

# NORTH ASTON

NEWS

December 2015

#302



Christmas  
2015

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# NORTH ASTON NEWS

DECEMBER 2015, No: 302

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Thames Valley Police non-emergency: 101

Out of Hours Doctor: 08453 458 995

# Your Village Chairman

## Your Parish Meeting on December 8th

*This Meeting is quite a lot MORE IMPORTANT than usual and I really hope that many more people than usual will attend. I know it's dark and cold out there, but it will be nice and warm in the Bakery – promise. The most important items include*

- **The Churchyard**

*Our Rector Marcus Green is coming to speak to us about this. The Churchyard is effectively now full and may need to be closed. Is there a solution to this? Perhaps, but only with your understanding. The Churchyard, like the Church, is for the whole village, and always has been.*

- **The North Aston News**

*Marcus has announced his intention to stand down as Editor after very many years; after all he has several full-time jobs and doing the NAN is very time-consuming. In January we may not have a News, and at that moment we will all realise how incredibly spoilt we have been all these years. Is there a solution to this?*

- **Chairman of North Aston Parish Meeting**

*I have to resign, as I'm increasingly called away by obligations in another part of the country, and this will likely get worse. We need someone who will volunteer and commit to this ready for the election at the AGM in January. We cannot NOT have a Chairperson. At the same time of course there are elections for Treasurer and Secretary, who also MUST be elected/re-elected.*

- **Traffic Calming**

*At our Meeting on November 25th we considered eight alternative solutions and had a long discussion. Decisions were taken on three of them and we will be spending about £4,200, and we will be keeping the others in mind for future consideration. You can read about this in James's Minutes, and no doubt it will get raised at the Meeting.*

- **New Village Notice Board**

*The last Meeting saw a proposed design, and we will now have quotes to make it. Again, this is important, as it is proposed that it is re-sited across the road and of course there is a spend involved.*

## Christmas

*Having had, to my mind, the disgusting spectacle of Christmas promotions in the shops since July, we are now finally of course just about three short weeks away – the real Christmas season. Among all the other things you will be doing please be ready for our wonderful Carol singers to visit you in the evenings of the 20th & 21st and to give generously, to join in our now-quite-famous Carols round the bonfire on the Green at 6:00 pm on Christmas Eve and, yes, to come to Christmas Communion in the Church at 9:00 am on Christmas morning – more generous giving – it IS Christmas!*

*Good cheer to everyone and every wish for a very happy Christmas.*

**Kildare BB**

Telephone: 01869 340 200 ~ email: [chair@north-aston.co.uk](mailto:chair@north-aston.co.uk)

With thanks to John Harvey-Lee for the inspiration behind this month's front cover image, which depicts one of the stained glass windows in St Mary's.

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## North Aston Farms

### An Inspector calls

It has been a busy few weeks on the farm. We have nearly finished the cattle barn extension at Bustards Hill and it is now housing a bunch of fifty yearling heifers.

We have completed our latest sixty day TB test and thankfully gone clear. We have endured our annual soil association inspection and farm assurance inspection and thankfully passed that. Then, just when you think the coast is clear, a man turned up unannounced at my house yesterday telling me he was an inspector from the RPA (Rural Payments Agency) and had come to do a whole farm inspection which would take about three days. He then proceeded to inform me that every field, hedgerow, boundary fence, tree, ditch, stream — you name it — would be checked. He had great pleasure in showing me his incredible GPS hand held device that would record areas accurately down to 10m<sup>2</sup>. Any PIFs (*permanent ineligible features* found in fields such as piles of brush/stones/manure heaps/bale stacks) that have not been accurately measured and taken off field areas will be logged in his system and cross checked with our application. If you see him, give him a cheery wave — it might put him in a better mood and he might not notice the muck heaps we haven't quite got round to spreading.

### Angelinos

No - we are not opening a new Italian restaurant ... yet! *Angelino's Main* is the name of the main water supply that runs through some of North Aston on its way to Banbury. Thames Water is now in the process of adding a new main which has been designed to dual the existing main in order to safeguard the water supply to Banbury and surrounding areas. Unfortunately for us they have added a strange loop to their route — in order to avoid a high point on the Duns Tew side of the main road. The route they have chosen will come across from Warren Farm then head across Reservoir Field into Allotment Field, then go under Somerton Road (somewhere between the allotments and the grain store) into Watsons Ground - then head back to the Main Road. It will then go under the Main Road into Rush Beds before heading back north towards Banbury. Really quite disruptive. They will be using a compound in the field next to the Grain store to store some pipework while working on this stretch. I think they are meant to get to us in the spring. But don't hold your breath!

Finally, we are very sad to have discovered signs of Ash Die Back in our new woodland plantations. This could have a potentially devastating effect on our beloved landscape, in which ash trees feature so strongly. In Denmark 90% of ash trees have died. Let us hope we are not heading for the same fate.  
*James*

### North Aston Organics

For me, 2015 was characterised by the shortness of the summer with cold nights lasting well into May and then returning in late August. This meant that non-native 'fruiting' vegetables such as tomatoes and winter squashes did not perform well and late plantings of sweetcorn were a write-off. On the up side, the star performers were the potatoes, giving us our best ever yield due in part to the decent rain that fell in August. The same conditions favoured the leeks and the *brassica* family.

We are now concentrating on re-planting the polytunnels with



winter hardy varieties of salad leaves, lettuce, spinach and herbs and also some early garlic, broad beans and mange tout peas.

The shortest day is only a month away so it's time to get out the seed catalogues and dream of rows of perfect vegetables unsullied by the impact of reality. Maybe I should get out a bit more!  
*Mark*

### Nicholsons

At last, winter seems to have arrived – we have had our first proper frost and there was a definite feeling of Winter – warm fires and mulled wine spring to mind.

With the leaves fully off the trees we are at full capacity with plants coming in and going out faster than ever – bare root plants are in and the planting season is well under way. The planting teams are flat out and if the stories of *El Niño* are correct we need to get on with what we can, while we can. Heavy frost, snow and ice, although they are lovely, are a real headache for us and would grind us to a complete halt, so we are trying to get ahead.

Along with that we are changing our stock control package which is always a challenge – everything needs to be moved from one system to another in a seamless way – or that is the theory – all the while continuing with the day job. And we need to do a complete count of all the stock on the nursery! So lots of fun and games. We like a challenge.

And of course we are eagerly awaiting our Christmas Trees with a pile of names ready to go on. These will be available from the beginning of December but do come and join us on Sat 5th or 12th when we are serving seasonal goodies. Come and look in the plant Centre as we have a whole range of great gardening gifts too. So do come and see us.

Liz and I would also like to thank Marcus personally for his fantastic editing of the NA News over the years – he has spent many hours producing one of the best local rags around and he has set the bar high. The amount of thought, effort and time he has put in is immense and has been very much appreciated. Thank you.

We wish everyone in North Aston a very Happy Christmas and all good wishes for 2016.  
*Niel*

# This Month's Birthdays

Paul Brown  
Stefan Liberadski  
Joyce Morley  
Joshua Potts  
Tony Rees  
Sandra Reeves  
Caroline West  
Peter West



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.



**Nov 2015**

The winners of the November draw were:

**First Prize (£10): Joyce Morley (#10)**

**Second Prize (£5): Mr Bridge (#11)**

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, Deirdre Oakley collects hundreds of used postage stamps for Katherine House Hospice. Katherine House in Adderbury offers specialist palliative care with a focus on holistic methods that enable 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. She also collects foil!

### Photography Competition

Last month we announced a photography competition for the front cover of the *North Aston News*, with a prize of a bottle of bubbly for the image selected to grace this month's edition. As expected, not a single entry was submitted, not one. Perhaps nobody actually reads the *News*? Maybe those 'photographers' who jostle to be the best at the Flower & Produce Show each year are just one-click wonders, too embarrassed to expose their talents to a wider audience? So, assuming there is to be a *North Aston News* in 2016, let's try again. Simply send the original JPEG file (high resolution only) to [info@north-aston.co.uk](mailto:info@north-aston.co.uk) and we'll see if we can get something ... anything ... for the January issue.

## Village Meeting

**December 8th 2015**  
**The Old Bakery from 7:30 pm**

The next Village Meeting will take place on Tuesday 8th December. The Agenda is as follows:

### VILLAGE MEETING

1. Welcome and Minutes of Last Meeting
2. Treasurer's Report for both Meetings
3. Neighbourhood Plan update
4. Traffic Calming
5. Risk Assessment
6. Any other business
7. Date for next Meeting

### VILLAGE FUND MEETING

1. Welcome and Minutes of Last Meeting
2. The Future of the Churchyard
3. Notice Board re-site/replace
4. Village Fête. Date for 2016 - July 16th?
5. Mikron Theatre visit - July 28th or Matinée 31st July?
6. Editor, North Aston News
7. Any other business
  - Dog Fouling Notices
  - Broadband
  - Children's Party
  - Gifts for OAPs
  - Carols on the Green
  - Marquee

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# North Aston Extraordinary Meeting

## to discuss the subject of Traffic Calming through the village

### Wednesday 25th November 2015 ~ The Minutes

**Officers present:** Chairman Kildare Bourke-Borrowes(KBB), Secretary James Taylor(JFT)

**Those present:** Jeremy Taylor (JDT), Mary Healy (MH), Les Johnson (LJ), Pat Johnson (PJ), John Wiseman(JW), Mark Stay (MS), Eileen Gilmore (EG), Clive Busby (CB), Trudy Busby(TB), Sue Hatzegiorgiou (SH), Tuck Hatzegiorgiou (TH), Robert Hite (RH), Chris Hazle(CH), Marcus Potts (MP), Beverly Merry (BM), Niel Nicholson(NN).

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## Traffic Calming

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KBB welcomed everyone to the Meeting.

KBB produced an eight page document looking in some detail at nine different options which he considered to be the main potential traffic calming measures that might be suitable for the village\*.

A summary sheet was handed out and KBB went into some detail about the type, advantages, disadvantages and price for each option. The nine options listed were

1. Community Speed Watch
2. Radarlux Speed Indicator
3. VAS (Vehicle Activated Signs)
4. Speed Limit Reduction to 20 mph
5. Priority Narrowing Chicane
6. Speed Table
7. Big Warning Signs on The Green
8. Other Signs
9. Verge-side Village Entrance Gates

These options were then discussed openly by those present.

KBB explained that The Green Warning Signs (#7) were his idea and would involve creating a steel framework which could hold different signs displaying messages such as KILL YOUR SPEED, followed by a relevant statistic.

MP suggested that habitual speeders who saw those signs would only want to go faster. PJ thought it would be dangerous for drivers to read messages on the Green when they should be concentrating on driving. EG suggested that personalised signs, especially if they start with "Please ...", tend to be more effective. KBB asked if anyone had any other suggestions for traffic calming other than those listed.

MH suggested painting the road so it appears to become narrower. MP said he had seen this used in France. MH also suggested that instead of focusing on road signage we could highlight the sense of "village" so that people might be made more aware they are driving through a place where people live. KBB reminded the meeting that nothing would be able to be done to the road surface without highways permission.

### Funding

KBB informed the Meeting that there was no more money available at all to fund any of these schemes from OCC Highways.

NN asked whether there was any money available from the Upper Heyford developers. He remembered North Oxford Consortium (once owners of the site) had indicated that money would be available for traffic calming measures. A discussion was had as to whether to approach Dorchester Group to revisit this. KBB felt that Dorchester would not yet be in a position to offer help (because the Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan was still in discussion/development), but were definitely approachable, and KBB would do this.

### Community SpeedWatch

CB, PJ and JW said as a minimum we should employ options one and two. TH said that the cost of the speed gun was so cheap compared to the other options it would be crazy not to try it. KBB stated that there was about £8500 in the Village Fund (including money raised for the Village Hall Fund).

CB, RH and Liz Hite had already agreed to become volunteers for the Community Speed Watch, and a further nine in the room volunteered to join them as part of a Speed Watch team.

It was agreed to pay £308 for the training and equipment necessary for this.

### Speed Monitors

A discussion was had as to the efficacy of the Speed Indicator now that it had been moved up to the corner opposite Norman's house. It was generally agreed that it had had a definite beneficial effect in slowing traffic coming into the village from the main road.

A vote was taken as to whether to buy a new Radarlux speed indicator which could be positioned either at the other end of the Green or on the eastern approach to the village. A majority of twelve voted in favour of this second Radarlux, which would be in addition to the purchase of a solar charger for the existing monitor. This had already been approved at a previous village meeting. The cost would be about £3800 in total.

BM said she was not convinced that the speed indicator slowed people down and would prefer to see physical speed humps such as can be found in Bucknell or Islip, which definitely worked! MP informed the meeting that Stephen Walters had suggested applying to have the 30mph zone extended all the way to the Fox. There was a concern that this would be too long a distance to the village and people would forget the limit by the time they reached the village. Furthermore, since the zone would then start so far outside the actual village, permission would be extremely unlikely to be granted.

### Chicanes & Speed Tables

A brief discussion was had over chicanes and speed tables. The latter were dismissed as being too expensive and inappropriate, as they would require street lighting, while the siting of chicanes could be awkward. However, it was thought possible that physical deterrents to speeding could be revisited at a later date if the cheaper and simpler suggestions proved ineffective.

It was agreed to purchase a couple of "Twenty's Plenty" signs which could be fixed to either side of one of the telegraph poles on the Green.

### Verge-side Gates

This suggestion received a mixed reaction. Some considered them to be "naff", although KBB said that statistically they had been proven to be effective in reducing the speed of drivers. MH said that these gates work best for irregular users of the road. No conclusion was reached but, as with chicanes, it was thought this was a topic that could be revisited at a later date.

MP reminded the meeting that it had looked at putting a series of low post-and-rails down the side of the Green, and JDT had previously agreed to investigate this. It was suggested that posts alone might suffice, and it was thought this was a suggestion worth pursuing.

### Conclusion

The general feeling of the meeting was to make a start with options One and Two and review the situation once these had been implemented.

### Any Other Business

NN requested that anyone witnessing a Nicholsons vehicle being driven too fast through the village should notify him of the registration and time, as they are all logged!

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\* A copy of Kildare's document, in PDF format, will be mailed out with the full colour edition of this Newsletter. All those currently on the mailing list will receive a copy. If you are not on the mailing list, and would like to receive the document, please email info@north-aston.co.uk

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## Classifieds

### BETTER HEARING

IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS

**Banbury Hearing Centre**

would like to wish you all, a very

**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year**

**FREE** Hearing Checks

**FREE** Clean & Check  
of your existing hearing aid

**FREE** Independent & Impartial Advice

**BANBURY HEARING CENTRE**

**YOUR LOCAL INDEPENDENT  
HEARING SPECIALISTS**

Call today for your appointment:

**01295 268333**

Banbury Hearing Centre  
36 High Street, Banbury, OX16 5ER  
[www.hearcentres.com](http://www.hearcentres.com)



## NORTH ASTON CHOIR

The North Aston Choir has already started gathering this Christmas! They have been meeting on Monday evenings at the Old Vicarage, but it's not too late to join in!

December's Sessions will be on  
Monday 7th & 14th, 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Any questions Tel: 340625

### 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](mailto:sales@oldschoolantiques.co.uk).

## Here We Come A-Wassailing

Once again The North Aston Carol Singers will attempt to sing to every house in the village (including all outposts).

Please reward their efforts by donating generously to *Save The Children*, *The Gatehouse* (Homeless in Oxford) and *Homestart* (Helping young families in Banbury)

The Singers will be in action over the course of two days.

They will set out on Sunday 20th

December (All outposts, the eastern end and northern side

of the village) and then

again on Monday 21st

December (everyone else).

If you do not wish to open your door but would like to support the charities, please leave an envelope outside. Thank you.



Please feel free to join in the singing at any stage and for more information please call Mark Stay on 347806.

**Sunday 20th & Monday 21st December**

### Deddington Farmers' Market

The traditional Farmers' Market in Deddington usually takes place in the market square every 4th Saturday of the month, but this month, being a little different, the market will be a week earlier, on Saturday 19th December. As usual North Aston Organics will have a stall.

### 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).

### The News

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

## Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal



The door-to-door collection within North Aston for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal last month raised a total of £600. This is part of the Deddington RBL appeal, which contributed a total of over £5000 towards the national total.

Many thanks to all those who, once again, gave so generously.

# North Aston Nature Notes

With Stephen Rees

The weather has turned properly cold and damp with a few good frosts in the night. Our native birds and mammals are all busy either trying to put on fat reserves or making stores of food to see them through the hard winter months.

The Moles in the fields behind us have been very busy making new tunnels and sending up new molehills everywhere in their hunt for worms. Doing a bit of reading about them the other night I found out that they are voracious eaters but also in times of plenty they will bite the heads off worms then gather them into a larder and roll them all up together into balls to store them. Another interesting thing is that I have a path from our house to the gate that I have made and the molehills have followed every bit of it and have also followed the sheep tracks.



Most of our migrant birds have now arrived and it's well worth a walk along the river and open fields to see them. If we have a good few days of rain hopefully the big flocks of Teal and Wigeon will come back to the flood meadows as they did last year.

We still haven't seen a Woodcock yet. Some years we see lots and other years none at all. We are going out tomorrow to look for them, so fingers crossed.

We have got seven or eight Pheasant feeders out that are being emptied at a mad rate. The small birds love coming in behind the Pheasants to pick up all the bits off the floor. The biggest pain is the flipping Squirrels that perform acrobatics to get to the corn.

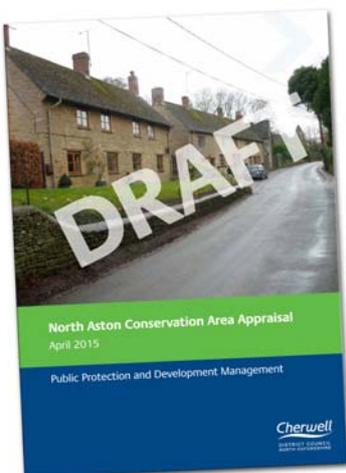
It's dark in the morning and again at night now when I walk Penny, so I'm not seeing much except for three Foxes that I see in the same couple of fields most nights. Probably the most interesting spot for me this month was in the heavy fog a couple of weeks ago down on the ploughed field. A Tawny Owl was standing on the ground and just kept getting up and flying a few yards. I think he didn't want to fly in the fog.

## North Aston Conservation Area

Just a final reminder that any contributions or comments regarding the proposed revisions to the North Aston Conservation Area must be submitted to Cherwell District Council on or before Friday December 4th

If you have not yet examined the draft document, then email [info@north-aston.co.uk](mailto:info@north-aston.co.uk) as soon as possible and we can forward a copy. Alternatively, telephone 01295 227006 and ask to speak with the Design & Conservation Team at Bodicote House.

Submissions to: [design.conservation@cherwell-dc.gov.uk](mailto:design.conservation@cherwell-dc.gov.uk). See last month's News for further information.

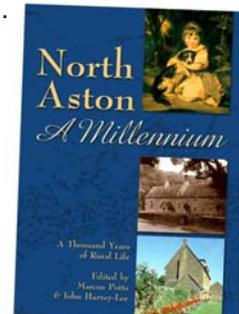
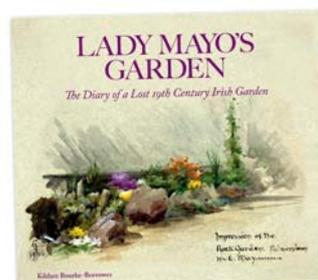


### Cyber Crime?

Have you been exposed to cyber crime? Dodgy emails, identity fraud, bogus telephone callers, phishing ... yes, of course you have, we all have. Care to help the police by completing their survey? Visit [www.surrey-pcc.gov.uk/survey/](http://www.surrey-pcc.gov.uk/survey/) and spend five minutes answering some simple questions.

## North Aston Gifts for Christmas

Lost for a gift idea this Christmas? How about a book with a North Aston connection ...



Email us here at the News for details ...



# The Church MATTERS



It's always exciting to be part of a church community that is active, even when activity brings challenges!

The PCC (church council) met at the end of November to look at plans our architects have drawn up to help improve our wonderful church building. The project is simply about access for those with mobility problems, adding small and basic servery and toilet facilities, tidying up some of our storage spaces and finally dealing with some essential renovations on a couple of our windows. If we can make the entrance a bit more welcoming and a bit more weather-tight at the same time, that would be lovely.

We very much liked the work our architects have done, though we had a couple of thoughts we wanted them to go back and work again on, and soon we will have news of a public meeting in the New Year so that everyone in the community - both in the regular church congregation and in the wider village - can have a look and make comments about the proposals. The church is most used by those who regularly worship here, but it exists for everyone and we want the whole village to be a part of this journey. If it seems right, we will then look at turning good ideas into reality.

After all, this is a good time of year to do that.

Christmas is all about turning good ideas into reality. Christmas is when God turns the good idea of loving everyone into the reality of Jesus. Christmas is when God becomes one of us, and all the glory of heaven gets hung on a coat hook while Jesus rolls up his sleeves and feels what we feel, sees what we see, laughs at our jokes and cries our tears.



If we decide to do some work on our church building so it's even better, and becomes an even more welcoming building for all our community, then it will be great - and hard work! That's the reality. Christmas too is glorious and fun and joyful - but at its heart is the hard work of God putting aside the glorious fun and joy of heaven so that Jesus might share our highs and lows, so that whatever we do we might never be alone.

I hope that as you come to any of our Christmas services - Carol Service, Crib Service, Christmas Morning and the rest - you will find the glorious truth of God coming to be one of us. Knowing everything we know - the fun and the hard work - and loving us always. As the carol says - "And he feelth for our sadness, and he shareth in our gladness." And I hope that in the music and the silence and the words and the colours of Christmas, we might all have a sense of just how close God has come in Jesus, so that the words of another Christmas carol might become a prayer all of us can pray together:

"O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in: be born in us today."

Details of our Christmas Services are all on the Rota; I look forward to seeing you as we share them together. Please note that the First Communion of Christmas in Steeple is at 10pm on Christmas Eve this year.

More news is always available on our website: [www.sntchurch.com](http://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](http://www.sntchurch.com)  
Please email our Rector Marcus Green: [steeplerector@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:steeplerector@hotmail.co.uk) or tel: 340 903  
You can also email Clive: [casb@north-aston.com](mailto:casb@north-aston.com) (tel: 338 434) or Annabel: [annabelbevan@hotmail.com](mailto: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

## Good Buys?

Shopping seems a timely starter in the run up to Christmas! Have you discovered the new Banbury Gateway retail park just off Banbury's exit from the M40?

It was a controversial Planning decision due to its potential impact on the viability of shops in the town centre. Weighing against that was its benefits as "enabling development" to pay for the very high tech motor racing engineers ProDrive to expand on to a bigger site nearby, adding skilled employment in the District instead of losing what we had elsewhere. Plus, we've now got a large M&S, Primark, River Island, Mountain Warehouse and Outfit, shortly to be joined by Next and New Look – an interesting testament to how retailers now value Cherwell's prosperity and growth.

If all goes to plan, these will not just add to our range of shopping but also entice new customers to turn off the motorway. In addition to putting spending money in the pockets of new employees, hopefully some will venture further into town and contribute directly to our economy. Or will we residents abandon Castle Quay, the Market and the Old Town for these new-fangled delights? I hope not, and that this adds to Cherwell's prosperity, but this is the nervous period when we see whether planning decisions, taken in good faith for the best of reasons, go gloriously right or horribly wrong...

## A Free-for-All!

Parking, though, should give a seasonal boost to both our town centres (I'm ignoring Kidlington — not because it claims to be a "village" but because its parking is already free!) over the all-important selling season. Parking in Bicester and Banbury will be "free after three" from Saturday 28 November (in time for the Christmas lights switch on) until Sunday 10th January. The loss of revenue is estimated at £60,000 and the cost of temporary signage a further £6,000; a hit to council tax payers which has to be balanced against the benefits to residents, retailers and the local economy in general. Hopefully, we have judged the balance about right. Don't, though, take anything for granted and check the small print in the signage: don't let an unintended parking fine spoil your Christmas shopping or the January sales.

## Clogged up ...

Congestion choking the whole southern approach to Bicester and the roads through it, of course, negates any benefits and is a thorough nuisance. This year, the operators of Bicester Village will, hopefully, put their several years of experience to use with parking restrictions on approach roads, emergency car parks and shuttle buses, traffic managers and signage. In addition, they will have the new Park & Ride car park at the southern ring road roundabout and the just-opened Bicester Village Station to bring customers in from both the Marylebone and Oxford directions. While we still await the developer-funded new traffic lights and "hamburger" roundabouts, let us hope these measures will work this year.

## Off the Rails

Rail travel is not, though, as much of a good news story as it should be. Amid much trumpeting, Chiltern Railways opened the new Oxford Parkway Station at the Kidlington Park & Ride (if coming by car, allow time for a lengthy trail right around the outskirts of the car park) and the reincarnation of the Bicester Town platform as a new Bicester Village Station, heralding four trains an hour to Bicester. In reality, that means two trains to each station, give or take (ie you can wait a whole hour at Marylebone for a train to Bicester North), replacing an excellent service to one station with a mediocre service to two – great if you're on foot or being collected, but lousy if you've parked at one of them. I've been writing grumpily to both the local press and Chiltern, who have replied politely about a raft of tweaks to the new timetable, so they are listening. Much of Bicester and our area depends on this service to commute, so it is vital that they do.

And on that (sort of) seasonal note, let me wish you all the best for Christmas and the New Year!

**James Macnamara**

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## Christmas Party

As the News goes to press we have had no confirmation either way regarding the **North Aston Children's Christmas Party**. It is therefore assumed that there will be no party this year. If the situation changes after the Village Meeting, we shall email everyone on the Mailing List and a poster will be added to the Noticeboard.

## NORTH ASTON ORGANICS Vegetable Stall

Open Mon-Sat from 9.00am  
In the car park behind the Old Bakery

- Wide variety of fresh seasonal organic veg at affordable prices
- Minimal packaging & zero food miles
- Supporting the local economy



Too busy? Why not try our Veg Box Scheme? Fresh vegetables delivered to you door!

Email: [northastonorganics@gmail.com](mailto:northastonorganics@gmail.com)

Tel: ((01869)) 347702

visit the website at:  
[www.northastonorganics.co.uk](http://www.northastonorganics.co.uk)



# CHURCH SERVICES

## PARISH WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2015

NORTH ASTON                      STEEPLE ASTON                      TACKLEY

### Friday December 4th

3:30 pm  
Christingle  
Joint service with  
Tackley CE Primary School

### Sunday December 6th - Second Sunday of Advent

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  
St Nicholas Service  
**Revd Marcus Green and  
Fr Robin Gibbons**

### Sunday December 13th - Third Sunday of Advent

9:30 am  
Family Service & Baptism  
**Revd Marcus Green**

11:00 am  
Family Service  
**Revd Marcus Green**

5:30 pm  
Holy Communion  
**Revd Marcus Green and  
Fr Robin Gibbons**

### Sunday December 20th - Fourth Sunday of Advent

4:00 pm  
Carol Service  
**Revd Marcus Green**

6:00 pm  
Carol Service  
**Revd Marcus Green**

5:30 pm  
Carol Service  
**Fr Robin Gibbons**

### Thursday December 24th - Christmas Eve

3:00 pm  
Crib Service  
**Revd Marcus Green**

4:00 pm  
Crib Service  
**Revd Marcus Green**

4:00 pm  
Crib Service  
**Fr Robin Gibbons**

6:00 pm  
Carols on the Green

10:00 pm  
First Communion of Christmas  
**Revd Marcus Green**

11:30 pm  
Midnight Communion  
**Revd Marcus Green**

### Friday December 25th - Christmas Day

9:00 am  
Holy Communion & Carols  
**Revd Marcus Green**

10:30 am  
Holy Communion & Carols  
**Revd Marcus Green**

10:30 am  
Christmas Morning  
Service & Carols  
**Richard Bailey**

### Sunday December 27th - First Sunday after Christmas

9:30 am  
Christmastide  
Morning Service & Carols  
**Revd Marcus Green**

11:00 am  
Christmastide  
Morning Service & Carols  
**Revd Marcus Green**

5:30 pm  
Holy Communion & Carols  
**Revd Marcus Green and  
Fr Robin Gibbons**

### Sunday January 3rd - Second Sunday after Christmas

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  
Evensong  
**Revd 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](http://www.sntchurch.com)