

Challow News



September 2025

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Sunday

14th September

at 11.00 am



Community Newsletter of St Nicholas Church

Contacts



Main Street, East Challow.
OX12 9SH

Church Wardens

Mrs Liz Belcher: 01235 763966
Dr. Jeff Penfold: 01235 763173

Vicar: Rev Alec Gill

07739 563894
vicaralec@valebenefice.org.uk

Associate Vicar:

Rev Dr. Miriam Jones

Licensed Lay Minister

Sarah Shackleton

07587 766609
sarahLLM@valebenefice.org.uk

Benefice Office

Grove Parish Church

Main Street, Grove. OX12 7LQ
Open: Mon - Fri 10.00 - 12.00
01235 771479
office@valebenefice.org.uk

Parish Council - clerk@eastchallowpc.co.uk

Cricket Club - 01235 763335

R B L Club - 01235 763430

Village Hall - bookings.ecvh@gmail.com

Challow News - nigel.langford@me.com

Mably Way Health Centre

Church Street - 01235 770245
Newbury Street - 01235 639521

3 - Digit Numbers

999 - Emergency

111 - NHS (non emergency)

101 - POLICE (non emergency)

105 - NATIONAL POWER CUT SERVICE



Details of all Services and
Festivals

can be found on the
St. Nicholas website page
of

A Church Near You

[www.achurchnearyou.com/
church/5811/](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/5811/)

Danny Kruger's extraordinary speech in the House of Commons

What does the MP for Devizes in Wiltshire have in common with the Anglo-Saxon king Athelstan?

It became clear this summer, during an extraordinary speech Danny Kruger MP gave to an all but empty House of Commons on the eve of the summer recess.

First, some background: this month (4th Sept) marks the 1100th anniversary of the coronation of Anglo-Saxon King Athelstan, in 925AD. As grandson of King Alfred the Great, Athelstan became the first King of all England.

And his coronation revealed his decision that England should be a Christian kingdom, living under a version of the Law of Moses. So, like Alfred before him, Athelstan took oaths reminiscent of the 'blessings and curses' of Exodus 21 and 22, and promised to bring his young kingdom into the blessing of the Christian God, by means of obedience to His commands.

Danny Kruger reminded Parliament of this sacred oath made by the first king of all England this summer. The MP's call for the restoration of our national Christian heritage has since been viewed more than three million times, and has been called a 'roadmap' for a Christian counter-revolution.

For Kruger called for the country to remember **Athelstan's** ancient Covenant.

He said: "Uniquely among the nations of the world, this nation - England, from which the United Kingdom grew - was founded and created consciously on the basis of the Bible and the story of the Hebrew people. In that sense, England is the oldest Christian country and the prototype of nations across the West."

He went on to say that the impact of "one thousand years" of the Christian common law tradition – is the demand "that power should arrange itself for the benefit of all the people under it, and specifically for the poorest and weakest.

"In the absence of the Christian God", he said, "we do not have pluralism and tolerance, with everyone being nice to each other in a godless world". Instead, we have "catastrophes of social breakdown, social injustice, loneliness and emptiness on a chronic scale."

Kruger stresses that "in abandoning one religion we simply create a space for others to move into." He identifies Britain today as being "a combination of ancient paganism, Christian heresies and the cult of modernism".

Kruger has written on the idea of spiritual warfare as reflected in the dynamics of law-making in Westminster in his book, *Covenant: The New Politics of Home, Neighbourhood and Nation*. He writes, "The culture war...is a religious conflict about the right gods to worship. As such, it is more than a series of skirmishes for the tokens of identity, for flags and statues and the history curriculum. It is a battle for the strongholds of society itself."

In his speech in the House of Commons that day, he developed this theme of 'strongholds'.

He attacked the votes of MPs to decriminalise abortion and legalise assisted suicide. He said they had authorised "the killing of unborn children, of nine-month-old babies" and to "allow the killing of the elderly and disabled," describing these votes as "a great sin."

He went on: "The fact is that the strong gods are back, and we have to choose which god to worship. I suggest we worship the God who came in the weakest form, Jesus Christ. This God is a jealous god—it is Him or nothing—and we have to own our Christian story, or repudiate it."

Kruger believes strongly that secularist religion "must be banished from public life - from schools and universities, and from businesses and public services."

Instead, he has called for a "restoration" and "a revival of the faith." He warned: "a wind is blowing, a storm is coming and when it hits, we are going to learn if our house is built on rock or on sand."



Challow Chatter

We are into September, and I hope you had an enjoyable summer whether home or abroad. For all people starting school, changing schools, or embarking on the next part of your education at a new location, I hope the transition is relatively easy. That includes teachers as well, meeting new students, is also a step into the unknown. Good luck to you all, I hope you settle in soon.

Over the summer break we managed to give our Church a thorough cleaning, it was much needed and long overdue. Thank you to everyone who helped, it has certainly made a difference. Cobwebs are never kept away for long, but at least we will have clean cobwebs for a while, persistent things spiders. The word cobweb itself comes from the old English word for spider which was coppe. Over the years and various accents, it became cob, and the structure the cob built was a cobweb. Incidentally whilst cleaning the church I encountered a couple of quite big spiders which I gave a wide berth to. I am not a great fan of them, but I would never harm one, and I do admire them and their intricate webs, just from afar.

Over the year, at Saint Nicholas church, our weekly collections are periodically donated to a chosen charity. In June I am pleased to say that we were able to donate one of our collections to Doctor Barnardos, a well-established and worthwhile charity who received £165.50 from us.

This summer has seen a surge in the numbers of ladybirds; this is apparently due to the damp spring and dry summer and the abundance of aphids this year. There are about 40 species of ladybirds in this country with varying colours. The most common of these beetles is bright red, with seven black spots. They are very useful to gardeners as they feed on the aphids, sap suckers and other pests that damage our garden plants. Unfortunately, our native ladybirds are under threat from the invasive Harlequin ladybirds which have found their way from Asia and are destroying our native ones. Ladybirds are considered lucky in many cultures, as they have been protecting crops from pests worldwide for centuries. It is, apparently very unlucky to kill one of these beautiful little insects.

I will not be looking back on this summer gladly, as my beautiful dog Meg is no longer with us, after a short, but horrible illness we had to make the dreadful decision to end her suffering. It was heart breaking but necessary. People have been so kind, which the family appreciated. We have wonderful memories of her, and I think we gave our lovely little girl a good life, she certainly enriched ours. Meg was a year-old rescue dog when we got her in 2016, a collie/corgi cross, looking like a little fox. She was really scared of everything when we brought her home. She had to be on a lead to get her to go out in the garden even. I don't think she had ever walked off lead. She would also try to hide in the smallest places she could fit into. Over time, with lots of love and patience she became more confident. Mixing with other dogs was very difficult at first, I don't think she had been allowed to socialise, once again with love and patience we got round it. She was the weirdest dog we have ever had, and definitely the loudest, her bark echoing in our hallway was almost painful. Meg had her own quirks and demands. She would never have her picture taken willingly, so we haven't many photographs of her, as it upset her, she would hide from phones and cameras. She liked a strict routine, two walks a day, food at regular intervals and compulsory adoration heaped upon her.

She was a dreadful flirt with other dog owners, but I was never allowed to make a fuss of other dogs.

Her favourite person was my son Chris, and she enjoyed her holidays on his boat and at the Wild plant nursery he and his partner have. We had wonderful times with Meg in the years she was with us, a very lovely little lady who is desperately missed by all the family.

We have had three family dogs at different times, and each one was a rescue dog, unique, and equally precious to us. There is definitely no such thing as 'only a dog'! Every pet owner knows for a fact, that they have the best pet in the world, I know I did, each and every one of them.

Our Harvest Festival this year is on 14th September so please try to join us for this, it's a lovely service and of course we have refreshments after. We will be decorating the church on the Saturday 13th. Everyone and anyone are welcome to join us making our Saint Nicholas church look wonderful. Any contributions of either flowers or produce would be most welcome and appreciated. Any money raised from the collection and sale of produce, this year will be donated to Water Aid, so I hope we do well.

We are also looking forward to welcoming our new Associate Vicar, Rev. Dr Miriam Jones and her family to the Benefice. The licensing service is 7.30pm at Saint James the Great Church West Hanney. Everyone is welcome. Having Miriam join us is very good news to everyone in the Benefice, especially Alec. Our prayers in the parishes were answered.

That's all for now so as always stay safe for yourself and others.

Liz



Slimming World
feel *real* good

Would you love to feel slimmer for yourself, your health or an upcoming trip, without going on a diet, or completely cutting out your favourites...? Come along to any of my groups to discover how...

*Saturday	*Monday	*Tuesday
*7:30am & 9:00am	*5:30pm & 7:00pm	*4:00pm, 5:30pm & 7:00pm
*Challow & Childrey Cricket Club	*Wantage Methodist Church Hall	*Grove Old Mill Hall, Dixon Suite

Call or Message Becky on 07359 531030

real food, *real* support, *real* results

Slimming
-WORLD-
touching hearts, changing lives



East Challow Parish Council

Next Parish Council Meeting

Will be held in the Village Hall

Wednesday 10th September at 7.00 pm

All villagers are invited to attend meetings as observers and there is a 10 minute public discussion time early in the meeting where you can raise any matter you wish with the council, the minutes of each meeting can be found on the website.

www.eastchallowpc.co.uk

DOG FOULING....

There continues to be a high incidence of dog fouling in the village. The Parish Council would ask you to be considerate to other Villagers and remind you that dog fouling spreads diseases, which can cause illness and even blindness and carries a maximum penalty of £1000. Under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 a person who is in charge of a dog must clean up after it when it fouls any footpath, highway, verge or other open space to which the public have access. **Please clean up after your dog.**

FLY TIPPING in the Village....

Fly Tipping - the illegal dumping of waste carries substantial fines, sadly there has been an incident of fly tipping in the Village. The Parish Council would ask residents to report fly tipping to the Parish Clerk, this is passed on to South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils for investigation.



How to stay legal if you pay someone to get rid of rubbish

By law you are responsible for rubbish, even if you pay someone else to take it away.

So, if you pay someone to remove rubbish from your property and it's then fly-tipped (dumped on land rather than disposed of) you could be prosecuted.

You are responsible for checking that the person or trader taking your rubbish away is legally allowed to transport and dispose of it.

What it could cost you

If rubbish from your property is found fly-tipped and you failed to check that the person taking it away was registered and didn't keep required information, you could receive an on-the-spot £600 fine.

If you fail to pay a fine, you may be prosecuted in court which could lead to a criminal

To stay legal, follow the **S C R A P** code:

S - Suspect

Dont let anyone take your rubbish until they give you proof that they are legitimate. Also, note their vehicle's registration plate.

C - Check

You can check whether they are a registered waste carrier on the **Environment Agency's website**

R - Refuse

If you suspect that someone who you have spoken to will be disposing of waste illegally, refuse to use their services, and instead report them to the **Environment Agency**.

A - Ask

Always ask for evidence of how your rubbish will be disposed of.

P - Paperwork

Ask for paperwork that includes a description of the waste being removed and the waste carrier's contact details.

This paperwork could be a:

- propper invoice
- waste transfer note
- receipt

It is also good to keep a note of the make, colour and registration number of the vehicle thats taking your rubbish away.

Advanced Warning

Temporary road closure to apply to a section of Letcombe Hill,
East Challow up to the Royal British Legion
from **29th September 2025** up to and including
10th October 2025 (24 hour daily road closure)

Ancient Anglo-Saxon text sparks 5,200 per cent Instagram follower surge

“Hlyst nu!”

That’s Old English for “Listen up!”

And that’s exactly what’s happening, as a video with an unexpected subject has captured the attention of hundreds of thousands of viewers around the world.

A video of Everyday Faith Editor Alexandra Zhirnova reading the Nicene Creed in Old English has exploded across the Church of England’s digital channels, and beyond, racking up nearly half a million impressions and sparking a global wave of engagement.

The video opens with a short introduction: “What you’re about to hear is the oldest English translation of the Nicene Creed, written in the year 992 by a monk called Ælfric. Ælfric lived a thousand years ago, but his world was not so different from ours. He believed that understanding the word of God would give people hope and guide them in their lives.”

Ælfric translated the Creed, along with parts of the Bible, from Latin into his native tongue; what we now call Old English. While much of the language is unfamiliar to modern ears, some words remain recognisable, and viewers are encouraged to listen closely and share any they spot.

The response to the video has been nothing short of extraordinary. Since its release, it has generated over 400,000 impressions across the Church of England’s social media channels, with over 37,000 engagements including likes, comments and shares.

On Instagram, the video has become the most saved piece of content the Church has ever posted, achieving the highest reach and the second-highest number of impressions of any video on the platform to date. Meanwhile, on TikTok, it has quickly climbed the ranks to become the second most viewed video, with the highest number of comments and shares ever recorded on the Church’s account.

Before joining the Church of England as Everyday Faith Editor, Alexandra completed a PhD in Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic at the University of Cambridge. Her academic work focused on Anglo-Saxon Christianity, with a particular interest in the role of women in the early Church - making her uniquely placed to bring this ancient text to life for a modern audience.

The video's success has also translated into a dramatic surge in followers. In just seven days, the Church saw a 583 per cent increase in new followers compared to the previous week. Instagram alone has seen a staggering 5,200 per cent jump, while TikTok followers have grown by 1,600 per cent. Overall video views across all platforms have risen by 90 per cent in the same period.

And reception has been overwhelmingly positive with the video reaching an international audience, and German, Dutch, and Scandinavian language speakers responding to appreciate how similar Old English sounds to their native languages.

This viral moment comes as the Church marks the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed, a cornerstone of Christian belief since AD 325. So, if you haven’t already, why not have a listen.

Editor: The Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the C of E, considers Christian films.

Will Christian movies ever make an impact in the UK?

Christian movies have never really made a big impact in UK cinemas – and there are few signs that this is changing.

Earlier this year, an animation film, 'The King of Kings' broke box office records in the US and elsewhere – making it the most successful opening for a biblical animated feature – but in the UK it was only shown at selected cinemas.

I saw it at my local Odeon, with just a couple of rows full, and only two daily daytime screenings. The crowds were opting to see 'A Minecraft Movie,' or Disney's 'Snow White.'

I was entranced and challenged by the 'Bonhoeffer' movie that was also shown at some British cinemas earlier this year. That certainly deserved a much larger audience.

Ironically, 'The King of Kings' should have had added resonance for UK movie-goers, with the biblical story being voiced by many British actors, and Victorian author Charles Dickens featured.

The success of 'The Chosen' has proved there is a large global audience for the story of Christ. But the drift away from cinemas to the streaming companies like Netflix means that big screen movies may not have the impact they once had.

I've never been one for the big biblical classics like 'Ben Hur' or 'The Ten Commandments,' and my first brush with Christian movies in the UK was the 1967 film 'Two a Penny', starring singer Cliff Richard, showing at a local church. I don't think it was noticed by the Oscar judges...

I saw Mel Gibson's epic 'The Passion of the Christ' 2004 movie twice. First, at a preview screening at the National Religious Broadcasting convention in Charlotte, North Carolina, when several thousand evangelical delegates were moved to tears. And then, weeks later, at my local cinema, north of London, where I sat in a half-empty studio, and cinemagoers near me ate popcorn and chatted during the crucifixion scenes. Two audiences – two very different reactions.

I wish well all those moviemakers seeking to attract UK cinema audiences to watch Christian films, and I hope they are successful. But I feel it's going to be an uphill struggle.

Come and be part of our
vibrant Christian community at...

Framland Care
Home, Wantage

Call us on **0300 303 1470** or email
wantage@pilgrimsfriend.org.uk

 **www.pilgrimsfriend.org.uk/framland**





Thames Valley Police & Crime Commissioner

July / August 2025

Tackling anti-social behaviour this summer

Historically, we know that the summer months can sadly see an increase in crime and anti-social behaviour. School holidays, warmer weather, big sporting events, often leading to one or two more drinks than normal can all contribute!

So each year Thames Valley Police put in place a plan to deal with these challenges and keep us all safe. July marks the start of a three month operation to crack down on crime and anti-social behaviour, with an emphasis on visible local policing.

This does not just involve the police working in isolation. We will also be working closely with our partners, including councils, schools, health services, business, transport and community organisations.

Policing, in collaboration with partners and local communities, will work to ensure preventative measures are being implemented to better achieve reductions in these crimes and focus on efforts to catch offenders.

Our local policing teams will also be organising days of action and operations to tackle issues such as illegal e-scooters, street crime, shoplifting, rural crime and other offences that affect communities most.

Many of these issues often affect our larger towns and cities, but they can have an impact on everyone. Whether it is residents from rural areas visiting their local towns, the impact of rural crime, or simply the fear that anti-social behaviour can create.

The solution to some of these perennial problems is a strong community. One that does not tolerate disruptive behaviour, one that supports its young people and one where people are willing to take action. That may be as simple as reporting concerns.

If you see something that's not right in your community or witness a crime, please report it quickly so the police have the greatest chance to tackle the problem. In an emergency or if something is happening now, always call 999. To report something that has already happened call 101 or report online at thamesvalley.police.uk.

You can also use the police website to send a message to your local neighbourhood policing team and see who your dedicated local police officers are. Just pop in your postcode.

Matthew Barber

matthewbarber.co.uk





September 2025

The most common crime

I am often asked what is the most common crime locally, and people are generally surprised when I say that it is domestic abuse. Around a fifth of the jobs a police officer will have during a shift could be some form of domestic abuse, and it is a crime that exists in every community, urban and rural.

No one should live in fear at home. That's why our officers are working tirelessly every day to protect victims, bring offenders to justice, and raise awareness about the support available.

Domestic abuse isn't just physical—it can be emotional, financial, sexual, or controlling behaviour. It can be incredibly hard to reach out, which is why we've made it easier than ever to get help safely and discreetly.

Our specially trained domestic abuse teams offer a compassionate and confidential service. We work closely with local partners, such as victim support charities, housing services, and healthcare providers, to ensure people can access the right help at the right time.

If you or someone you know is experiencing domestic abuse, you are not alone. You can contact us at any time by calling 101—or 999 in an emergency. If speaking isn't safe, you can press 55 when prompted after calling 999 (this is known as the "Silent Solution"). The call handler will do everything they can to determine your location so they can deploy officers to you; if you can say one thing, please say your address. You can also report online at thamesvalley.police.uk.

Support for victims is vital, not just to help them through the criminal justice process, but often in managing that first big step or asking for help. Victims First is the victims service run by my office that provides free support for anyone who has been a victim of crime in Thames Valley.

Our friendly Victims First Officers will talk to you about any emotional or practical needs you may have, and then will help you access help and support. They may offer to refer you to specialist local organisations who have experience in supporting those who have experienced abuse, but no referrals will be made without your consent.

You are welcome to contact Victims First to access support if you have reported the Domestic Abuse to the police, or if you have not made contact with the police at all. Simply call 0300 1234 148 or visit victims-first.org.uk

Matthew Barber

matthewbarber.co.uk





Sunday Night Cash Bingo

(Eyes down at 8.00pm)

Monday Night Poker



Challows

Afternoon Club

for all over 60's
we meet every
month

2.00 pm

on the 3rd Thursday

Everyone Welcome

Planning an Event or Party

Our Main Hall
with Kitchen
Facilities
are available to hire

~ **Contact** ~

01235 763430

Saturday Night Entertainment

13th September

BLUE DAYZ

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

27th September

~ Country & Western ~

WARREN DEWITT

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

25th October

MR ROCK & ROLL

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

7.30 pm

Admission £10.00



Opening
Monday -

7.00 pm

~ ~

Friday - 3.00

Saturday 1.0

Sunday 1.00

Call in and see
Club has

Socialise over a
Bar or a game
Snooker

**GURU
WING**

STREET FOOTBALL

5th

4.30 pm

available

Hand Bell Ringers

10.30 am Every Tuesday

New Members Welcome

01235 763430

~ For more details ~

Club Membership is NOT a requirement



LIVE - Super Sunday Football

SKY SPORTS

SHOWN HERE

g Hours

Thursday

- Close

~

0 pm - Close

0 pm - Close

0 pm - Close



6th September

See the Club Notice Board or Facebook page
for more details

ee all that the
s to offer

a drink from the
me of Darts,
r or Pool

KARAOKE

Sunday

5th October

3 pm - 7 pm



FOOD TRUCK

Oct

- 8.00 pm

le here

29th August

GLAM RESURRECTION

Rock Duo - performing songs from the 1970s
glam rock era....

Wig Wam Bam, Shang a Lang, My Coo ca Choo,
Rebel Rebel, Tiger Feet...

Admission £10.00

Requirement to attend any events here ~ Everyone is Welcome



OUR AUTUMN / WINTER OFFERING

SKY Sports now shown LIVE

Bar opening times through this period will generally be

Monday	4pm – 9pm
Tuesday	4pm – 9pm (unless Bowls when closed)
Wednesday	4pm – 9pm
Thursday	4pm – 9pm (11pm when Darts match is on)
Friday	4pm – 10.00pm
Saturday	11.30am - 6.30pm
Sunday	11am – 6.00pm

If you would like to join the club as a member it's just £20 for the year.

Remember that everyone is welcome at the Cricket Club, membership is not required to enjoy the facilities, although it does mean we can keep you up to date with news and events at the Club.

www.challowcricket.co.uk
admin@challowcricket.co.uk

01235 763335

Exhibition of Queen Elizabeth II's wedding dress and fashion to celebrate centenary

Next year, the largest-ever exhibition of Queen Elizabeth II's clothes will be staged at Buckingham Palace, in honour of the centenary of her birth.

Queen Elizabeth II: Her Life in Style, will include some 200 items – around half of which is to be displayed for the first time.

As well as clothing, jewellery, hats, shoes, and accessories, there will also be design sketches, fabric samples and handwritten notes that give a glimpse of the process involved in dressing the late Queen for her many public appearances.

Caroline de Guitaut, the exhibition curator and surveyor of the King's Works of Art, said: "Her distinctive style became instantly recognisable around the world, bolstering the British fashion industry and influencing generations of designers and couturiers."

The exhibition will include her wedding dress from 1947, her Coronation dress from 1953, and a number of the formal evening dresses she wore for banquets and visiting Heads of State. But there will also be the riding jackets, tartan skirts and silk headscarves that made up her well-known practical everyday style.

'Queen Elizabeth II: Her Life in Style' will be at The King's Gallery, Buckingham Palace, from spring to autumn 2026. Tickets on sale from this November.

British Food Fortnight - 26th September to 12th October

This annual 'celebration' of the diversity and quality of British Food is aiming to be bigger than ever this year, involving restaurants, pubs, schools, universities, care homes, the NHS, and even the Houses of Parliament.

Why not take advantage of the fortnight, and see what one of our local restaurants and pubs might offer?

How to have a 'more healthy' heart

Gratitude may help you recover more quickly from a heart attack. So says a study by the University of California, who examined gratitude as part of an outlook that involves appreciating the positive aspects of life, and often goes hand in hand with spirituality.

It was found that people who have a life attitude of being grateful are also likely to have a better mood, better sleep, less fatigue, and lower levels of inflammatory biomarkers related to cardiac health. Researchers said they were surprised to find that gratitude accounted for such beneficial effects. As one scientist put it, "It seems that a more grateful heart is indeed a more healthy heart."

How can you express gratitude in an easy-to-remember and daily way? Why not bring back the habit of pausing to say a simple grace of thanks before each meal? And why not take a few minutes to say your prayers before bed each night?

Did you spot many butterflies this past summer?

The wildlife charity Butterfly Conservation is deeply worried about our butterflies. Or rather, the lack of them. It seems that more than 80 per cent of our species have declined sharply in number since 1970s.

Each summer sees the Big Butterfly Count, when the public is encouraged to send in the number of butterflies they have seen over a short period of time. Last year saw the lowest number of butterflies spotted in the count's 14-year history. Even the familiar species like the small white, common blue and small tortoiseshell had their worst summer ever. And a record number of people saw no butterflies at all.

Butterflies have been hit by climate change, the use of pesticides, and damage to their habitats. The drought this summer will have been bad news for their caterpillar offspring, which need growing plants to feed on.

So, this autumn, why not plan a happier year for butterflies in 2026? As you prepare your garden for winter, go to <https://www.rhs.org.uk/wildlife/butterflies-in-your-garden> for some ideas of how to make

Community Notices



2025-2026

East Challow Village hall
committee meetings

29th September
24th November
26th January
30th March
18th May
Start at 8.30pm

AGM - 27th July @7.30pm

KING ALFRED QUILTERS

Programme for September 2025

3rd September – Sheena Roberts
talking about Colour connections
www.greenmanquilts.co.uk
(£5.00 entrance fee for non-members)

7pm - 9pm - East Challow Village Hall

~ We look forward to seeing you ~

17th September – Sewing Day
10am to 3pm - Challow & Childrey Cricket Club

For more information please contact

Helen East: 07763 923000

Janice Miller: 01235 771552

www.kingalfredquilters.org.uk

ACCOUNTS FOR EAST CHALLOW VILLAGE COMMUNITY EVENT SUNDAY 1st JUNE 2025 AT CHALLOW & CHILDREY CRICKET CLUB FUN DAY (NOT FOR PROFIT)

	£	£
Amount Brought Forward		494.39
Expenditure (December 2024)		
2 x 200 Battery Multicoloured	16.00	
Lights for Village Christmas Tree	8.50	
battery pack and decorations	6.10	
		<u>£30.60</u>
		463.79
INCOME	£	
(June 2025)		
Raffle	175.00	
Cake Stall	104.40	
Lucky Dip	45.60	
		<u>325.00</u>
		788.79
EXPENDITURE		
(June 2025)		
Cricket Teas	42.59	
		<u>42.59</u>
Amount carried forward to next event		£746.20

Main expenses kindly donated by East Challow Parish Council

OFFICER:

S. Webb

SECONDER:

H. S. Cannon

HOW SAFE IS YOUR ELECTRIC BLANKET?

FREE ELECTRIC BLANKET CHECKS IN OXFORDSHIRE
Make sure your blanket is safe to use this winter.

JOIN US and bring a friend
for free refreshments
and information about keeping safe and well.

SEPTEMBER 2025

Monday 22nd Rosehill, Oxford
Tuesday 23rd Henley on Thames
Wednesday 24th Bicester
Thursday 25th Chipping Norton
Friday 26th Abingdon

OCTOBER 2025

Monday 6th Risinghurst, Oxford
Tuesday 7th Didcot
Wednesday 8th Banbury
Thursday 9th Witney
Friday 10th Wantage



Limited collections from your house for those who are unable to get to us.
Please tell them when you make your booking that you need a collection.

BOOKING INFORMATION. To book your safety check appointment
Call: **01865 519800 Option 4** or Email: duty.officer@oxfordshire.gov.uk.
Online Booking: <https://service.oxfordshire.gov.uk/blankettesting>
(Pre-booked appointments only on a strictly first come first served basis)





Community Speed Watch – We Need YOU!



From Wantage & Grove Neighbourhood Policing Team



Speeding continues to be one of the biggest concerns raised by our local communities – and we hear you loud and clear. That's why the Community Speed Watch (CSW) programme is such an important tool in tackling this issue together.

What is CSW?

Community Speed Watch is a volunteer-led initiative where local residents work with Thames Valley Police to monitor and report speeding in their neighbourhoods. Volunteers are trained to use speed detection devices and report vehicles exceeding the limit.

The goal? Education, awareness, and long-term change – not punishment.



How you can help:

- ✓ Volunteer your time and join a local CSW group
- ✓ Encourage your parish or residents' group to take part
- ✓ Support the efforts by spreading the word and respecting speed limits

🚗 PC Oldroyd will be contacting every parish council over the next few months to discuss the programme and help get more communities set up. Keep an eye out for their message!

We'd love to see every part of our patch – from villages to town centres – taking part in or supporting this valuable programme. Let's work together to keep our roads safer for everyone.



Interested? Find out more and get involved here:

<https://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/community-speedwatch/>

Jeremy Oldroyd

(Police, Police Constable, Wantage Neighbourhood Team)

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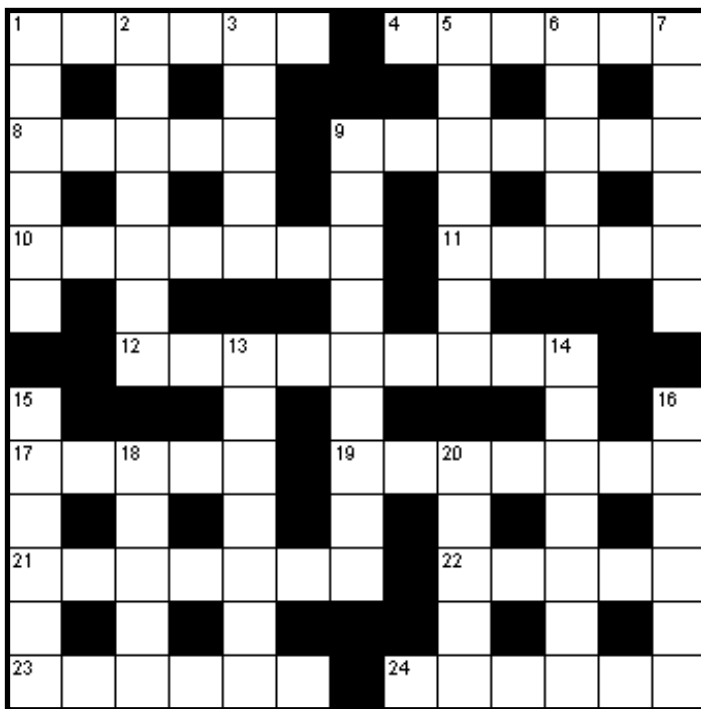
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Learner Drivers must wait months for a Driving Test

If someone in your family wants their driving licence this autumn, they may have to wait months before even getting a driving test.

For the average waiting time across all test centres has recently increased to 22 weeks, up from 14 weeks back in February 2024, according to the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA).

The AA Driving School says that: "With the vast majority of driving test centres now showing waits at the maximum the system will allow, the situation cannot get much worse.

"While we would expect [the DVSA's] changes to take a few months to show a positive impact, it is still disappointing to see that learners are continuing to face an uphill battle when it comes to booking their driving test."

Schools to teach children that being worried is not a mental health condition

More children and young people are in danger of confusing the normal anxieties of life with a genuine mental health condition.

So says the government, and it has issued new guidance to schools to try and correct the trend.

The guidance states that pupils should be taught "that worrying and feeling down are normal, can affect everyone at different times and are not in themselves a sign of a mental-health condition".

Bridget Phillipson, the Education Secretary, believes that too many children are relying on social media to learn about managing their moods and emotions. Instead, she says that they need more balanced guidance from their parents, teachers and trained professionals.

The new government guidance comes in the face of a soaring amount of young people being signed off as too ill to do anything. The number of 16 to 24-year-olds who are not in employment, education or training (Neet) has surged to a near-decade high of a million.

And so it is that schools have now been instructed to make sure that lessons help pupils understand and differentiate between genuine mental health conditions and ordinary feelings.

Across

- 1 In truth (6)
- 4 One who attends to horses (6)
- 8 Commence (5)
- 9 Fainted (anag) (7)
- 10 Insanity (7)
- 11 Of the kidneys (5)
- 12 Young birds (9)
- 17 Weighty (5)
- 19 Shabby and untidy (7)
- 21 Breathed in (7)
- 22 Whinny (5)
- 23 Yearned (6)
- 24 Sombre, grave (6)

Down

- 1 Start again after a break (6)
- 2 Finder of a magic lamp (7)
- 3 Metric unit of capacity (5)
- 5 Yellow spice (7)
- 6 Acquire knowledge (5)
- 7 Baby's toy (6)
- 9 Revealed (9)
- 13 Azure (3-4)
- 14 Be enough (7)
- 15 High-pitched and piercing (6)
- 16 Large snake (6)
- 18 Drained of colour (5)
- 20 Beatles drummer (5)

Dog walkers warned of deadly risk

It has not been a good summer to let your dog go swimming.

The hot and dry weather this spring sparked a rise in toxic blue-green algal blooms which have affected lakes and rivers across the UK. Blue-green algal blooms are triggered when colonies of bacteria use warmth and sunlight to reproduce rapidly. The colourful scum they produce can make people very ill and can kill dogs.

The Dogs Trust says: "We're urging all dog owners to avoid letting their dogs swim in or drink from lakes or rivers that look green, scummy, have surface foam or have warning signs nearby. Blue-green algae is not always easy to spot, so if in doubt, don't let your dogs swim in or drink from the water."

Blue-green algal blooms often persist for several months and do not disperse until cold weather arrives. The blooms have been found from Norfolk and Essex to Birmingham and the Lake District.

Symptoms of blue-green algae poisoning in dogs can begin within minutes and include vomiting, diarrhoea, drooling, muscle tremors, seizures, breathing difficulties, and collapse.

Affected dogs should be taken to a vet immediately. The condition can be fatal as the toxins attack the liver and neurological system, and there is no antidote. Smaller dogs only need to consume a small quantity to be at high risk of death.

The pet charity Blue Cross warns: "Even small quantities of water or licking contaminated water off the coat can be dangerous."



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Was the children's summer holiday too long for you?

As our children go back to school this month, what do parents really think about the past six weeks?

More than half of all parents found the summer break too long, and a 'challenge' to cope with.

So says the national charity, Parentkind. Its recent poll found that more than half of parents feel that the ideal length for the summer break would be four weeks. The remaining two weeks could then be redistributed across the rest of the year.

Parentkind then asked the teachers what they would most like. A majority would support a reduction of the summer holiday, but to five weeks, not four.

A full report will be published this month (September) under the charity's National Parent Survey.

Waste & Recycling Information



Tuesday 2nd September	Black + Food
Tuesday 9th September	Green + Brown + Food
Tuesday 16th September	Black + Food
Tuesday 23rd September	Green + Brown + Food
Tuesday 30th September	Black + Food



*Please ensure your Waste & Recycling Bins are placed on the kerbside before **06.00 am** to ensure your bins are emptied*

* * * * *

Please return your bins to your property ASAP after collection to ensure they are not blown onto the road causing an obstruction or damage to other vehicles

Please help to keep our Village Tidy and free from Fly Tipping

**Please take any Large Items to the Waste & Recycling Centre at Stanford in the Vale
Faringdon Road, SN7 8LD**

Litter bins = not recycling

If you want to recycle, please take these items home and put them in your green wheelie bin:

- Cans, bottles and plastic food containers – just give them a rinse first.
- Newspaper



These items aren't recyclable, so it's ok to put them in a litter bin:

- Sandwich packaging – please ignore the label, these can be messy or include a mix of different materials which may not be recyclable.
- Empty crisp packets – though some retailers recycle these.
- Chocolate wrappers.
- Disposable coffee cups.
- Fast food packaging.
- Film lids from food packaging.

Recycle

South Oxfordshire
District Council

Vale
of White Horse
District Council

There is a Recycling Bin
for Clothing situated in the
car park off Canal Way
There is also a Recycling
Bin for Shoes etc. at the
Cricket Club
on Vicarage Hill





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Harvest Festival

St. Nicholas Church
Sunday 14th September

**We are appealing for donations of Fruit, Vegetables and Flowers to decorate our church
Please drop them off at the church on Saturday 13th between 1.00 pm and 2.00 pm**



Donations of Canned & Packet
store cupboard groceries
for our Harvest Festival Service will be
donated to Wantage & Grove Food Bank

The monetry collection at the service will be
donated to our chosen charity ~ Water Aid



Still danger in our Rivers and Coastline

Walking by rivers or the sea has long been a favourite pastime of those of us out for a relaxing stroll. But in the UK just now, beware. Too many of our rivers and too much of our coastline has been infected with raw sewage.

Some statistics: there are about 14,500 storm overflow drains in England, which are used to pump raw sewage into rivers and the sea when there is heavy rain. In 2024, there was a record 3.6 million hours of sewage spills into waterways. These spills suffocated wildlife by the millions and made bathing very unsafe for us.

The government is promising drastic action in the coming years, but meanwhile the widespread pumping of raw sewage is still going on. So – be careful out there!

Which milk is best?

Plant-based milk drinks, including soya milk, oat milk and almond milk, have soared in popularity in recent years. But how do these compare with cow's milk?

A recent report from the nutritional experts who advise the government says that vegan milk is not 'nutritionally equivalent' to cow's milk.

The Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN) and the Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment has also warned that the vegan alternatives to cow's milk often have a higher amount of sugar.

The report suggests that nutritional concerns might be "lessened" if people instead go for the unsweetened soya, oat and almond milk drinks, and if those drinks were to be fortified with vitamin A, riboflavin, vitamin B12, calcium and iodine at similar levels to those found in cow's milk, and also with vitamin D.

What time you should stop drinking the night before

If you drink alcohol after 10pm at night, you may still be over the limit by 9am the next morning.

So says IAM RoadSmart, a road safety charity. It has warned that drinking alcohol late into the night can pose a 'serious threat' to your safety as a driver the next morning. And even if you are within the legal limit, still a 'groggy head' means a slower reaction time at the wheel.

Chief Constable Jo Shiner, the National Police Chiefs' Council lead for roads policing, has said: "There is simply no excuse for getting behind the wheel when you are impaired through drink or drugs, and this includes the morning after."

Drinkaware, the drink-driving charity, says that on average, alcohol is removed from the body at a rate of one unit per hour.

Give Him a call

The phone was a great invention. How easy, to press a few numbers on our small devices and speak to someone the other side of the world. Once a phone was a luxury item; now we take it for granted that this gadget in our pocket enables us to contact anyone, at any time, in any place.

However, how many times have you rung someone, only to be given a recorded message giving a variety of options? Then you must wait in a queue for ages before your call is answered. A voice informs you that 'your call is important to us' ... but meanwhile you are left waiting, listening to endless music.

Yes, a phone may be useful in all kinds of circumstances, but they can also be very frustrating! So, it's good to know that God can be contacted immediately we need Him.

There is no celestial call centre where our messages are delayed or referred. With prayer we can call on God directly. This service is free, with no charges. He hears our every call, and we can be confident that our Creator will answer us in ways which are only for our good.

'When you pray, I will answer you. When you call to me, I will respond.' (Isaiah 58:9)

The Parish Church of



Notices

SERVICES

Parish Eucharist / Morning Service

Sundays - 11.00 am

Thursdays - 10.00 am



JULY

£50 - N° 122 ~ Mr D. Lindsey

£20 - N° 38 ~ Mr R. Haynes

£10 - N° 153 ~ H. Swift

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

AUGUST

£50 - N° 69 ~ Mr & Mrs Ilott

£20 - N° 74 ~ Mr B. Pert

£10 - N° 45 ~ Mr G. Handley

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Would you like to join?

For further information please contact

Tricia Shand - 01235 764222

the.shandies@btinternet.com



St. Nicholas Church
Coffee Morning
Thursday
4th September
10.30 - Midday



Meet up with friends & fellow villagers in a warm & safe place and enjoy some friendly conversations over a FREE cup of Coffee & Biscuits

Everyone is Welcome

I am pleased to announce that Saint Nicholas Church is now in possession of a brown garden waste disposal bin, which means the old battered dustbin can now retire after many years of service.

The new bin will be put out on a fortnightly basis and should keep our garden waste manageable

Liz

Date	Sides Person	Sacristan	Reader	Intersessions	Organist	Coffee	Flowers	Cleaning
7 th September	Frances / Nigel	Ruth	Alan / Ruth	Philip	Ruth	Mandy	Heather	Linda / Liz
14 th September	Linda / Noel	Louise / Claire	Graham	Claire / Louise	Ruth	Jan / Hilary	Claire	Linda / Liz
21 st September	Liz / Jeff	Jenny	Jeff	Jenny	Graham	Val / Barbera	Jenny	Mandy
28 th September	Tricia / Sue	T B A	Claire / Nick	Paul	Graham	Linda / Janet	Mandy	Mandy

Sunday	1 st Reading	2 nd Reading	Gospel Reading
7 th September Morning Worship Nick / Claire	Deuteronomy 30: 15 - 20	Philemon 1: 1 - 21	Luke 14: 25 - 33
14 th September HARVEST FESTIVAL Rev Alec Gill	* Exodus 32: 7 - 14	* 1 Timothy 1: 12 - 17	* Luke 15: 1 - 10
21 st September Morning Worship Jeff / Phillip	Amos 8: 4 - 7	1 Timothy 2: 1 - 7	Luke 16: 1 - 13
28 th September Eucharist Rev. Alec Gill	Amos 6: 1a + 4 - 7	1 Timothy 6: 6 - 19	Luke 16: 19 - 31

***Harvest Festival - Readings are subject to change**



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