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**SATURDAY, 7TH FEBRUARY 2026**  
**ASTONS VILLAGE HALL.**

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To reserve your table, please email [gracelancaster@gmail.com](mailto:gracelancaster@gmail.com)  
or scan the QR code



All funds raised in support of Jennie's Children's Trust who work to create happy memories for children and their families, who have suffered trauma. To find out more about the work they do, please visit [www.jennieschildrenstrust.org](http://www.jennieschildrenstrust.org)

# CHEAP SUITS

## NEW YEARS EVE PARTY

ASTONS VILLAGE HALL



DOORS - 7PM  
**CHEAP SUITS - 8.30PM**  
DJ SET - 10.15PM



**BAR & FOOD VAN**  
**TICKETS AVAILABLE VIA SKIDDLE**  
**(UNDER 16s FREE)**

## CHEAP SUITS NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

- \* Come and celebrate the New Year with our very own, village-spawned, Indie band sensation Cheap Suits, who will be playing some banging party classics, mixed with some of their own tracks from their successful EP Kiss Up (available to download from all good streaming platforms) and debut performances of their unreleased tracks.
- \* Then a DJ set will see the New Year in, with floor filling anthems and perhaps a little Auld Lang Syne!

**Tickets are £10 (+booking fee) for adults (16+) – follow the QR code or search up 'Cheap Suits' on Skiddle.com, where you can buy tickets.**

Please note, tickets are not required for under 16s, but they must be accompanied by adults. Children are welcome (and there is a quiet room for them to chill – please feel free to bring beanbags/sleeping bags/games to keep them entertained).

There will be a bar and food van – card payments only.





# *ASTONS NEWS*

## *CHRISTMAS 2025*

December 2025 Issue 619





# SOME JOLLY PICTURES FROM 2025:

Bell Ringers & Home Guard; Bonfire, Fireworks, WW2 Exhibition, Village Hall fund raising dinner, no.1 Scything team



# ASTONS NEWS

Part of the Comms information group:

Astonsenews: [enews@theastons.net](mailto:enews@theastons.net), [theastons.net](http://theastons.net)

The Astons Villagers Facebook Community

Astonsonline Twitter (X)

December 2025 issue 619

## WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER

BINS: DEC Green & Brown: 11, 27. GREY: 4,18. JAN G&B: 9, 22 GREY: 3,15,29

**ARTICLES LIST Page 3, ADVERTISERS' INDEX Page 5**

### Weekly Events

Day	Time	Event	Location	Page
M to F	various	various classes	Village Hall	15
Tues	10-00-12.00	Astons Café	Village Hall	11
"	10.00-12.00	Post Office	"	11
"	10.00-12.00	Free Superfast Internet Access	"	11, 19
Fri	9.30-11.30am	Toddler Group (Term time only)	Centre for Reflection	14

### Events in December & January

1-19		Christmas card delivery around the Astons	for Didcot Food bank	17
3rd	7.45pm	A Chorovino Christmas	Cholsey pavilion	7,22
6th	7.30pm	Bach Christmas Oratorio	Dorchester Abbey	7,22
7th	9am	2nd Sunday of Advent	All Saints' Church	34
9th	7-9pm	Wreath workshop	Village Hall	7,17
18th	6pm	Carol Singing around the Astons	Door to door singing!	7,9
21st	4pm	Carol Service	St. Michael's Church AT	7,34
24th	3pm	Crib service	St. Michael's Church	7,34
	10pm	Midnight Mass	All Saints' Church	7,34
25th	10.30am	Parish Eucharist Christmas Day service	St. Michael's Church	7,34
31st	7pm	Cheap Suits NYE party	Village Hall	7, (ii)
<b>JANUARY</b>				
4th	9am	Epiphany	All Saints' Church	34
18th	9am	2nd Sunday of Epiphany	St. Michael's Church	34

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS 2026

Feb 7th	Jennie's Children's Dinner	V Hall
May 3rd	Astonathlon	

P

F

-

P

-

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## ARTICLES

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### (ii) NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY AT THE VILLAGE HALL

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### Asylum Welcome

Asylum Welcome is always looking for more donated bikes for men, women and children. We can only accept donated bikes if they are in reasonable working (rideable) condition. Please contact Nasser, or Mark and Tino, our Bike Project volunteers at [bike@asylum-welcome.org](mailto:bike@asylum-welcome.org) -Tessa Mayhew, [tessamayhew@btinternet.com](mailto:tessamayhew@btinternet.com).

**DEADLINE for the FEBRUARY edition is JANUARY 22nd**

**SEND COPY TO: [editorastonsnews@gmail.com](mailto:editorastonsnews@gmail.com)**

(\*Send in Microsoft 'WORD' main text in **font size 11**, or as a PDF)

**OR in writing to: Astons News, The Barn, Baker Street, Aston Tirrold Oxon OX11 9DD**

*Editor: Jeremy Imbush. Treasurer: Marcus Holburn*

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## ASTONS NEWS Advertising Rates 2026 (Community Adverts are free)

### ASTONS NEWS Advertising Rates 2026

Advert size	width	x height	10 issues	5 issues	1 issue
1/8 page	(90mm	x 65mm )	£55	£40	£15
1/4 page	(90mm	x 135mm)	£80	£50	£25
1/2 page	(185mm	x 135mm)	£145	£85	£35
A4 page	(185mm	x 270mm)	£200	£130	£45
Loose inserts (Flyers)			£25		
Community adverts & flyers			free		

***Please note that there are no issues in January or August***

To place an advert, or  
for further information  
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**Jeremy Imbush**

**01235 851053**

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## Editorial:

The season of mists and mellow fruitfulness gives way to the long season of Yuletide and New Year festivities. I'm surprised that some entrepreneurial content maker has not come up with a 'My December party dates' Advent calendar...and don't get me started on Christmas decorations in shops in September, and Christmas songs played in shops in October.. Bah humbug!

Lots of jolly occasions coming up in December:

- \* **3rd** : Chorovino Christmas, which is a cappella versions of songs sung by a choir that includes some of the Astons finest voices, so do go and support them (see below)
- \* **6th**: Bach's Christmas Oratorio sung by Benson Choral Society in Dorchester Abbey (see below)
- \* **9th**: make your own Christmas wreath; knives, scissors and prosecco. What could possibly go wrong? P
- \* **18th**: Carols around the village. Join the ad hoc choir and serenade your fellow villagers in the comfort of their own homes. Darkness and mulled wine; What could possibly go wrong? P
- \* **21st**: Nearly there... Carol service in St. Michael's Church. A lovely warm and cuddly event, for everyone. Mince pies and copious mulled wine. What could possibly go wrong? P
- \* **24th**: Within touching distance... A village football match on the rec at 11am. No mulled wine, though, apparently...(see below)
- \* Crib service especially for little ones. Mulled wine...beats Calpol!
- \* 'Midnight' mass at 10pm at All Saints' Church. Time for a few sharpeners at The Chequers before the walk up Pot Hole Hill to All Saints'. What could possibly go wrong? P
- \* **31st: NEW YEARS EVE PARTY** at the Village Hall. By now your liver will be functioning at its peak, ready for the this big family party. Wine, beer, singing and dancing. What could possibly go wrong? Astons top band 'Cheapsuits' will be leading the charge to midnight. See Page ii
- \* **2026 February 7th**. Jennie's Children's Trust dinner. An important event to raise money for this veritable charity. See front page.
- \* Dates for your diary: **Astonathlon May 3rd; Astonbury June 27th**. More news in February's edition, and on socials.
- \* **It's time to thank the VN's Deliverers**, who brave the elements to make sure that a copy of the Astons News flops onto your doormat each month, without fail. So, thank you to:

Steve Morant, Pippa Clark, Anne White, Janie Barr-Knight, James Hart, Camilla Holcroft, Jo Tidmarsh, Sally & John Hawkins, Louise Binder, Adam Griffiths.

- \* Merry Christmas and a Happy Year from myself and the Lady Mayoress

## Action Fraud: Beware of winter fuel payment scams

Between April and September 2025, Action Fraud has received 2,790 crime reports relating to Winter Fuel Payment scams, with victims reporting losses totalling over £27,000.

***Winter Fuel Payments are made automatically, you do not need to do anything.***

If you receive any text messages about Winter Fuel Payments, it's a scam.

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If you have spotted a suspicious SMS or RCS message, you can report it for FREE by forwarding it to 7726.

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<b>Tuesday</b>	8.30 am - 17.30 pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	8.30 am - 17.30 pm
<b>Thursday</b>	8.30 am - 19.30 pm
<b>Friday</b>	8.30 am - 17.30 pm
<b>Saturday</b>	7.30 am - 17.00 pm

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## ASTON'S ADVENT WINDOWS

From 1<sup>st</sup> December up until Christmas Eve, 24 kind volunteers have each agreed to create and illuminate a magical, festive window display. Each window will be lit from dusk until 10pm every evening from their given date until the end of 2025 and will display a number. Once 'opened' that house will continue to light up every evening.

Treat yourselves by wondering around the village to see if you can find them. Day by day, more and more windows will be on show for you, your kids, your family and friends to marvel at. A map of all the houses will be available to view on the Astons website and at the Crib Service at St Michael's Church from Christmas Eve.

*Please do not enter anyone's garden or driveway to look at the displays – the houses have been specifically chosen for their visibility from the road.*

If you enjoy this new bit of festive cheer, and would like to make a donation, please scan the QR code. The money will be equally split between the PCC and StyleAcre (a local charity supporting people with learning disabilities) The QR code will take you to the PCC donations page. Once all the donations have been received, they will give 50% to Style Acre.

For more information (or to be added to the list for Christmas 2025), please contact Amberley Diamond ([amberleyjones@hotmail.com](mailto:amberleyjones@hotmail.com) 07771995906)



## Carol Singing

On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December, a band of merry singers will be spreading festive joy through the village with their annual carol singing. If you would like to join us, arrive at Jervis Cottage on Aston St at 6pm, armed with torches and empty vessels. As always, we love the generosity of any villagers who offer a tipples/mulled wine/chocolates to us as we pass. The QR code is for both of these events.

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We would like to thank all those generous villagers who contributed to the recent VH fund-raising events, and to those who have supported the café and post office throughout the year.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

## ASTONS CAFÉ & Post Office *at the Village Hall*

every Tuesday 10am-12noon



Fresh coffee, tea & homemade cake

**New to the villages?** Call in, say hello and find out all about us, what's going on and the history of your house/road – always a warm welcome!

### Tea & Tech session Third Tuesday of the month

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**Astons Online** provide face-to-face sessions for computer users on the third Tuesday of every month. Sessions will be by appointment:

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*The Astons Café is a 'low maintenance' community effort, sponsored by the Village Hall Committee, which gives village individuals and groups an opportunity to meet and chat, sell or donate items for use or re-use, publicise their activities or fundraise, and village enterprises an outlet for their initiatives. Your support is appreciated.*



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Wednesday 24th December - Lunch & Dinner  
Christmas Day - Lunch only - Festive 7 Course Set Lunch  
Boxing Day - Lunch only  
Saturday 27th December - Lunch & Dinner  
Sunday 28th December - Lunch only  
Monday 29th December - Closed  
Tuesday 30th December - Closed  
Wednesday 31st December - Dinner only Gastrodisco  
- Set Menu

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- \* Additional permits are available for certain groups including Blue Badge holders, unpaid carers, community health and care workers, mobile traders and patients required to attend frequent hospital appointments in Oxford.

Apply here: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/transport-and-travel/oxfords-temporary-congestion-chargecars/congestion-charge-permits>



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## Weekly

Monday	<b>Yoga</b>	12:30-1:30pm 8-9pm
Tuesday	<b>Astons Café</b>	10am-12
	<b>Post Office</b>	10am-12
Thursday	<b>Pilates</b>	9:30-11:30am
	<b>Yoga</b>	8-9pm

## Monthly

3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday	<b>Parish Council</b>	8pm
3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday	<b>Tea &amp; Tech</b> <b>(Astons Online)</b>	10am-12

## Friends of the Village Hall

For more information: [villagehall@theastons.net](mailto:villagehall@theastons.net)

All Village Hall booking enquiries  
[astons.vhbooking@gmail.com](mailto:astons.vhbooking@gmail.com)

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# Astons Outdoors

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## Dates for your Diary

A few places remaining - **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 7pm – 9pm Wreath & Centre Piece workshop.** £30 per person, with complimentary nibbles and a glass of fizz. This is a popular, fun annual event. Please get in touch if you want to attend. **All proceeds will be used to purchase food for a local food bank.**



**Village Christmas Card Distribution:** As with previous years we will have a post box located in the Chequers Garage from **1<sup>st</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> December**, for you to drop of Christmas cards for friends and neighbours that live in the Astons. In exchange for a small donation (also to be posted in the card box), we will deliver the cards for you on 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> December. All donations will be used to buy food for a local food bank.

### Round up for 2025

Gardens never stand still. With exciting planting choices, new ways of growing and maintaining spaces and of course the constant challenges the weather / climate brings. No two years seem the same. 2025 has seen people growing in ways that reflected their interests and personality rather than just for aesthetics or subsistence. Apparently, this theme is set to continue.

There has been increasing pressure on wildlife, particularly where green spaces have and continue to be overtaken by construction. Local initiatives, such as The Springline Project engage residents and visitors to encourage interconnectivity between villages such as the Astons and Cholesey.

The 'Picks Field Project' is a great example of how landowners and residents work together to increase biodiversity through research and sympathetic management. Approximately three years ago a small number of resident landowners added a long native boundary hedge adjoining two open fields. A recent study by them and ecologists has demonstrated the value of providing this shelter and food source. Rare species of wildlife have been recorded.

### Outdoor jobs for December

Prune climbing roses between now and February

Protect terracotta and other pots from cracking in freezing weather by putting them inside or wrapping in bubble polythene

Keep raking up fallen leaves in borders that could be harbouring slugs and other pests

Plant bare-root roses and other deciduous shrubs, plus ornamental trees

Hang bird feeders near roses to attract hungry birds that will also pick off any overwintering pests

Cut stems of berried winter shrubs, seasonal flowers and evergreen leaves for festive decorations and wreaths, leaving some for the wildlife

Move plants in pots to a sheltered spot if conditions turn very cold, as their roots are more exposed to the elements

Plant fragrant winter shrubs in pots on the doorstep, including chimonanthus and Daphne odora

Hard prune overgrown shrubs and hedges while they're dormant



How to get in touch, please contact :  
Naomi ([contactnaomi@icloud.com](mailto:contactnaomi@icloud.com))  
Louise ([louise.binder@live.co.uk](mailto:louise.binder@live.co.uk))  
Emma ([emma.machin2018@gmail.com](mailto:emma.machin2018@gmail.com))

**Have a great December everyone**





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---

## Pavilion Hire Charges

<b>Receptions/General Parties:</b>	£60 (villager)	£100 (non-villager)
<b>Children's Parties/Charity Events:</b>	£40 (villager)	£60 (non-villager)

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*To arrange a viewing, and/or booking, contact Liz Pattison via email:*

**[astonspavilion@gmail.com](mailto:astonspavilion@gmail.com)**



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# Free & friendly support for digital users

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10:00 - 12:00

To book your 30-minute appointment contact  
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**Astons Online CIC** supports people who want to be digitally confident on the Internet, with smartphone apps or online services like health and banking. We particularly help digital users stay safe and secure.

**Astons Online CIC** events and support are free of charge and open to everyone.

## December 2025

**Astons Online** is available for Zoom, Facetime, WhatsApp or telephone one-to-one sessions on Tuesday mornings between 10:00 and 12:00.

Website: [www.astonsonline.uk](http://www.astonsonline.uk) email: [theastonsonline@gmail.com](mailto:theastonsonline@gmail.com)

## Benson Choral Society 6th December 2025

Bach's Christmas Oratorio is Benson Choral Society's next concert in Dorchester Abbey at 7.30pm on Saturday 6 December. A quintet of sparkling soloists, accompanied by the renowned period orchestra, Instruments of Time and Truth, and under the baton of our new Musical Director, Tom Neal. Get tickets now for £20 reserved, or £17 unreserved, online at [www.bensonchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.bensonchoralsociety.org.uk).

## A Chorovino Christmas Wednesday 3rd December 7.45pm Cholsey Pavilion

A cappella four and five part bespoke arrangements, with a mix of favourite and festive numbers. Wine guaranteed. Please book your seats by emailing us at [info@chorovino.com](mailto:info@chorovino.com). Seats are limited!

## Village Football Match on Christmas Eve

What better way to start your Christmas than by taking part in the village Christmas Eve football match? Open to anyone over 16. No skill required! As in previous years, teams will be picked on the day and the focus is on fun. Kick off at 11 a.m.

Please message **Adam (07815105760)** if you'd like to play so he can add you to the inevitable WhatsApp group to have an idea of numbers and to confirm arrangements nearer the time.

Spectators very welcome for this festival of football and to share Christmas cheer!

## Cholsey Repair Cafe, January 2026

Give or take a pandemic, **Cholsey Repair Café** will open its ninth year of operation on **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2026** at the Cholsey Pavilion, **between 10.00 and 12.45**. [www.cholseyrepaircafe.com](http://www.cholseyrepaircafe.com) provides more information



Contact us on 01235 819657

or email

[southmoretonpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:southmoretonpreschool@gmail.com)





# Astons Community Speedwatch

"A national initiative where proactive members of local communities join, with the support and supervision of their local police, to record details of speeding vehicles using approved detection devices in their local community"

**More volunteers always welcome**



Our Speedwatch activity is about raising awareness of the dangers of driving fast in a residential area with no pavements, narrow roads, children, older people, walkers and dog-walkers.

Speeding is a real problem in our villages. If **we** make every effort to drive within the 20mph speed limit it should encourage others to do the same and slow down those following us.

We are a small band of volunteers who give an hour of our time when we can to gather statistics and to raise awareness with those driving at excessive speeds.



We would appreciate your feedback on what we are doing (in confidence) and are happy to answer any questions you may have.

Please help us if you can.

Contact: 07887 567261

[bob\\_pickens@hotmail.com](mailto:bob_pickens@hotmail.com)

**Volunteers needed please!**

## The Woolpack



The Woolpack meets every Tuesday at the Astons Café in the village hall from 10am to 12 noon. We hope to see you there and we'd love to see all types of crafts represented, so if sewing is your thing or you're bonkers about beading, come on in! Margaret Morant 07899 748209

## Astons eNews

Over the past few months Astons eNews has changed. Until this year, eNews emails were sent out to the Astons community from a personal Gmail address. This has been replaced by a web mail app made available by Web Boutiques who host our community website.

There are now 7 editors taking turns distributing Astons eNews emails. Astons eNews has become a resilient service instead of relying on one or two people if or when they were available.

## Astons eNews Protocol

All Astons residents are welcome to sign up to the Astons eNews - the Astons community email service. About 250 already have done so.

Astons eNews sends infrequent village-wide emails with important news/information that cannot wait for the next monthly Astons News.

The following criteria apply to eNews emails:

- The email will be available to everyone in the two parishes.
- Addressees will be invisible to all other recipients to preserve privacy.
- There is an unsubscribe facility on every email.
- No commercials, no jokes, no opinions etc - just succinct information about events/activities.
- eNews are normally sent out at the request of the Parish Council, community clubs/groups or individual residents. Occasionally editors may send one out if, for example, they have spotted an unadvertised road closure.
- eNews emails are not sent to highlight individual community events; these are included in the monthly round-up eNews emails sent out a week before each Parish Council meeting.
- eNews requests received within 36 hours of, for example, road or post office closures, power outages etc will be processed if editorial resources are available.
- Email addresses supplied to Astons eNews are not used for any other purpose nor are they passed on to other groups, clubs or organisations.

Please email **[enews@theastons.net](mailto:enews@theastons.net)** to receive eNews.

## Astons Online CIC

Astons Online community interest company (CIC) has been providing support to computer users since 2011. We started as a community group with a BT grant resulting from the Race to Infinity, won by Blewbury exchange area, which included the Astons. We also had generous support from our Oxfordshire County Councillor, Astons Parish Council and Astons News.

Astons Online has provided support to over 600 computer users, free of charge. People have contacted us from all over South Oxfordshire. Astons Online CIC has recently been highlighted on the Oxfordshire County Council website and in a survey of digital inclusion in the county. We mainly support older people who are uncertain or apprehensive at the rollout of digital services replacing their face-to-face, telephone and postal services. We do this by reaching out to community groups that focus on older people, offering our support to their members.

## The Astons Villagers Facebook Community (AVFC)

The Astons Villagers Facebook Community is an Fb group for residents of the Astons only (plus a small number of approved non-villagers). It is a closed group, so posts cannot be seen by anyone outside the membership. It is a valuable channel for all types of local information and knowledge-sharing in real time.

**TO JOIN:** If you already use Facebook, please search for Astons Villagers Facebook **Community**; For any questions about the group, please contact Kathryn Hawkey at **[kathryn.hawkey@gmail.com](mailto:kathryn.hawkey@gmail.com)** who is the administrator for our Facebook group,.

## Local Government Reorganisation news

(SODC Vale of White Horse district council)

A new future for local councils – more efficient, better services, local to your community

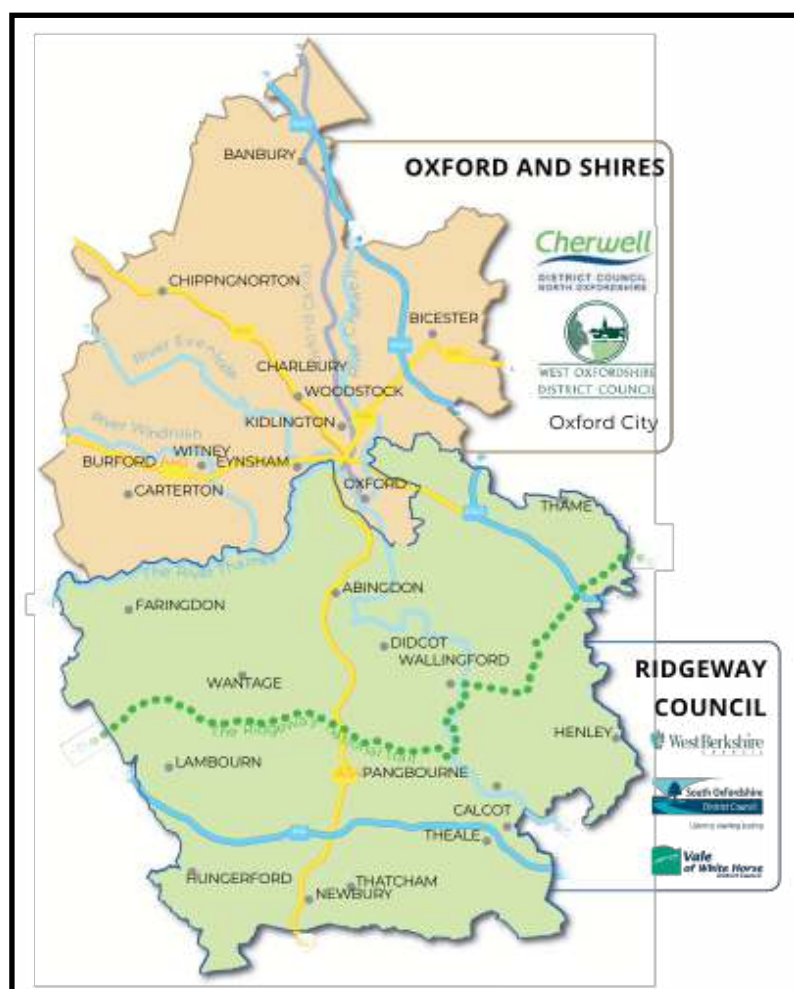
After the government asked us to draw up plans to change how councils work in the area, last week we formally agreed to support a proposal for two new, innovative, and locally accountable unitary authorities. The new councils would:

- \* Deliver better services: The proposal responds to what residents have said needs improving, from highways and social care to planning.
- \* Offer the best financial outcomes: Independent modelling shows it could deliver the greatest potential savings (£59.8m annually) and lowest financial risk of all three proposals, helping to protect key services and ensure long-term stability across Oxfordshire and West Berkshire.
- \* Boost both rural and urban economies: Drive sustainable growth across Oxford, market towns and rural areas, creating more jobs, better transport and the right homes in the right places.
- \* Create councils responsive to their communities: Keep councils close to all local communities and tailored to their specific needs, ensuring strong local accountability and representation.

### What is the proposal? (see picture below)

Our two-unitary proposal – which is one of three being put forward for the area – would create two councils covering the following geographical areas:

- Oxford and Shires Council would comprise all of the existing district areas of Cherwell, Oxford City and West Oxfordshire.
- \* Ridgeway Council would be made up of the whole of West Berkshire Council's area and all of the existing district areas of South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse.



### Other proposals

The other two options are:

- \* A large single unitary council for Oxfordshire led by Oxfordshire County Council
- \* Three unitary councils based around an expanded Oxford City area known as Greater Oxford, led by Oxford City Council

Last week, alongside four other councils in Oxfordshire and West Berkshire, we published our draft proposal at: [twocouncils.org](http://twocouncils.org)

Following Cabinet and Executive meetings at the councils, a consensus emerged with all five councils formally supporting our proposal for two new, innovative, and locally accountable unitary authorities.

This means that after reviewing all three proposals for Oxfordshire and West Berkshire, the majority of councils in the area have agreed that the two-unitary option offers the best outcomes for local residents and will urge the government to proceed with the proposal when a decision is made next year.

Of the 158 councillors in attendance at meetings across the areas, 142 voted to support the two-unitary proposal, 9 were against and 7 abstained, showing overwhelming support that the two-unitary option is the best for their areas. Councillors also raised concerns about the other proposals. *(continued on next page)*



### Continued from previous page

For the [single-unitary proposal](#) put forward by Oxfordshire County Council, they expressed concerns that it was too large, would be far too distant from communities and did not show the ambition local communities and businesses deserved.

For the [three-unitary proposal](#) put forward by Oxford City, they expressed concerns that it would not create financially sustainable councils, did not meet the government criteria, and would negatively impact the green belt.

### Next steps

We will submit our proposal to the government before the 28 November deadline, and we anticipate that the government will consult on all proposals for the area in spring 2026 before deciding later in the summer. The government's preferred model is scheduled to become fully operational in 2028.

We will keep you updated in future editions as everything develops in the new year

## ARC Play Area Projects-have your say- and Bonfire Night volunteers

Thanks to recent fund raising the ARC has some funds we would like to put to work on improving the play area. We would love to hear from parents and children what they would like to see.

We are also looking for someone who can take on the project management of the improvements – perhaps someone with children who use the play area? Please let me know if you are able to take this project on.

Finally, a big thank you to everyone who contributes to the maintenance of the Recreation Ground in any way a special thank you to the cricket club who spend countless hours maintaining the cricket pitch, to Jeremy for his dedication in keep the pavilion in such wonderful condition and to the many people who upgraded the boules court this summer.

The Recreation Ground is crucial asset for the village but needs all our help to look after it.

Gavin Wood, Astons Recreation Committee

## The Story Behind a Famous Carol

Every carol has a story to tell. For example, you may be interested to learn that the origin of the carol "O Little Town of Bethlehem" lies in a visit to the Holy Land made back in the 1860s by a famous American preacher and minister, Revd Phillips Brooks. Brooks was the minister at Holy Trinity Church, Philadelphia. On his return from the Holy Land, he wrote a carol for use by his Sunday school – the carol we know today as "O Little Town of Bethlehem". It was sung to a tune specially composed by his church organist, Lewis Redner; this tune continues to be popular in the USA, but in England the carol is usually sung to "Forest Green", an adaptation of an English Folk-tune.

Brooks' carol has become one of the best loved of all our Christmas carols. As with many carols, the text has evolved over the years. You may be interested to learn that the original version contained the following verse – a verse which, as far as I know, is no longer sung today:

"Where children pure and happy  
Pray to the blessed Child,  
Where misery cries out to thee,  
Son of the Mother mild;  
Where charity stands watching  
And faith holds wide the door,  
The dark night wakes, the glory breaks,  
And Christmas comes once more".

I think it is a pity that this verse is no longer sung, for it reminds us Christmas isn't just the remembrance of some past event. It is a reminder that Jesus is alive today, and that He wishes to come into our lives and into our communities, bringing His gifts of love, forgiveness and healing. Our task is to make Jesus welcome, by "watching" with a spirit of love, and "holding open" the door of faith – faith in the goodness and power of God, to bring new hope into a world which is so often full of weariness and suffering.

My prayer is that this Christmas time we see afresh the glory of God's love and God's light breaking into our own lives and into our communities – a time when we can truly say that "Christmas comes once more".

With every blessing for Christmas and the New Year, Father Jason

# WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

## REMEMBERING THE ASTONS DURING WW2

### THANK YOU!!

The exhibition would not be possible without the generous support  
and help from the following people and organisations:

- Aston Tirrold and Upton Parish Council
- Astons Village Hall Management Committee
- Bill Clarke and his family
- The Wheeler family
- The Didcock Family
- The Lightfoot Family
- The Wadley Family
- The Bachelor Family
- Judy Powell
- The United Reformed Church
- Astons Parochial Church Council
- Sandra Reed-Jennings
- Jeremy Imbush
- Naomi Simmonds
- Patrick Dillon
- Mike Barradell-Smith
- Guy Liverton
- Ryan and Gerry Morris
- Amanda Le Conte
- Father Jason
- Steve Smith
- Peter and Ruth Welch
- Emma and Clem Lewins
- Penelope and George Curtis
- Katharine Verrill
- Margaret Morant
- The Astons Bellringing Team
- Rachel Marffy
- Janey Dillon and David Wheeler
- Blewbury History Group
- Carbon Colour
- The Redline Living History Group
- Hedley Thorne



Finally, to everyone from the Astons History Group who have worked so hard to deliver this exhibition. Judy Barradell-Smith. Anna Dillon. Jancis Smith.

## Message from your MP, Ollie Glover

In Parliament,

- \* I secured a commitment from the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to help unblock progress on the GP surgery in Great Western Park.
- \* At Prime Minister's Questions, I challenged the Prime Minister on the Government's decision to delay SEND reforms until 2026, asking what he has to say to parents and education staff who are deeply worried by these delays.
- \* I also led a debate on the proposed cuts to funding for the International Baccalaureate (IB) programme - an issue that affects many families at Europa School
- \* spoke on the need to improve statutory maternity and paternity pay.
- \* I have also been busy in my new role as Transport Spokesperson - speaking in Westminster Hall debates on sustainable aviation and headlight glare, and pressing the Secretary of State for Transport on the environmental impact of the proposed third runway at Heathrow.
- \* It is always a pleasure to meet constituents in Parliament. Recently, I've met with residents campaigning to end cages for farmed animals, and with local pharmacists attending the launch of the new *Shot in the Arm* vaccine campaign.
- \* I've held surgeries in Wantage and Didcot and met residents on the doorstep in East and West Challow.
- \* I joined members of CulBug (the Culham Bicycle User Group) for a cycle trip and opened the new visitor centre at Culham Campus - planting a tree and recognising 60 years of remarkable work at the site.
- \* I visited Fitzwaryn Special School and Wantage Primary Academy to see Bikeability training in action alongside the Local Transport Minister, Lilian Greenwood.
- \* I attended SOFEA's "Donate What You Can" community meal in Didcot, where all proceeds support the charity's Nourish and Flourish programme.
- \* I also visited the Thames Travel bus depot in Didcot and made further progress on improving the Orchard Centre, where parking is now free after 7pm every day.

Lastly, it was a privilege to lay a wreath in both Wallingford and Didcot at Remembrance day events, alongside laying a wreath on the Poppy Train at Didcot Railway Station. Lest we forget.

As always, if there is anything you feel I can help you with, please do not hesitate to contact me and my team at [olly.glover.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:olly.glover.mp@parliament.uk), or by leaving a voice message on **0207 219 7657**. **Ollie Glover, MP**

## Matthew Barber, PCC

### **£200,000 taken from criminals going to local crime prevention initiatives**

Nearly £200,000 has been awarded to 49 community and voluntary organisations across the whole of the Thames Valley to support crime prevention initiatives.

My Community Fund is always hugely over subscribed with 248 applications submitted for over £1.7m of funding, so unfortunately many will be disappointed.

The Community Fund provides support to voluntary and community groups that help to prevent crime and keep communities safe. Importantly money for the Community Fund comes from proceeds from the sale of items seized from criminals that cannot be returned to their rightful owners and court orders. Making criminals pay, rather than the cash coming from taxpayers.

Here are a few of the local applications that were successful...

- \* Bright Futures Oxfordshire, Youth mentoring scheme - £5,000.00
- \* Didcot and Wallingford Didcot TRAIN, Inspiring young people - £6,000.00
- \* Improving Road Safety in Long Wittenham - £5,700.00
- \* Sandford-on-Thames Road Safety Initiative - £3,300.00
- \* Gloves Not Gangs, Spartans Boxing Club, Abingdon - £4,000.00
- \* Sweatbox Youth Work, Wantage - £5,000.00
- \* Abingdon Damascus Youth, The Gazebo Project - £4,000.00
- \* CCTV at Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall - £1,500.00
- \* Fraud and Scam Awareness, Vale Community Impact - £5,000.00

Matthew Barber



## ASTON TIRROLD AND ASTON UPTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

### WEDNESDAY 19th NOVEMBER 2025

13/093 Apologies for absence

Peter Butcher (PB), Tom Mooney (TM), Anne-Marie Simpson SODC (AMS), Crispin Topping SODC (CT), Johnny Hope-Smith OCC (JHS),

13/094 Present

Jane Imbush Chair (JI), Simon Young Vice-Chair (SY), Mary Severin (MS), Jane Knight (JBK), Joanna Hart (JH), Neil Carter (NC), Sarah Munro (SM), Charlotte Ray- Clerk (CR),  
Members of the public - 3

13/095 Declaration of any relevant interests: None

13/096 Minutes; Minutes from the meeting on 15th October 2025 were then agreed by all and signed by the Chair.

13/097 Public questions, comments, or representations: None

13/098 SODC and OCC Reports to the Parish Council: The report was read and noted by the councillors.

See link for SODC report: [Aston\\_Tirrold\\_\\_\\_Aston\\_Upthorpe\\_Parish\\_Council\\_DC\\_Report\\_191125.docx](#)

See link for OCC report: [County\\_Councillor\\_Parish\\_Report\\_Nov\\_2025.docx](#)

#### **13/099 Planning**

To consider the following planning permissions:

**P25/S3237/FUL** – For development work at the following location: Cowderys Yard, Spring Lane, Aston Tirrold.

The application is for: Phased development. Demolition of two existing buildings. Construction of new self-build dwelling and related works.

The owners of Cowderys Yard attended the meeting and presented their plans for the proposed development to the Parish Council. Councillor Knight raised several questions regarding the submitted drawings. Specifically, the overview images lacked measurements; in the west elevation, the highest point appeared to be the central section, while in the north and south elevations the gable ends were taller than the main body of the house. The drawings did not appear to align consistently.

The residents confirmed that a height restriction is in place and that the build will not exceed the height of neighbouring properties. A bat survey indicated that no bats are currently residing in the barn, although there have been numerous sightings of bats in the surrounding area. Councillor Knight expressed concern about the extensive use of glazing and its potential impact on local wildlife. The residents responded that they have been advised during pre planning advice and have already reduced the proposed glazing. External lighting has been kept to essential use only. The majority of glazing faces the garden and will not impact neighbouring properties. They also confirmed plans to increase the number of trees on the site.

Given the significant movement of materials to and from the site, the Parish Council requested that the owners remain mindful of traffic entering and leaving the village. Following discussion, the Parish Council unanimously voted to support the application.

#### **13/100 ARC**

Approve Minute's from November's meeting. – Approved

Bonfire Night was a huge success. The Parish Council extends its sincere and profound gratitude to ARC for their exceptional dedication and hard work. We are also deeply appreciative of the many volunteers whose generous contributions of time and effort were instrumental in making the event possible. Their commitment and community spirit are truly valued, and the Council wishes to place on record its immense thanks.

Discuss/Agree the change of name for ARC's bank account -

Approve two more signatories to be added to ARC's bank mandate. Cllr Imbush and Cllr Munro volunteered and the remaining Cllrs voted to support.

Approve a Councillor from the PC to join ARC's Committee. – Councillor Munro volunteered and the remaining Cllrs all supported.

*continued on next page*

*Continued from previous page*

### **13/101 Finance**

Payments below approved

Simplicity Payroll Service £26.40

Charlotte Ray Clerk Fees £310.00

Approve October's Financial Statement- Approved and formally noted the bank reconciliation.

Councillors noted the bank account and spreadsheet reconciliation

Councillors also discussed the progress on the internal audit. Having identified new signatories and management of the bank accounts relating to ARC and the PC, noting the progress against the audit that has been made in year.

Councillor Imbush was able to report that she had met with the Astons Webteam regarding concerns expressed over accessibility of the website. The PC now knows what needs to be achieved on compliance and will work with the Clerk and the Webteam to resolve the outstanding issues.

### **13/102 CLP Groups**

**Roads and traffic** – Works have commenced on Spring Lane, where two rows of kerbstones have been installed and drainage improvements are underway. The existing surface is scheduled to be removed, followed by resurfacing. The gully has been altered to ensure that all water will drain away effectively. It was noted that potholes previously reported remain unrepaired. Councillor Knight will submit a further report via the "Fix My Street" service.

**Housing and Development** – Nothing to report

**Environment group** – The Hedge Row and Nature Plan document has been received. Councilor Carter is currently reviewing the contents and will subsequently submit the application online.

### **13/103 Grant Applications:**

St. Michael's Church – Two invoices have been given to the PC, one for £254.80 plus VAT for servicing the bells, and £663.00 plus VAT to repair Bell 6. The PC discussed the application and agreed to use CIL funds to pay for the above invoices. The invoice will be addressed to the PC following the repairs. The total sum will be £917.80 plus VAT = £1101.36

Village Hall Post Office - £500.00 - Approved

Burial Ground - £1,000.00 - Approved

### **13/104 Items for next agenda**

Date of the next meeting is at 7:30 pm on Wednesday 10th December 2025 which will be held in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at: 20:26



### **HELP WITH ESSENTIAL LIVING COSTS THIS WINTER**

Are you struggling to pay for food, energy or necessary household items?

Is Christmas going to add extra pressure on an existing tight budget?

Over the past few years we have supported many people living in Blewbury, the Astons & Upton by providing small grants to help to pay for such things as energy, food, essential items and school expenditure. If you, or someone you know is in need please consider applying, all applications are dealt with confidentially.

To apply there is a short application form to complete which can be picked up from the porch of All Saints Church or requested by email to [unitedcharities@outlook.com](mailto:unitedcharities@outlook.com). We can help you fill in the form if needed.

United Charities of the Ancient Parish of Blewbury Registered Charity No: 203538



# ASTONS BONFIRE NIGHT

ARC would like to say a huge thank you to everyone  
who made Bonfire Night such a great success

## Special thanks to

Richard Cox, ably assisted by Rhys Griffiths, who are handing over the baton to a new team from 2026. Richard has worked tirelessly, year on year at perfecting the display, with an immense amount of work in the months leading up to, and during, November.

Your creativity and professionalism have been extraordinary, and you will be greatly missed.

Nick Isaac, Marcus Holburn, Tom Coates, Chris Royston-Airey, and many more in the fire building team for a very impressive bonfire. Nick is also stepping down this year – again, a huge thank you for all the careful coordination before, during and after the event.

Peter Butcher and James Haigh for their marvelous BBQ skills.

Jo Walsh, Kate Holburn and the ladies for making burger serving so seamless (and fun). *And thanks to any patient customer who had to wait until the shelves of the local supermarkets were cleared by our heroes Matt Rogan and Phil Diamond*). This is also Jo's last year in the role of food prep guru, ending a long reign of ordering, preparing and serving over 600 burgers/hotdogs!

Susan Pallett and the bar staff for keeping the booze flowing.

Louise Binder for the delicious mulled wine.

To the very generous donors – Peter and Ruth at Scotlands Ash, Olivier at The Chequers

To Henry Weeks for very amusing commentary

Jolyon Tidmarsh and Chris Hart for bouncer duties.

Tilly and Berenice Cox (and team) organizing, sourcing, creating and running the children's stall!

Joanna Hart for all things financial.

Rory Tidmarch, James Hart and Felix Diamond for manning the car park.

Jeremy Imbush for Rec management!.

And to all of the people who helped set up on the Saturday and Sunday – far too many helpers to name individually but your support is appreciated immeasurably.

*If you would like to become involved in village events, please get in touch. It is a fantastic way to meet people and give back to this incredible community we are lucky enough to share.*

Thanks to Amberley Diamond for being the consummate leader, bringing it all together, as ever! -Ed

## Festive treat at Cornerstone Arts Centre

This Christmas, award-winning Polka Dot Pantomimes brings the much-loved classic Beauty and the Beast to Cornerstone Arts Centre from Thursday 18 to Wednesday 31 December.

Filled with laughter, music, and festive magic, this enchanting pantomime promises fun for the whole family. As part of their commitment to accessibility, the venue is offering a FREE Touch Tour on Sunday 28 December at 10am, ahead of the 11am performance.



## VH Fund-raising Dinner

The Astons village hall committee would like to say a massive thank you to Olivier and Stephanie for the fantastic fundraising dinner they put on for villagers last month. They very generously gave up their day off to cook a stunning meal and extremely kindly donated all their profits to raise an incredible £2,395 for the village hall.

The rumour was that Olivier had been up at crack of dawn to forage mushrooms for the pasta dish – that's French dedication to the best ingredients! The pub was full to bursting of villagers and it was great to see quite a few village newbies there. Huge thanks go to the wonderful Wigg family who ran the bar and served the food like professionals, with smiles on their faces all evening.

Thank you to all those who came and supported the event and an enormous thank you to Olivier and Stephanie for a very memorable evening and for giving such a big boost to the village hall coffers.

## Auction of Promises update!

A huge, huge, thank you to everyone who supported the Auction of Promises on 1<sup>st</sup> November. It was a great team effort.

We raised a stunning **£10,215** in addition to the fabulous **£2,395** raised at the Chequers meal earlier in the week

So, if you offered a promise, came along on the night, made a bid, bought a raffle ticket, attended the meal or all of the above

**THANK YOU!**



*Aston Tirrold and Aston Upthorpe Village Hall*  
*Funding Appeal update*  
Registered Charity 300114

The fantastic result from the Auction of Promises and the Chequers fundraising meal, along with generous donations already received, gift aid and the National Lottery Awards for All grant, mean that we can now start to work towards replacing the floor in the summer next year when it is less disruptive to bookings. Depending on costs, we may be able to bring forward some of the other projects on the 5 year programme of works. Thank you all so much.

If you would still like to donate you can do so via bank transfer. If you would like a gift aid form, please contact [villagehall@theastons.net](mailto:villagehall@theastons.net)

Bank transfer:  
Barclays Bank plc  
Account name: Aston Tirrold and Upthorpe Village Hall  
Sort code: 20-01-09  
Account no: 90120227





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## Churn Church Services November 2025

date	Event/time	Prayer Focus
<b>+Sunday</b> <b>7<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 9.00am All Saints' Aston Upthorpe: Parish Eucharist	Treasurers & church finances
<b>+Sunday</b> <b>21<sup>st</sup> December</b>	<b>4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> No 9am service today <b>4.00pm</b> St Michael's Aston Tirrold: <b>Carol Service</b>	Outreach & Parish magazines
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>24<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> 3.00pm St Michael's Aston Tirrold: Crib service 10.00pm All Saints' Aston Upthorpe: Midnight Mass	
<b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup></b> <b>December</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>	
<b>2026</b>		
<b>+Sunday</b> <b>4<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>EPIPHANY</b> 9.00am All Saints' Aston Upthorpe: Parish Eucharist	Children, our village schools & Sunday clubs
<b>+Sunday</b> <b>18<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY</b> 9.00am St Michael's Aston Tirrold: Parish Eucharist	Our youth group & teenagers

### How to contact us:

Bookings for weddings, baptisms and funerals can be made by contacting the Benefice Office **01235 850267** or **office@churnchurches.co.uk**

**You can contact the clergy & staff on: -**

Father Jason St. John Nicolle	01235 850267	office@churnchurches.co.uk
Revd Louise Butler	07837 009730	revlouiseb@aol.com
Revd John Clarke	01235 510073	jphclarke@gmail.com
Revd Dr Mark Rhodes-Smith	01235 850267	mark.rhodes-smith@churnchurches.co.uk
Elaine de Ridder	01235 850267	office@churnchurches.co.uk

The Benefice Operations Manager, Elaine de Ridder, is in the office from 9.00am - 2.30pm, Monday to Friday.  
The Astons Churchwarden email is **tirroldupthorpechurch@gmail.com** if you wish to find out information locally.

### Online Services

The online services continue every Sunday at 10.30am. Login after 10.00 to chat beforehand or to check your technology. We will also have Christmas services, including a carol service!

For login details and how to join, go to the Churn Churches website :

**<https://www.churnchurches.co.uk/services-this-week/sunday-service.php>**

The new permanent link for the Sunday service is **<https://meet.goto.com/ChurnBenefice/sundayservice>**

Weekday evenings Compline at 8.00pm for 10 minutes. **Access via <https://meet.goto.com/312446493>**

### Home Communion

Home Communion is available to anyone who is unable to get to church through sickness or frailty, either for a short time or on a long term basis. If you, or anyone you know, would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please contact Elaine in the Office or Revd Louise Butler on **07837 009730**.

Free organ recital at St Andrew's Hagbourne, East Hagbourne OX11 9LP **7<sup>th</sup> December at 5pm** .



# ASTON TIRROLD UNITED REFORMED CHURCH & CENTRE FOR REFLECTION

Spring Lane, Aston Tirrold

**December/January Services.** For a Zoom invitation please contact by email:

**JULIAN GALLOP – [jgallop@freeuk.com](mailto:jgallop@freeuk.com)**

Sunday 7 December 11am	Morning Worship to include communion led by Rev Pauline Maine.
Sunday 14 December 11am	Morning Worship led by Rev Glyn Millington.
Sunday 21 December 11am	Morning Worship led by Rev Philip Mader-Grayson.
<b>Christmas Services</b>	
Wednesday 24 December 7pm <b>Christmas Eve</b>	Carols by candlelight led by Rev Glyn Millington.
Thursday 25 December 11am <b>Christmas Day</b>	Morning Worship led by Liz Wood. Zoom only.
Sunday 28 December 11am	Morning Worship led by Rev Stephen Thornton.
<b>2026</b>	
Sunday 4 January 11am	Morning Worship to include communion led by Rev Philip Mader-Grayson.
Sunday 11 January 11am	Morning Worship led by Rev J Edwards.
Sunday 18 January 11am	Morning Worship led by S Cyuma.
Sunday 25 January 11am	Morning Worship led by Scott Wheeler. Zoom only.
All are welcome	
Wednesday 24 December 7pm <b>Christmas Eve</b>	Carols by candlelight.
Thursday 25 December 11am <b>Christmas Day</b>	Morning Worship led by Liz Wood. Zoom only.

Refreshments in the Centre for Reflection after the service. All are welcome.

## **RECIPES from Aston Tirrold United Reformed Church**

The hall at the URC is used by the village for many things including the Mother and Toddler Group and children's parties as well as regularly hosting the Quiet Garden Trust. This year the congregation has decided to update, refurbish and repaint the Centre for Reflection including putting solar panels on the roof. We have been offered some funding to modernise the place, but we also need to fundraise for the changes.

To raise money, we are publishing a book of recipes, put together by members and friends of the Church. Knowing what wholesome food is brought along for Bring and Share meals, we asked for known and loved recipes that people enjoy making. The book will be available in early December at only £10 a copy and will make a perfect postable Christmas present. Look out for copies arriving in the village soon.

The next Quiet Garden Day will take place on **Saturday December 10 – 4pm**. Please bring your own lunch. Suggested donation of £10. To book please contact [Josie.midwinter@gmail.com](mailto:Josie.midwinter@gmail.com).

The Meditation Group meet twice monthly on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 11.45am. The Writing Group meet on the first Thursday of the month at 1.30pm. Due to the refurbishment of the Centre, the venue for the meditation and writing groups have changed.

**Please contact Julian for further information. [jgallop@freeuk.com](mailto:jgallop@freeuk.com)**

## Recommended Tradespersons

If you have a personal recommendation, send it to [editorastonsnews@gmail.com](mailto:editorastonsnews@gmail.com)

**Recommended Tradesmen Advice:** You are advised to contact the recommender before you employ the tradesperson, especially if the last recommendation is several years old. Tradespersons are kept on the list for three years, after which they are removed, so they need a new recommendation in order to stay on the list after that time.

Name	Comments	Recommended by
<b>Builders, Decorators, Property Maintenance, Handyman</b>		
Luke Porter <a href="mailto:porterluke9873@gmail.com">porterluke9873@gmail.com</a> 07714788423	Luke Porter is a local tradesman living in the village whom I have used on many occasions to replace fascias / gutters; repairs to flat roof ; drive refurbish etc etc Luke is conscientious; hard working and cost effective ----- Highly recommended	Tim Millin 01235 850207 0770 666 36 31 <a href="mailto:middlefell@ic24.net">middlefell@ic24.net</a> (2024)
Ben Whitehead BPW Painting & Decorating, 24 Blake Crescent, Swindon SN3 4LR Email: <a href="mailto:bpwpainting@hotmail.com">bpwpainting@hotmail.com</a> Tel: 07532262077	We have used him for four years for different jobs, recommended to us by Greg Locke, and he has been in the VN as a recommended supplier. Ben is young, very hardworking and produces great results every time. He works with a number of people in the Astons.	Peter Le Conte <a href="mailto:peterleconte20@gmail.com">peterleconte20@gmail.com</a> (2024)
Jamie Weatherley. Mobile: 07951 852690 Landline: 01189 615234	We use Jamie regularly for internal and external painting and decorating. He has recently repainted our windows and doors externally, all to his (and my!) usual high standards. Recommended unreservedly.	Mike Hill 851149 (2024)
Ridgeway Carpentry Ryan Quinlan <a href="mailto:info@ridgewaycarpentry.co.uk">info@ridgewaycarpentry.co.uk</a> 07881 361595	Ryan has done a really good job refurbishing the washrooms at the Village Hall. He is a bit of a perfectionist, reliable, brought in any extra trades when needed and always returned my calls. I can recommend him for large or small jobs/projects. You can find more reviews on Checkatrade.	Margaret Morant <a href="mailto:margmorant@gmail.com">margmorant@gmail.com</a> (2024)
<b>Computers + electronics etc</b>		
Steve Wicks, PC Technician 01491 825449 , 07513 297 547 <a href="http://www.thepctechnicians.co.uk">www.thepctechnicians.co.uk</a> , contact @thepctechnicians.co.uk	Desktop / laptop / tablet / printer? Problems with hardware/software, e-mail, internet, wi-fi, or peripherals? Steve makes things very simple and straightforward and manages not to make me feel like an IT simpleton!	Christopher Hawker 850534 <a href="mailto:c.hawker433@btinternet.com">c.hawker433@btinternet.com</a> (2023)
<b>Domestic: Cleaners, Ironing etc</b>		
Carpet, Rug & Upholstery Cleaner Garlands - Colin Garland 0118 950 0365. 0797 475 4056 <a href="http://www.garlandsclean.co.uk">www.garlandsclean.co.uk</a>	We had Colin Garland clean our 35 year old Persian rug. He took great care and the rug is looking much brighter and cleaner as a result.	Mike Hill 851149 (2024)
Carpet cleaning J F Kleen 07961511903 <a href="mailto:josh@jfkleen.co.uk">josh@jfkleen.co.uk</a> Crisp Road Henley-on-Thames RG9	We've had our sitting room and bedroom carpets cleaned by Joshua Fahey of JFKleen. He is such a professional and thorough person and his prices are really good value. I would recommend him to anyone.	Peter leConte <a href="mailto:ajleconte1@gmail.com">ajleconte1@gmail.com</a> (2025)
House Cleaning Gabiella 07845 782906	Gabriela has worked for several villagers and currently has space for another client. I can thoroughly vouch for her as hard working, with attention to detail and honest..	Lizzie Thornton-Allan 851732 (2023)
House cleaning Magda 07805375872	Magda has worked for several villagers over the years and has been cleaning our house since we moved to the village in 2022. I look forward to her visit every week where she leaves our house looking spotless. She is very hard working, reliable and I wholeheartedly recommend her services.	Lucy Cantwell 6 Lower Ham Yard <a href="mailto:Lucyecantwell@gmail.com">Lucyecantwell@gmail.com</a> (2025)
Theresa James Ironing 07780 820754	Theresa will pick up and deliver your ironing back within a couple of days. A friendly, reliable and quality service.	Lizzie Thornton-Allen 851732 (2019)

## Recommended Tradespersons Continued

### Electricians

Robin Wilkinson Causeway Electrical Solutions Ltd. E-mail: <a href="mailto:info@causewayes.co.uk">info@causewayes.co.uk</a> Mob: 07802 487159	Robin has done lots of excellent work in the churches, in the Village Hall and in my house. Efficient, reliable, reasonably priced and very competent, I have always been more than happy to entrust him with any electrical task or project	Christopher Hawker 850534 <a href="mailto:c.hawker433@btinternet.com">c.hawker433@btinternet.com</a> (2019)
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### Plasterer

<a href="mailto:mitchpurvisplastering@yahoo.co.uk">mitchpurvisplastering@yahoo.co.uk</a> 0756 3079829	Mitch Purvis We have used Mitch for many years for our various plastering/rendering requirements. He is fast; efficient; tidy and cost effective. Highly recommended.	Tim Millin 01235 850207 0770 6663631 <a href="mailto:middlefell@ic24.net">middlefell@ic24.net</a> (2020)
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### Plumbing and Heating Engineers

Adam AAD Plumbing Services, 0776 3221 257 <a href="http://www.aadplumbing.co.uk">www.aadplumbing.co.uk</a> <a href="mailto:aadplumbing@gmail.com">aadplumbing@gmail.com</a>	Adam is a tidy fast worker with excellent results at a reasonable charge. He offers free estimates with no call out charge and covers anything from a simple leak to a complete bathroom installation, including associated electrics and tiling. A very experienced expert who has done many jobs for me over the last few years.  Adam came replace the thermostat in our immersion heater. Excellent service!	Penelope Curtis 01235 850794 (2023)
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KWC Heating Services Ltd <a href="http://www.kwc-heating.co.uk">www.kwc-heating.co.uk</a> <a href="mailto:contact@kwc-heating.co.uk">contact@kwc-heating.co.uk</a> 01235 537389	Michael Clarke is a first-class heating engineer who I have used for many years (and his father before him)  Professional Engineer with many years' experience in all types of boiler/central heating/plumbing/under floor heating etc. Cost effective and very tidy. Gas Safe certified  Highly recommended	Tim Millin 01235 850207 0770 6663631 <a href="mailto:middlefell@ic24.net">middlefell@ic24.net</a> (2020)
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### Seamstress

Sophie Morris Mobile:07765 355217 Landline 01235 815316.	Sophie has altered dresses, jackets and a coat beautifully for me. She has made clothes and done alterations for a number of others in the village. She is a former Annabelinda seamstress based in Didcot. A really lovely and helpful lady. Highly recommended.	Katharine Verrill <a href="mailto:kmvrrll@gmail.com">kmvrrll@gmail.com</a> (2023)
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### TV & Aerials

Oxford Aerials (Shaun Guard) <a href="mailto:SHAUN@OXFORDAERIALS.CO.UK">SHAUN@OXFORDAERIALS.CO.UK</a>	came out v quick , helpful and reasonable priced	Tim Lake 07887 987 900 <a href="mailto:tim.lake@stepienlake.co.uk">tim.lake@stepienlake.co.uk</a> (2024)
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### Window Cleaner

LB Windows Mobile 07936 493556 <a href="http://www.windowcleanerdidcot.co.uk">www.windowcleanerdidcot.co.uk</a>	Liam Barson does a good and thorough job. He offers both traditional and waterfed pole window cleaning, gutter, solar panel and patio cleaning.	Lizzie Thornton-Allan 01235 851732 <a href="mailto:lizziethorntonal-lan@gmail.com">lizziethorntonal-lan@gmail.com</a> (2025)
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**U3A** (UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE) meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 2pm at Didcot Civic Hall. Visitors are welcome to come to one meeting as a taster before joining. For further information go to the **WEBSITE:** [didcot.u3asite.uk](http://didcot.u3asite.uk) or email [membership@didcotu3a.org](mailto:membership@didcotu3a.org) or visit <https://www.didcot.u3asite>



**PLEASE NOTE:**

**PARENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR  
THEIR CHILD'S WELFARE AT ALL  
TIMES WHEN EMPLOYING A  
BABY SITTER**

**Claire Belcher (39)**

Experienced mother of two boys, with previous care and babysitter experience. Available for babysitting, evenings and weekends. References available. Weekday evenings £8phr, Weekend evenings £10phr.

**07568 477 599**

**Zara Butcher (17)**

Available for babysitting in the evening  
Lives in the Astons

**07377 115093**

**Mia Diamond (16)**

Available for baby sitting  
Lives in the Astons

**07769 182367**

**Sam Ferguson (19) Phone 07555549201**

Available for babysitting or pet sitting  
weekends, evenings and school holidays.  
Lives in the Astons

**Katie Ferguson (17) Phone : 07523178076**

Available for babysitting or pet care week-ends, evenings and school holidays.  
Lives in the Astons

**Eliza Haigh (16)**

Available for babysitting/petsitting  
weekends, evenings and holidays  
Lives in the Astons  
Has a recent first aid certificate  
**Mobile: 07884960386**

**James Hart (17)**

Available for babysitting  
weekends and school holidays.

**Home 01235850517  
Mobile 07485284784**

**Lottie Hart (16)**

Available for babysitting  
weekends and school holidays.

**Home 01235850517  
Mobile 07484295323**

**Eve Lancaster (16)**

Available for babysitting  
at weekends, evenings  
and during school holidays.

**Mobile: 07962 182844**

**Roselle Isaac (16)**

Available for: Babysitting  
Pet care/pet-sitting  
weekends, evenings and school holidays  
Lives in the Astons

**Please contact: 07751195432**

**Alex McCarthy (17)**

Available for babysitting  
Saturday nights and during school holidays

**Mobile number 07599 209177**

**Olivia McCarthy (20)**

Available during school holiday  
Lives in Aston Tirrold

**07544 109 504**

**Billy Vallings (15)**

Available for babysitting and pet care  
(weekends and school holidays)

**07510 495937  
01235 850659**

**Lucy Vallings (16)**

Available for babysitting and pet care  
(weekends and school holidays).

**07568 629963  
01235 850659**

## COMMUNITY SERVICES AND POLICE INFORMATION

**DEFIBRILLATOR SITES: VILLAGE HALL Car park [outside library room] & PAVILION at The REC. Ring 999 to get an access code to open the cabinet door.**

### Thames Valley Police Team for the Astons area

**Police Community Support Officers and Non Urgent Polices Calls: 101; For Emergency calls: dial 999.**

Inspector Neil Byrne: He is the overall responsible officer for the neighbourhood policing team.

Dan Howard: A Sergeant who **supervises** the constables and PCSOs.

Alex Glover: A Police Constable.

Beverley Kaur: A Police Constable.

Christopher Druce: A Police Constable.

Curtis Emery: A Police Constable.

Dan Mellor: A Police Constable.

Beth Saunders: A Police Community Support Officer (PCSO).

Emily Collins: A Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)

Police and Crime Commissioner to the Thames Valley [matthew@matthewbarber.co.uk](mailto:matthew@matthewbarber.co.uk)

**Reporting Rural Crime:** report it to police by calling the **non-emergency number, 101.**

If an incident is in progress, or there is **an immediate threat to life**, you should **call 999.**

### Other agencies:

SODC Councillor: Ben Manning 07946 476733

SODC Councillor: Anne-Marie Simpson 07770 781 233

Citizens Advice Line: 08444 111 444

Waste collection information: [southoxon.gov.uk/wastecalendar](http://southoxon.gov.uk/wastecalendar) (or call Biffa on 03000 610 610)

### Fly-Tipping– How to report it:

Go to [southoxon.gov.uk](http://southoxon.gov.uk), then click on ‘**services and advice**’ and type ‘**fly-tipping**’ into the search box; click ‘**Fly-tipping**’ when it appears & fill in the ‘**report fly-tipping online**’ form, or phone **03000 610 610**

### Reporting Potholes in the Astons

Report potholes and other hazards on the roads in Aston Tirrold and Aston Upthorpe to:

**[www.potholes.co.uk](http://www.potholes.co.uk) and [www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com)**

**Nuisance phone calls:** To register your number with the telephone preference service to help prevent the receipt of live unsolicited sales and marketing calls, phone **0800 398 893** or go to **[www.tpsonline.org.uk](http://www.tpsonline.org.uk)**. It will not stop computer generated calls or calls that are not sales and marketing related.

### Didcot Volunteer Drivers

DVD volunteer drivers provide transport in their own cars for local people who are unable to use public transport, or for those living in rural areas where it is not available, to hospitals, health centres, clinics and other activities. They take telephone requests and make bookings for transport each weekday from 10.00 am to 12 noon (except Bank/Public Holidays). There is an answering machine on at all other times. Tel: 01235 816709

### Countywide Dial a Ride Service for the disabled & mobility impaired.

**0845 3101111** <http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/oxfordshire-dial-ride#routes>

**Cineworld Didcot:**-----0871 200 2000, [cineworld.co.uk/didcot](http://cineworld.co.uk/didcot),

**Cornerstone Arts Centre:**01235 515 144, [cornerstone-arts.org](http://cornerstone-arts.org)

**The Corn Exchange:**---01491 825 000, [Www.comexchange.org.uk/boxoffice](http://Www.comexchange.org.uk/boxoffice)

# ***Village Representative Organisations & Village Information***

## **AT & AU Parish Councillors**

Jane Imbush (Chair) and H&D	07739 644064
Simon Young (Vice-chair) & Housing and Development	07934 401377
Joanna Hart (ARC)	01235 850517
Peter Butcher (Footpaths)	07956 976159
Jane Barr Knight (Roads & Traffic)	07968 300282
Nigel Hawkey (ARC)	07748 704151
Mary Severin	

## **Parochial Church Council (PCC)**

Tim Lake (Chair and Churchwarden)	01235 850468
Amanda le Conte (Churchwarden)	“ 851546
Christopher Hawker	“ 850534
George Curtis (Deanery Synod Rep +treasurer)	“ 850794
Penelope curtis (Secretary)	“ 850794
Joanna Hart	“ 850517
Email	tirroldupthorpechurch@gmail.com

## **Village Hall Management Committee**

Nicole West (Chair)	07939 265555
Mike Hill (Treasurer & Vice-chair)	
Louise Binder (Astons Outdoors)	
Charlotte Kerr (bookings)	
<b>astons.vhbooking@gmail.com</b>	
Maria Martin (History Group)	
Rachael Peterson (Sustainability)	
Tracy Briggs (Events)	
Christa Blomfield (Events/Promotion)	
Mary Severin (Parish Council)	
Sandra-Reed-Jennings ( Café)	
Amanda Porter (Caretaker)	

## **Astons Recreation Committee (ARC)**

(ARC is a sub-committee of the Parish Councils)	
Gavin Wood	07932 257676
Jo Walshe (Treasurer)	01235 850502
Joanna Hart	01235 850517
Liz Pattison (Bookings)	astonspavilion@gmail.com
Nigel Hawkey	07748 704151
Amberley Diamond	07771 995906
Ben Prior	

## **CLP Groups**

Roads and Traffic:- Jane Barr Knight	07968 300282
Housing and Development :- Simon Young:	
youngastonspc@gmail.com	07934 401377
Environment Group Anna Dillon: <a href="mailto:dillon.anna@gmail.com">dillon.anna@gmail.com</a>	

## **Village Clubs & Organisations**

APAC	Emma Machin	07840 862946
Emma.machin2018@gmail.com		
Astons Artists:	astonsvillages@gmail.com	
Astons Café	Margaret Morant	07899 748209
Louise Binder		07713 314662
Astons History Project	Jan Smith	07714 734441
Astons Outdoors	Naomi Simmonds	01235 859218
	Louise Binder	01235 851433
Bell Ringing	Rachael Marffy	07780 814257
Book Club	Sarah Dalton: dalton_family@hotmail.com	
Church Cleaning	Katharine Verrill	07866 435377
Church Flowers	Penelope Curtis	01235 850794
Astons Cricket Club:	Tom Swainston	07595 695668
Tom.swainston@hotmail.com		
Community speed watch	Bob Picken	07787 567261
bob_picken@hotmail.com		
Downs Rescue		911
Football	Adam Griffiths	07815105760
Pavilion Hire:	Liz Pattison astonspavilion@gmail.com	
South Moreton Pre-School		01235 819647
Thames Valley Alert	Tirrold: Steve Morant	07561 315882
	Upthorpe: Ian Clark	01235 850103
Toddlers' Group	asonstoddlersgroup@gmail.com	
Facebook team:	Kathryn.hawkey@gmail.com	
Astons enews team:	enews@theastons.net	
Website team	webmaster@theastons.net	
Enews/website team: Bruno Brunskill, Anna Dillon, Jeremy Imbush, Charlotte Kerr, Anne & Steve White, Rachel Marffy		

## **Agencies and Emergency numbers**

Citizens Advice Bureau	0344 411 1444
Didcot Volunteer Drivers	01235 816709
NHS non-emergency number	111
Police: non urgent calls	101
Police crime stoppers	0800 555 111
Power Cuts	105
Thames Water	0800 316 9800

## **Astons Village Hall Post office**

Tuesdays 10.00am-12noon  
**[Pangbourne Post Office: 01189 842294]**  
**Blewbury Post Office:** Mon/Tues/Thurs/Friday 9-3pm;  
 Wed 9-12noon.Closed Sat &Sun  
**Cholsey Post office** (inside Tesco) 6a.m.-10.00pm  
**East Hagbourne Post Office** Mon-Fri 9am -12.30pm.

**Bus:** 94A The Astons To Didcot [Orchard Centre & Station]  
 Mon to Sat: 08.08, 10.44, 12.44, 1444, 16.19, 18.54  
 Sunday: no service  
 Stops at N & S Moreton only. Runs Anticlockwise only