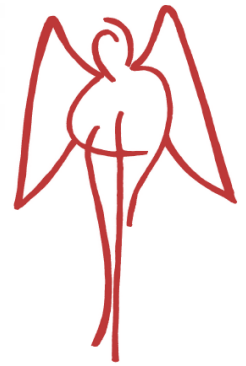


the guardian angel

your community's news & views



Produced for the parish of St Michael & All Angels, Summertown
June 2019

Neighbourhood plan approved

Voters in Summertown and St Margaret's have given their resounding approval to the neighbourhood plan, a document compiled over the past five years by the Summertown and St Margaret's Neighbourhood Forum with extensive input from local people.

The result of the referendum held earlier this year was 1,319 votes in favour and 104 votes against, with a turnout of 18%. The plan has now been adopted by Oxford City Council and will become part of the development plan for Oxford.

Proposals in the plan cover housing, health and community, transport, environment, and retail and business. For all these areas there are both spatial planning policies and community policies.

The council now has a statutory obligation to take the planning policies into account when determining planning applications. This means, among other things, that development proposals should protect the character of the area, have regard for the



conservation of green spaces, such as the Trap Grounds or Sunnymead Park and give priority to the needs of pedestrians, cyclists, children and residents.

In cases where funding is available the community policies will be implemented directly by the Neighbourhood Forum in consultation with the city council. The forum will also collaborate with external organisations, for example with the Oxford Clinical Commissioning Group to enable development of a new health centre at Diamond Place.

According to the forum's chairman, Shamus Donald: 'The plan gives residents greater influence over future developments, and helps to protect the environment and character of the local area. The forum has several projects in the pipeline and is already working with the city council to provide additional seating and planting in Alexandra Park.'
www.summertownstmargaretsforum.org.uk

Swifts in Oxford



The sight of swifts wheeling in the evening sky, which has long been a highlight of the British summer, is sadly becoming increasingly rare. The national swift

population has fallen by 42% since 1994, partly due to a lack of suitable nesting sites as building methods change.

Oxford has a long association with swifts; the colony which nests in the ventilation shafts of the tower at the Natural History Museum has been the subject of one of the longest continuous research studies of a single bird species in the world. It dates back to 1947 and if you look at the museum's webcam this month you should be able to see the nests with eggs and chicks as well as adult birds.

The eaves of the Victorian houses of Summertown have also traditionally provided good nesting sites, but as houses are improved those sites can often disappear.

In 2017 Oxford was selected by the RSPB as a city that could encourage swift nesting. The project, which was initially funded by the national lottery and now hopes to continue with

volunteers, aims to increase public awareness and engagement, encouraging people not only to leave nesting places undisturbed but also to consider adapting new and existing properties. St Michael's Church was able to install three nesting boxes on its northwest wall while its extension was being built last year and a specially designed new swift tower has recently been erected in the University Parks.

If you would like to do your bit to ensure this species continues to thrive you can find out more on www.swift-conservation.org or www.bristolswifts.co.uk. The museum's swift webcam is on www.oumnh.ox.ac.uk



The new nesting tower echoes the birds' distinctive shape

This is **your** newsletter; if you would like to contribute in any way, please email:
guardianangel.newsletter@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

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yourtime

Soapsud Island

Just north of Summertown is the community of Sunnymead, an area including Harpes, Islip, and Water Eaton Roads. The houses were built on fields in the 1890s and the name Sunnymead was taken from a nearby meadow. Up until the 1950s, however, the neighbourhood was also known as Soapsud Island because of the suds which poured from the drains of its numerous commercial and domestic laundries.

When Oxford dons left their colleges and moved with their families to the big houses of North Oxford they created a demand for various trades and services – including laundry services.

By 1910 three commercial laundries were established in Sunnymead and several more successful businesses were to follow. The Electric Laundry which opened in Harpes Road in the late 1920s was still there in 1977, and the Initial Laundry in Islip Road didn't close until 2008.



Celebrating VE day in Harpes Road, 1945

Many individual women also took in washing. Their long, south-facing gardens were ideal for this purpose and were known as 'six sheeters' because they could hold six double sheets on a single washing line.

Elaine Steane has lived in Sunnymead for forty years and has put together a fascinating collection of her neighbours' memories in her recently published book *Soapsud Island: Oral Histories from Sunnymead, Oxford*. The residents provide glimpses into the history of their once self-sufficient community and a unique insight into the area which, despite seeing many changes, remains a friendly neighbourhood to this day.

Soapsud Island: Oral Histories from Sunnymead, Oxford is available from Elaine Steane:

e.fullardsteane@gmail.com

Could you be a Sanctuary Host?

Do you have a spare room you could offer to an asylum seeker, refugee or vulnerable migrant who would otherwise be homeless? Sanctuary Hosting, a small, Oxford-based charity, is looking for hosts to provide accommodation at no cost for an agreed period of time - a temporary arrangement while guests find their feet and move towards independence. Hosts carry on with life as usual - you don't have to provide meals (unless you want to), or be available to support the person staying with you as each guest has his or her own support worker.



If you have a spare room and an open heart there's more information on:

www.sanctuaryhosting.org

yourstruly... Judith McIntyre

Gardener

Judith, on her bike laden with gardening equipment, is a familiar sight in our area. She has been working in local gardens for over 20 years.



Judith began life in Edinburgh and has always been very creative. She studied art in Scotland, and then worked in the Isles of Scilly, Guernsey, Ibiza and finally Canada, gaining experience in the hospitality industry but continuing to draw, paint, and make jewellery and ceramics on her travels.

When Judith returned to England she trained as a Cordon Bleu cook and came to live in Oxford.

Judith's husband, John, was a gardener and after their second child was born she started working with him. Sadly John became very ill and, after his death, Judith moved to Cutteslowe with her three young children and in 1998 began her successful gardening business. She explains: 'It felt the natural thing to do. It's living art.'

Contact: mcintyrejudith@hotmail.com

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First students for The Swan School

Temporary buildings are appearing next to The Cherwell School's playing fields in the area currently used for community sports clubs. The buildings will house the first intake of 120 Year 7 students for the new 1,260-pupil Swan School while the school itself is being built just off the Marston Ferry Road, replacing the Harlow Centre. Students will use the temporary buildings for the academic year beginning in September.



An impression of the new school buildings

The Swan School will be the first new secondary school built in Oxford since the 1960s and will provide much-needed school places for local children. It will be part of the River Learning Trust along with 17 other Oxfordshire schools including The Cherwell School and Cutteslowe Primary School.

The Bicycle Shed

The Bicycle Shed opened last October on the Banbury Road. It is calm during the day, bustling in the evening, and you can order anything on the menu at any time. There is outside seating and a bar with a good selection of craft beers, teas and coffees. The menu is half vegetarian with vegan options. Gluten free choices are also available.



Manager, Rob Cunningham (pictured), explains: 'We are aiming to provide good quality local food at an accessible price. The menu is limited to minimise waste, and changes every month. We also run a Dinner Club every Tuesday with a set menu.'

The restaurant offers a 10% discount scheme for key workers like teachers and NHS frontline staff. Details are available on the website:

www.thebicycleshedoxford.com

Cool for school

Success for Cherwell footballers

Congratulations to the Year 7 girls from The Cherwell School who achieved national success by winning the ESFA's (English Schools' Football Association's) indoor five-a-side tournament earlier this year. The final match was held in Birmingham where the Cherwell team beat St Augustine's RC High School with a score of 2-1. The girls, pictured here with teachers Katie Cox and Grant Madden, had trained hard to participate in this tournament and were very worthy winners.



Great debate at d'Overbroeck's



Sixth form students at d'Overbroeck's have been going from strength to strength in debating competitions. Julia and Anna-Maria (pictured), and Alice and Eanna have between them represented the school in both the English Speaking Union's competition (with regional finals hosted by d'Overbroeck's) and the Oxford Schools Debating competition. The latter was held at the Oxford Union and involved teams from around the world. This was particularly challenging as debating motions were only given to the teams fifteen minutes beforehand.

Discovering the final frontier

Year 5 students from Cutteslowe School recently visited the Airbus Foundation's Discovery Centre in Stevenage as part of their space project.



The centre offers an inspiring education programme linked to the Key Stage 2 and 3 science curriculum and designed to instil a passion for science, technology, engineering and maths from an early age. The children were fascinated to see the new ExoMars Rover being prepared for its future mission to the red planet.

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yourparish

Belonging to the Summertown-Wolvercote Church Partnership

St Michael & All Angels Church

All are welcome!

Sundays

8.00 am Holy Eucharist - a short service.

10.00 am Parish Eucharist - with choir and hymns. Have coffee/tea and a chat afterwards.

Children's Church - meets in the church during 10 am Eucharist. **We have a Godly Play session on the 4th Sunday of every month.** On the **1st Sunday of the month** the children participate in the All-age Eucharist.

6.30 pm Taizé Worship - A short, meditative candlelit service which includes chants and silent prayer.

Weekdays

9.00 am Morning Prayer

10.00 am - 12 noon Tuesdays: Baby & Toddler Group

Drop-in play for children and chat for grown-ups! Contact Juliet Field on 01865 552640

10.00 am Thursdays: Holy Eucharist
Coffee/tea and biscuits are served afterwards.

5.30 pm Thursdays: St Michael's Choristers age 3+
Term-time only. Contact Alice on 07791 328108

6.30 - 7.45 pm Thursdays: Choir Practice
Contact Stephen on 07717 852020

9.00 am Saturdays: Men's Breakfast
An informal social on 1st Saturday of the month.

Take a break!

All Summertown workers are invited to spend their Wednesday lunchtimes at St Michael & All Angels Church and gardens this summer. Come between noon and 1.30pm, bring your own lunch and you will be served free filter coffee and tea. The church is in Lonsdale Road, just opposite BBC Oxford and the garden makes a perfect spot for a picnic.



The Harmony Project

'In a world where division is rife and the very existence of our planet is under threat, let us join hands and remind ourselves of the healing power of art and music, the importance of embracing our common humanity and protecting the beauty of our world.'



The Oxford Concert Party and some local artists are planning a series of free art and singing workshops based at St Michael & All Angels Church in September/October. Children and adults of all faiths or none are invited to participate. The Harmony Project exists to celebrate our diversity and our shared world.

Planned workshop dates are Sept 29th, Oct 5th, 6th, 12th and 13th (all 2.30 – 5.30pm), culminating in a final public event on October 19th (4.00 - 6.00 pm).

For queries, or to sign up for any or all of the workshops, please contact:
info@oxfordconcertparty.org

Contact Details

The Revd Gavin Knight (vicar)
The Vicarage, 33 Lonsdale Road, OX2 7ES
07833 251939

"No matter where you are on the journey of faith, you are always welcome at St Michael & All Angels!"

Parish Office

Contact - Leah Mattinson
Email: office@stmichaels-summertown.org.uk
Phone: 07745 130956 or 01865 552738

For Church Hall Bookings

The upper and lower Church Halls (with kitchens) are available for hire. We advise early booking.
Email: bookings@stmichaels-summertown.org.uk



Calling all angels!



St Michael's Church, halls and gardens are places of welcome, hospitality, safety and fellowship for everyone in our community. The residents of our parish - of any faith or none - are being invited to invest in and help resource these welcoming spaces by becoming 'angels' and committing a small but regular

investment into the 'Friends of St Michael's' scheme. Whatever amount you give you can be assured that the money will go towards projects that will benefit the whole community.

For more information see leaflet enclosed with this newsletter or contact:

vicar@stmichaels-summertown.org.uk

For parish news, services and events go to our website: www.stmichaels-summertown.org.uk
Join the crowd, sign up to **Gavin's WEEKLY BLOG FOR ALL SEASONS:** www.gavinknight.me