



Produced for the parish of St Michael & All Angels, Summertown
December 2022

A weekly welcome for Ukrainians



The Ukrainian Friendship Centre at St Michael & All Angels' Church, Summertown provides help with urgent practical problems, space to develop friendships and, most of all, a warm welcome to Ukrainian newcomers to Oxford. The centre opened in April to some thirty adults and children and has since welcomed over 250 guests. Trained volunteers, with interpreters on hand to assist, support people through administrative challenges such as claiming universal credit and finding school places. Other volunteers from both church and community make soup, bake cakes, serve refreshments, and entertain the children. English classes have been set up for children and adults. Yoga, pottery and crafts have been popular additions.

The whole community has come together to support the centre. Gail's Bakery is generously donating food; Cycloxx is helping to provide bikes; and the IT support company OX365 is matching re-purposed laptops with new owners.

On Ukrainian National Day, more than 100 Ukrainian guests, some in national costume, gathered for festive food and a delightful concert of poetry and music performed by adults and children, culminating in the Ukrainian national anthem played on the bagpipes. Yet this was also a poignant occasion, inevitably reminding everyone of the cost of war and the pain families are enduring.

The success of the centre has not gone unnoticed. City councillors have made fact-finding visits and recently local MP Layla Moran called in and heard directly from Ukrainian guests about their experiences and their practical challenges.

The centre is run entirely by volunteers. If you would like to know more, consider volunteering yourself, or make a donation, please email:
ukraine@stmaa.org.uk

Sharing and repairing



SHARE Oxford aims to reduce consumption and waste by sharing and repairing the things people use. SHARE's Library of Things rents out items that are only needed occasionally - like pressure washers, sewing machines or gazebos. It has gone from strength to strength over the last year, doubling the number of items loaned. Recently a library manager, Christine, has been appointed to work with project coordinator Ben (*both pictured above*) together with their team of enthusiastic volunteers.

An exciting new addition is a thermal imaging camera. This can do even more to help local people reduce their carbon emissions. Anyone thinking about retrofitting their home to reduce fuel consumption can hire the camera to identify the cold spots and improve their insulation. The camera has been funded by a Community Infrastructure Levy grant in the Summertown & St Margaret's Neighbourhood Forum area.

SHARE also runs Repair Cafés where skilled volunteers help fix broken electrical or mechanical things, clothes, and bikes, and even sharpen knives and tools. The volunteers also help people understand how their items work and how to look after them so that they last longer.

The Library of Things is open within Makespace Oxford on Aristotle Lane on Thursday afternoons and Saturday mornings. There is also an online site for people to reserve the things they need and either come and pick them up or have them delivered by bike courier.

The Repair Cafés take place at Makespace every two months, but dates and locations can change so it is best to check the website for details.

For more information including details of volunteer roles with SHARE please see:
www.shareoxford.org



yourtime



Francis Twining and Summertown

No visitor to Summertown can fail to notice the decorative front of 294 Banbury Road, opposite the end of South Parade. In recent years the building has been a bicycle shop, a book shop, and now it's an estate agency, but in 1902 it was built as Twining's grocery store - and close inspection will reveal the words 'Twining' and 'House' engraved on either side of the door.



The original owner was Francis Twining, an Oxford man from a humble background only distantly related to the well-known tea family. Starting out as a grocer's boy, he became

a successful businessman with a small chain of grocery stores. He also made a considerable personal impact on the Summertown area.

Twining was responsible for the creation of many of our local homes as, after moving with his family to Banbury Road, he bought 50 acres of nearby land and in 1901 put forward plans to build Portland, Lonsdale, King's Cross, Victoria, Hamilton and Lucerne Roads.

He supported the church, too, and in 1909 donated land for St Michael and All Angels to be built on Lonsdale Road. Two years later he gave a further strip of land to make King George's Walk, the pathway between the church and Portland Road.

After the First World War Twining contributed £500 towards the building of the church hall and war memorial cross at the junction of Portland and Banbury Roads. The cross is engraved in memory of 'the men of Summertown who bravely gave their lives'. Sadly, one of these was Twining's youngest son, Sidney.

Francis Twining was not just a local benefactor. He also served as a councillor and then an alderman for 50 years, and in 1905 he was elected Mayor of Oxford.

When he died in 1929, Twining's obituary in the Oxford Times stated: 'he had for many years done good work with that quietness and lack of ostentation which marked his private and business life.'

Rising stars in Cutteslowe



This September, The North Wall Arts Centre brought together young performers for a new weekly drama club based at Cutteslowe Community Centre on Wednesday evenings. Members

aged 8 to 11 meet from 5pm to 6pm and those aged 12 to 17 from 6pm to 7pm. After focusing on building their drama skills during the autumn, the students will spend the spring term devising their own show to be performed at The North Wall in July.

'They are amazingly talented young people - and we are always keen to welcome new members,' says Abie Walton, The North Wall's participation manager.

Fees are £70 per term. Full bursary places are available.

Contact: Abie at waltona@thenorthwall.com or see: www.thenorthwall.com

yourstruly... Tenika Blake

Horticulturist and arts administrator



Tenika moved to Oxford from London when she was 15. After school she took a course in media and film at Abingdon College and worked in customer services. While her children were young she volunteered at the Cutteslowe Community Association. This soon led to a paid role as an administrator

and Tenika began organising popular events like the street party and the summer play scheme. She is now a trustee.

Tenika loves nature so in 2020 she joined the Cutteslowe Garden Project as a support worker relishing the opportunity to learn about horticulture and share this knowledge working one-to-one with adults with additional needs.

Sadly, the garden centre closed this September, but Tenika is now working for The North Wall Arts Centre as their front of house supervisor. She is looking forward to developing her interest in the arts while continuing to engage with the local community.

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Christmas fun for all the family!

Santa, ably assisted by his elf, will be at the Cutteslowe Park Miniature Railway on Sunday 11th and Sunday 18th December from 1pm to 4pm. The railway has been



expanded over the last few years with new track and layout, and a new engine is expected next year.

It is run by the City of Oxford Society of Model Engineers volunteers as a non-profit

organisation and Denis Mulford, COSME chairman, would like to see more youngsters volunteering. There are lots of roles available from station staff to being a guard. Training is provided and health and safety is always a priority.

For more information see: cosme.org.uk or www.facebook.com/cuttesloweparkminiaturerailway

Food bank collection – please donate!

Food banks are calling for more donations because of rapidly increasing demands on their services. St Michael & All Angels Church has provided long-term support for the Oxford Community Emergency Food Bank and also, more recently, the Cutteslowe Community Larder. During the Covid lockdown a community collection point was set up at



the church door which, according to organiser Malcolm Sadler (pictured above), increased the number of donations tremendously. However, there is a trend for donated bags to become less full, so more donations would be extremely welcome. Items most needed include tinned food, long life milk, fruit juices, staples such as rice, and cleaning and personal care products.

Donations can be left at the church entrance off Lonsdale Road between 11am and 1pm on the first Thursday of each month.

www.cefoxford.co.uk
[www.neighbourly.com/
project/61acfaef5049eff0de4fa7d2](https://www.neighbourly.com/project/61acfaef5049eff0de4fa7d2)

Cool for school

Calling all Cherwell alumni!

Did you or someone you know go to The Cherwell School? Next summer the school has its 60th anniversary and a big celebration is already being planned with the main event taking place on Saturday 1st July. The school is keen to get in touch with as many alumni as possible. Anyone who attended the school during the last sixty years is warmly invited to get in touch with Friends of Cherwell via the school's website. Invitations and full details will then follow nearer the time.

See: <https://friendsofcherwell.org/alumni/>



New head for Cutteslowe

In September Cutteslowe School welcomed a new headteacher, Gillian McDermott. Originally from Northern Ireland, Gillian worked at St Francis CE



Primary School in East Oxford for 12 years before taking up her new role. She says: 'It is wonderful to be leading a staff team who are so enthusiastic and passionate about providing the best education for the children in our community. The team at Cutteslowe are phenomenal, there is no ceiling

on expectation, and everyone holds the strong belief that we all respect and look after each other.'

St Edward's sixth form volunteers

This year St Edward's School has launched an initiative to get all 180 Lower Sixth pupils volunteering within the community for 90 minutes each week. The



school has partnered with charities, primary schools and other local organisations to set up placements for pupils. The sixth formers will be working with a variety of charities in their offices, shops and warehouses, and carrying out activities such as helping to run clubs in schools, and socialising with residents in care homes.

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St Michael & All Angels Church

All are welcome!

Sundays

8am: Holy Eucharist – traditional language; no hymns.

10am: Parish Eucharist – with choir and hymns.
For children

On the first Sunday of the month the children participate in an all-age Eucharist. On the fourth Sunday there is a special Godly Play session.

6.30pm: Taizé worship – a short, meditative candlelit service with chants and silent prayer.

Weekdays

Mondays to Fridays, 9am: Morning Prayer

Tuesdays, 10am – noon: Baby and toddler group
Contact Juliet: [01865 552640](tel:01865552640)

Wednesdays, 11am – 2pm: The Friendship Centre
For Ukrainians and their hosts.

Thursdays, 5.30pm: Choristers' practice age 3+
Term-time only. Contact Alice: [07791 328108](tel:07791328108)

Thursdays, 6.30pm: Choir practice
Contact duncan.saunderson@stmaa.org.uk

First Saturday of the month, 8.30am:

Men's breakfast. An informal social.

Contact Steve: [01865 552475](tel:01865552475)

Christmas services

Sunday 18th December

8am: Holy Eucharist (traditional language)

10am: Parish Eucharist

6.30pm: Candlelit service of lessons and carols

Tuesday 20th December

10am – noon: Baby and toddler group Christmas celebration

Saturday 24th December – Christmas Eve

4pm: Crib service for children and families

11.30pm: Midnight mass

Sunday 25th December – Christmas Day

8am: Holy Eucharist (traditional language)

10am: Holy Eucharist for the Nativity of our Lord

Contact details

The Revd Gavin Knight (vicar)

The Vicarage, 33 Lonsdale Road, OX2 7ES
[07833 251939](tel:07833251939)

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

Church and church hall bookings

The church and the upper and lower church halls (with kitchens) are available for hire.

Contact: bookings@stmichaels-summertown.org.uk

Office space to let

Two rooms plus toilet to let on the ground floor of the church hall, parking available. Suitable as consulting rooms or offices.

The Peace

Michael Taylor writes:

Everybody's heard of 'the kiss of death' but perhaps not 'the kiss of peace' or just 'the Peace', as we say at St Michael's.

The Peace takes place during the Communion service just before the sharing of bread and wine. Early Christians really did kiss, but the modern equivalent is usually a handshake or a hug. Covid has reduced this to a smile and a wave - at least for the time being.

The Peace has been understood in different ways. It can be seen as just a greeting, or a blessing, passing round the peace of God. It may also be a way of putting things right with our neighbours, 'kissing and making up', before we declare that we're one body, or all friends.

How serious are we about making peace, not only with the person next to us in church, but with all the others who crowd our days, or live far away, out of sight and mind? That's a tough question, but better an uncomfortable question than an easy peace.



It's a fair COP!



When the United Nations gathered in Egypt last month for the 27th COP it was the latest attempt to reduce carbon emissions and offer ways of caring for a fractured world. The acronym COP stands for Conference of the Parties and refers to all the nations involved.

The Eco Church team at St Michael's is looking for allies to help initiate a North Oxford COP in our own back yard. This will aim to support, coordinate and encourage voluntary and commercial organisations to combat climate change and all its associated injustices.

The North Oxford COP will seek out representatives from all sections of the community: residential, civic, religious, educational, leisure, hospitality, etc. It will set targets for member organisations, share news, communicate and review good practice.

If you are interested in this initiative or any other environmental matters, please contact:

mhandamtaylor@btinternet.com

*Happy Christmas and a peaceful new year
from everyone at theguardian angel*