

The Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter



February 2023

FROM REV JENNIFER MORTON

The last time I wrote a reflection for our magazines for February was in 2020. Little did we know what that year would bring just a few short weeks later. Not only for 2020 but also the following two years. What will 2023 bring?

Three years on has our view of the world changed. We are coming to terms with the aftermath of the pandemic and the effect it has had on all of us. However, February is still the month when at long last days are getting longer. Even though we are still faced with difficult times as winter is not yet gone can we greet the spring in a more optimistic frame of mind.

Those of us who are older have seen many changes over our lifetime and the previous generation even more. My aunt, the last of that generation in our family, recently died aged 91 and like our friend Olive Garfoot who also died in December, she had lived through a war and many economic and political ups and downs. It is the nature of our world and our place in it.

'For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.' the writer of Ecclesiastes tells us. Thousands of years later we know that still to be true. I look out of my window as I write this on a gloomy morning in early January and can hope that the birds coming to feed will once again raise young. The trees and plants are already beginning to stir. The new season is promised.

We in the Church also follow seasons during the year. We began by preparing for Christmas, the time when we remember again the birth of the Christ child and now, as the Christmas season once again draws to a close, we turn our attention to the promises of God in the teachings of Jesus the man. The promises of a new season to come, one that is not only for the future but also for now in this world, if only we learnt how to live in a way that treated each other and creation with respect and justice; love and compassion.

The sun has just broken through the gloom and I am reminded of the hope that however dark and thick the clouds, the sun is always there, just waiting to shine. May the sun shine in your lives now and for each of the seasons to come.

The Revd Teresa Stewart-Sykes is Team vicar for The Baldons with Nuneham Courtenay, Berinsfield and Drayton St Leonard.

e-mail: RevTeresa@outlook.com and tel: 07823 809112

The Revd Jennifer Morton is Associate Team Vicar and lives in Toot Baldon:
jennifer@morton8.co.uk.

Our current curate is The Revd Sorrel Shamel-Wood who lives in Berinsfield.

Our safeguarding officer is Sara McDouall: saramcdouall@gmail.com

A clergy person can always be reached in a pastoral emergency by ringing the Dorchester Team Office 01865 340007

MARY BRAYBROOKE

As many of you will know, Mary Braybrooke sadly died on 12 December. There will be a memorial service at Dorchester Abbey at 2pm on Monday 27th February, which will be led by the former Bishop of Oxford, John Pritchard.

We hope to include a fuller tribute to Mary in the next edition of the newsletter, but I wanted to include a personal note in this edition.

Mary became part of this community when her husband Marcus was appointed vicar to the Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay in the early 1990s. Mary, a social worker, was a Child Care Officer, a Kidney Support Officer, pioneering surgery-based social work, as well as a magistrate.

She played an integral part in Marcus' ministry both locally and internationally, as part of the worldwide inter-faith movement, and indeed her work on different faiths' view of organ transplants won international recognition.

I met Mary just as I was heading off to university, when she arrived in the Baldons, and throughout my adult life she was a much loved and inspirational influence in my life. She was an enthusiastic part of village life, whether singing in the church choir, on the stage in the Baldons Players am-dram society, playing in the handbell team or setting up local groups to support those who were house-bound, among many other activities.

Although she had retired from the magistracy before I joined, her steadfast faith and her belief in justice inspired me, and she encouraged me in my ambitions to become a magistrate and always wanted to hear how it was all going.

Mary and Marcus had retired to Devon in 2021, but visited the Baldons in October, when despite significant frailty, she still took an active part in a Team service at Clifton Hampden and was pleased to see many local friends. I know I will not be alone in missing her wisdom and perspective on the world, and in sending love and prayers to Marcus, Rachel and Jeremy and the whole family.

Natasha Eliot

Monday 13th February 7.30pm

Licensing and Induction of Revd Jane Willis as Team Rector in the Abbey

We are delighted to welcome the Revd Jane Willis as the new Team Rector for the Dorchester Team. Jane will be based at Dorchester Abbey and with her husband Gerry moved into the Dorchester Rectory in January. Jane will be licensed on Monday 13th February 2023, at 7.30 p.m. at the Abbey by the Bishop of Dorchester. Everyone is welcome to this service and to stay behind afterwards to say hello to Jane and Gerry. Please reply to the Abbey office admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk or 01865 340007 if you are able to come.

OLIVE GARFOOT : 18/03/1932 – 10/12/2022

The family of Olive Garfoot would like to express their appreciation of the care, support and friendship given to her and her family over the years. During almost 60 years living in Nuneham Park, Olive became involved in Baldon School both as a parent and whilst working there. She contributed to various village organisations - such as the Women's Institute, Church flower arranging, Parish Council as well as making some very good friends in all the local villages. Thank you for coming to Olive's funeral and giving her a very good send off and also for the messages of support and donations towards the Sue Ryder team.

We would also like to thank Reverends Teresa and Jennifer for their care and help in arranging the funeral at their busy time of the year.
May she rest in peace.

BRIAN BURGESS – 14/07/1943 – 22/11/2022

Kate, Daniel and I would like to thank our friends for their messages of condolence, compassion and love which we received after Brian's sudden death. They brought comfort at a very dark time. One phrase recurred often in those messages: he was 'a lovely man'.

We came together as joint captains of the badminton team in the sixth form at school and thus he became my best friend for more than 60 years and my husband for 53 of those years.

All Brian's working life was spent in the motor industry and, in 1972, he accepted a job at the motor works in Cowley. When house-hunting we discovered Marsh Baldon. While I absorbed the great expanse of the Green, Brian's eyes lit up at the sight of just one aspect; the cricket pitch. He subsequently played for the village cricket team for many years. He was also a supporter of the fund-raising activities for the Village Hall, stocking and running a bar at various social events and being a willing helper when I organised exemption dog shows in the grounds of Baldon House.

As my mobility deteriorated, he took over the dog-walking duties and loved meeting fellow villagers and stopping for a chat. Being a very practical man, he was always ready to lend a helping hand to neighbours and, for very many years, he joined in to maintain the track in the south-east corner of the Green. He was a quiet, strong and patient man and, as a loyal and loving husband, father, grandfather, uncle and friend, his was a life well-lived and I thank God for blessing me with a life-partner who was, indeed, 'a lovely man'.
Jan Burgess

BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Planning applications

6 The Croft P22/S4310/HH An application for removal of garage and outbuilding and erection of an extension and loft conversion to improve accommodation and also erection of home gym The council has indicated its support to SODC.

Land on west side of the Green.P22/S4323/FUL An application by the landowner for a small estate of 6 houses on land on the west side of the Green between no. 9 Stocks House and Low Hill Farm House, the site also known as The Orchard. The plan involves the construction of 2x2 bed, 3x3 bed and 1x4bed houses in two terraces one behind the other with parking and landscaping and accessed by a new driveway.

The site has been identified in the Baldons Neighbourhood plan as suitable for a small infilling development 1 or 2 houses, however the council will be objecting strongly to SODC on the grounds of overdevelopment of the site, impact on the Green Belt and the Conservation Area and lack of compliance with our NDP policies.

Blue Cedar Homes developers of retirement houses, will shortly be issuing preliminary information for Toot Baldon villagers via a dedicated website prior to submitting a formal planning application, for a small development on vacant land at Manor Farm, Toot Baldon. (Note from editor: the website is www.tootbaldonconsultation.co.uk, and the deadline for comments is **5pm Monday 6 February**).

Precept for 2023/4

The council in considering its budget for 2023/4 has voted to recommend to SODC an increase in the precept of 10% in line with inflation to provide a budget of £13,200.00

Parish Council elections 4th May 2023

The four yearly cycle of elections to Parish Councils comes round again on 4th May 2023. In the Baldons 2 councillors are elected for Toot Baldon and 4 for Marsh Baldon, and serving as a councillor is an important and rewarding contribution you can make to your community.

Members of the current council have been around for some time and will in the next few weeks be deciding whether to continue and stand for election again or not. If the council is not to get stale, new ideas and contributions from new members are welcome and necessary. Tom James the parish clerk will be publishing more information about the election in due course but please begin to think about it. Could you be a councillor? Please think about it and don't sit back. If interested, please attend the next meeting on 13 March at 7.30 pm to see what is involved or speak to a councillor or our clerk.

OCC Transport Consultation relevant to A4074

As part of the overall OCC transport strategy designed to reduce car usage and increase walking cycling and bus service use, OCC have been consulting on problems and strategies relevant to major roads including for the A4074.

It is clear that there is a predicted significant increase in traffic on the A4074 due to the planned housing developments north and south of us and the impact of traffic from Didcot using the planned new Thames crossing at Culham and the Clifton Hampden bypass to Golden Balls roundabout, all of which will have an impact through Nuneham Courtenay.

As an initial response the Baldons council has recommended that there will be a need for:-

- A park and ride and parking hub near to bus services
- Improved bus services and a reinstatement of a Baldons bus service
- A roundabout or traffic lights at the Baldon Lane exit .
- Enforcement of the Access Only no through road signs to reduce increased traffic cutting through the Baldons narrow roads. This could be supported by the installation of road-calming measures in the villages.

Village Spring Clean Sunday March 26th

It is that time of year again when we plan to undertake a clear up of the Green, the roads, footpaths and verges around Marsh and Toot Baldon. We need all the helpers we can get for an hour or so on a Sunday morning, adults and children. Please put the date in your diary. We will put a reminder in next month's newsletter. But if you can help, meet on the green in Marsh about 10.30 wear good shoes and gloves. As usual there will be pick up sticks and bags etc.

Baldon Lane

A member of the village raised with us again the problems of travelling and walking on Baldon Lane, particularly in poor light or at night. This was also discussed and mentioned in the December newsletter. As any measures to improve the situation e.g. new footpaths, humps, chicanes, lighting would require the support of the village and support and finance from the County Council highways department, the council believes the best way is to consider them alongside the 20mph speed limit discussion which we understand will start this year. In the meantime, we advise that pedestrians in Baldon Lane make sure they wear visible and reflective clothing.

Date of next Meeting 13th March 2023 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Annual parishes meeting of Marsh Baldon 17th April at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

This is the open meeting for the villages where Annual Reports and Accounts have to be presented but with opportunity for questions and discussion on village issues.

The Countryside Code



Your guide to enjoying parks and waterways, coast and countryside

Respect everyone

- be considerate to those living in, working in and enjoying the countryside
- leave gates and property as you find them
- do not block access to gateways or driveways when parking
- be nice, say hello, share the space
- follow local signs and keep to marked paths unless wider access is available

Protect the environment

- take your litter home - leave no trace of your visit
- do not light fires and only have BBQs where signs say you can
- always keep dogs under control and in sight
- dog poo - bag it and bin it - any public waste bin will do
- care for nature - do not cause damage or disturbance

Enjoy the outdoors

- check your route and local conditions
- plan your adventure - know what to expect and what you can do
- enjoy your visit, have fun, make a memory

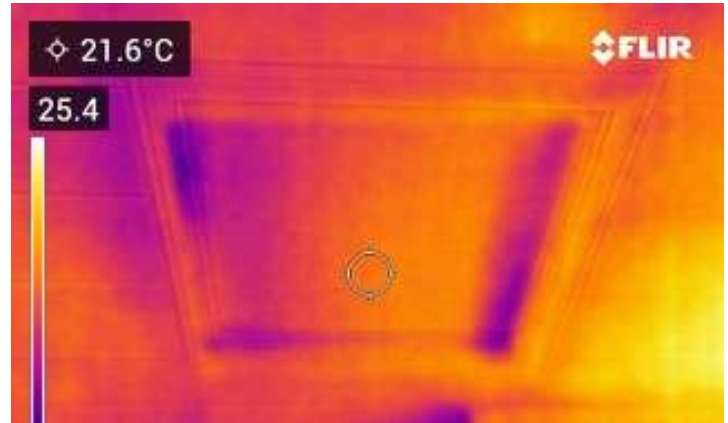
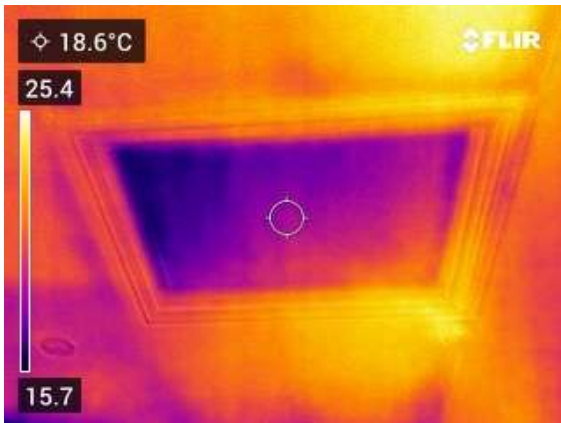


BALDONS FUEL CHARITY

Reduce heat loss in your home

The Baldons Fuel Charity has bought a thermal imaging camera for village use. This is an easy-to-use camera which will help identify where your house is losing heat through draughts, insulation gaps etc.

As an example, the blue in the image on the left shows heat being lost through the loft hatch. The image on the right shows reduced heat loss after the loft hatch cover was insulated with a 50mm block of foam.



We can show you how the camera works if you haven't used one before. If you would like to borrow the camera please contact Ali Barne, Tel: 01865 343624 or alibarne@gmail.com.



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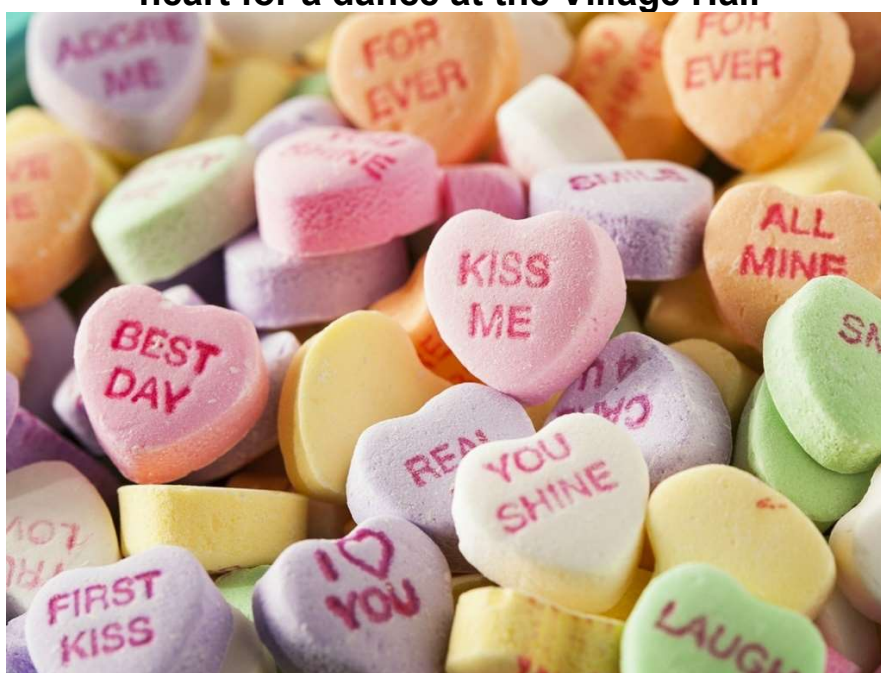
NUNEHAM COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL NEWS

We have been lucky enough to secure a grant for this winter, aimed at running activities to combat loneliness during this long dark part of the year. We are calling it our Not So Youthful Club- think of it as a youth club for adults. All are welcome though! We have held several activities covered by the grant so far, including bingo and a games night. We are planning a pay as you can meal, a film night, and Easter bingo. Next up will be:

Love Your Neighbour and Yourself

Valentines Week Disco
Saturday February 18th

You don't need to be coupled up for this, just come along with love in your heart for a dance at the Village Hall



No entry charge
Refreshments for sale
Come dancing or just come along and have a laugh

Cleaner required: Our lovely cleaner Danielle is moving on to a new career. We wish her well but the hall is looking for a new cleaner.

Booking: Please contact nunehamcourtenay.villagehall@gmail.com for bookings

Yoga: Monday evenings at 7:30. Only £3 a session. Contact Jenny to make sure it's on but we run most weeks as long as we have two people

Thank you! Thank you to Rod for alerting us to the leak in the hall (burst pipe during the cold snap) and Brian for repairing it and doing extra work to ensure this doesn't happen again!

Oxfordshire Libraries

February Events at Berinsfield Library

Winter Wonderland with Harcourt Arboretum
Saturday 11th February 10.30am

Object handling, stories and a craft suitable
for ages 4+ with a parent/carer



Half-term craft and games
all week 11th to 18th February

Craft table and family board games
all week in the library. All welcome!



Lego in the Library
Wednesday 15th February 2.30-4pm

Our popular holiday drop-in Lego play
session for ages 6+ with parent/carer



Library Book Club
Friday 24th February 2.30pm

Join us for a chat about a good read –
contact the library for this month's book
(supplied free of charge)



 @oxonlibraries  BerinsfieldLibrary

Telephone 01865 340771 for more information
or our opening hours



OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL

NUNEHAM COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Council Tax 2023-24

The Council has agreed to freeze the parish council element of your Council Tax for 2023-24. Unfortunately for you, I don't think any other organisation is going to do that. It means the Council has drawn up a pretty tight, break-even budget for next year.

May 2023 elections

The parish council and the whole of South Oxfordshire District Council are up for election on Thursday 4th May, just two days before the Coronation.

Have you ever thought of becoming a parish councillor but could not imagine what was involved? The Oxfordshire Association of Local Councils (OALC) has arranged three, free, one-hour online sessions "So you want to be a councillor?" The dates are Tuesday 24th January at 7pm, Monday 13th February at 10am and Wednesday 15th March at 2pm.

I can send you the Zoom details, or you can find them yourself on OALC's website. The elections, when they happen, will be the first under the Government's new rules to deal with the voter fraud of which they had managed to find scarcely any evidence, so you will need photo ID if you go to a polling station – more about that another time. But you can, of course, request a postal vote. In fact, if you don't have a passport, a driving licence, a concessionary bus pass or a Proof of Age Standards Scheme card, it might be a good idea if you did.

Housing Infrastructure Fund 1 road scheme

The County Council extended the deadline for comments on the next stage of the consultation about the road scheme connected with the Didcot Garden Town development, which involves various new bridges and stretches of road between the A34 at Milton and the Golden Balls roundabout. You can submit comments up to 21st January.

You can find the materials on the County Council's website: the planning reference is R3.0138/21. The website still tells you the consultation has already closed, but they did extend the deadline, trust me on that.

Gravel site

The County Council's Cabinet decided on 20th December to start the process of producing a single Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan and will begin with a Call for Sites, in which landowners, agents and the minerals industry can put forward possible sites for minerals or waste.

Speeding and Road Safety on the A4074

Oxfordshire County Council has shared with the Council the results of the speed and volume survey that happened late last year and the Council has asked for a

meeting to discuss the results. If you're interested in having a look at the data, just let me know.

Deep Cleanse

South Oxfordshire District Council's contractors carried out the deep cleanse in November, but seem to have only cleaned up the pavement on the eastern, not the western, side of the main road. We were told they might spend three days in the parish and I understand they spent only one, so why didn't they do both sides of the main road? The western side is still a mess. I will let you know if we get an explanation.

Christmas trees

SODC's contractors took away the Christmas tree(s) left at the Village Hall car park on 10th January, as they were supposed to do. This time I had sent them a marked aerial photo so they could find the Village Hall car park, which they have missed in previous years.

Meetings

The Council met on 10th January and agreed to give a grant of £100 to Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizens Advice in recognition of the help they provide to residents. The Council's next meeting is in March.

Geoffrey Ferres, Parish Clerk, Nuneham Courtenay Parish Council
Tel: 07419 991623 Email: clerk@nunehamcourtenay.org.uk

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Items for the March 2023 newsletter
by 16th February please

Any villager is welcome to send items for publication in the newsletter. Please send copy to Natasha Eliot: tashaandjames@btopenworld.com. Alternatively, I can be contacted on 343478 or at Baldon House East, Marsh Baldon.

For advertising queries, please contact Leanna Maggs on:
leanna.maggs@gmail.com or on 01865 340 521

DORCHESTER ABBEY EVENTS

Events in the Abbey

Saturday 4th February 7pm Thames Consort – Tudors and More – directed by Jeremy Boughton with Sharon Warnes, violin. Vocal and Instrumental music of Tallis, Boyd, Fayrfax, Phillips, Parsons, Corelli, Sweelink, Blitheman and Morley. Tickets £16 (£12) under 16 free from <https://www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk/whats-on/> All profits to support the Abbey.

Saturday 11th February OSJ 7pm 150th Tribute to Vaughan Williams Marking 150 years since the birth of one of Britain's most beloved composers, this joyous concert features some of Vaughan Williams lesser known gems, alongside staples of the English classical repertoire. Bringing to life the Lark Ascending is the exceptional teenage violinist Poppy McGhee, a multi award-winning star of the future. She is joined by OSJ Voices for this evening of celebration, music and song. Tickets £5 to £25 from www.osj.org.uk

IVY BERRIES AND CHOCOLATE

A mug of hot chocolate, with cream and marshmallows, or a warm bowl of soup, with large wedges of bread, after a bracing walk, is as much about Winter as the evergreens in your garden, and the coloured barks/stems and textures out there too.

For me, winter is also about the insects that can be discovered sheltering in the crevasses and cracks, and under rocks, leaves and logs left hanging around the winter garden. There's also a chance of seeing a bee, on flowering Mahonia shrubs in winter, if its 2 degrees above freezing, or seeing birds gorging on Ivy berries, if you haven't pruned them all away. Did you know, there are more calories in a gram of Ivy berries, than in a gram of chocolate we humans eat at Christmas?

It's a wonderful time of the year in the food larder for us humans, and in the garden for the wildlife too. So don't clear everything away and be too tidy in the garden, leave space for some little treats out there for our wild friends as well. The wildlife isn't worried about rising heating bills, but they might be a tad concerned about the food resources you and your neighbours are providing for them. Spare a thought!

Happy Gardening
Stuart Mabbutt
Wildlife Gardening Specialist
www.wildmaninspires.co.uk
01865 747243



THE SEVEN STARS
at
MARSH BALDON

QUIZ NIGHTS

Our famous Seven Stars quiz is back! So gather your team of eggheads and challenge the quiz master! Events will be happening every last Thursday of the month and include a half time meal! £12 per person – book direct with the team.

VALENTINES

Tuesday 14th February

Treat someone special to an evening of indulgence. Let our team serve you delicious food and drinks while you sit back and enjoy an evening with your favourite person. Pre-booking essential.

MOTHER'S DAY

Sunday 19th March

Spoil your mum this March and bring her for a delicious Sunday lunch and drinks at our beautiful village pub. Pre-booking is essential.

EASTER EGG HUNT

7th – 10th April

Join us for our annual Freespirit Easter Egg hunt! With colouring competitions and lots of chocolatey prizes too! This is a free event but we advise booking a table if joining us for lunch or dinner.

KING'S CORONATION

Saturday 6th May. Raise a glass as we toast to His Majesty King Charles III and celebrate his coronation. Follow our social media pages to find out more about how our pub will be participating.

FATHER'S DAY

Sunday 18th June. Take your dad out to celebrate Fathers Day with one of our famous Sunday lunches and a pint of something

Contact us on
sevenstars@freespiritpubs.co.uk
01865 343337

The Seven Stars at Marsh Baldon, The Green, Marsh Baldon, Oxford, OX44 9LP





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CHURCH SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY 2023

5 th February	10.30am	Marsh Baldon	Holy Communion
12 th February	4.00pm	Marsh Baldon	Evensong
13 th February (Monday)	7.00pm	Dorchester	Licensing of Revd Jane Willis as Dorchester Team Rector
19 th February	9.30am	Toot Baldon	Holy Communion
22 nd February	9.30am	Berinsfield	Ashing Service
(Ash Wednesday)	7.00pm	Dorchester	Ashing Service
26 th February	11.00am	Berinsfield	Team Service

SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR LENT

Mondays: Compline

8pm Drayton St Leonard Church A service of music and words for quiet reflection

Thursdays: Meditations on the Cross

4pm Berinsfield Church A devotional reflection on Jesus' journey to the Cross

Tuesday Lent Lunch

12.30pm Berinsfield Church: Lenten food for the body and soul! Come for a simple soup lunch and an opportunity to find out more about how we can do small things to protect the environment

Friday Lent Lunch

1pm– 2pm Dorchester Abbey Guest House Bread and cheese lunch with donations to the Wallingford foodbank

Lent Courses

Come and See: *The Sayings of Jesus in the Beatitudes*

'Come and See' is the Diocese of Oxford's Annual Lent Course. Each year takes a special theme and the course is delivered through videos and group discussion. It's something for the local church and the whole community.

Mondays 27th Feb - 27th March - 7.30pm hosted by Malcolm and Sue Lucas
Please call 01865 341502 for venue and details or email dorchestersteamcurate@gmail.com

The Closeness of God *Art and Inspiration in Lent*

The Passion of Christ has inspired artists through the centuries. Works of art enable us to meditate with our eyes and discover again the story of God's love and make it our own. In each session we will reflect on a piece of art and discover anew God's invitation to us

Wednesdays 1st - 29th March - 2pm & 7pm Berinsfield Church