

Village Hall

The Village Hall is doing well. Extensively refurbished, and redecorated inside and out this year, it's receiving a lot of compliments - and bookings.

Maggie tries to keep weekends free for parishioners as far as reasonably possible but please do remember that if you are planning a party etc to book as early as you can to avoid disappointment.

Finances are quite healthy, we are building up our reserves again after a lot of expenditure.

We can offer special rates for non-commercial parish activities (i.e. open to all) and for some charity fund-raising events - please ask.

The Village Hall Trustees.

Fete

The fete seems - and indeed was - some time ago now (10th September!) If you remember, it was a gloomy sort of a day weather-wise and events were all gradually eased forward, ending a bit early, at which point it duly rained. Still, we enjoyed things while we were



able, with all the usual attractions. (I just started listing those attractions but stopped because I was scared of missing something and anyway the sentence was getting too long.) Thanks are due to all those who manned the stalls or helped in any way... I know we say this every year but it's still true and you really are appreciated; you did a great job.

From the profits we were able to send a cheque for £254.20, the combined profits of the bar and the bbq, to the Motor Neurone Disease Society.

Out of the rest we have been able to buy a gazebo, which will now be available for future events, and a small balance was transferred to the village hall funds.

Linda Slater, for the Village Hall Committee

Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme

From Peter Rawcliffe and Adrian Porter:

The Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme (the Scheme) team has written an informative update which follows.

The Scheme still has a way to go before it gets the go-ahead, with the next milestone being application for planning permission in the spring. The Scheme will cause some disruption during construction, which of course everyone regrets, but every effort is being made to minimise that and to keep people informed - as mentioned in the article below - you'll note the planned engagement early next year.

On the other hand, there is a real and increasingly vital and urgent purpose to the Scheme. Oxford (and South Hinksey!) need flood protection already - houses have been flooded in the Oxford area seven times between 2000 and 2014.

The Scheme offers a high degree of protection (at present). Looking further ahead, researchers at the Environmental Change Institute (Oxford University) have shown that a significant part of the serious 2007 floods was, with a high degree of probability, attributable to climate change. We've heard of similar changes around the world and Oxford is not immune - projections over the coming years suggest a progressively deteriorating situation - increasingly erratic weather, more frequent and severe floods, with houses being flooded that have never flooded before. It's worth noting too that the floods we have had in recent years are in fact nowhere near as bad as those which have already happened in the past, without any climate change effect. This is what the Scheme is about - taking action now so Oxford remains a thriving city. If nothing is done there would be justifiable complaint in future that, knowing what was coming, something should have been done earlier - that earlier is now.

If you have any suggestions or comments then let the Environment Agency know, they really do try to help with any issues that arise.

Update from the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme team

We are working with local partners; Oxfordshire County Council, Oxford City Council, Vale of White Horse District Council, Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership, University of Oxford, Thames Water, Thames Regional Flood and Coastal Committee and

the Oxford Flood Alliance, on a scheme to reduce flood risk to homes and businesses in Oxford, as well as to services and major transport routes into the city.

The scheme will involve lowering parts of the floodplain, and working on some of the existing rivers and streams that run through it, to make more space for water and reduce flood risk to the city. In some areas, including near South Hinksey, we will be building new flood walls and embankments.

It will be about 5 kilometres long and will run from north of Botley Road down to south of the A423 southern bypass where it joins the River Thames.

Consultation

Earlier this year we held a public consultation. Thank you to everyone who responded. We are using the feedback to inform our detailed design of the scheme, along with technical issues, environmental and social impacts. You can view all of the responses and feedback we received in our report here: <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/thames/oxford-fas-consultation-2017/>

We plan to engage with residents of South Hinksey early next year and we will be in touch with more details in the New Year.

Archaeology

We have completed our archaeological investigations on site and the findings are now being analysed. We excavated almost 200 trenches and there have been some interesting discoveries near to South Hinksey. These include stone flints thought to be from the Mesolithic period, which indicate that hunter-gatherers stopped in the area around 6,000 years ago to make and sharpen their

tools. There are other findings which Oxford Archaeology are assessing.

Modelling and design

We have completed our latest modelling, which shows us how water is predicted to flow when the scheme is complete. This is now being independently reviewed.

We will use the results in the scheme design. For example, we will use the information to confirm the height we need to make flood walls and embankments. We also use it to make sure that the scheme will work for low flows as well as floods.

We are continuing to work on the detailed design of the scheme. This includes finalising the exact location of earth embankments and flood walls. As part of this work we have looked in detail at the area near South Hinksey. We have now confirmed that we will only need one bridge crossing the scheme in this area, rather than the two we had previously considered. We think this will look better while still providing pedestrian and cyclist access for your community. The bridge will be in the same location as the existing Devil's Backbone path and will be used occasionally by maintenance vehicles.

Funding

We are continuing to work with our partners to secure the remaining funding for the scheme and we are confident that the remaining contributions will be committed to before we submit the planning application in the spring. If we gain all the required approvals, we plan to start the 3 year construction period at the end of 2018.

Parish boundary

Thanks to the wonderful response of many residents and the work of the Parish Council, the Vale of White Horse District Council has been forced to issue what it says was a clarification of its plans to deal with a bid from Sunningwell Parish Council to grab 14 houses at the top of Hinksey Hill from South Hinksey – and other houses from other neighbouring parishes.

It now says it never intended to take a final decision on Sunningwell's proposals at a committee meeting on 24th November and the proposal won't be examined before 2019 when it will conduct a full review of all its parish boundaries.

The agenda for that committee meeting indicates the committee is being advised to refuse Sunningwell's proposal to take over the Westwood Hotel and other land at the top of Hinksey Hill from Kennington.

The agenda also suggests it is likely that the committee will agree that at the next Parish Council elections in 2019 this parish will be asked to elect three councillors from each of two wards either side of the A34 – a village ward and a Hinksey Hill ward.

Burial ground news

Before the winter the Parish Council's new maintenance contractors should have replanted the hedge of native species that was cut down in summer 2016 by our previous maintenance contractors – just a few months after it was planted to replace the row of Leyland cypresses that had come to dominate the burial ground.

Father James Wilkinson has recently obtained planning permission for a new path to be

constructed across the burial ground and St Laurence's church yard from Parker Road to St Lawrence Road. The path may be built next summer or the following summer and would improve access to the church.

The other change you may see rather sooner will be less welcome. The Parish Council engaged a team from Oxford City Council to inspect all the headstones in the burial ground earlier in the year to check they are all safe after receiving two complaints from members of the public about some of the headstones.

Burial authorities have legal duties under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and it is usual for headstones to be checked professionally every five years but, so far as the Council is aware, the ones in our burial ground had never been checked professionally.

Oxford City Council's team found as many as 18 headstones were unsafe and needed attention. The Parish Council has tried to contact the owners of these 18 headstones but only three have responded – we put up notices at the burial ground as well as publishing the details on the parish website.

So, in the New Year the Parish Council may have no alternative but to lay flat seven of the headstones and to support others by taping them to a wooden stake. Most of the seven headstones to be laid flat relate to burials of people who did not live in this parish at the time of their death, but two did:

- Doris and Ernest Porter lived in Church Close in the village, and
- Barbara and Reginald Harris lived in Dingle Dell on Hinksey Hill.

If any reader can help us to get in contact with their descendants, we would be very grateful for their help: please contact the Parish Clerk, Geoffrey Ferres (mobile 07419 991623 or email parishcouncil@southhinksey.org).

St Laurence Church – from Fr James Wilkinson, the Vicar

Advent

This season of joyful preparation for Christmas begins on Sunday 3rd December 2017. You might like to use this great prayer until the morning of the 24th December 2017

Almighty God,

give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness and put upon us the armour of light,

now in the time of this mortal life,

in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility;

that in the last day

when he shall come again in his glorious majesty

to judge both the quick and the dead,

we may rise to the life immortal;

through him who liveth and reigneth with thee

and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen

Christmas!

This year our service of Carols and Readings will take place on Sunday 17th December 2017 at 4pm. There will be carols and readings and poetry, all by candlelight and with the Donkey House Players. We would like to involve you so if you would like to read, or sing something, or help with the decoration of the church on Saturday 16th December 2017 at 10am please let us know.

Then on Christmas Day, Monday 25th December 2017, there will be a celebration of the Eucharist with carols at 10.00am.

Paths

We finally have planning permission from the Vale of the White Horse District Council and the Diocese. Next we are applying for a Capital Grant from the VWHDC. All being well the late spring of 2018 will finally see the works taking place.

Service programme

You will see below the programme of services at St Laurence for the next 6 months.

Best wishes

Fr James Wilkinson

frjwilkinson@gmail.com

01865 245879

Parish Church of St Laurence
South Hinksey



Sunday Services

The pattern is usually the first and third Sundays of the month

6 monthly Calendar - November 2017 to April 2018

Sun 5 th Nov	4 th before Advent	Eucharist at 9.15am
Sun 12 th Nov	Remembrance	Service & Sprinkling at 2.00pm
Sun 19 th Nov	2 nd before Advent	Eucharist at 9.15am
Sun 3 rd Dec	Advent 1	Eucharist at 9.15am
Sun 17 th Dec	Advent 3	Carols at 4.00pm
Mon 25 th Dec	Christmas Day	Eucharist at 10.00am
Sun 7 th Jan	Epiphany	Eucharist at 9.15am
Sun 21 st Jan	Epiphany 3	BCP Eucharist at 9.15am
Sun 4 th Feb	2 nd before Lent	Eucharist at 9.15am
Sun 18 th Feb	Lent 1	Eucharist at 9.15am
Sun 4 th March	Lent 3	Eucharist at 9.15am
Sun 18 th March	Lent 5	Eucharist at 9.15am
Sun 1 st April	Easter Sunday	Eucharist at 9.15am
Sun 15 th April	Easter 3	Eucharist at 9.15am

Christmas Extravaganza

All,

Come to the village hall, meet your neighbours, share a plate, sing carols... an evening so special it isn't even available in the new Westgate Centre. Once again the 'Mock Pub' has joined forces with the finest in local music and the Village Hall Committee to create what is an increasingly enduring spectacular...

The South Hinksey Christmas Party
Saturday 16th December 2017 from 6:00pm
South Hinksey Village Hall

Open to all, this event is known to raise the Christmas spirit to such heights that even **Santa** himself can't stay away (but only if the children of the village continue to be fantastically well behaved!)

Music will be supplied by our very own locally grown talent: by special arrangement we are proud to present the return of the '**Little-Donkey**' **House Band**, who will be providing the perfect accompaniment to a round of carol singing.

And as we are all probably a little out of practice, to help soothe tired vocal chords and distract from aching limbs there will be a donations bar with **beer, wine, soft drinks** and perhaps even something **mulled**.

Approximate schedule:

- Doors open 6:00pm
- Santa arrives 6:30pm
- Carols from 7:00pm
- Everything else is when we feel like it

Notes:

- To ensure that your child receives a present from Santa, please bring a labelled one for him to hand out.

To help out we would ask that those who are able bring a festive snack with them on the night: those on Manor Road please bring something savoury, and everyone else please bring something sweet.

This is your village, so spread the word and once again let's make this year a Christmas to remember!

Merry Christmas,
Adrian, Maggie & Polly