

# **The Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter**



**March 2019**

## FROM OUR CHURCHES

Pancake day, Shrove Tuesday, is on 5th March. While few of us, I imagine, use it as an occasion to finish up our butter and eggs prior to fasting for forty days, it does remind us that Lent begins the following day, on Ash Wednesday.

Lent is a time of reflection and the Dorchester Team is providing all our Churches with free pocket size books of 40 Reflections written by our own Bishop Stephen for the whole of the Church of England. We are invited to go on a virtual Pilgrimage and read a page a day. The Reflections about Blessedness can also be read online by downloading the Lent and Easter pilgrim app on Apple or Google play.

It also seems a particularly good time to enjoy beautiful music in the inspirational beauty of Dorchester Abbey and there are four wonderful concerts to enjoy in March, (see opposite).

VS

**Mothering Sunday, when we celebrate our family life, is on  
Sunday, 31st March.**

**The Service will be at 9.30am in Marsh Baldon Church**

## EASTER LILIES

Each Easter we decorate the churches with lilies in memory of loved ones who have died.

If you would like to buy a lily in memory of someone, please let us know.

£4.00 a stem.

Debbie Dance 341323

[d.dance@oxfordpreservation.org.uk](mailto:d.dance@oxfordpreservation.org.uk)



## EVENTS IN DORCHESTER ABBEY

### **Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> March 7.30pm** Corona Strings Best of Britain

Two great classics of British music for strings, Ralph Vaughan Williams's inspired Fantasia on a Theme of Thomas Tallis along with Edward Elgar's magnificent Introduction and Allegro, form the backbone of this programme. We give a rare performance of the magnificent Sea Sketches by Welsh composer Grace Williams and Gerald Finzi's beautiful Eclogue with piano soloist Anita d'Attellis and the programme is completed with Elgar's intensely moving Elegy and Peter Warlock's own arrangement of his highly popular Capriol Suite of 1928. Tickets from [www.ticketsoxford.com](http://www.ticketsoxford.com)

### **Tues March 5<sup>th</sup> 2.00pm** University of South Dakota chamber choir

Chamber Singers is the premiere vocal ensemble at the University of South Dakota. It is comprised of graduate and undergraduate students selected through audition from the entire university student body. Known to critics for "creating a choral concert of stunning beauty and musical understanding," its repertoire, which is primarily a cappella, includes music from the Renaissance to the present in a wide variety of styles. Free concert. All welcome

**Sat March 9<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm** Thames Consort and Friends directed by Jeremy Boughton in support of YoCo (Youth Challenge Oxfordshire). Vocal and instrumental music by Mozart, Handel, Vivaldi and Sweelink. Tickets available from the Coop or from John Cornelius 07912 351018.

### **Sat March 23<sup>rd</sup> 7.00pm** Yu Kosuge at Dorchester Abbey Concert in aid of Helen and Douglas House

Yu Kosuge is a world-class classical Japanese pianist, performing at leading music venues globally. With her superlative technique, sensitivity of touch, and profound understanding of the music she plays, Yu has become one of the world's most noted young musicians. Doors open 6:30, Performance begins at 7pm. Tickets £20 from <https://www.wegotickets.com/searchresults/adv>

Sue Booy is Team Rector for the Dorchester Team. Any queries about services, or if you would like to speak to someone about a baptism, wedding, or funeral the person to contact in the first instance is the Administrator in the **Dorchester Team Office** on **01865 340007**. Or, if you prefer, email [admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk](mailto:admin@dorchester-abbey.org.uk).

**01865 340007** is also the number you can ring **at any time** if you need to contact a clergy person urgently.

**Baldons Churchwardens:** Debbie Dance (341323) and Ian Gillespie (341398).



# ***Safari Supper***

***Saturday 23rd***

***March 6.30pm***

*Drinks and Canapes in Toot*

*Starters in Toot*

*Mains in Marsh*

*Cheese and Coffee in Marsh*

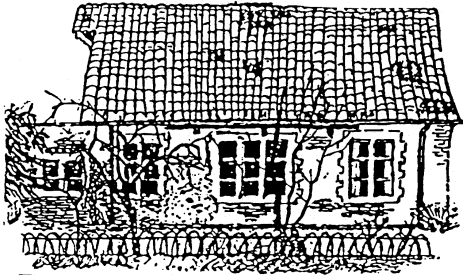
*Cost: £15 to include wine*

*If you would like to come (villagers only) please email us on:*

*[info@baldonsevents.com](mailto:info@baldonsevents.com)*

*Please state if you have dietary requirements*

*Couples will be allocated to different hosts*



[www.marshbaldonschool.co.uk](http://www.marshbaldonschool.co.uk)

## **Marsh Baldon CE Primary School**

The Green, Marsh Baldon

Oxford OX44 9LJ

Telephone (01865) 343249

Email: [office.3188@marsh-baldon.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3188@marsh-baldon.oxon.sch.uk)

**Headteacher: Beccy Harris**

**Chair of Governors: Mr Kevin Moyes**

Greetings to all from Marsh Baldon CE Primary School,

For a while we have wanted to investigate more about the history of the school, so this term we have undertaken a whole school project to look at how school life, home life and life during wartime has changed for children since the school opened in 1771.

We would like to invite all members of the village community to attend an exhibition:

### **The Changing Life and Times of a Marsh Baldon School Child (1771-2018)**

**on**

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March  
9.00am - 10.30am**

There will be a short presentation at 9.00am followed by an exhibition of photos, artefacts and children's work. Light refreshments will also be served. Please join us if you can.

If you would like to contribute in any way to this occasion, please don't hesitate to contact us at the school office.

We look forward to welcoming you to our school soon

Beccy Harris  
Headteacher

## **BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

### SODC Local plan 2034

The closing date for submissions on the SODCs local plan was the 18<sup>th</sup> February and we hope villagers have been able to send in their own responses.

A very useful open meeting was held on 7<sup>th</sup> Feb when Michael Tyce from CPRE addressed a meeting of villagers in the village hall. Michael gave a very clear presentation and dissection of the housing growth figures in the plan and the influence of the Oxfordshire Growth Board on these.

The Parish Council have submitted their own strong objections to the plan, concentrating on housing where we believe the numbers are greatly inflated to support an unacceptable level of growth but are not an objective assessment of need. Also, there are no exceptional reasons for the release of land in the Green belt and it is unjustified. The problems that would be created for roads and transport are also inadequately addressed. The next stage in the plan is that of a public enquiry, likely to be held in the summer.

### Parish Council Election May 2<sup>nd</sup>

SODC will be publishing information on the Parish Council and District Council elections on 26<sup>th</sup> March and nominations for candidates will need to be in by 5 pm on 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

The role of a Parish Councillor is to help represent the interests of the village and villagers to the Parish Council and via the Parish Council to the District Council, County Council and other bodies. It requires an interest in the villages and village life and although not onerous does require a commitment to a bit of time. Please think about putting your name forward, existing councillors will consider whether to stand again but we anticipate one vacancy.

Some councils have difficulty filling all vacancies and as a result may have problems representing their community's interests. With things like the Expressway and the SODC local plan on the horizon please don't let that happen in the Baldons. SODC will put information available on the web site below

<http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/services-and-advice/local-democracy/elections->

### Planning Applications

Durham Leys Farm P18/S4286/FUL: the Parish Council has supported this application but has asked SODC to apply conditions which deal with construction and repairs to the track to minimise problems for the village.

Land on Baldon Lane P19/S0138/FUL: An application for 2 bedroomed house on the site between Daglands and the old telephone exchange. This site was identified as suitable for a small development in the neighbourhood plan and although in principle supportive of a small house the council has concerns at this plan and has indicated objections to SODC.

The Old Telephone Exchange site Baldon Lane P19/S0102/FUL: An application for a small 3 bedroomed house. This site too was identified in the Neighbourhood plan as suitable for development and the council has indicated its support.

However, the councillors would have preferred to see development on both these sites coordinated and has indicated this to SODC.

### Flooding in The Croft

Problems were resolved when a blocked land drain was found and cleared on Parsonage Farm land.

### Village Spring Clean Sunday 7th April

Please put this date in your diary and come and help: adults, families and children all welcome. It only needs an hour or so of your time. For Marsh Baldon, meet at 10.30 am on the Village Green, or contact John Maskell about arrangement for Toot Baldon. We will have pick up sticks etc. but make sure you have good shoes etc.

### Annual Parishes Meeting: 8th April Village Hall 7.30 pm

This is the annual open meeting for villagers with the parish council and will be the last one of this council before the elections in May. We hope that villagers will attend - we do have to give an annual report of the council business and financial matters, but it is an important opportunity to have an open discussion on matters that concern you and the village as a whole. If you have a question you want to put to us in advance please contact Tom James, the Parish Clerk, no later than 7 days before.

Do not confuse this with the AGM of the council this takes place in May after the election.

The Annual General Meeting of the newly elected parish council will be on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May

## **OWN A PUB – BECOME A BNCS SHAREHOLDER!**

The Seven Stars is a community-owned asset in the heart of our villages. It is run by Matt and his team and supported by the Baldons and Nuneham Community Society (BNCS), which was set up to save the pub. Villagers chipped in to buy shares and it's now owned by over 150 shareholders, represented by the BNCS committee.

There is an opportunity to buy shares in BNCS, which will give you not only a stake in the pub but also a small rate of interest annually. We'd love to have new members, so if you are interested please click on the website or contact any of the committee.

## SAVE MONEY ON ENERGY BILLS! - CITIZENS ADVICE TIPS



Citizens Advice Oxfordshire South and Vale is encouraging people to analyse their home energy spending and take steps to cut down on fuel wastage. The charity has these tips:

1. Check your bills carefully and make sure you're on the cheapest tariff. Most energy suppliers offer fixed price tariffs, where the price of a unit of energy will remain the same for the length of the deal. Think about switching to a new supplier (for an energy prices comparison tool, go to <https://energycompare.citizensadvice.org.uk>). Citizens Advice has helped many people to switch successfully to a new energy supplier, so contact us to discuss your options.
2. Make your home energy-efficient. Insulate lofts and walls, double-glaze your windows and use thick curtains to keep heat in. Get your boiler serviced annually. Grants are available to help with insulation: call the Energy Saving Advice Service on 0300 123 1234, Monday to Friday 9 am to 8 pm.
3. Your central heating thermostat and your timer (or programmer) are your good friends and allies when it comes to saving money. Shave down the timings so that the boiler is only working when you need it. A thermostat temperature of 20 degrees is adequate for most homes.
4. Try an online Home Energy Check at [www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/resources/tools-calculators](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/resources/tools-calculators)
5. For those who qualify, various grants and discounts are available to help with bills: the Warm Home Discount <https://www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme> and the Winter Fuel Payment <https://www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment>
6. Sign on to the Priority Services Register if you're of pensionable age, disabled or chronically sick. The scheme gets you extra energy services free of charge. Visit <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk> for further information.

For more help and support, contact Citizens Advice in person or on Adviceline (03 444 111444). For locations of offices and opening hours see [www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/oxfordshire-south-vale)



## A NEW BUILDING AND A NEW EXHIBITION AT WALLINGFORD MUSEUM



This winter's frantic activity has now finished and Wallingford Museum has a new timber Collections and Archaeology building – thus freeing up space within Flint House to create better accessibility with a new toilet for public use including disabled facilities, and also the remodelling of working/storage areas to provide more flexibility for exhibitions and lecture room facilities. We are grateful for the support from Wallingford Town Council which owns the property and also the EU funded LEADER grant which has funded much of the work.

We very much hope that the new facilities will be appreciated by visitors of all ages and that you will be able to visit us to see them in the coming months.

Our special exhibition for 2019 is entitled: **'Once upon a time...' - the changing face of Wallingford.** This exhibition is about how we connect with times past by exploring Wallingford's history and archaeology. The exhibition will run throughout the museum, with a sheet to guide people round. There are new 'hands on' things for children - a 'Family Friendly' experience. In addition we have other exhibitions for 2019 including: 'Wallingford Castle - the Inside Story'; 'The Wallingford Story'; 'At home with the Queen of Crime - Agatha Christie'; and the 'Midsomer Murders' display.

Our 2019 season opens on 1st March and runs until 30 November. The admission charge remains at £5 per adult - this ticket gives unlimited access to the Museum for the whole season. Accompanied children are free.

### **CASTLE HISTORY WALK**

By popular demand on Saturday 30 March, an historic guided walk around Wallingford Castle has been arranged, which will be led by Judy Dewey (local historian and Museum curator).

This Castle History walk will start at the Museum at 2.30pm and last about 2 hours, [unsuitable for dogs!]. There is a charge of £6 for this guided walk, but you could combine it with a discounted season ticket to the Museum (£10 combined), and view 'Once upon a time...' - the changing face of Wallingford. No need to book in advance.

So, why not immerse yourself in the town's fascinating local history for the day!

## ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Items for the **April 2019** newsletter  
by **16<sup>th</sup> March** please

Any villager is welcome to send items for publication in the newsletter - this can be anything from articles, poems or pictures, to publicising your event. In addition, if you have an image you would like us to consider for the cover, do send it in!

If you would like to receive a reminder e-mail each month for newsletter contributions please let me know.

Natasha Eliot: tashaandjames@btopenworld.com. Alternatively I can be contacted on 343478 or at Baldon House East, Marsh Baldon.

For advertising queries, please contact Sheila Harris on:  
sheilaharris778@yahoo.co.uk or on 340403.

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## **THE BALDONS FUEL CHARITY** **(but not just fuel)**

**For the past 50 years, the Baldons Fuel Charity has been helping some residents living in Marsh, Toot or Little Baldon with their energy costs. Financial support has also been given towards personal alarm systems for the elderly, training expenses, costs of education such as uniforms or school transport or in any other situation when financial help might make life a bit easier.**

**The Charity has an annual income of about £18,000.**

**If you are experiencing financial difficulties, or know anyone in the villages who is, please let us know. Either talk to one of us or obtain an application form for a grant from the Clerk, Mrs Barbara Wright (343276) or any of the Trustees. All applications are dealt with in the strictest confidence by the Trustees.**

**PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU NEED HELP  
THAT IS WHAT THE CHARITY IS FOR!**

**Trustees:**

**Chris Nichols (Chair) - 343388**

**John Wright - 343276**

**Ray Claridge – 343393**

**David Greenaway – 343496**

**Graham Hobbins – 343227**

**Alison Porter – 340405**

**Help with energy costs may also be available from the National Energy Foundation  
[www.nef.org.uk](http://www.nef.org.uk)**

## **NUNEHAM COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS**

### **Parish Council precept and Council Tax**

As many of you probably spotted, in last month's Newsletter I was obviously wrong to describe a £5.50 reduction for 2019-20 in the Council Tax attributable to the parish council as a 1% reduction on 2018-19's £55.30 per year for a Band D property. An embarrassing mistake with the decimal point!

It's actually a 10% reduction, isn't it?

Trust me, I don't always make terrible mistakes with your finances.

### **South Oxfordshire Local Plan**

About 15 people turned out on a damp February evening to take part in a parish meeting on the new South Oxfordshire Local Plan.

By the time you read this, the period for comments will be over but the Council hopes many of you will have taken the chance to let the authorities know what you think.

### **Parish Council elections**

The time is approaching to elect your parish council to serve for four years.

There are five places on the Council but there were only four parishioners serving on the outgoing council. Would you consider putting yourself forward for the new council? Nominations may be submitted from 26th March.

Nominations must be delivered by hand to the district council offices at 135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park, Milton, OX14 4SB.

The district council offices are not open on Saturdays and Sundays.

Nominations cannot be submitted by post, fax, email or other electronic means.

The deadline for nominations is 4pm on Wednesday 3 April 2019.

In the event of there being more than five nominations for the five places on the parish council, the election will take place on Thursday 2nd May 2019 between the hours of 7am and 10pm, at the same time as the district council elections.

The polling station will be the Village Hall. Poll cards giving the address of the polling station, the date of the election and the hours of the polls, will be issued.

### **Who uses it? Part Two**

No one responded to the Council's request in the last Newsletter for information about who uses the red phone kiosk in the village. But I'm trying again with an appeal for information about who uses the **cycle rack**. At least one bike there looks abandoned.

### **Parish Council's next meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council - the last planned meeting of the present council - will be at 7pm on Tuesday 5th March in the Village Hall.

## **JOHN HOWELL MP WRITES ON THE OXFORD-CAMBRIDGE EXPRESSWAY**

The proposed Expressway is part of a wider project over a geographical arc from Oxford to Cambridge via Milton Keynes. In terms of communications the project includes East-West rail, digital infrastructure as well as the proposed road link. Let me say upfront that in principle I am generally supportive.

There has been debate over the possible route of the road, particularly at the Oxfordshire end. At early stages three potential broad corridors for the route around Oxford were put forward. In September last year the Minister has announced the proposed corridor would be Corridor B and within that discounted B2 leaving B1 and B3 for further investigation. B2 was discounted mainly due to the negative environmental impacts near to Horspath, Wheatley and the Otmoor Nature Reserve which are considered to be particularly difficult to overcome. The next stage is to look at detailed routes in the two corridors. Last autumn Highways England held some key stakeholder information events to which parish council representatives and other local councillors were invited. These were 'to discuss local constraints and opportunities with the technical specialists with a view to gathering additional local intelligence which will be fed into the route options identification and sifting process.' During this year they will be working to narrow down options. I understand that there will be a public consultation in the autumn of this year.

At present there are campaign groups working in all potential areas either seeking to support a particular route or to object to a particular route. For my part, and in the absence of alternative information, I have taken the view that the route should utilise existing roads wherever possible rather than carve a new path through Green Belt land or damage other areas of environmental interest and I have suggested it needs to be routed to the west of Oxford. My rationale for my view is that I have long since supported the need for the upgrading of the A34. The accident record alone suggests that we have to do something about this road. I am also aware that congestion on the A34 puts pressure on villages which can be seen as a rat run to avoid the jams. I would be looking for improvements to the A34 along with measure to deter diversions through villages. Together with colleagues I also support the widening of the scope of the project to include the A420. This is another road that needs attention and improvements to the A420 would take pressure off of the A34.

The key focus of the project is on infrastructure to support the business rather than housing. I was pleased to see that when the then Housing Minister wrote last summer to all councils along the arc to look to increase their housing numbers our local councils did not respond positively.

I do not anticipate any real news on this now until later this year. Details of the project can be found online at [highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/oxford-cambridge-expressway](http://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/oxford-cambridge-expressway).

You can email me at [howelljm@parliament.uk](mailto:howelljm@parliament.uk) or write to me at the House of Commons (House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA) or my constituency office (PO Box 84, Watlington, OX49 5XD)

**OBC** OXFORD  
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# Mozart: Requiem

JS Bach: Trauer-Ode

**Sunday 10 March 2019**  
**5.00pm**

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**Oxford**

**Conductor: Benjamin Nicholas**  
**London Mozart Players**

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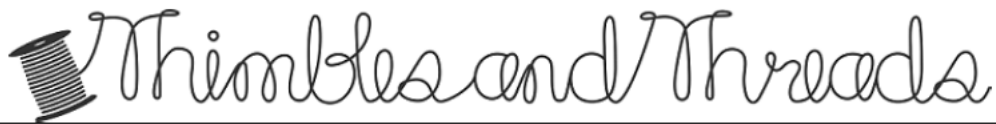
**In person:**

Oxford Playhouse Theatre,  
Beaumont Street, Oxford OX1 2LW  
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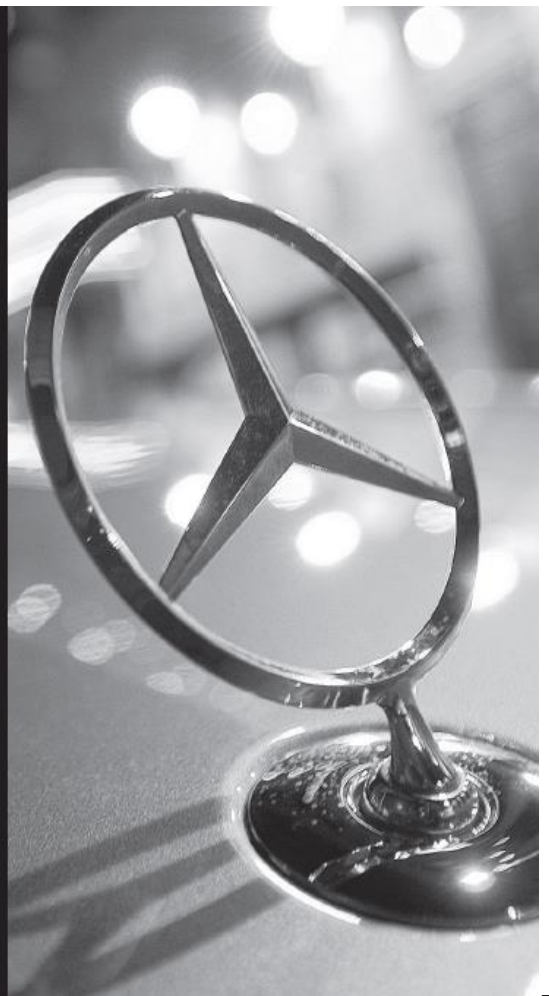
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Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March & 11<sup>th</sup> April

Coffee Morning 10.30am

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March & 16<sup>th</sup> April

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Curling up in front of a log fire may be the purrfect way to keep warm and cosy. But did you know 50% of chimney fires take place between now and March? Take look at **Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service** top tips and don't let the sparks fly

- Get your chimney swept at least once a year, if you regularly have log fires get it swept more frequently
- If you have a 1<sup>st</sup> floor fireplace check that it is clear of debris
- Store logs away from the fireplace

Find out more at: [www.365alive.co.uk](http://www.365alive.co.uk)

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## SERVICES FOR MARCH 2019

Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	6.00pm	<b>Women's World Day of Prayer</b>	<b>Clifton Hampden</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> March	9.30am	<b>Holy Communion</b> <i>Jennifer Morton</i>	<b>Toot Baldon</b>
6 <sup>th</sup> March Ash Wednesday	9.30am	<b>Holy Communion</b> <i>with imposition of ashes</i>	<b>Berinsfield</b>
10 <sup>th</sup> March	4.00pm	<b>Evensong</b> <i>Marcus Braybrooke</i>	<b>Toot Baldon</b>
17 <sup>th</sup> March	9.30am	<b>Holy Communion</b> <i>Marcus Braybrooke</i>	<b>Marsh Baldon</b>
24 <sup>th</sup> March	8.30am	<b>Said Holy Communion</b> <i>Jennifer Morton</i>	<b>Marsh Baldon</b>
	9.30am	<b>Family Worship</b> <i>Jennifer Morton</i>	<b>Marsh Baldon</b>
31 <sup>st</sup> March	9.30am	<b>Family Worship</b> <i>for Mothering Sunday</i> <i>Jennifer Morton</i>	<b>Marsh Baldon</b>
7 <sup>th</sup> April	9.30am	<b>Holy Communion</b> <i>Jennifer Morton</i>	<b>Toot Baldon</b>
14 <sup>th</sup> April	9.30am	<b>Palm Sunday Walk</b> <i>Jon Roberts</i>	<b>Toot to Marsh</b>
	6.00pm	Palm Sunday Meditation	Dorchester Abbey

## SIDESDUTY

	<b>Marsh Baldon</b>	<b>Toot Baldon</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> March		9.30am Ann Druce
10 <sup>th</sup> March		4.00pm Sonia Hobbins
17 <sup>th</sup> March	9.30am Natasha Eliot	
24 <sup>th</sup> March	9.30am Ian Gillespie	
31 <sup>st</sup> March	9.30am Catherine Mason	

## FLOWERS

24 <sup>th</sup> Feb & 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	P & J Slaney	J Brook
LENT	NO FLOWERS	