communion**

**6.30 p.m. Evening prayer**

**Every Wednesday: 11.0 a.m. Holy Communion (BCP)**

**Last Sunday of the month:**

**10.0 a.m. a more informal Westward Communion service**



**Meets at 10.0 a.m. each Sunday**

in the Harris Room, next to the church.

More info from Jo or the clergy.

## SANDFORD TODDLERS GROUP

**meets every Monday 10 -12** in the Village

Hall, including most weeks in school

holidays but excluding bank holidays.

We welcome families from Sandford,

Littlemore and further afield. We use a large hall, some outdoor space

and toys to suit ages 0-5 years. £2 per family (first session free) with free

tea/coffee for parents and snacks like fruit, biscuits and toast for

children. At the end of the session, there is storytelling and/or singing.

We are volunteer-run, so help setting/clearing up is always appreciated.

Come and join us! More info from [john.findon@jesus.ox.ac.uk](mailto:john.findon@jesus.ox.ac.uk)



**Notes on the Minutes** of the Parish Council meeting held on  
**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024** at 6.45 pm in the Village Hall

**Present:** Peter Addyman Chair, Michael Whitlock, Mark Baseby, Dan Tarzey.

**Apologies:** Lewis Barrett, Nicky Fenton.

- 1. Minutes:** of the meetings of September and October were approved and signed.
- 2. Reports** from District and County Councillors are available on the parish website.
- 3. Highways & Parking Matters**
  - a. MB located Laing O'Rourke's travel plan and construction management plan for the Ellison Project. Use of the local travel network by employees and contractors was encouraged. Does not appear to consider that people will drive to the site. The site is within Oxford City, Cllr SCR advised to recheck planning documents and speak to planners. The banksman has been present, assume role is for the duration of the three year build. Voco Hotel are intending to apply for planning permission for a car parking area on their land, but access will NOT be from Church Road. Query regarding access across the science park, currently a fence across the area. Double yellow lines to be investigated as an option, queried whether they would be enforced. Laing O'Rourke in support of this, Clerk to chase. Community speedwatch discussed – a scheme supported by TVP. Parking permits discussed, not considered a viable long term solution. Long term parking on double yellow lines at the wharf occurring.
  - b. Noted resident email about parking issues in the parish
- 4. Parish Maintenance**
  - a. SODC flooding engineer is arranging for a trash screen to be fitted at the end of the drain that became blocked and caused a flood at Fox Furlong
  - b. Not possible to install a new bin at the end of Sandford Lane
  - c. Parish maintenance to be reviewed at budget setting in December meeting
  - d. New paths in the community orchard have been cycled on, causing damage. Clerk to source some signs to ask cyclists not to use them.
- 4. Playground Maintenance**
  - a. The Parish Council noted the safety check report provided by Kompan
  - b. Cllr SCR noted that she still had some community grant money available to spend, this could possibly be applied to for new playground equipment.
- 5. Village Hall:** Resident request to host a traditional market in the grounds of the Hall not possible due to footpath.

g. *Brambles and nettles* Yeffley Drive and Broadhurst Gardens, wharf site. Need to get brambles to revert back to grassland.

*Additional Items:*

- a. It was noted that SWR had not provided enough materials for the mid rail outside Talking Shop. Parish Clerk to arrange delivery of materials and fitting.
- b. It was noted that the steps from the recreation field to the road had a new handrail, however the risers were at uneven heights
- c. The Village Hall Chair requested assistance sourcing quotes for repainting the car park markings.

**6. Playground Maintenance**

- a. Quotes for maintenance reviewed, Parish Clerk to ask for bi-annual quote from Kompan for comparison.
- b. It was proposed and agreed to purchase replacement swing seats.

**7. Village Hall Charitable Donation:** The village hall committee provided financial information to enable the Parish Council to make a decision about proposed financial support. It was proposed and agreed that the Parish Council would provide a charitable donation of £3000 to the Sandford on Thames Village Hall charity, for the charity to decide how best to use. It was also proposed and agreed that there would be an annual review of charitable grants to the Village Hall every autumn.

**8. Governance and consultations**

- a. Councillor vacancies – Parish Clerk to advertise this vacancy.
- b. Audit complete
- c. Online identity for Parish Council to complement website – the Parish Council now has a simple Facebook page and an identity on the Nextdoor.

**9. Finance report**

- a. Savings accounts opened, Instant access, 30 day access and 90 day access. Parish Clerk to circulate the interest rates for each account. It was propose and agreed to maintain a balance of £20,000 in the current account, and the balance be transferred into the instant access account.
- b. Parish Council budget to be added onto November agenda.

**Our new MP Olly Glover** has got off to a great start and is very approachable. He says his team provides support for all his constituents, so contact him if he can help, or if you would like him to attend a local event or organisation. His parliamentary email address is [olly.glover.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:olly.glover.mp@parliament.uk)

## Christmas Services

**Sunday 15th December 6.30 pm** Carols for Choir and congregation, and the Christmas readings. Mulled wine and mince pies afterwards.

**Christmas Eve, 4.00 pm. Crib and Christingle Service** (collection for the Children’s Society). We assemble the Crib (a grand new one this year, since the old donkey lost its legs), and children are encouraged to come dressed as angels, shepherds, wise men, stars, etc. Finish by 4.45 when the sun has set and so (by the Jewish reckoning) the new day has begun.

**Midnight Mass 11.30 pm**

**Christmas Day at 10.00 am. Christmas morning service.** Children are welcome to bring presents for others to admire.

It will be good to welcome Teresa back from the States to be with us for Christmas and some time beyond.

St Andrew’s Church

## Carols by Candlelight

A traditional carol service on



**Sunday December 15<sup>th</sup> 6.30 pm**



Sandford on Thames

## CAROLS IN THE PARK

Sunday 22nd December 2024

3pm - 4pm

Sandford Recreation Ground

Serving

**Mince Pies & Mulled Wine**

There will be a collection for  
St Andrews Church Choir & the Jubilee Brass Band



And join St Andrew’s choir for Christmas carols at the King’s Arms: Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December, at around 7.0.

*John Findon writes:*

I was brought up in the tiny Village of Pillerton in south Warwickshire. There was a story still current (the man's family still living in the village) about a former Parish Clerk who attended the first visit by Mormon missionaries at a meeting in the Village Hall. The old man sat at the back with his large, black King James Bible, opened it at Genesis 1, and read with his loudest Church voice until the visitors gave up. He then cheerfully announced that 'the word of the Lord hath prevailed in Pillerton'.

I have never felt attracted to Mormon religion, but the Parish Clerk's use of the Bible is quite as alien to me. It made Scripture into a practically magical power at his disposal, of a piece with the way my mother would sometimes be driven to answer: 'but why have I got to...?' 'Because I say so'.

Many of you will have been shocked by the recent coverage of the physical abuse of young men by John Smyth, which led to the resignation of the Archbishop of Canterbury. One clergyman was quoted in the report saying that 'if this [the fact and nature of the abuse] became public it would set the Lord's work back in this country by twenty years'. So he, like so many others, did nothing.

We can all see how wrong that was. But it was not so very different from the way in which some clergy have for decades been willing (in order to 'protect their people' as they would probably say, and not 'set the Lord's work back') to keep truth, painstakingly researched from the study of the Scriptures, locked up in the Vicarage, never making itself heard in the pulpit. On the other hand, I have read attempts to argue that whales can't be mammals because the Book of Jonah calls them fish. The literalist use of Scripture is alive and at work. The broadcast media commonly assume that all Christians are signed up to it, choosing Genesis in opposition to Darwin, for example.

Yet it should surely be evident that to be afraid of truth is a kind of treason against the God of truth. And human beings are used to accessing truth in different ways, hoping to find it in Shakespeare as well as in Darwin. In the last Link I mentioned plans for 'Agnostics Anonymous'. I have been surprised by how many have lifted their heads far enough above the battlements to speak to me about it. I plan that a group should meet in January, and shall be happy to hear from any others who might be interested.

With love to you all for Christmas and the New Year - John

## Notes on the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 6.45 pm in the Village Hall

**Councillors present:** Peter Addyman, Chair, Michael Whitlock, Mark Baseby

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Daniel Tarzey, Lewis Barrett, Nicky Fenton
- 2. Reports from District and County Councillors:** Oxfordshire County Councillor report and SODC report both to be shared on website.
- 3. Minutes:** Minutes of the meeting held on 2 September NOT approved and NOT signed as councillors present were not present at that meeting.
- 4. Parking issues:**
  - a. 20mph speed limit consultation – Parish Clerk to clarify the enforcement of 20mph with TVP.
  - b. Parking issues caused by Laing O Rourke contractors. Parish Clerk to review Green Travel plan, clarify access to proposed parking area at Voco.
- 5. Parish maintenance**
  - a. *Flooding at Fox Furlong* form blocked drains – clarified the drain route and supplied information to SODC. Parish Clerk to get a definitive waterways map from engineer.
  - b. *Potential new bin* at Sandford Lane (PA)
  - c. *Grass cutting & tree maintenance contractors*
    - i. It was noted that the wild grass verges had not been cut as requested – in future ask for them to be mowed at the end of August
    - ii. It was noted that there are still a large amount of work required at Broadhurst Gardens
    - iii. Clerk to use the schedule created 2023 for contractors to provide a quote from – including grass cutting.
  - d. *Progress report on orchard* (PA) - Progress on orchard/burial ground/recreation ground paths & gates (PA). Work due to begin this week.
  - e. *Heyford Hill Lane address consultation:* The Parish Council had been contacted by residents asking about school catchment areas. It was noted that the parish has encountered difficulties accessing certain schools. The Parish Council assume that residents will respond to the address consultation in a private capacity if they so wish – the PC are not a listed consultee.
  - f. *Church Road weeds in drains* reported by resident – Parish Clerk to check all gulleys clear as this was noted during the Highways walk in the summer.



Report that railings on the cycle lane at the end of Heyford Hill Lane have been removed, possible new lights/road planning taking place. No public signs or safety measures in place.

**Bus Stops:** Electronic signs no update yet. Maintenance is the responsibility of the Parish Council, volunteers have assisted in the past.

**Winter preparedness:** check salt bins at Heyford Hill Lane, Pheasant Walk, Henley Road, Church Road, entrance to village hall. Check Park Homes has one and if not order one including salt.

**Speed Sensors:** OCC meeting on site summary provided. Locations discussed e.g. flashing lights visible through some windows, mini roundabout/Brick Kiln Lane could rotate location, approach from Littlemore.

**Highways Walk & Talk:** Summary provided. Chase Metalled footpath enquiry with Rights of Way Officer.

### 3. Miscellaneous

- Enquiry received relating to *fishing rights* and local angling clubs, ownership of islands in the R Thames discussed. Liaise with Kennington PC

- *Hedgehog awareness* signs available to alert drivers to hedgehogs crossing the road. ACTION: contact Sue for more information.

### 4. Community Orchard Progress report:

Progress had been made on orchard/burial ground/recreation ground paths & gates.

### 5. Village Hall

Parish Council have already resolved to assist the Village Hall committee with a charitable donation to support local community groups. Carried forwards: The parish council will determine an amount at the next meeting: request a copy of the Village Hall accounts.

**VOCO** | Oxford Thames  
AN IHG HOTEL



For a luxury Christmas present, take a look at the gifts page of the Voco at <https://oxfordthames.skchase.com/vouchers>

## SANDFORD-ON-THAMES TALKING SHOP

# CHRISTMAS

## Gift DONATIONS

To help more local families enjoy Christmas, we are collecting donations of clothes (all sizes), toys, games, children's books, jewellery, toiletries, festive food and other gifts.

**New or as-new and not gift-wrapped, please**

Drop off at the Talking Shop  
Mon-Fri 9.30-4 or Sat 9-12  
From Nov 9th

*by noon Dec 7th*

**Address**  
Village Hall  
Henley Rd  
Sandford-on-Thames  
OX4 4YN



## Sandford-on-Thames Village Hall

### Community events information for The Link (Dec 2024)

The first young people's photographic competition was very successful with 21 entries from 11 young photographers and a very high standard all round. Local professional photographer Steve Edmunds adjudicated and commented on the winning entries at our prizegiving event.

Sandford Arts Crafts and Skills (SACaS) was launched in September and the first three events drew in a decent and very appreciative crowd keen to learn more about their computers, cars and wine: thanks to Etain O'Carroll, Paul Chiriac, James Hall and Jack Cole for their invaluable leadership and expertise.

### Young People's Photographic Competition 2024

Prizewinners:

Age 5-9: Gold (and overall winner) Matilda Pearson,  
Silver Alfred Hodges and Bronze Mathew Bruce.

Age 10-14: Gold Barra Baseby,  
Silver Grace Bruce, Bronze Joseph Nesbitt.

Age 15-18: Gold Neven Baseby, Silver Osgur Baseby

A calendar with thirteen of the photographs entered for the competition is now on sale at Talking Shop priced £5.



**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March**  
**in the Village Hall**  
**7.0 for 7.30 p.m.**

Teams of 6. Bring your own food and drink.  
Questions courtesy of Vince Boyle.

Tickets £5 per head from [john.findon@jesus.ox.ac.uk](mailto:john.findon@jesus.ox.ac.uk) or 01865 434256

**Notes on the Minutes** of the Parish Council meeting held on **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024** at 6.45 pm in the Village Hall

*Full minutes can be seen on the parish noticeboards*

**Councillors present:** Peter Addyman Chair, Lewis Barrett, Nicky Fenton, Dan Tarzey

**In attendance:** The Clerk, Lynne Bustin

**Apologies for absence:** Mark Baseby and Michael Whitlock. Cllr Sam Casey-Rerhaye (SODC) and Cllr Robin Bennett (OCC) did not attend.

**Reports from District and County Councillors:** Oxfordshire County Councillor report received and read.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the meeting held on 5 August approved and signed.

#### 1. Parking Issues

- a. Significant increase in parked cars on Sandford Road, parking over the A4074 bridge towards Littlemore, and down through Sandford on Thames village. Access to Heyford Hill Lane compromised. Double Yellow lines around the junction for Heyford Hill Lane popular. Ellison project causing much of the issue. ACTION: Liaise with Littlemore PC
- b. Possibility of Voco Hotel providing temporary parking area for Ellison project – Laing O'Rourke contractors

#### 2. Village maintenance

**Contractors:** Contact contractors to tender for village maintenance work  
Work to include cutting back brambles, trees, removing trimmings, ad hoc work such as trees adjacent A4074 at Fox Furlong, mowing Broadhurst Gardens, cutting back brambles at the Wharf, Yeffley Drive brambles.

Map of areas to be created.

**Road surface of Henley:** resident email covered in the Highways Walk & Talk.

**Playground Update:** Broadhurst Gardens swing seats, get a quote for the enclosed seats as well as the standard swings.

**Review Kompan contract** for renewal terms: investigate other playground maintenance contractors and inspection providers.

**Review inspection report:** for serious issues and address at next meeting

## Update from Oxford Preservation Trust – November 2024

As Winter settles in, we're keeping busy with seasonal work in our green spaces including Heyford Meadow and Simons Land. Paths are clear and reeds and grasses have been scythed, raked and piled up. We also continue to maintain the boardwalks. We have recently opened up views into the pond area in Heyford Meadow, do take a look when you next visit.

**Heyford Meadow has its own volunteer conservation day on the *third Friday* of each month between 9.30am and 12:30pm.**

**It is a great way to be out in nature, get active, and meet new people. Everyone is welcome to join, no experience required.**

**OPT Events** Thank you to all of you who attended Oxford Open Doors! Undeterred by a week of hailstorms, approximately 30,000 visitors took advantage of the returning sunshine to explore a range of events on offer at over 140 venues. The Castleyard was full of creativity, from professional stone carvers demonstrating their craft to a hands-on screen printing workshop. Beyond the city, at the foot of Shotover Hill, tours of Slade Camp by local historians were very popular. Many colleges and university buildings invited the public in with tours and exhibitions. Open Doors will be on 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> September 2025 – save the date! For forthcoming events, see [oxfordpreservation.org.uk/content/events](https://oxfordpreservation.org.uk/content/events) or email [info@oxfordpreservation.org.uk](mailto:info@oxfordpreservation.org.uk).

**We invite you to tell us about what wildlife you see** We know that many of you have a keen interest in wildlife and we're interested in what you see when you're out and about in our green spaces to help us with our management plans. If you'd like to help us build on the records we have, you can record what you see using the iRecord app or making a note and sending it to the Thames Valley Environment Records Centre (TVERC). For more information on how to do this and how your findings would be used go to <https://www.tverc.org/recorders/share-your-records>

**Season's Greetings!** OPT wishes you a relaxing break over the Christmas holidays. We hope that you get to enjoy a wander in one of our green spaces local to you, or perhaps a bit further afield. Our website has a range of walks to choose from <https://www.oxfordpreservation.org.uk/green-spaces-walks>

*Hannah Brockwell*

*Green Spaces Officer* [h.brockwell@oxfordpreservation.org.uk](mailto:h.brockwell@oxfordpreservation.org.uk) 01865 24291



## Make your own Christmas Wreath

Natalie will bring along the basic materials (cost £3) and you can bring some seccateurs and any greenery or 'extras' you'd like to add.

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December from 6.0 - 7.30 upstairs in the Village Hall**

### Calling all local artists

Our plans for an exhibition of the work of local artists have been pushed forward to June 2025; please get in touch if you are interested in exhibiting. Email Etain on [sandfordhallevents@gmail.com](mailto:sandfordhallevents@gmail.com) with details of the type of work you would wish to display.

## ADVENT SONG CONCERT

We are delighted to welcome the well-known Oxford choir  
**CHOROS CONSORT** (Director: Janet Lincé)  
to sing Advent carols in St Andrew's on  
**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 4.0 p.m.**



*Carols old and new including:*

Adam lay y'bounden    The truth from above  
Here is the little door    Gaudete  
The Linden Tree    In dulci júbilo

FREE 45-minute informal performance  
Donations invited in aid of the church. CDs available.

# LITTLEMORE CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH

1-4 December 25<sup>th</sup>

FOOD \* BINGO \* RAFFLE \* CRAFT TABLE

At John Henry Newman Academy, Grange Road.

Transport and vegetarian option available.

Suggested donation £2.50 adult, £1.50 child.

To book or to help contact 07398 599430

or admin@littlemorechurch.org

## Tidal Wave/ Tsunami

In early December 2004 I was working in a large private school in Bangkok Thailand, having retired from 40 years teaching in the UK. I was part of the English Programme and taught girls of 16-18 20<sup>th</sup> Century World History and Physical Geography.

As many of the girls came from families with luxury hotels and resorts in coastal Thailand and the islands although I had never seen a tidal wave I felt the need to make the students aware. I researched as best I could. I remember clearly telling the students that by carrying out my instructions it could save their lives. I described the sea pulling back and fishes flapping and rubbish visible on the sea bed. I told them to stop watching and to drop everything and run like mad in the opposite direction. I remember making them shout out the instructions loudly - This don't usually do this.

This is what happened to some of my 17-18 year old students on the morning of 26<sup>th</sup> December 2004. Whilst running they were in the company of elephants who had pulled up their stakes and charging in the same direction.

On returning to school in early January 2005 I was greeted with flowers, cards and presents. For me the most important thing were the letters from fathers thanking me for instructing the girls so well and saving their lives.  
*Jill Love, 20 years on*

## Heyford Hill lane area addresses.

Finally, after several earlier attempts, the Post Office has relented and changed all the Heyford Hill lane area addresses from Littlemore to Sandford-on-Thames.

Thanks go to a local resident who initiated the process and persisted through the PO procedures to successfully make the change. The HHL area was in Littlemore until the boundary changes of the 1980's when land north of Grenoble road went into Oxford city and land bounded by the Thames, the Littlemore Brook and the A4047 came into Sandford. The vast majority of houses in that area were built after the boundaries altered but the PO still gave them Littlemore addresses rather than change the existing houses to Sandford-on-Thames. Good news that the PO has accepted the obvious reality.

*Peter Addyman, Chair, Sandford on Thames Parish Council*

## SANDFORD ANNUAL FESTIVAL 2024

### Distribution of funds to good causes:

This year the Annual Festival held in July on behalf of St. Andrew's Church raised a super sum of money for distribution to the local charities and good causes. A great result for all who attended and those that helped to contribute. The funds have been allocated as shown below, as well as retaining some funds for starting the 2025 event.

Distribution includes:

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH (MAIN PURPOSE) £2,000; HOME START OXFORD £500; ST. MARY & ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH £200; VILLAGE FOOTPATHS UPKEEP £200; Other recipients include: TALKING SHOP £150; GARDEN GROUP (TS ) £100; REFUGEES SUPPORT £100. This is a total of £3,250 – a super achievement by the parish and our community.

**As a reminder, if you would like to help the event next year –  
with fresh ideas and energy - do please get in touch.  
We would like to hear from you.**

*All best wishes from The Fete & Festival Committee*

### SOMETHING THAT NEEDS FIXING?

Clive Shorter can help with painting and decorating/  
Gardening/DIY and more

**07765 66625 commius@hotmail.com**



## Parking, speed limits and traffic.

There has been a lot of speculation about the changes to the number of vehicles parking along Sandford / Henley Road and other places. The bulk of this additional parking is related to Laing O'Rourke, the main contractor for the Ellison institute in Armstrong way, a three-year project. Parking was restricted in Armstrong way and as a result, Sandford / Henley Roads filled up and the Heyford Hill lane junction became constricted and quite hazardous. HHL itself has also been negatively affected. The number of workers will significantly increase after the basic structure is completed and fitting out starts.

The planning application's quite vaguely written traffic management plan includes the Oxford City requirement that no construction traffic goes through Littlemore, so Sandford gets it all. Laing O'Rourke has been approached by Sandford PC and has been co-operative in trying to address the immediate problems. In order that the PC has its own record, please send your observations about parking, speeding or other Laing O'Rourke matters affecting Sandford to [amandathompson@laingorourke.com](mailto:amandathompson@laingorourke.com) with cc to [clerk@sandfordonthames-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@sandfordonthames-pc.gov.uk).

The PC, in conjunction with Highways and Laing O'Rourke is trying to get double yellow lines around the HHL junction, the bridge and the bus stops, and also near the Littlemore Brook bridge where the road narrows to help stop inconsiderate / dangerous parking.

The PC have applied for a 20-mph limit in the village and the consultation on that has just closed. The stretch from the Armstrong Road traffic lights to the Littlemore Brook would remain at 30. As part of this, we want to place a speed measuring / warning device near the Littlemore Brook, the location recommended to the PC by the Highways department. So far, we have been unable to find a suitable location for a device for traffic from the South as there are reservations about all places suggested.

The VOCO hotel is in negotiations with Laing O'Rourke about creating temporary car parking on an area of their land between the hotel and Church Road but that has required a planning application which, if it is made, will take some time. We have been assured by Laing O'Rourke that access would not be from Church Road. Please make your own comments on any application, details of which will be found on the Parish website plus all the usual places.

## Sandford Arts Crafts and Skills (SACaS)

Anyone interested in attending any of the SACaS sessions should email Etain on [sandfordhallevnts@gmail.com](mailto:sandfordhallevnts@gmail.com)

### Events confirmed for the Spring:

Thursday January 16<sup>th</sup> from 6.0 - 7.30pm

#### Listening Better

with Alicia Pearson

*Learn some skills to help improve relationships at home and at work*

Thursday February 20<sup>th</sup> from 6.0 - 7.30pm

#### Better images: reviving your camera skills

with Steve Edmunds (please bring along your camera – not phone!!)

Thursday March 20<sup>th</sup> from 6.0 - 7.30pm

**Gardeners' Question Time** with a panel including local experts (Please email in your questions or bring them on the day)

Thursday April 24<sup>th</sup> from 6.0 - 7.30pm

#### Crocheting necklaces

with Prue Reynolds (maximum of 10 in the group so please sign up by email: materials provided).

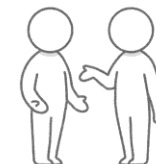
### The Twelve Trees of Christmas trail at Harcourt Arboretum

30 November 2024 - 6 January 2025

What would Christmas be like without trees? Find out about festive tree-traditions from around the world on this trail around the Arboretum. Solve the puzzle and claim your prize. £2 per trail with prize. Pay on arrival.

#### Listening Better

Learn some listening skills to help improve your relationships at home and at work.



Sandford Village Hall  
Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>  
6-7.30pm

Led by qualified counsellor and psychotherapist Alicia Pearson.



**A MERRY CHRISTMAS  
and a  
HAPPY NEW YEAR  
FROM ALL AT  
TALKING SHOP**

**CHRISTMAS CLOSING**

Our last open day will be **Monday 23rd December, closing at 2pm** and we will reopen on **Thursday 2nd January 9.30am**

**WATERPERRY FARM SHOP CHRISTMAS ORDERS**

Our local supplier has an amazing range of meat, sausages, smoked salmon, cheese, free range chicken etc. **Closing time for Christmas orders is midday on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December** for collection on Monday 23rd December.

Send your orders to [orders.talkingshop@gmail.com](mailto:orders.talkingshop@gmail.com) or speak to a manager in the shop.

See [www.waterperryfarmshop.co.uk](http://www.waterperryfarmshop.co.uk) for pricing and availability.

**FRUIT AND VEG ORDERS**

Order by **midday on Thursday 19th December** for collection 20th/21st December

**and if you are still looking for a great Christmas present** we have a range of really beautiful and unusual gifts: tea towels, great mugs, aprons, chocolates, gift sets, as well as art works, tote bags and cards by local artists and craftspeople. Or why not give a **Talking Shop Voucher?**

**What I have learnt - by a retiring vicar**

As I edge into the last phases of my life on earth I reflect on what I have learnt from a life with people and books. What the Bible (Old Testament prophets like Jeremiah) and history have taught me is that a society that abandons its gods is doomed, but that a small remnant will survive and rebuild, recovering the old wisdom and applying it with trust, hope and love to new situations - after the fall-out from nuclear catastrophe or global warming, or more senseless wars, disease and starvation.

The loss of God has happened to many in my lifetime - in the 1960s in good ways (more freedom, more tolerance) as well as bad (lack of self-discipline) and worse in the 1980s (more greed, greater inequality) and more dangerously in the past few years - reduced mental and spiritual health, less respect for human life, less care for our neighbours, especially the most vulnerable, uncertainty about truth and values.

And what should I be doing in some small way to stem the tide and build for the future?? Friendships. Reaching out. Teaching the ways that have worked in the past, thinking how they apply in a changed world. My personal responses are slightly different from my children's, and more from the young. I'm not even on TikTok or Facebook and I don't trust what I hear about Twitter. But they - you - must find ways to negotiate a changed world and hold our political and religious leaders to account, especially when they add to the decay. Change is often good, but decay? No thanks, so help me God. *Bob*


**AFTERNOON TEAS**

in the Village Hall on first Wednesday of the month 2.0-4.0 (not January - New Year's Day). A community project for over 18s - homemade cakes and teas, and a raffle on the day. Cost £4. Join us by booking with Prue Reynolds on [prue.reynolds96@gmail.com](mailto:prue.reynolds96@gmail.com)



**SANDFORD COMMUNITY LUNCH**

A delicious meal using perfectly good food that would otherwise go to waste - a family friendly event, with children's play area, to which all are welcome, no need to book! Turn up and pay what you can. Second Wednesday of each month - see [facebook.com/TalkingShopSandford](https://facebook.com/TalkingShopSandford)

	<p>a chiropractic health centre in Nuneham Courtenay  <a href="http://www.continuum-chiropractic.co.uk">www.continuum-chiropractic.co.uk</a>  at The Old Smithy, Yew Tree Courtyard.  Online booking available.</p>
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## Rest in peace

**Tammy Holden-White** b. 25<sup>th</sup> September 1987, d. 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024, aged 37  
On 19<sup>th</sup> November several Sandford friends, including St Andrew's choir and Hannah on the harp, attended the Thanksgiving Service at Sutton Courtney for Tammy's life, and hope to plant a tree in her memory here in Sandford.

Tammy was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer shortly after the birth of her and Simon's son Tom, and the prognosis was dreadful. But Tammy lived on courageously, supported by friends and cared for by Simon and her birth family for six and a half years, so Tom's infancy was embraced by her love and will be enriched by memories. She was a radiant woman that none of us who knew her will forget, always wanting to help and serve her local community (she was briefly a councillor at Sandford before relocating).

At the cremation among the tributes Simon's mother Liz recalled St Paul's 'fruit of the Spirit' – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control (Galatians 5.22) and we all reflected on how wonderfully these flourished in Tammy. Our sympathies go to Simon and Tom and the wider family. Sorrow for a life cut short at 37 is softened by thankfulness for so much that was good in it.

**Martyn John Akrigg** b. 26<sup>th</sup> July 1978, d. 8<sup>th</sup> September 2024, aged 46

*Martyn's family write:* Son of John and Marlene, youngest of three children, he grew up in Sandford, where he had many friends. He went to Speedwell School and then on to Oxford Boys, where he made friends who stayed with him to the end. Six of them carried him into the service at Garford.

Martyn met his wife Ruth while she was studying in Oxford, They married in July 2005 and moved to Didcot, and later to Chilton, where they had Ella, followed by Isla (R.I.P.) He worked for local electrical companies with John his dad, and became self-employed until 2021. He then worked for a national firm Baileys at Aldermaston. After working for only about 12 months for them he became unwell and cancer was diagnosed. He had many chemos and kept the faith that he was going to get through it, but sadly on 8<sup>th</sup> September this year he passed away with Ruth by his side.

He will be missed by all his family and his many, many friends. He was a great husband, father, son, brother, uncle and friend. May you rest in peace, Martyn – you were far too young to leave us all.

## CHRISTMAS GIFT DONATIONS

### for local families and communities in need

We will welcome clothes, toiletries, jewellery, festive food, games, children's books and other gifts. Plus hot water bottles, blankets, shawls, scarves, gloves, hats, fleeces and coats to help people through the winter. (All items new or as new please). These will be distributed to centres in Oxford which then share them out as appropriate with their local residents in need. Please leave donations in the box in the Talking Shop foyer until **midday on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December**.

### ★ DATES FOR YOUR DIARY in the lead-up to Christmas

#### ★ Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> Nov, 9-12: The Great Tree Giveaway!

The International Tree Foundation has worked with the Oxfordshire Community Action group to donate **free trees** for gardens and public spaces. Choose from crab apple, rowan and the wayfaring tree: all are beautiful and easy to grow, and provide food for wildlife and attract pollinators; we'll provide advice if you need help choosing. The trees are cell-grown so will start as small but healthy plants. First come-first-served (and we will give away the remainder at the end of the market).

#### ★ Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> Dec, 2-4pm: Afternoon Tea

Join us for tea, cake and a raffle ticket for just £4. Over 18s only, booking required. Email [prue.reynolds96@gmail.com](mailto:prue.reynolds96@gmail.com) to book.

★ Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> Dec, 9-12: Christmas Market! with **gingerbread-house building** for children, and lots of great stalls offering unique and wonderful gift ideas: stalls include Natalie Ellett's beautiful artworks, prints, cards, and hand-crafted items, Abi's unique leather bags, mouthwatering Syrian treats by Alaadin, irresistible brownies from Bake it Please, and local honey and beeswax candles by Bee Bounty.




WhatNot


SANDFORD  
1974 CRAFTS & BELLS

# FLOTSAM AND JETSOM

## Children's Theatre Show



Book here



**Sandford Village Hall**  
**Saturday, January 25th, 3pm**  
1 child plus accompanying adult - £5  
Family - £10

## Sandford-On-Thames Women's Institute "Inspiring Women"



**Summer 2024 report.** Meeting in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday in the month (not August), social events for members occur in August and at other times during the year, some just for members and others to include family and friends

Like all Women's Institutes it is a members organisation, and our own WI is now in its 8<sup>th</sup> year and is the 3<sup>rd</sup> to be formed in the village. We welcome members from beyond the village. Ladies may visit us for a total of 2 occasions only to decide whether they wish to be part of our Institute. We have a variety of activities and talks, trying to keep things within our budget. Meetings in December are for members only, with no guests or people sampling our activities.

### 12<sup>th</sup> December Members only

Christmas Celebrations Wreath Making and presenting Victorian Christmas Tree decorations. Members will be contacted near the time.

9<sup>th</sup> January Members only Our Burns Night with Piper Major Steven Duffy

14<sup>th</sup> January Members and friends to enjoy Oxford Operatic Society's Cinderella.

Thank you to all members who continue to produce wonderful articles for Remembrance Day and decorations around the church and the 3 wonderful Service men for the topper representing all 3 Services [sorry we can't reproduce them in glorious colour].



Hopefully members will be busy creating Victorian Christmas Tree decorations for a special creative tree inside St Andrew's church. For help and guidance please contact Carole Leary.

Wishing everyone a joyful Christmas and Festive Season in 2024 and Health and Happiness in 2025 from all members of SOTWI and our Committee: Carole Tasker, Carole Harris, Helen Willmot, Sharon Fenn, Jane Shepherd and Jill Love.

Jill Love 01865 716557/07900907477 [jpappslovelove@hotmail.com](mailto:jpappslovelove@hotmail.com)

Carole Tasker 07876701151 [caroletasker27@gmail.com](mailto:caroletasker27@gmail.com)



### Current regular activities at your Village Hall

For further information see [www.sandford-on-thames-pc.gov.uk](http://www.sandford-on-thames-pc.gov.uk)  
or contact Robert 07759 890696 or [sandfordvillagehallbookings@yahoo.com](mailto:sandfordvillagehallbookings@yahoo.com)

- Monday**      **Sandford Toddler Group** 10am to noon  
                  **Sandford Table Tennis Club** 7-9pm
- Tuesday:**    **Junior Tae Kwon-Do** 5.30-6.30pm
- Wednesday:** **Pilates** 10-11am  
                      **Afternoon Tea** 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday – 2-4pm  
                      **Sandford Community Lunch** 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday 12.30-2pm
- Thursday:**    **Junior Tae Kwon-Do** 5.30-6.30pm  
                      **Sandford Womens' Institute**  
                      2nd Thursday (not August) – 7.30pm
- Saturday:**    **Saturday Market** 9am-noon
- Sunday:**      **Oxford Guitar Society** 2nd Sunday, 7-10pm



a chiropractic health centre in Nuneham Courtenay  
[www.continuum-chiropractic.co.uk](http://www.continuum-chiropractic.co.uk)  
at The Old Smithy, Yew Tree Courtyard.  
Online booking available.



Sandra Krukauskiene specialises in massages and facials, and works from the Voco hotel. Sandford residents get 10% off with proof of address.  
Phone 07544 463973 or take a look at [www.bestofyouaesthetics.co.uk](http://www.bestofyouaesthetics.co.uk) for more information or to book online.

Saturday January 25<sup>th</sup> 2pm - 4pm

### Children's Theatre Afternoon

Whatnot Theatre will perform their show  
*Flotsam and Jetsam's Voyage to the Trash Vortex*

... bottle top treasure, sea shanties and a mischievous giant plast bag Squid ...  
join us for an interactive, relaxed and accessible experience for all the famiy about recycling with a piratey twist ...

All children must be accompanied.  
Tickets (£5 for a child+one adult, £10 for a family group) are available by following the link below, or on the door, if space allows:  
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/sandford-on-thames-village-hall/t-avgdvpv>

### Welcome to two new faces at Talking Shop

to **Natalie**, the shop and café manager on Thursdays and Fridays – not such a new face as familiar to many of us through her brilliant craftwork and cards



and **Maria**, the Saturday and Events Manager with a background in architecture and a passion for community development.



They have both hit the ground running and are already firmly part of the excellent Talking Shop team.

### And welcome to

**Simon** and brother **Alex** to Church Road  
**Fiona** and **Tim** newly arrived on Pheasant Walk



## The New Paths at the Village Hall

You may have noticed the new paths connecting Henley Road with the recreation ground via the community orchard and the graveyard with a link to the Village Hall car park. The paths are all weather and in addition to helping less able walkers, also enables wheelchair and pram access, which had previously been difficult.

The first section from Henley Road to the orchard gate was financed by the VOCO hotel and the remaining paths financed by a £5,000.00 grant from TOE (Trust for the Oxfordshire Environment) with the balance being met from Parish council funds.

The Parish council would like to thank all the parties involved for their help and co-operation in getting this project to completion.

This new facility should improve access for all in that area of the village and we also hope that the VOCO hotel will be able to complete the final section linking through their new orchard area to the hotel car park.

*Peter Addyman*

*[These new paths are a hugely helpful addition to the village – very many thanks to Peter for his initiative and his commitment to the project.]*



## Would you like to join Sandford-on-Thames Parish Council?

**There is now a vacancy on this friendly council  
which meets each month in the Village Hall  
on the first Monday of the month at 6.30pm.**

**Anyone over 18 is eligible, and we would particularly welcome  
any interest from the Park Homes or Heyford Hill  
parts of the village to ensure we have  
good representation for all villagers.**

The parish council is an essential part of the structure of local democracy. Its role is to act on behalf of the village to:

- give views, on behalf of the community, on planning applications and other proposals that affect the parish
- undertake projects and schemes that benefit local residents
- work in partnership with other bodies to achieve benefits for the parish
- alert relevant authorities to problems that arise or work that needs to be undertaken
- and help the other tiers of local government keep in touch with their local communities.

The County and District Councillors usually attend to keep us informed about what is going on in the wider area, answer questions or put them to the right person if they don't know the answer. The Council minutes are posted on the website ([www.sandfordonthames.org.uk](http://www.sandfordonthames.org.uk)) as well as on parish noticeboards.

**If you are interested – or would like to find out more –  
just contact the Parish Clerk, Lynne Bustin, by email at  
Clerk@sandford-on-thames-pc.gov.uk or 07496 414987**



**We are a family-run garage in Henley Road, Sandford on Thames**

MOT testing ♦ Servicing all makes and models ♦ General repair ♦

Cambelt replacements ♦ Air con regas/Servicing ♦

Precise diagnostics ♦ Suspension repair/Tracking

**[www.tjhallandson.co.uk](http://www.tjhallandson.co.uk)**