

# The Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter



**June 2020**

## FROM REVEREND TERESA STEWART-SYKES

### We'll be back soon.....

Apart from Sci-Fi aficionados, doomsday-mongers and Bill Gates none of us ever imagined we would be living in times like these. At the time of writing, we are still shut in our homes and our church doors are closed and locked. We do not know when our lives will return to normal. Emotionally, we are in a place that could be described as a wilderness, an inhospitable region, an unchartered country. That said, our village communities remain buoyant, supportive, and hopeful places. The message pinned to our church doors, 'We'll be back soon' draws our eyes to future horizons, but is there anything at all we can learn from our current situation?



In Christian spirituality, 'going into the wilderness' can be a positive experience. The Israelites wandered around in the desert for '40 years' learning to know themselves, to discover what was important to them, and to rely on God for the very bread and water that enabled them to survive. They emerged from the wilderness a people capable of establishing a nation and a culture, a self-confident community equipped for the battles ahead. So, for Christians a time of retreat spent apart from the world is seen as an opportunity for reflection, analysis of self, and spiritual growth. For many, these days under the lockdown are similarly an opportunity to discover what we value the most, who is most important to us, and what direction we would like our lives to take after the lockdown. Our time in this 'wilderness' is a time for us as a community and a nation to examine our shared ideals and to change our lives and the lives of those most vulnerable in our society for the better.

The flip side to this 'wilderness' experience is what is known as the 'dark night of the soul' a place of devastating loss, of weariness, and listlessness. We've all been in this place at some point in our lives and have struggled to make sense of it all. There are many of us who are suffering currently because of Covid 19, the cruel way in which it separates families and loved ones at a time when the comfort of a hug and the loving touch of a hand is most needed. The book of Job in the Bible is an excoriating account of an individual wrestling with God to make sense of the darkest experiences of human suffering.

Even the most devoted Christians have battled to live through such times; Mother Teresa spent the last 50 years of her life afflicted with a spiritual darkness, but like Job she eventually came to accept her pain as part and parcel of her calling to serve others. The collective pain we are experiencing in these times tests our character. The love and gratitude we are feeling for those who serve us, the Doctors and Nurses, the carers, the refuse collectors, and the postal staff; is a testament to the character of our communities. It is not so long ago that we were

anxious about the divisions in our society, but we are discovering a commitment to each other that is as courageous as it is loving.

'We'll be back soon' and the future holds the possibility of change and renewal. God's blessing to you all until we meet again.

Rev Teresa

*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

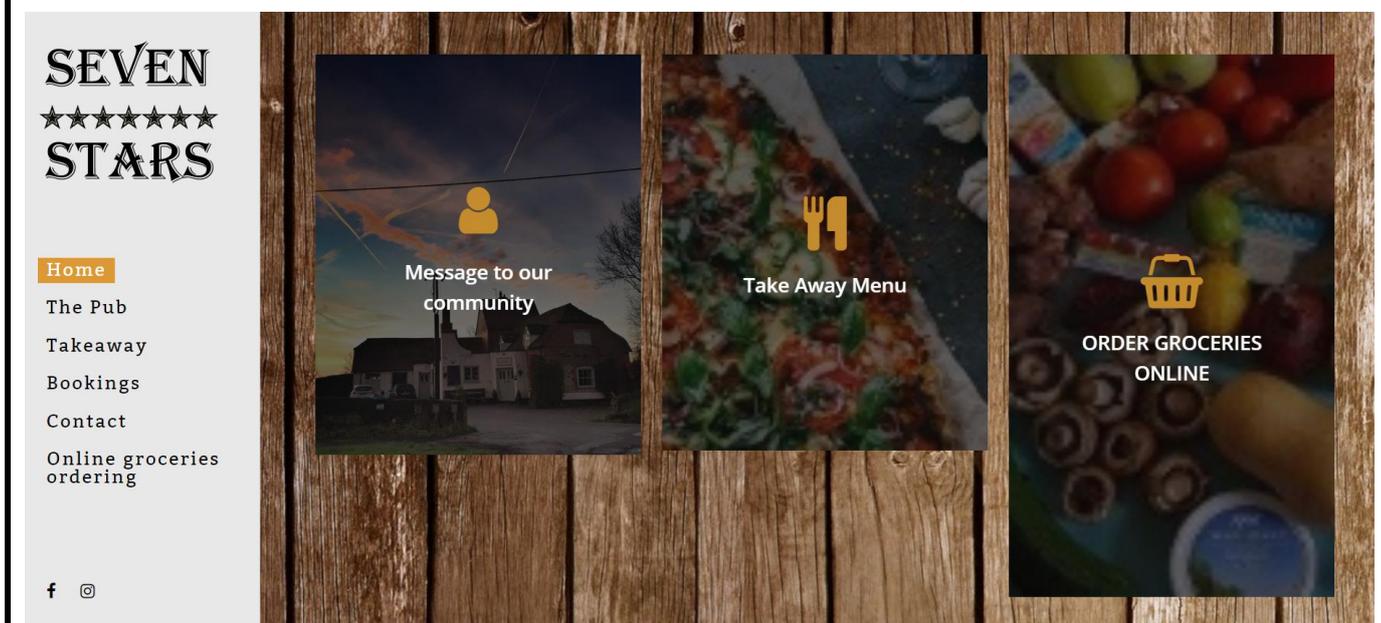
**A clergy person can always be reached in a pastoral emergency by ringing the Dorchester Team Office 01865 340007**

# Seven Stars Shop and Takeaway

The Seven Stars is offering a takeaway service from Wednesday to Saturday, alongside a groceries and essentials shop.

Menus and shop details are on the website:

<https://www.sevenstarsonthegreen.co.uk/> or phone 01865 343337



Cover Photo: Buttercups and Dandelions, James Eliot 2018



**If you need help with shopping, getting medicines or just a chat please email [baldonsinfo@gmail.com](mailto:baldonsinfo@gmail.com) or ring or email one of the village coordinators:**

**Marsh:**

Alison Porter - 01865 340405 / [am.porter@btinternet.com](mailto:am.porter@btinternet.com);

Maddie Clark-Jones 07526 237461 /  
[maddie.clark.jones@gmail.com](mailto:maddie.clark.jones@gmail.com)

**Toot:**

Phil Collins – 07768 546139 / [phil@philcollins.uk.com](mailto:phil@philcollins.uk.com);

Jacquie Lake - 07974 218940 / [jacquie@dedicatedwines.com](mailto:jacquie@dedicatedwines.com)

**Little Baldon and Nuneham:**

Anna Galliers - 07375 029 952 / [seannarock@gmail.com](mailto:seannarock@gmail.com)

Madhvi Saini - 07887 614752 / [sainimadhvi@yahoo.com](mailto:sainimadhvi@yahoo.com)

**BNCAG are linked in with the Oxfordshire network of community support groups and can also provide up to date information regarding NHS and local authority services.**

## BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

### Zoom Council meeting 11 May 2020

The council held its first meeting via Zoom to which 10 villagers logged in to participate in the open session or just listen to the discussion.

The May meeting is the Parish Council AGM, where the Chairman and Vice-chairman are elected. Following Government advice, the following action was approved:

*“Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the people appointed to the roles of Chairman and Vice-chairman will now continue in post ‘until the next annual meeting of the authority or until such time as that authority may determine.’ Regs Part 2 sec 4 (2)”*

Items discussed are summarised below:-

### Village Green Repairs

#### *South side*

There have been increasing concerns over several years about the number of vehicles driving on the south side of the green, with damage to the track and increasing number of vehicles using the green as an alternative. This has led to an unacceptable widening of the track and erosion of the green which we need to take measures to restore and protect. A meeting of residents on the south side to discuss maintenance of the track has had to be postponed due to current restrictions but will go ahead as soon as is possible for groups to meet.

In the meantime, following discussion with the land agent for Queens College the council are required to take action to restore the edges of green and to prevent its continuing erosion and use by cars. The council has now agreed to return the track width to 5 m, restore and reseed the Green edges and install wooden posts at intervals between the Seven Stars pub and Durham Leys farm. Discussion will be held with the pub committee and landlord to accommodate overflow parking on the track and it is intended that this work will be undertaken in the next few months.

#### *North side*

The council has agreed to look again at repairs to the north side where school parking and recent construction projects have extended the damaged area. The council will explore the availability of grants from OCC and SODC.

### **Damage limitation: Construction projects**

As many will have seen significant damage has occurred round the green due to recent construction projects being undertaken in the winter months. Residents have been made aware that it is their responsibility to repair the damage, but the council has agreed the following resolution for all development:

*Homeowners will be expected to repair any damage caused by construction work and the council will make every effort to ensure this condition is agreed when approving any planning application.*

The council is drawing up a policy statement which can be an addendum to the Neighbourhood Plan Design guide.

### **Village pond**

The pond outside the school overflowed for the first time for many years in March. Unfortunately, the overflow pipe was found to be broken. The council has agreed to seek estimates for repair.

### **Grant for churchyard maintenance**

Following discussion, the council has renewed its grant to the PCC for grass cutting in the churchyards for £1200.00 per annum fixed for 3 years, an increase from £1000.00 in 2019/20.

### **Planning applications**

Two planning applications have been received which the council has yet to comment on:-

P20/S1338 LB A Replacement front door at the School House Marsh Baldon

P20/S1453/FUL New Hay Barn Durham Leys Farm

The council has indicated its concern and objection to the application for a carport at 1 The Croft. It is considered to be overdevelopment and not compliant with the Neighbourhood plan policies. SODC's decision is awaited.

### **Solar Farm at Nineveh Farm**

The Parish Council have had an initial briefing on the proposed planning application for a Solar Farm on land at Nineveh Farm and details have been circulated via Village email and summarised below. Villagers will have received a document from the agents for the developer seeking feedback. This is part of community engagement prior to the submission of a full planning application. It is not yet the full planning application on which the Parish Council will be formally consulted and villagers' feedback will almost certainly be reflected in the final planning application

The Parish Council will be considering the implication for the Baldons and the Green Belt and advising villagers about our likely response to the full application when we receive it. Details of the proposals and maps are on the Baldons website and the pre application sent to SODC info can be seen at SODC planning ref P20/S1525/SCR.

### The Proposal

**Site:** Six adjoining fields producing a site of about 123 hectares. Site has been selected because it is close to the Cowley Substation and **consent has already been granted**, in July 2019, for the construction of a 49.9MW battery storage on land south of the substation.

Development: The six fields would house solar panels which would tilt during the

day to maximise energy absorption. In addition, there would be 20 battery storage containers, which would be housed in shipping containers (12m x 2.4m x 2.6m high). Construction would take around 30 weeks and involve, on average 8 deliveries by HGVs per day. All cables would be buried underground. Vehicles would enter and leave via the A4074 using the existing farm access (north of Nuneham Courtenay).

Duration: The estimate lifespan of the project is 35 years. Decommissioning would take about 16 weeks and the land would be returned to agricultural use.

Benefits: Generate approximately 72,000MWh of electrical energy, providing enough energy to meet the annual electrical needs of around 19,000 homes. Carbon emission savings will be 18,500 tonnes per year; the equivalent of 8,500 cars.

Possible impact: In the detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report, the applicants have identified the following possible impacts:

- Landscape and visual impacts: the site does not fall in the direction of any of the 'key views' identified in local planning policy
- Heritage impacts: possibly low
- Impacts of biodiversity: possibly high but a number of measures can mitigate the impact
- Impacts on amenity (glint and glare and noise);
- Loss of agricultural land (70% is less than optimal quality and will improve with rest). Land can still be used for low-intensity sheep farming.
- Flood risk impacts: the majority of the site has a very low surface water flood risk
- Traffic impacts and access; the A4074 is a major trunk road, running through Nuneham Courtney; a listed village.

A number of measures are proposed to reduce the possible negative impact of the development:

- New woodland planting and enhancement of the existing field and boundary vegetation leading to increased biodiversity and creation of new potential habitats e.g. skylarks.
- Creation of buffer zones around sensitive locations such as badger sets, mature trees and great crested newt ponds.
- Produce species-rich grassland and meadows amongst the solar panels and at field margins and corners, thereby increasing the range of habitats available and the creation of ecological corridors. Link these ecological enhancements with the existing surrounding areas of nature conservation.
- Creating buffers around public rights of way through the Site to maintain their recreational amenity. The Oxford Green Belt Way (a PROW) follows the southern and eastern boundary of the Site before passing through Field 4, and a public footpath (PROW 118/14) crosses the Site between Fields 5 and 6 linking Nineveh Farm to The Baldons.

- Removing solar panels located on higher elevated areas where views of these are readily available from the surrounding landscape.
- Routing all vehicles from the Ring Road and down the A4074 would prevent vehicles from travelling through Nuneham Courtenay.

**Date of next meeting**

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July 7.30 pm Venue to be decided according to Covid 19 restrictions**

## **COVID-19 / NHS FIRST RESPONDERS**

**If any other NHS Volunteer First Responders would like to make contact or want help with getting an Advanced DBS security check Certificate for Community Response Plus - do get in touch.**

**Fiona & Carson Black 07583493039 / 01865 343586 /  
fiona.webster@pamediagroup.com.**



# NUNEHAM ESTATE

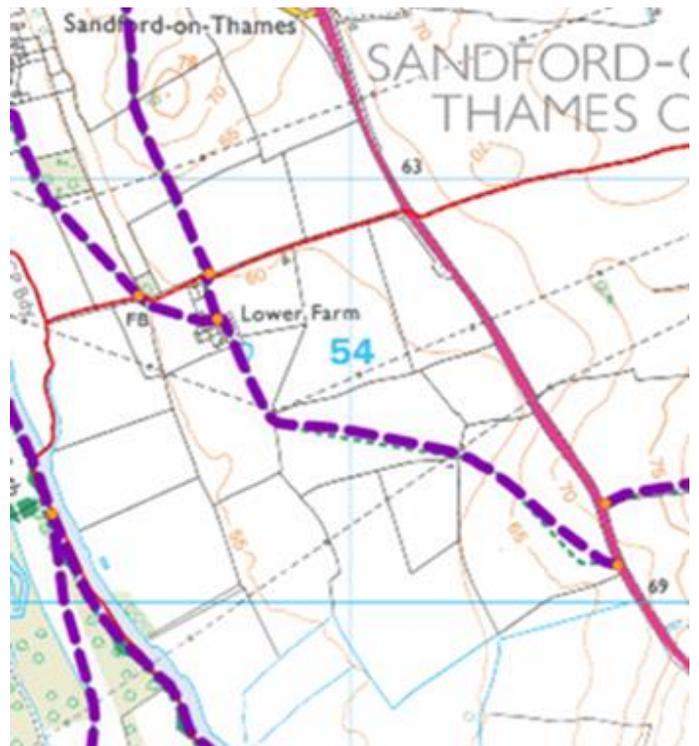


The Estate offers a beautiful environment for people to enjoy and we recognise this is especially important during the current circumstances. We welcome people using the Public Rights of Way that cross the Estate. The Estate would like to take this opportunity to remind people to keep to the Rights of Way and to respect that these pass through private land and close to private property.

The maps show where these Rights of Way run and we have renewed signage on the ground to help.

You may have noticed some increased arboricultural activity on the ground where we are working hard to keep the Rights of Way clear. We welcome continued reporting of any obstructions for us to deal with.

Estate Contact details:  
Telephone: 01865 343413  
Email: [office@nuneham.com](mailto:office@nuneham.com)



## **NUNEHAM COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL NEWS**

In these unusual times the village hall is not operating in the usual way. There are a number of ways that people in the village are supporting each other though. There are also several WhatsApp groups. If you would like to join the Nuneham Community spirit group or the Nuneham Food exchange do get in touch with me and I will help you join. My contact details are below.

### **Nuneham Food Exchange**

The Nuneham food exchange is organised by Tom. As well as a grocery service, we contact each other to see if anyone needs things from the store. There are lists posted around the village of items that Tom endeavours to supply. Tom can be reached on 07919 224488. As well as a grocery service we literally exchange food items with each other. Of course, please hold onto any delivery service you may have but this is in addition to that, rather than popping to the shops.

### **Saturday bread, flour, and eggs**

As part of the food exchange, Jenny places an order with the Natural Bread company on Fridays by Noon. It is collected on Saturday lunchtime from the bakery and she or John deliver it. If you wish to order you can contact her on 01865 343459 or through the WhatsApp group. If you don't have access to the online bakery list let her know.

### **Village takeaway**

Becky lives in Church cottages and is normally a private chef and cater. She does a takeaway/delivery service on Friday and Saturday evenings. Orders need to be in by Tuesday. She has treated us to a lovely trip around the globe, from English teas to Mexican tacos. If you aren't in the WhatsApp group but would like to know the menu let Jenny know and she will tell you.

### **Post office and prescription collection**

As well as the service offered by the Baldons group, Kate does a weekly run to the post office for her Duke of Edinburgh Silver award. Please contact her mom, Judy, on 07834 729 122 if you would like to use this service. It is usually on Wednesdays. As she is cycling she can only collect from Nuneham Courtenay, for safety.

### **Accident appeal**

Many of you will be aware that Connor was hit by a car which did not stop on May 10<sup>th</sup>. He was left with several fractures but is mending. There is a Thames Valley police appeal for information

### **Books and Puzzles**

The village hall has a large selection of books as well as a variety of puzzles that have been donated. I hope to put a box out on Tuesday afternoons weather permitting for residents to help themselves to. They will either be on the front or side steps.

## Painted Rocks

The lovely painted rocks that mean so much to the community have disappeared. Some residents are quite upset by this. Can we please ask that people refrain from taking them, however tempting it may be?

## VE Day

Thank you to everyone who joined in with the socially distant VE day celebration. We tried to contact everyone to let them know about the plans. I am sorry if we missed anyone out. But it was so lovely to see so many people, even from a distance. Thank you to all who joined in! We will meet again





## The Maple Tree – May 2020



The Maple Tree is currently closed although we are doing our best to run a remote programme. Our Facebook page and website are very active and there are lots of fabulous ideas to do at home with your children as well as useful links to other trusted agencies. You will find cooking videos, gardening videos and much more - <https://www.facebook.com/TheMapleTreeWheatley/>

We continue to run interactive Facebook Live sessions on a Tuesday and Thursday morning at 11am for storytelling, singing and ideas for activities for you to do at home – do join us and request a favourite song or two.

We are delighted to have formed a 'lockdown' partnership with Botley Bridges, NHS Health Visitors, Oxfordshire Breastfeeding Support, OXPIP, Motherkind Café, Donnington Doorstep, Flos in the Park and Oxford Sling Library and have created two new virtual baby groups on a Wednesday morning for babies born since the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020. These groups are very popular - we already have over 50 new parents subscribed. If you would like to join us for the 10am session, email [hayley@mapletree.org.uk](mailto:hayley@mapletree.org.uk) and we will send you a zoom invite.

**A word from our Treasurer, Amanda Smith:** *“In these challenging times we continue to provide a much-needed service to families online and by phone. Temporary closure of the centre is extremely problematic for us. We derive about a quarter of our income from parental donations at sessions, fundraising activities and lettings charges, all of which are lost at the present time while our overheads continue. We have been very heartened to receive nearly £4000 in individual donations from an appeal to our friends and supporters. We would be delighted to hear from anyone else who would like to make a one-off donation or sign up to become a ‘Friend of the Maple Tree’ with a monthly standing order of £5 or more”.* We have launched a fun “3 minute or 3 mile sponsored challenge” on our website <http://www.mapletree.org.uk/> and would appreciate as many families as possible joining us to raise much needed funds.

Finally, it is with great sadness that we have said goodbye to our fabulous Melanie Kinghan. Melanie has been with us at The Maple Tree for 2 ½ years but has decided that the time is right to move on to pastures new. We wish Melanie all the very best and she has assured us that she will continue to be a regular visitor. We will arrange a proper farewell for Melanie when we eventually open again.

Stay safe!

Hayley Hayle (Coordinator)



## Oxfordshire Libraries **Bloomin' Good Book Club**

We have our Bloomin' Good Book Club running every Thursday on Facebook, mostly using titles from our Reading Group collection which you may well have read. Just 'Like' the Oxfordshire Libraries Facebook page and you'll see the discussion unfold each week. You might find lots of other interesting nuggets of information as well....



Oxfordshire County Council re-opened Household Waste Recycling Centres on 18 May, for essential use. Essential use means waste that cannot be stored at home, or would cause hazard to health if stored.

There will be new site rules to ensure social distancing and the safety of residents and site staff. This includes reducing opening hours to 8am – 4pm to allow for cleaning, limiting the number and size of vehicles coming in and contactless payments only.

Queues are likely, so if it can wait, please do. If it's waste that can be disposed of legally and responsibly in another way, such as weekly kerbside collections or district council collection services, please do that.

Full information about the changes to recycling centre rules can be found on their website - [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wastereopenquestions](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wastereopenquestions)



## **DO YOU KNOW WHO YOUR CHILDREN ARE SPEAKING TO ONLINE?**

During lockdown, many of us are turning online to stay in touch and this goes for children as well as adults. Sadly, some criminals are using these extraordinary circumstances as a way to exploit and target young people when they are online.

Thames Valley Police have seen an increase in reports of online sexual abuse involving children since movement restrictions were introduced and are urging parents to take this opportunity to have honest conversations about online safety with their children and to review privacy settings on the apps and social networks that they are using.

To support parents during COVID-19, the National Crime Agency's Child Exploitation and Online Protection division are producing fortnightly activity packs to help discuss staying safe online with your children. These age-appropriate resources, containing two 15-minute activities for each age group, can be found at [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)

### **ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER**

Items for the July / August 2020 issue newsletter (Double Issue)  
**by 16<sup>th</sup> June please**

Any villager is welcome to send items for publication in the newsletter. Please send copy to Natasha Eliot: [tashaandjames@btopenworld.com](mailto: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](mailto:leanna.maggs@gmail.com) or on 01865 340 521.

## Use new fast-track reporting for suspicious emails - Citizens Advice



Scam emails, one of life's most tiresome phenomena, are becoming so smooth and sophisticated that even computer experts can be deceived by them, and the rest of us are in constant danger of being taken for a ride.

There is no need to feel isolated with the problem, though. If you are suspicious of an email or simply unsure, you can use a new, dedicated reporting service which is very quick and convenient: forward the email to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk) and the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) will investigate it.

**How does a scam email work?** The usual methods are persuading you to divulge sensitive information, like bank details, or urging you to click on certain links. If you click on those links, you could be directed to an unsafe website which might download viruses on your computer or steal your passwords or data.

It's crucial to bear in mind that a scam email is designed in such a way as to get you to act quickly and without thinking, so NEVER give way to that pressure.

**How do you spot a phishing email?** This is very tricky, since many of them look just like the real thing. Scammers are quite capable of producing professional quality graphic design with pleasant pastel colours, for example. This makes the email look authoritative and trustworthy and thoroughly up to date.

However, and fortunately for us, if you examine a scam email carefully it will reveal its true nature. Remember these key points:

First, it is very unlikely to be a message you are expecting.

Second, the language of most scam emails has an uncompromising toughness that isn't characteristic of the average business email. It might try to rush you into making a decision or threaten you with legal action or financial losses, telling you that you have to act right away to avoid them. The email might claim to be from a bank, a government department or the Inland Revenue, perhaps saying that a warrant has been issued for your arrest.

The email could also be from a company that doesn't normally contact you or from an organisation that you normally deal with in a different way, e.g. TV Licensing or the district council - which, it might strike you, have never emailed you before.

Beware too of topical scams: an email might offer you a cure for coronavirus or encourage you to donate to a related cause.

Always check the sender's email address because this is the only part of the message which can't be beautified. There will be something peculiar about it for sure. For instance, it might be extremely long and complicated with lots of numbers and letters, or the country code might be unfamiliar.

If you are in any doubt, don't open the email and don't click on any of its links, but forward it right away to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk). The NCSC says it acts on every message received, analysing it and the dubious websites it links to. Government specialists can then block the criminal's email address and instruct hosting companies to remove the websites from the Internet.

For essential reading see <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/information/report-suspicious-emails> or ring Citizens Advice Adviceline on 0300 330 9042.

## **FROM OXFORDSHIRE CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP**

### **24/7 mental health helpline**

- For adults the number is **01865 904997**.
- For children and young people the number is **01865 904998**

People who already use mental health services should contact services directly using the numbers in their care plan.

### **Domestic abuse support**

- Anyone in immediate danger should phone **999**.
- Or if in danger and unable to talk on the phone, dial **999** and then press **55**. This will transfer the call to police, who will assist without the caller having to speak.
- Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Services offers free advice: 0800 731 0055 (Mon-Fri 10am-7pm). Email [das@a2dominion.co.uk](mailto:das@a2dominion.co.uk)
- Alternatively, call the 24-hour National Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0808 2000 247
- Anybody worried about causing harm to the ones they love can get help by contacting Respect Phonenumber - 0808 802 4040.  
<https://respectphonenumber.org.uk/>



### Lizie's "COUNTRY BUNCHES"

I have flowers in abundance all sown and grown in my cutting garden.  
From £5 (a handful) to £35 (an armful) and everything in between!

**Sweet peas and endless other glorious flowers, all bright and beautiful!**

Bunches can be safely collected from my garden gate....  
or delivered to your door.

**01865 343219 or 07590 580631 or [liziegiraudeau@gmail.com](mailto:liziegiraudeau@gmail.com)**

## SARAH WELLS

### Cordon Bleu Cooking

---

*A First Class Service  
For All Occasions*

**Weddings, Anniversaries, Christenings, Funerals  
Birthdays, Drinks & Dinner Parties,  
Corporate Events.**

Enquiries welcome - call Sarah on 07721 609600 or 01865 407538  
email: [sarah@cordobleucooking.co.uk](mailto:sarah@cordobleucooking.co.uk) [www.cordobleucooking.co.uk](http://www.cordobleucooking.co.uk)

Established over 25 Years

# Ben Smith

## Carpentry & Building

07803533163 01865 361171 07884103142

[Enquiries@bscarpentry.co.uk](mailto:Enquiries@bscarpentry.co.uk)

Carpentry, Joinery & Building Contractors

Suppliers & Installers of  
Windows, Doors & Conservatories

Purpose Made Joinery Products  
Kitchen Furniture

We undertake all building works,  
Including the design through to  
local authority approval if  
required.



References Available Upon Request



VAT REG NO:  
212 6529 30



**It is with great sadness we are still unable to hold Public Services and our Church Buildings are closed.**

## **THE CHURCH BUILDINGS MAY BE CLOSED BUT NOT THE CHURCH**

**There are many opportunities to join us in services online in the Dorchester Team, the Diocese and also nationally**

Details can be found on Dorchester Abbey's website and our church's 'A Church Near You' (ACNY) website. Regular services are also broadcast on the TV and radio and there are prayers and other information on the Church of England's or The Diocese of Oxford's website.

As we know advice is being updated all the time and current information will be posted to the websites. At the time of writing one designated person only can access the buildings subject to strict procedures, only to stream services (which we are unable to do here) or to check the fabric. However it looks unlikely that churches will be opened more generally even for private prayer in June and they will need a thorough clean before they do. Therefore we continue with the current arrangements that are in place for funerals and with no weddings or baptisms able to take place. The Aircrash Service has also had to be cancelled for this year.

We are committed to keeping operational the 01865 340007 number for everyone to call and to answering/responding to calls quickly from that number. If you know of anyone who just needs a chat, then let Rev Jennifer know on 01865 343302.

***In these difficult and extraordinary times we continue to pray***

Keep us, good Lord,  
under the shadow of your mercy.  
Sustain and support the anxious,  
be with those who care for the sick,  
and lift up all who are brought low;  
that we may find comfort  
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.