NORTH ASTON News

November 2015
#301

NORTH ASTON NEWS

NOVEMBER 2015, No: 301

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Your Village Chairman

Village Conservation

Marcus is giving us a brief round-up of the visit, exhibition and discussion with the CDC Conservation team - see page 5.

So the heart of our little village is protected and will remain unchanged and unchanging; like living in a time-warp museum perhaps. I can think of only four new houses built in the parish in the last 30 years, and before that there were the six houses in Hall Close 50 years ago and that's almost it since World War 2; we're one of the least developed villages in our part of North Oxfordshire. Is that really a good thing?

New housing brings new people, new community dynamics, new demands. With a growing village we might recover our Bakery, our shop, our post office, our pub. We might be stimulated actually to build our village hall.

In our Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Forum a number of villages are welcoming some housing development to add vigour to their communities. Discuss!

You can also imagine a time when villages like ours may come under much greater pressure. The UK needs to build 300,000 new homes a year into the foreseeable future. Banbury and Bicester will soon be completely full, as will Heyford Park. Someone may say that it's about time North Aston took some of this housing requirement, they have lots of space along Middle Aston Lane or down the Somerton Road, or even round the Green. Our splendidly preserved isolation may well not be forever. Meantime, of course, let's enjoy it.

Speed

Our Traffic calming Meeting is at 7:30 on Wednesday 25th November in the Bakery. I hope to have all details of all options available for discussion. The intention is to take decisions, so please come and vote.

Meantime, as you drive around, please have a good look at what other villages have done, and bring all the good ideas with you. Take a photo, print it and show it to us. Meantime a huge thank you to Clive for getting our Speed Monitor working again and keeping it that way. I think, for what it is, the new site facing west is a great improvement. Did you say that we need another 4 of them? Must have mis-heard.

Kildare BB

Telephone: **01869 340 200** ~ email: **chair@north-aston.co.uk**

Traffic Calming

There will be an "Extraordinary Meeting" to discuss the implementation of traffic calming measures through the village on Wednesday 25th November at 7:30 in the Bakery.

If you have an opinion on this, and wish to be involved in the discussion, then please be there. The decisions made at this meeting could have a far reaching and a permanent impact on North Aston, how it looks, and the nature of traffic flow along the Somerton Road. This is a once-only opportunity, so don't miss it.

This Month's Birthdays

Rebecca Brown
Anna Clara Liberadzki
Billy Rees
James Taylor

Congratulations to
David & Isobel
on their Wedding Anniversary!

Congratulations to all the North Aston residents who celebrate special events this month. If you're not listed, or know someone who should be, please let us know.

Bonfire Parties

If you're planning on having a bonfire party this month, please don't forget to notify your neighbours - and Deirdre, of course, on (01869) 340646 - so that those with pets can have them safely indoors before the explosions begin.

If you're planning on setting off fireworks on any day other than November 5th, then also remember that you cannot do so after 11:00 pm. The only night when it's legal to set off fireworks later than this is November 5th (as well as New Year's Eve and Diwali).

NORTH ASTON 100 CLUB

Nov 2015

The lucky winners of this month's draw are:

First Prize (£25): S Greenwood (#133)
Second Prize (£5): Tony Short (#20)

It's too late to join this year's 100 Club, but we do need more members, so watch as the names of winners are announced over the coming months and think ... next year, it could be you! If you'd like to join, speak to Norman or call him on 340368. It's all in a good cause, raising funds for the village, and your chances of winning are far better than they are for the Lottery!

You've got to be in it to win it!

Announcements

Stamps for Katherine House Hospice

Every year, especially around Christmas time, Deirdre Oakley collects hundreds of used postage stamps for Katherine House Hospice.

Katharine House is located in Adderbury, amidst beautiful gardens where peace and tranquillity prevail. The Hospice offers specialist palliative care to suit the needs of the individual, with a focus on holistic care that enables patients to live as full a life as possible while having their needs attended to. Where possible, patients remain in their own homes.

Katherine House Hospice can raise valuable funds through the donation of used, recycled stamps, so please save yours this year, and pass them on to Deirdre. Call her on 340646 for more information, or to arrange collection.

Help with Hearing

My name is Sarah-Jane and I am your local, independent hearing specialist, based in Banbury but I also live in the village. I am offering the opportunity for people to come and meet me and have their hearing tested. Most people will regularly see an optician or dentist, but don't think about their hearing in the same way. Often people think if they have a hearing impairment they would know. However, hearing loss happens very gradually and the signs are subtle. It is easy to blame other people for mumbling but undiagnosed hearing loss can cause isolation, frustration and undue strain on relationships. Being an independent audiologist enables me to give the best possible service, choice and more importantly my time. I am able to support people holistically and I love giving people a new lease of life through the gift of hearing. See my advert here in the *News*.

North Aston Dairy

With the shorter, colder days the grass has all but stopped growing. For now the cows are still outside but within the next fortnight we will probably have the milking group in during the night and begin phasing them onto a diet of silage and hay from the fresh grass they've enjoyed for the last 7-8 months.

We ensure that we have more calves born during the winter than the rest of the year to keep milk production up despite the feed being of a generally lower quality. To this end, *Sunshine*, *Lakshmi* and *Basilea* have all calved in the last week. All calves and mothers seem healthy and happy which is a relief especially since the previous two calvings on the farm had resulted in milk fever (a short-term lack of calcium in the blood) for the mothers. Thankfully those two cows, *Imp* and *Poppy*, have recovered well but it can be a stressful time for cow and farmer. *Josh*

Classifieds

HEARING PROBLEMS?

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FREE Independent & Impartial Advice

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Banbury Hearing Centre
36 High Street, Banbury, OX16 5ER

www.banburyhearingcentre.co.uk

ANNUAL CHURCH CHARITY QUIZ

IN AID OF SYRIAN REFUGEES

Saturday 21st November, 7:00 for 7:30pm

STEEPLE ASTON VILLAGE HALL

Tickets: £8.00 including food ~ Bar and Raffle

Come on your own or as part of a team
A team is approximately 6 people

If you'd like to take part
Please contact Malcolm Hensher
Telephone: 340873 or
email MalcolmHensher@aol.com

We will be donating money via Tearfund who help to provide food, shelter and clothing to refugees in Syria and the Middle East.

tearfund

MUSIC in Steeple Aston

MGQ JAZZ CONCERT

Saturday November 7th at 7:30pm

Community is at the heart of the Marcus Green Quartet Jazz Concert. Those who have heard and indeed seen Marcus singing know him as a gifted jazz singer and a great entertainer. If you haven't, then take time to view this YouTube video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g3k3ckoDgos.

Marcus has previously recorded with his own Big Band, performed on stage with the Syd Lawrence Orchestra, the National Big Band of Wales and the Byron Jones Orchestra, and is delighted to be back with MGQ!

With him in the quartet are Sue Greenway, saxophonist in the Syd Lawrence Orchestra and the BBC Big Band; Ed Wiles, pianist, who has recorded with many UK jazz luminaries (his brother is chart topper Calvin Harris) and bass player Danny Moss Jnr; a leading international bass player and regular performer at Ronnie Scott's. The programme will no doubt be an eclectic mix!

Tickets, price £10 (to include a glass of wine), are available by ordering direct with the church or you can email us (martin.dale1@virgin.net) and we will reserve them for you. They will also be available at the door.

STEEPLE ASTON CHORAL SOCIETY

will perform the first part of Handel's

THE MESSIAH

Sunday November 22nd at 7:00 pm

This is a special concert in the Society's ever developing programme and is a follow-on from the very successful *Concert of Handel* last November 2014. It's great music and is the joyful section of the *Messiah*, with all those lovely solos. Director Paul Badley has the choristers punching out those exciting lines and they're all fired up to give of their best!

To include **The Hallelujah Chorus**

The second half of the evening will include some lovely new Carols and the opportunity for the audience to join in and sing some favourites.

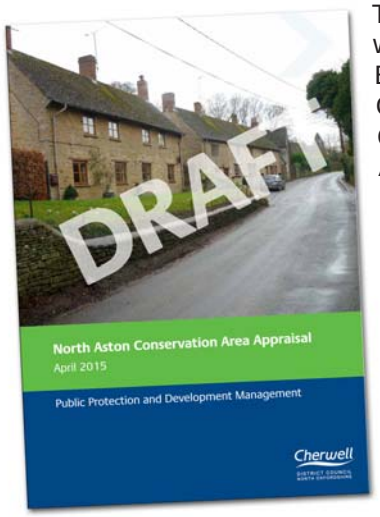
Tickets, priced £10 (£8 if ordered in advance), include a glass of wine and are available from Eileen Baglin-Jones (eileen@baglinjones.com, telephone 340099) or from the Village Shop.

Full details: www.steeplechoral.org

North Aston Conservation Area

Last month, on 21st October, an exhibition was staged in the Old Bakery, followed by an open discussion concerning the planned review of the North Aston Conservation Area.

It is almost 28 years since the Area was first established, and while not a great deal has changed in the village during that period, much has happened in the world beyond, and the day could soon come when the community may appreciate the additional safeguards that the designation offers.



The exhibition and meeting was organised by Jenny Ballinger, the Senior Conservation Officer at Cherwell District Council. Also present was Councillor Michael Gibbard, the Lead Member for Planning. During the afternoon a number of villagers viewed the comprehensive and very informative display, and were able to ask informal questions. Most returned in the evening, joined by others, to learn more and discuss the details.

The meeting began with Jenny offering an appraisal of North Aston's heritage and history, observing that the village is perhaps fairly unique in Cherwell for how little it has changed over the centuries. She was also fairly complimentary about the way in which the fabric of the community is managed, with appropriate maintenance and sensitive development that, on the whole, meets all the requirements of a Conservation Area – the implication being that, even with some modest tightening of the guidelines, life will go on much as before in North Aston.

The initial element of 'change' proposed in the Review is some adjustment to the boundary that currently defines the Conservation Area. It is being proposed that two modest adjustments be made. The first is the plan to include what currently constitutes the garden to Magnolia Cottage. The existing boundary cuts very close by the southern wall of the property, whereas the new boundary would encompass the entire plot. The second change being considered is to move the boundary to the northern edge of Hall Close where it rounds Turret House, so that it follows the northern 'kerb' all the way from Magnolia Cottage to St Mary's Walk.

During the discussion there was general acceptance of the adjustment around Magnolia Cottage, but there were concerns expressed over the realignment of the boundary along Hall Close. It was explained that the adoption of the existing boundary reflected the historic significance of the old carriageway that extended from the back of School Cottages (previously a coach house to the Hall) around to the original main driveway to the Hall, which opened onto St Mary's Walk almost opposite the present entrance to Hall Close.

There was some discussion concerning the somewhat random definition of the northern boundary, beyond Beesley's Close and including some of Banbury's Ground, which appears to follow a rather arbitrary route rather than adhering to logical geographical features, such as the hedgerow.

Aside from Listed Buildings within the village (the Church, The Hall, Bradenstoke Barn, Rosemary Cottage, The Manor, Magnolia Cottage, Gate, Middle and Nether Cottages, and the Ice House), a number of other buildings are thought to make a significant contribution to the area and should be accorded additional protection. They could be designated as "Local Heritage Assets", and the list includes The Fountain, the former Schoolhouse, the Old Post Office, The Lodge, Upper House, 14-22 The Green (inclusive), and 1-4 and 10-13 Somerton Road (also inclusive).

If adopted, these properties would become subject to Article 4 Direction, and as such the minor alterations and development that can usually be carried out without requiring planning permission would then ***not*** be permitted without consent from the Council. This would include: The removal of traditional boundary walls; the removal or rebuilding of chimney stacks; the replacement of doors; changes to roofing materials and the insertion of rooflights; the erection of porches; the erection of renewable technology including solar panels; replacement of rainwater goods and external drainage; the erection of satellite dishes and other antennae/aerials, and the replacement of windows.

A limited number of copies of the draft proposal were available to view. Subsequent to the meeting a version of the document in PDF format has been provided, and if you would like to receive this, please email info@north-aston.co.uk and we can forward the file to you. In addition to an outline of the proposed amendments, the draft also includes an interesting appraisal of North Aston (from historical, architectural, archaeological and geological viewpoints) and an explanation of how the Conservation Area works, how it can protect the fabric of the community, and how it can be used to enhance the special character of an area.

If you would like to take part in the consultation, and feel you have a contribution to make to the debate, then you have until Friday December 4th to submit your ideas. If you cannot access the PDF, then copies of the proposal are available from CDC: Write to: Design & Conservation Team, Cherwell District Council, Bodicote House, Bodicote, Banbury, Oxfordshire, OX15 4AA. You can telephone 01295 227006 or e-mail: design.conservation@cherwell-dc.gov.uk. Further information is available on the website: www.cherwell.gov.uk

Bonfire Night!

Saturday October 31st
Sunday November 1st
(No later than 11:00pm)

Thursday November 5th
(No later than midnight)

Any other evenings
(No later than 11:00pm)

Bonfire Night is another mid-week date this year, which means that there are likely to be fireworks heading skywards on other evenings as well, including the weekends both before (October 31st & November 1st) and after (6th, 7th & 8th). Please remember that it is illegal to let off fireworks after 11:00 pm on any November date except the 5th, when the cut-off is midnight.

If you're planning on having a fireworks party on any other evening except the 5th, then you must advise your neighbours. This will enable pet owners to keep their animals safely indoors and so be less likely to be frightened. Knocking door-to-door or doing a leaflet drop is the first step, but to help with wider distribution, please email details of your fireworks party to info@north-aston.co.uk. If you're not on the mailing list but want to receive such information, then please submit your email address as soon as possible.

Deddington Farmers' Market

The traditional Farmers' Market in Deddington takes place in the market square every 4th Saturday of the month.

This month's market will be on 28th November. As usual North Aston Organics will have a stall.

Antiques & Collectables!

We are always looking for interesting and good quality items to add to our stock of antiques and collectables. If you're moving, having a clear-out, or want to 'downsize' or 'de-clutter', then please give us a call or drop us an email. We'd be pleased to have a look and offer a fair price. Old School Antiques.

Telephone: 347356 or email sales@oldschoolantiques.co.uk.

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

As usual, there will be a door-to-door collection this month for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Please give as generously as you can. Thankyou

North Aston Nature Notes

With Stephen Rees

Autumn is truly here now and once it started it came quickly, with leaves turning and migrant birds arriving. I saw my first Common Snipe of the season last week on the flat part of Bustards Hill, an unusual place to see one. We do have Snipe all year round but their numbers are greatly swollen this time of the year by the arrivals from Northern Europe.

On Sunday I saw my first Fieldfare of autumn down near Rams Spinney, high up in the hedge top. They come here in their hundreds, again from Northern Europe, and make a fine sight in winter, making lots of noise chattering as they fly in flocks.

We have Jays all year round too, but again more come to us in the autumn so you see them more. They love acorns and bury hundreds this time of the year then go back in the winter to dig them up, but leave hundreds more that shoot up in the spring – so yes, they do harm small chicks in the nest, but they also do a lot of good too. Nature always seems to have a way of balancing good with bad.

This is the best time of the year to look out for mushrooms. The white field ones that are called The Prince and the bigger ones which are the Horse Mushroom are both really good eating, but be careful, as there is one that grows alongside them which is called the Yellow Stainer and looks almost identical but will give you a properly bad stomach. We have one place on the farm where Wood Blewits grow, a very good eater. We pulled them up last year, cut them up and laid them down on the floor for the spores to fall out and increase the population.

A few people have been asking me about Hedgehogs. I have seen more dead ones this year than I have seen for ages, which is sad but also encouraging. Tony has hedgehogs in his garden, lifting his lawn in the hunt for grubs, and Fred has seen a few live ones early in the morning. In the Spring I found quite a lot of Hedgehog droppings along the paths that the Badgers use every night. I think they were using the well-trodden paths to get from one place to another without having to go through long grass. Perhaps this is why badgers have a bad reputation for killing them because they come across them on their paths – just a thought and probably wrong.

Jane Beaufoy's friend saw a Windchat down in her meadow last month. We have seen lots in Scotland but never seen one here. Best ‘spot’ of the month.

The Church MATTERS

November is full of Remembering

In Church life, the first Sunday of the month includes the All Souls Service over in Tackley: through the year we've said goodbye to some dear friends and family from within village life. The All Souls Service is a lovely, gentle opportunity to Remember those we love who have gone before us, to again give thanks to God for life and love shared, and to light a candle in Remembrance. November 1st, 5.30pm, Tackley Church.

November 5th is of course a Great British Tradition, and one we observe with fireworks and bonfires here in Oxfordshire as around the rest of the country. It recalls a time when differences in politics and religion in our own land were matters of oppression and violence; part of our celebrations today are Remembering that faith and political opinion belong in a free society for us.

Remembrance Sunday is November 8th. We Remember those who have served this country, and we give thanks for all we have in our society as a result of that service: freedom, respect, tolerance, difference. Self-deprecatingly brilliant true Christian values that underly our nation. Please join us, in church at 9.30am for this yearly, essential Remembering.

Family Service this month is on November 15th: we Remember that God's love is for everyone of every age, and we will be collecting the shoe boxes for the Operation Christmas Child Appeal at this service, with the help of the Open the Book team.

We Remember the story of our own past in order to remind us not judge someone else, but rather to pray that those who still struggle might find change and hope as we must continually hope for change. And that we might not pretend to be better; but find ourselves humbly grateful. We will Remember those refugees presently suffering in Syria on November 21st as we join the annual Church Charity Quiz in Steeple village hall at 7pm, to raise money as a Benefice for the refugee crisis. Please come and be a part of this with us. And of course, we will pray for those being persecuted (and for those persecuting) constantly.

This month we have a super jazz concert over in Steeple - please don't forget! November 7th sees "Jazz at the Steeple". 7.30pm, tickets £10 (including glass of wine), children only £5, on the door or from Steeple Aston stores in advance. We have a great line up of musicians joining me in order to begin to raise funds for a project looking forward to re-order and re-imagine the interior of the church there.

And talking of looking forward - November 29th is Advent Sunday. We are holding a very special United Benefice Festival Service at 5.30pm in Tackley that day. There will be no morning service in North Aston, but instead we are holding a wonderful evening Advent Carol Service, from Darkness to Light, as we begin to Remember Christmas and the coming of Jesus. It will be a terrific occasion: do put it in the diary & join us.

Morning prayer is held every Thursday at 10am in church, and Bible Study happens on Monday afternoons in the Rectory at 2pm. There's also a monthly evening discussion group open to all, and in November it will be on Wed 18th at 7.30pm in the Rectory.

More news is always available on our website: www.sntchurch.com...

Revd Marcus Green

Any comments about the above are very welcome. More news is always available on our website: **www.sntchurch.com**

Please email our Rector Marcus Green: **steeplerector@hotmail.co.uk** or tel: 340 903

You can also email Clive: **casb@north-aston.com** (tel: 338 434) or Annabel: **annabelbevan@hotmail.com** (tel: 345153)

Any other member of the PCC will also be very happy to talk, and they are: Kildare Bourke-Borrowes, Beryl Greenwood, Vicky Taylor, Jenny Martin, Ted Short, Jeremy Taylor and Norman West.

Councillor Calling

Cherwell DISTRICT COUNCIL NORTH OXFORDSHIRE

Planning says 'No'

The massive 1,600 house extension proposed south of Woodstock ended up being turned down at the Planning Committee. Cherwell had little option for our 1,200 as West Oxfordshire had already refused the 400 within their boundary, leaving our bit rather isolated. However, I suspect we shall see it again, possibly on appeal or, perhaps, when Oxford City come to us under the "Duty to Cooperate" about the thousands of houses they need but cannot fit within their boundaries: this proposal may seem different when compared to building over the Green Belt.

On a positive note, Cherwell is adopting Hook Norton's Neighbourhood Plan (we could hardly not, when the required local referendum polled 97% in favour!) so we now have local experience and a model example for the far more complicated Mid Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan.

Making Savings

Cuts have been a constant theme throughout my time on the council but are gathering momentum as the government deficit still needs attacking and all the obvious savings have been made. The County Council's consultation on Children's Centres is currently centre stage as these make a huge difference to the lives of many. I know this from residents who have asked me to help but, as it's a County matter, I can only exert indirect influence. I have to say, I don't envy our County Councillors: 50% of their budget goes on the 3% most vulnerable so every meaningful saving they make is going to hurt somebody and, as a lot of their money goes on services the law says they have to provide, savings have to hit disproportionately the services we want and need but are not legally required.

Making Noises

What doesn't help in this difficult situation is shouting about it. So it's surprising that Cherwell's opposition have proposed a very silly motion in extreme language which, since we have no power in this area, is entirely pointless and gets nobody anywhere. As in other, similar areas, Cherwell will not shout the odds but try to innovate cooperatively to ensure that as much service as can be is preserved. I'd rather achieve something by negotiation than nothing by fighting! When I had the Finance portfolio, we bent over backwards to try and incorporate every reasonable idea, and gained unanimous opposition support as a result. It will be a great pity if "student debating society" style politicking prevents them working for the benefit of all our residents for the sake of petty point scoring.

Rates & Grants

More cuts, this time for Cherwell, I suspect are hidden by the apparently benign proposal that we take over Business Rates. At the moment, we collect them at a rate set by government, hand them over and receive a grant in return. In the absence of a magic money tree, I can't believe that we'll end up with more money and history suggests it will be less. As there will have to be a way of taxing business-rich areas to subsidise others, this will probably be obscure, hotly debated and known only at the last minute! We will simply have to deal with this through continuing streamlining and efficiencies which, so far, have caused resident satisfaction to rise to its highest ever level of 79% - a result that is as surprising as it is gratifying!

The Winner takes it All

Politically, though, government wins and we lose (Again! Perhaps it's because they set the rules?). We won't be allowed to increase business rates but have the power to lower them – so every popular shop, large employer and sympathetic cause will be imploring us to reduce their burden – and I wonder if they will say who is to pay more or which services should be cut?

I'll try to keep you abreast of these emerging developments.

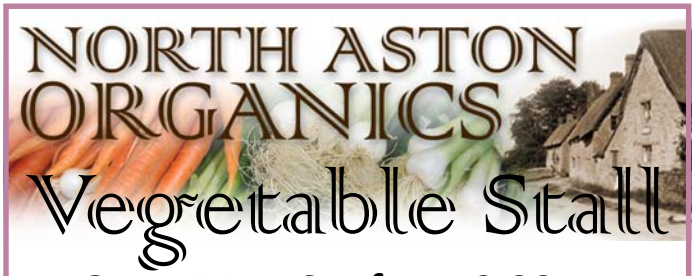
James Macnamara
Tel: 01869 340109
cllr.james.macnamara@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Mobile Library

The Library stops by the Fountain for 15 minutes every 2nd and 4th Thursday, between 10:30 and 10:45. It also visits Steeple Aston, where it stops by the pre-school from 10:50-11:05 and then outside the old White Lion from 11:10 to 11:40).

Photography Competition

Can you take a well-composed, artistic picture (portrait format) that could grace the front cover of the next issue of the *North Aston News*? There's a prize of a bottle of bubbly to the best photo submitted before 26th November. Simply send the original JPEG file (high resolution only) to info@north-aston.co.uk.



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CHURCH SERVICES

PARISH WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2015

NORTH ASTON	STEEPLE ASTON	TACKLEY
Sunday November 1st - All Saints		
9:30 am Holy Communion *Book of Common Prayer* ***Revd Marcus Green***	11:00 am Holy Communion *Book of Common Prayer* ***Revd Marcus Green***	5:30 pm All Souls Service ***Revd Marcus Green and Fr Robin Gibbons***
Sunday November 8th - Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost		
9:30 am *Remembrance Service* ***Revd Marcus Green and Richard Bailey***	10:55 am *Remembrance Service* ***Revd Marcus Green and Richard Bailey***	5:30 pm *Remembrance Service* ***Revd Marcus Green and Fr Robin Gibbons***
Sunday November 15th - Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost		
9:30 am Family Service *Open the Book*	11:00 am Family Service *Open the Book*	5:30 pm Evensong ***Fr Robin Gibbons***
Sunday November 22nd - Last Sunday after Pentecost		
9:30 am Holy Communion ***Revd Marcus Green***	11:00 am Holy Communion with Children's Church ***Revd Marcus Green***	5:30 pm Holy Communion ***Rev Marcus Green and Fr Robin Gibbons***
Sunday November 29th - First Sunday of Advent		
No Service	No Service	5:30 pm United Benefice Festival Service: Advent Carols - *From Darkness to Light* ***Rev Marcus Green and Fr Robin Gibbons***
Sunday December 6th - Second Sunday of Advent		
9:30 am Holy Communion *Book of Common Prayer* ***Revd Marcus Green***	11:00 Holy Communion *Book of Common Prayer* ***Revd Marcus Green***	5:30 pm Evensong for St Nicholas Day ***Rev Marcus Green and Fr Robin Gibbons***

In addition to Sunday services, Morning Prayer is said in St Mary's every Thursday morning, and Bible Study happens in the Rectory every Monday at 2pm.

Families are welcome to **all** Sunday services.

Visit the Benefice Website for further information **www.sntchurch.com**

The *North Aston News* is designed and produced by CMC Graphics and printed by Nicholsons of North Aston
You can contact the *News* and submit content by email: info@north-aston.co.uk. Telephone 01869 347356