

**Your Parish Council has a vacancy,
if you are interested in becoming a
Parish Councillor and helping the
village please contact Anne @**

applefordpc@googlemail.com

or by post at 6, Greystones Court, Kidlington, OX5 1AR



Appleford Pressings

“Winter” edition 2018



Appleford Pressings

Opinions expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the editor or Appleford-on-Thames Parish Council. They do not necessarily support advertising claims.

Appleford Village Community Website

<http://applefordpc.org.uk/parish-council/>



Appleford on Thames Parish Council

@ApplefordPc

&

Appleford on Thames

@ApplefordVillage

Parish Council Report – January 2018

Diary Dates - Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual meeting of the Parish Council and the Annual Open meeting of the Parish Council will take place in May, in the Village Hall. The date and timings are to be confirmed and will be communicated.

Parish Council Meeting, Monday 5th March at 7pm in the Village Hall

Appleford Pop Up Pub – Diary Dates **“The Heart of the Village”**

Well the first anniversary of the PUP on March 3rd is hurtling towards us at 100mph (a bit like the traffic down Main Road at times), approaching what has been a resounding success for the village as a whole.

It has had its ups and downs, from having to cancel the very first one planned in the February last year due to circumstances beyond everyone's control the night before it was due, to standing waiting in March in case nobody turned up. Running to Tesco with 15 minutes to spare to buy more beer as we were running out, giving beer away as we had 18 pints of Abingdon Bridge left that only keeps for 5 days.

Christmas Eve was an outstanding success with quite a few not wishing to go home.

We did not get much of a summer but the benches paid for by the Appleford Trust were definitely worth their weight in gold and gave everyone a chance to forget the problems we all have at times and enjoy a couple of warm nights with a beer and friends.

This year we are looking at running a couple of events alongside the pub with the help of the ACP, I am determined to have a music night by getting a local singer with a guitar who can strum away the evening for us. We are going to do a special run on locally made drinks from beer and lagers also gin from both local brewer's to national ones.

Thank you to Jacob and Sharron their continued support to the pub by supplying the tables, lights and lamps. To Norma for the help with the Christmas decorations. If anyone has any ideas of what they think may help to improve what we are doing or wish to volunteer to help on special events please let us know.

**Thank you to those that have popped in to support
Thank you to those who continually pop in to support
Thank you to those who will pop in to Appleford Pop up Pub**

We will of course be serving Loose Cannon Brewery beers including the ever popular Abingdon Bridge. In addition, from February, we have added the increasingly popular Oxford PILS.



*In 2018 the Pop Up Pub Team will be introducing an
Artisan Gin Menu.*

*We have been sourcing artisan gins and we are having
fun researching different ways to serve them with
various mixers and fruits...*

A few of this year's pop up pub dates (all held on a Saturday evening from 7pm to 11pm in the village hall);

3rd February

3rd March

31st March (March is a 5 week month)

5th May

2nd June

7th July

Please continue to support this initiative; so far each event has been a great success!

Copies of Appleford Pressings

We have received a few requests for additional copies to be left in the porch of the Church which we will do from this edition (January) onwards. In addition to that, we will be adding copies to the village website for easy reference.

Parish Council Precept - what is a Parish Council Precept or Tax?

As we touched on this time last year, the Parish Council precept is a tax charged on each property in your parish to fund the council. It is used to fund all the activities that your parish council undertakes for the benefit of your community.

In Appleford, these look like;

- Maintenance and repair of the recreation ground (inc grass cutting), football pitches, children's play area and fitness equipment
- Control of public hedges and trees
- The control of litter
- Maintenance of footpaths and bridleways
- Subsequent maintenance of any capital projects eg the fitness equipment gifted by the Appleford Trust
- Wages for our Clerk
- Any more expense passed to us by OCC following the latest round of budget restraints

The PC has again taken the decision this year to raise the annual precept by a small percentage. This is because we believe that a small annual % increase is a better way to keep the finances healthy and has less of an impact than a large increase after a few years when the situation has become dire.

Please don't forget that we publish our financial information including the budget on the village website so that it is easily available to all.

Speedwatch/ Speed Monitoring

By way of an update, we can confirm that we have invited Trading Standards and our local PCSO to attend our Open meeting in May to

discuss Community Speedwatch initiatives/ to address the increased speeding traffic through the village.

Reporting HGVs through the Village

We continue to urge you to record HGV breaches through the village via the link on our village website or via the OCC website.

It is quick and easy to report a breach and the more information given, the more chance trading standards have of holding the companies/ drivers responsible to account. If you are in a position to take photographic evidence, record registration numbers and company names, all the better.

It is by demonstrating that we will take the time to report these breaches that drivers will get the message that breaching the weight restriction through Appleford will not be tolerated.

We would also like to ask for a volunteer(s) to spend a few hours each monitoring HGVs that may 'stray' through the village. This will entail taking photographs that detail registration plate numbers, Co names etc. We will plan this for when the weather warms up a bit but we would appreciate it if you could register your interest.

Thank you!

Village De-fibs

Final negotiations are still on-going to finalise the de-fib locations around the village. You will see that one has been installed outside the VH and the other will be placed in the decommissioned BT telephone box. We are moving ahead with these plans whilst we still investigate placing the other one at the crossing end of the village with stakeholders like Thames Water and Network Rail.

Appleford Train Service

It has come to our attention that villagers/ their family/ friends may be experiencing challenges with trains not stopping at Appleford station or issues with being penalised for exiting at Didcot rather than Appleford and therefore being charged an extra fare.

We are very keen to address these or any other issues with GWR so please contact Anne, our Parish Clerk with any examples.

Sensible Parking in the Village

We continue to urge villagers and their guests to please be mindful of the needs of pedestrians and other footpath users when parking their vehicles particularly in light of recent violations.

Responsible Dog Ownership

We are experiencing on going challenges with irresponsible dog owners.

Again, we urge you to ensure that you clear up after your dog and that you are putting full poo bags in the bins provided. There have been several instances of full poo bags being left on paths, on the new patio by the VH and even in the children's playground which is obviously completely unacceptable.

We have now purchased additional dog mess bins and litter bins and these will be installed very soon. In the meantime, please be sensible and responsible.

The Council dog warden has been asked to carry on with random spot checks and will fine any dog owners not in full control of their animals and who are not clearing up adequately after their animals.

Please report any one not acting in a responsible way to the Parish Clerk who will pass their details on to the dog warden.

Parish Council Correspondence

Please ensure that correspondence for the PC is sent to our Clerk, Anne Davies. Anne can be contacted via applefordpc@googlemail.com and by post at 6, Greystones Court, Kidlington, OX5 1AR.

Village Website

Please remember that the web site has tabs for each of our community groups to add key information/ dates. Our hope is still that it will become a 'one stop shop' for village information including train information, Church information including service times, village event information and local news.

The PC has ensured that the website contains links to facilitate easy reporting of issues, for example, smells from the FCC facility, reporting HGVs via trading standards and highways issues to Oxfordshire Highways. In addition, all PC agendas, meeting minutes and financial information can be viewed here.

We would like to ask again for any additional information that you think we could include, especially any photographs that you may have new or old.

If you could please get these over to us via our Clerk at applefordpc@googlemail.com



Appleford on Thames Parish Council

@ApplefordPc

&

Appleford on Thames

@ApplefordVillage

Don't forget that Appleford PC is on Facebook & Twitter and that we also have an Appleford on Thames community page. In addition, we have a dedicated fb page for the village hall and Appleford Football Club.

Please do feel free to join both and to use the pages to stay informed/ post updates, view/ post pertinent village information, events, photographs etc.

Appleford Village Hall Events

On Saturday 7th July we are holding a 5 a side (human) table football competition alongside the PUP jointly with ACP.

We are looking for teams to join the event so get your family, your friends, people you work with, in fact anyone!, who can kick a ball. You need 5 people per team 2 forwards, 2 defenders and a goalie.

Enrol them in your team then drop me a line to register

andy.guinn@hotmail.co.uk

Or drop the slip below, in to St Peters House with your £15.00 entry fee. The cost is £15 per team (a mere £3.00 per head) this will be due when registering.

We are looking for a total of 20 teams (we have had 5 teams register already!)

Come and join us at the Village Hall for an afternoon of fun and pure comedy, the Pop up Pub will be open, and the ACP will be cooking up a barbecue, to keep you all nourished.

We wish to register for the Human table football, our team name is

.....
.....

We enclose £15 for the team entry.

County Report – Richard Webber

Please forgive yet another article on planning and development; I will try to find something else to write about in future. It may not be easy.

The impact of Development on Drayton Road and its Neighbourhood Plan, the impact of development on the A417 through Marcham, Barrow Rd and the Marcham AQMA, the impact of development in Sutton Courtenay on Culham Bridge and an A34, itself already under extreme stress running through the middle of it all - it sometimes seems as if this County Division, of which we are all part, is being singled out for very special treatment. The truth is, of course, that many parts of the South of England are under similar stress.

However, with our very low unemployment and our local economy thriving, Government is wanting, expecting and depending on us to grow. For almost the first time, the stresses – particularly on our road system - are now so obvious and so acute that Government is realizing that without more infrastructure, there are fewer and fewer sensible places to put the nation's much needed extra housing. Money has to be found and the calls for infrastructure before housing are becoming ever louder and more persuasive.

Hence, the “Growth Deal” - an initial “downpayment” (Government term, not mine) of £215m over 5 years, to help us cope with all the housing our Councils are already committed to - may not be enough, but it's a start. Given that our housing is due to be delivered over the next 13 years, it appears that, if the deal is signed, there is the prospect of some infrastructure before houses. This is something we have been requesting for many years now.

On January 23rd, a planning appeal hearing will begin over 2 potential major developments in Sutton Courtenay. The OCC Highway officer's view is that the road network will not cope, at least not until a new bridge over the Thames has been built. This might happen in five years at the earliest. The planning appeal is due to last at least 8 days, we are told. We will know if the Growth deal is to be signed on February 1st. The timing of all this and the planning decision is going to be highly significant. The result, however it goes, will impact not just on Sutton Courtenay and the immediate villages around, but on the whole of Oxfordshire and almost certainly on planning in the whole of the South of England. I would urge all those with an interest in planning and housing to join me in watching the progress of that appeal very closely. No more talk and much more management please

Richard Webber
Richardwebber777@gmail.com
01235 534001

Update from Ed Vaizey MP

In November, the Chancellor delivered his Budget. No one can pretend it was radical or revolutionary. But most will think that's a good thing. There's quite enough turmoil at the moment.

The main focus of the budget was housing - a deeply controversial issue in our part of the world. Nevertheless, people do know that we need to build more houses, as property ownership has fallen dramatically and houses have become unaffordable for many people. I am therefore encouraged that the Chancellor has outlined the Government's ambition to increase housing supply to its highest level since 1970 by the end of this Parliament. This will put us on track to deliver 300,000 homes a year by the mid-2020s with £15.3 billion new financial support for house building over the next five years – taking the total to at least £44 billion.

On a local level, it was promising to see an additional £215 million set aside for Oxfordshire to build infrastructure, deliver new homes and increase economic productivity across the county. This is a welcome step in ensuring our local area is fit for the future.

I welcome the announcement from Chris Grayling of the £47.9bn overhaul of the rail network in England and Wales, including restoring the Oxford to Cambridge rail link. This is part of the overall strategy suggested by the National Infrastructure Commission's report earlier this month on infrastructure growth across the Cambridge-Milton Keynes-Oxford Arc, which Wantage & Grove Station is part of. I will be continuing to campaign in Parliament for a new station at Wantage & Grove whilst there is so much interest in rail infrastructure.

The Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has recently compiled a handy list of funding sources available for arts, heritage and cultural projects which may be useful for local organisations. There are many different avenues that organisations seeking support can pursue and I would recommend that anybody wishing to make an application first contacts the relevant local office. Their staff will then be able to provide advice and support regarding the application process. Full list can be found at: goo.gl/QihSKD

On a similar note it is fantastic to see that over the past three months the Big Lottery Fund has provided nearly £55,000 of funding to 6 projects in the constituency. Every week over £13 million is awarded across the UK to support community activity with the money raised from National Lottery players. The organisation works hard to ensure the money reaches the people and organisations who make a real difference and it's great that the benefits are being felt in our area.

The brand new Didcot Concert Orchestra gives its inaugural concert at Cornerstone arts centre, Didcot at 4pm on Sunday 11 February 2018 playing music from the late Romantic era. More info can be found at: <http://www.didcotconcertorchestra.org.uk/>

I am delighted that this Orchestra has been established. Didcot is a vibrant and growing town, and the arts have always been a central part of its life. The concert orchestra fills a gap, and it is very much needed. Music brings great joy to people, and it also plays an important role in our schools and our communities. I wish the Dicot Concert Orchestra every success and I look forward to seeing them perform soon in Didcot – if not at the Proms!

Please feel free to contact me if you have any pressing issues that you would like help with. Either myself or one of my team will get back to you as soon as possible and do what we can to assist. You can contact me on any matter at the House of Commons, SW1A 0AA, dicksonce@parliament.uk or 01235 768 888. Email is the quickest and most reliable way to get in touch, as I keep a very close eye on my emails and can reply very quickly. Details of my activities in Parliament can be read on my website, <https://www.vaizey.com>. I also send out occasional general interest emails about developments in the Wantage and Didcot Constituency. If you would like to be added to the distribution list, please complete the online form at <http://bit.ly/EdVaizeyMP>

Thames Valley Police

Home security advice

Look at your home through the eyes of a burglar. If you think your home security looks poor, chances are so will a burglar...are there any places they could break in without being seen? If you have forgotten your keys but can still get in so can a burglar!

- Get an alarm – most burglars will avoid properties with alarms.
- CCTV – this will act as a deterrent and also help us to identify burglars if you are broken into.
- Doors – keep them locked even when you are home. Make sure your doors and frames are strong and have five lever mortise deadlocks to all external doors including patio doors.

- Windows – Fit window locks with keys to all easy to reach windows. Keep windows locked and remove the keys putting them in a safe place out of sight.
- Gates and sheds – make sure they are in good condition and locked to make it harder for offenders to break them open. Ladders can be taken from insecure sheds and used to help offenders climb into upstairs windows.

Home security surveys

The Abingdon Neighbourhood Policing Team offer crime reduction surveys on your homes. Please contact us (abingdowntownnhpt@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk) and we can arrange a time to come and talk through your security with you and offer you some crime prevention advice.

Alternatively, if you have information but wish to remain anonymous, please call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or online by visiting www.crimestoppers-uk.org.

For further crime prevention tips please visit www.thamesvalley.police.uk or contact your local neighbourhood policing team by emailing abingdowntownnhpt@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk or calling 101.

Fake Government Grants Fraud Alert

Individuals and businesses are being warned to watch out for cold calls and online contact from fraudsters who are offering victims the opportunity to apply for Government grants for an advance fee.

To make the grants look legitimate fraudsters have set up bogus companies and convincing looking websites that claim to be operating on behalf of the UK Government.

Pre-paid credit cards

Applicants are then asked to provide identification and are instructed to get a pre-paid credit card to deposit their own contribution to the fake Government grant scheme. Fraudsters will then contact victims on the phone or are emailed and asked for the details of their pre-paid credit card and copies of statements to in order for them to add the grant funds.

If you receive one of these calls, hang up immediately and report it to us. We've already taken down one website fraudsters have been using to commit this fraud and are working with Companies House to combat this issue.

How to protect yourself:

Be wary of unsolicited callers implying that you can apply for grants. You should never have to pay to receive a government grant, and they definitely won't instruct you to obtain a pre-paid credit card. The government should have all the information they need if a genuine grant application was submitted, therefore any requests for personal or banking information either over the phone or online should be refused.

What to do if you're a victim:

- If you have been affected by this, or any other type of fraud, report it to Action Fraud by visiting www.actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040.

Get involved in policing in your community

We're starting 2018 by asking more members of the public to get active and involved in policing matters affecting our communities in Thames Valley.

We want you to have your say about what matters most to you - working with us to identify priorities and solve local issues.

Anyone can contribute to local policing, regardless of age or background.

You don't have to have a lot of time to spare or commit to travelling long distances – we've got a role to suit everyone. You can even get involved from the comfort of your own home.

Below are just a few ways you can get active in your community:

Community Forums: Open to all members of the public, Community Forums are held both online and in person at times to suit everyone. They let you have a say on what matters most to you, enabling us to work together to solve issues in your area. Watch our video for more information.

Independent Advisory Groups: Independently chaired by members of the community, IAGs meet four times a year and help shape the way we work and the service we deliver. IAG members represent their communities, sharing their views on policing issues affecting local people and challenging them when necessary.

Cadet Leaders: Our Cadet Leaders help inspire and support our young Police Cadets, developing their skills and confidence. They assist with weekly meetings as well as supporting activities and events in the local community. Cadet Leaders need to be over 18 and able to commit to one evening a week with some additional hours when required.

Fraud and Cyber Crime Prevention Volunteers: Work closely alongside officers and staff to help raise awareness and understanding of fraud and cyber related crime, arranging and attending events as well as offering advice and guidance to both members of the public and businesses.

You can apply for the above roles via the vacancies section of our website.

For more information about all the ways you can get involved visit our website or follow our #ActiveCommunities campaign on social media.

Community Policing Awards 2018 - Nominations Now Open

Nominations open (9/1) for this year's Community Policing Awards.

The Community Policing Awards take place each year at a ceremony held at Eynsham Hall near Witney in Oxfordshire, in May. This ceremony is now in its seventeenth year and provides an opportunity to recognise and nominate the work of officers, staff and volunteers who have made the greatest contribution to their community over the past year.

Do you know someone who has gone above and beyond in their role? Someone who you believe should be recognised for their hard work and efforts over the last year? Could you provide an example of how they have exceeded what is expected of them?

Winner of Berkshire Community Police Officer 2017, PC Lucy Brydon, said on receiving the award: "It's great to have the recognition that you're doing a good job and it's particularly special that the nomination came from the victim themselves. I feel very passionate about helping people and trying to make a difference for them. To receive a nomination and recognition for my work is a surprise but something I am grateful for."

There are seven categories this year:

Do you know a neighbourhood police officer who has made a difference to your community? Nominate your Community Police Officer 2018

Can you think of a PCSO who has made an outstanding contribution to your community? Nominate your Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) 2018

Do you know a Special Constable who has gone above and beyond to serve your community? Nominate your Special Constable 2018

Do you know someone who has helped to improve diversity in your community? Nominate your Diversity Champion 2018

Do you know a cadet who supports fellow cadets, shows initiative, supports community events, is committed to and is an advocate for the police force? Nominate your Cadet 2018

Do you know a volunteer who actively supports the police and volunteers to work within a team in Thames Valley Police? Nominate your Volunteer 2018

Do you know a volunteer who assists with community concerns and enforcing the law? Nominate your Community Volunteer 2018

Don't miss the chance to nominate your local hero, nominations close on February 26.

Better internet security in two minutes

Domain Name Systems (DNS) are like public phone books for the web. They're the reason you only need to remember a website's name and not its IP address (think of these as phone numbers for computers). When you type "www.youtube.com" into a browser, a DNS service translates that into the associated IP address (199.223.232.0) for you.

Imagine a phone book that automatically filters and removes phone numbers known to be used for fraud. That's what Quad9 does for websites. Quad9 provides an automated way to protect yourself and your business by blocking access to known malicious websites, like phishing sites designed to steal personal or banking details.

Quad9 checks the website to determine if it's malicious.

Visit Quad9.net for a step-by-step guide on how to improve your online security in two minutes.

NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP 5 (NAG5)

Thames Valley Police advice about reporting suspicious behaviour
If you see anyone acting suspiciously please report it to the police by calling 101 or by e-mailing the Neighbourhood Policing Team at AbingdonOuterNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk, which will ensure that the information is picked up and actioned as necessary. The police request that contact is made by the person directly concerned, rather than a friend or neighbour. You should call 999 in the case of an emergency.



Two simple ideas which could save a life...your life!

Message in a Bottle: When the Emergency Services are called to the home of someone who has collapsed or been involved in an incident, they are faced with many questions. Who is this person? What medication are they taking? Are they allergic to anything? Who are their next of kin (or carers) to contact? Are there any pets in the house who will need care if this patient has to be taken into hospital? The small plastic 'bottle' container contains a yellow form on which the owner has provided vital information - medical conditions, regular medications, allergies, doctor's details etc. This information could obviously prove critical in deciding any appropriate treatment or other necessary action. The bottle is placed inside the fridge on the door shelf just above where the milk is kept and a green sticker is placed on the outside door of the fridge. A second sticker is placed on the inside of the main entrance door.

The Message in a Bottle scheme is very strongly supported by our local Emergency Services who are impressed by the simplicity of the system. It is also now a national scheme – run throughout the country by Lions and some other organisations all with the same aim – ensuring that their community is being helped to the maximum. There are now over 100,000 of these little bottles in the fridges of Oxfordshire alone.

Message in a Wallet: This was Introduced in 2017 and folds, concertina style, to the size of a credit card and should be kept in a wallet or purse. Ideally you need a bottle and a wallet so that the information's available

if you have either an incident or accident at home or while you're away from home.

NAG5 has stocks of these two items, which are available free of charge. Please order yours by calling 07762 597118 or by emailing neighbourhoodactiongroup5@hotmail.com

Please ensure you provide your name, a contact telephone number or email address and also tell us which village you live in.

Call the police on 101 for non-emergencies and dial 999 for emergencies.

Contact NAG5 by calling 01235 848694 or e-mail neighbourhoodactiongroup5@hotmail.com



THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL 2017

On behalf of the Royal British Legion I would like to thank everyone who supported and gave so generously to the 2017 Poppy Appeal, and the house-to-house collectors for giving their time and continued support.

I am delighted to report that a record total of £3,242.82 was collected, comfortably exceeding last year's £2,909.81

Mark Haffenden

Poppy Appeal Organiser, Sutton Courtenay & Appleford

Tel: 01235 847177

E-mail: mark-haffenden@hotmail.co.uk

2018 Forward planner for People's Trust for Endangered Species

2018 is set to be an exciting year for the People's Trust for Endangered Species. Please see below the forward planner for this year showing the media opportunities for print, broadcast and online news and features. This includes conservation surveys, research and monitoring campaigns amongst other activities.

Although most of the campaigns are nationwide, the specific information gathered from the regions across the UK are vital to the work of PTES. For example, the national *Living the Mammals* survey appeals for volunteers from all regions to observe specific sites and record mammals and their tell-tale signs in a unique survey of the built environment.

If you are interested in being provided with any images, interviews, or further details, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Please note that we will be sending out relevant press releases in due course.

Best wishes,

Kerry Marshall

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Web: www.firebirdpr.co.uk

Wishing you a Happy and Healthy 2018 from all at Sutton Courtenay WI

As another new year starts why not make joining the WI top of your resolution list! Our lovely members will make you very welcome, so come along and meet us.

As usual we have a packed programme ahead. Here are a few dates for your diary.

20th February, Guns & Roses to Hearts and Flower with Kate Lace

17th April 'Crafty Members' some of our fabulous ladies will be sharing their craft skills with us.

We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm at the Sutton Courtenay Village Hall.

If you would like more info, please call Val on 847612

From the Ministry Team -‘Lenten Valentines’!



The
DAMASCUS
Parish
Drayton | Appleford | Milton
Sutton Courtenay | Steventon

St Peter's Drayton
St Peter & St Paul, Appleford
St Blaise, Milton
All Saints', Sutton Courtenay
St Michael and All Angels, Steventon

During this month Ash

Wednesday and Valentine's Day, share the same date. It seems an odd mix, yet there is an obvious link: *love!*

Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday, is about learning how to love God more, as we give Him space in our lives. It's also an opportunity to reflect on Jesus' experience in the wilderness (Luke 4:1-13).

Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit, where He was tempted by Satan, but demonstrated the path of real love.

Jesus is tempted to turn stones into bread. Love gets to the heart of human need, not just satisfying physical desires.

Satan tempts Jesus to worship him. However, worshipping God is the beginning of love and results in sacrificial service to meet the needs of others.

Finally, He is tempted to put God to the test, by jumping off the Temple. Only real love can change hearts by practical love and care.

Lent teaches us how to live out the love of God in practice, as we follow Jesus in the way of the cross.

Valentine was Christ's follower, committed to sharing God's love with others. We know little about him, except that he was a priest who lived in the 3rd Century AD and was martyred on February 14th.

Emperor Claudius felt that soldiers in the Roman Army were distracted from their duty by their wives, and so attempted to outlaw marriage. It is believed that Valentine married couples in secret. He also helped Christians in Rome during times of persecution. He demonstrated the importance of showing real love in action.

In trying to understand the meaning of her revelations from God, Julian of Norwich found:

'What, do you wish to know your Lord's meaning in this thing? Know it well, love was his meaning.'

With love and prayers, Helen

Thank you to everyone who helped to make Christmas special in Appleford. Unfortunately due to the snow we had to cancel the Street Nativity but an enjoyable evening was had by all at the Carol Singing on 20th December, hosted by Richard and Linda Payne with music on the piano from Marion Robinson and additional contributions and harmonies from the Appleford Community Choir as we raised money for Sobell House Hospice.

Ministry Team Announcement – The Reverend Meg Heywood and The Reverend Phil Sutton have both taken up their posts as Associate Priests in the DAMASCUS Parish. Meg was licenced on 12th December at the same time as the Reverend Helen Kendrick was licenced as Area Dean of Abingdon and Phil was licenced on 21st January. They will both be working across the parish but Meg will have primary pastoral responsibility for Drayton and Phil will have primary pastoral responsibility for Steventon and Milton.

It is a privilege to welcome them both into the DAMASCUS Parish.

Posy making for “Mothering Sunday”

Saturday 10th March Village Hall 2.30 -3.30pm



Come and make a fresh flower posy for your mother ready for Mothering Sunday. Take it home with you ready for Mothering Sunday the next day on the 11th

Refreshments are provided

Children under 7 must be accompanied by an adult.

If you would like to and are able, why not bring your Mum or Grandmother for Breakfast in Church on Sunday 11th at 9:30am. After breakfast there will be a short 30 minute family service which you are warmly welcome to stay and enjoy if you wish.

CHURCH SERVICES FOR FEBRUARY

Sunday 4th – 9.15am Breakfast Church with Alex Landsbert (Coffee, Croissants & Pastries)

Sunday 11th – 9.15am Communion by Extension with Alex Landsbert

Sunday 18th – 9.15am Communion by Extension with Tim Budd

Sunday 25th– 9.15am Morning Prayer

CHURCH SERVICES FOR MARCH

Sunday 4th - 9.15am Breakfast Church

Sunday 11th – MOTHERING SUNDAY 9.15am Short Service, posy giving & refreshments

Sunday 18th - 9.15am Holy Communion

Sunday 25th – PALM SUNDAY - 9.15am Morning Prayer

Please note that, as part of our mission and outreach, we leave the Church open for visitors. We would like to take this opportunity to encourage and welcome villagers to use and visit the church as much as possible.

Appleford Coffee Morning



Meet neighbours and friends for cakes and conversation.

10:45am to 12 noon

Tuesday January 16th with the Paynes at Meadow House

Tuesday February 20th a Walnut Tree Cottage

As usual, a raffle will be held with all proceeds going to the church of St Peter & St Paul, Appleford

100 Club winners

All draws take place at the Appleford Coffee Mornings on the third Tuesday of the month. There are 89 members of the 100 Club allowing prizes of £24, £12 and £6 each month and an extra bonus prize in December.

	December 2017	Xmas 2017
First Prize	R Holcombe	P Napper + A Hounslow
Second Prize	S Sherwood	R Payne
Third Prize	B Clarke	C Kendrick

100 Club Application Form

Thank you very much to everyone who supported the 100 Club in 2017 and helped to raise valuable funds for Appleford Church. With continued healthy support, this year's subscription of £12 for twelve draws should again enable the 100 Club to give worthwhile prizes. The draws will, as last year, be held at the monthly Coffee Mornings from February to December with an additional draws at Christmas

If you would like to join the 100 Club in 2018 please cut off the form below and return it with your subscription to Sue Helby at Walnut Tree Cottage, Main Rd. 01235 848280

Many thanks and best wishes from Appleford PCC

.....
Name

Address

Telephone number

I should like to join the Appleford Church 100 Club for 2018 and enclose my £12 subscription. (Cheques payable to Damascus PCC please)



Much loved iconic landscape,
Wittenham Clumps,
threatened by new highway proposal

Local charity, Earth Trust, is raising strong objections to a proposal currently being considered for a potential link road from the A34 to the new Oxford to Cambridge Expressway. One of the route options would cut across Earth Trust farmland, impacting on its economic viability, which will undermine their ability to manage the Wittenham Clumps and other national assets that Earth Trust safeguards.

Earth Trust is an environmental learning charity which manages this 1,200 acre site, including farmland, woodland and wetland. Set within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), the Wittenham Clumps and Little Wittenham Wood Nature Reserve have been designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and include a nationally important Scheduled Ancient Monument. In a county with limited accessible greenspace for people to enjoy, this great heritage landscape is much loved and plays a major role in the visitor economy. It is the most highly visited, free to access greenspace in the South East, with more than 150,000 visits made to the Wittenham Clumps each year.

The proposed route cuts across this land, destroying the economic viability of the Earth Trust Farm which supports the management and setting of this historic and biodiversity-rich landscape.

Jayne Manley, CEO of Earth Trust says: “This proposal will damage the viability of Earth Trust and our ability to manage the Wittenham Clumps and the surrounding farmland and forestry. We look after the living genetic collection of hardwood timber trees, Paradise Wood, and this link road will undermine our ability to protect this nationally important resource. Therefore, for many reasons it is important that this accessible greenspace is protected.”

A letter from Earth Trust has been sent to national bodies including Highways England and the National Infrastructure Commission raising concerns about the routes published on maps which represent local understanding of route options. Local MP Ed Vaizey will be helping Earth Trust to make sure the importance of the site and their work is properly understood.

Graham Shaw, Chair of Trustees for Earth Trust, said: “This site is steeped in heritage and rich archaeology; there is evidence of people living in this area right through from the Stone Age to the modern era, including Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman and medieval remains. Nowadays, Earth Trust adds to the tourism of the area and sits within Oxfordshire’s Science and Knowledge Spine attracting scientists

and technicians to this area, to live and work. This proposed route option will severely impact upon all of this.”

All events take place at the Earth Trust, Little Wittenham, OX14 4QZ unless otherwise stated. As always, more information can be found on our website www.earthtrust.org.uk.

To book, go to www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson (incurs a booking fee) or call 01865 407792

1. The Earth Trust

At the Earth Trust, we believe the best way to look after the places we love is to change the way we live. We provide great opportunities for people of all ages to discover nature and the countryside. Our programmes of events, courses, children’s learning and volunteering can inspire everyone to make a small difference and look after our local environment. We carefully manage amazing places like the Wittenham Clumps and Little Wittenham Nature Reserve, Thrupp Lake at Radley and community meadows in Abingdon, Wallingford and Didcot to maximize their value for people and wildlife, as well as managing land for commercial farming and forestry. Our aim is to encourage people to enjoy and value the natural world while discovering new ways to reduce our footprint on the earth.

The Earth Trust is a registered charity (Reg. Charity No. 1095057). For more information on our aims, objectives and events visit www.earthtrust.org.uk; you can also find us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

2. Paradise Wood

In addition to damaging this loved landscape, this road could have an impact on another valuable asset. Earth Trust is home to a national research woodland asset, Paradise Wood: the largest genetic and genomic living collection of hardwood timber trees in the country. Such is the importance of this collection of trees that we are funded through Defra to lead a project that aims to identify trees that will be resistant to ash dieback. This genetic collection could enable the planting of trees in future with resistance to other pests and diseases as well as resilience to climate change, thus enabling the growth of the timber industry with the economic benefits this adds to growth and prosperity.

Mud Pie Monday!

Monday 12th February, 10am-11.30am

Come and get messy in the mud kitchen - buckets of mud and buckets of fun! Wellies and waterproofs advisable. £4 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free. No need to book.

Winter Activity Trail

Tuesday 13th February, 10am-4pm

Pick up your map and explorer backpack from the Earth Trust Centre and head out for a self-led adventure in the woods! Can you complete all the winter-themed activities along the trail? Bookable slots to collect your map/backpack, last slot 3pm. £4 per child (plus refundable deposit required for backpacks); booking essential: book online (incurs a fee) or call 01865 407792 during office hours.

**Wildlife Wednesday at Mowbray Fields
Wednesday 14th February, 10am-12pm**

Our roving Wildlife Wednesday visits a different Earth Trust community nature reserve during each school holiday; this half term, come out and play at Mowbray Fields in Didcot (OX11 8SU). Explore the reserve and learn about local wildlife. £2 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free. No need to book.

Build a Bird Feeder**Thursday 15th February, 10am-11.30am and 1pm-2.30pm**

Make three different bird feeders to take home for your garden. £5 per family; booking essential: book online (incurs a fee) or call 01865 407792 during office hours.

Discover and Play**Friday 16th February, 10am-12pm**

Forest School fun for the under-5s; join us for a morning of play and discovery in our woodlands. £4 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free. No need to book.

River of Life Walk**Thursday 22nd February, 1pm-3.30pm**

Come and see how the River of Life wetland has progressed, four years after it was created. £8; booking essential: book online (incurs a fee) or call 01865 407792 during office hours.

National Trail meeting volunteer needed - please spread the word

Since our present Secretary is retiring at the end of March, 2018, we need to find a volunteer to attend our meetings and produce minutes for our three groups (Board, Delivery and Development).

We hold 9 meetings a year on dates agreed in advance so we hope someone with minute-taking experience can find time to help us.

Please spread the word – there is an advert on our website and full details on the national volunteering website:

<https://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/ridgeway/news/volunteer-opportunity>

<https://do-it.org/opportunities/c9084e1b-08c0-4e1a-9b50-33ea810e7133>

Regards,

Sarah Wright

The Ridgeway National Trail Project Officer

www.nationaltrail.co.uk/ridgeway

Twitter @TheRidgeway1972

01865 810248 / 07825 314791

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or email
emma.taylor1846@yahoo.co.uk
to make a booking.

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with 8 years experience nannying
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months to 12 years old.

Based in Appleford and looking for new
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Please call Kelly on 07834 387385 to
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Includes fully equipped kitchen, tables and chairs.

You can also hire: tables, chairs, urn, cutlery/crockery
for a small fee.

If you are thinking of setting up a community group or
small business, please call to see if we can help you.

Call Clare on 01235 847511 for more information.

AHA!

Acappella Harmonies in Appleford

Every Saturday 5pm – 7pm @

Appleford Village Hall

Ages 7 - 107

Only £3

Run by Charlotte Fisher

For more information Email me @

aha@charlottefisher.com

<p>Appleford Parish Trust Charity Application form for Village book scheme for adults and children</p>

Notes about the scheme:

1. The trustees would be very pleased to see a wider uptake of the book scheme.
2. It is the intention of the Trustees that an annual book grant of up to a maximum of £100 is available to each household in the Parish of Appleford. Funding is not available at intervals closer than one year.
3. A contribution to a course or training, for example courses required for Duke of Edinburgh's awards, can also be applied for under the same scheme and with the same conditions.
4. The applicant should submit details of their proposed purchase for approval to the Trust using the form below.
5. Once the proposed purchase is approved (usually about two weeks) the purchase can be made, and then the itemised receipt submitted for refund by cheque.

Name of applicant:	
Address:	
Phone number	email address
Book/course required (please provide full details)	
Cost;	Date of application
:	

Please forward the completed form to the Secretary to the Appleford Trust Charity, Mary Hancock, Church Lane Cottage, Church Street, Appleford OX14 4PA

Administrative use only

Date application received:	date approved:
Date of receipt received:	date cheque issued:

Community information

Appleford Parish Council	<p>Councillors: Lucy Guinn (Chairman), Andy Guinn, Sue Harris, Peter Walker</p> <p>Clerk and Finance Officer: Anne Davies (email applefordpc@googlemail.com).</p> <p>Website: http://www.applefordpc.org.uk</p> <p>The links are: www.facebook.com/groups/487704508049011/?fref=ts Twitter.com/ApplefordPc</p>
MP	<p>Ed Vaizey, House of Commons, SW1A 0AA, 020 7219 6350 or vaizeye@parliament.uk.</p>
County Councillor	<p>Richard Webber (tel 01235 534001 or Richard.webber77@ntworld.com)</p>
Vale District Councillor	<p>Gervase Duffield (tel: 848319).</p>
Appleford Parish Trust Charity	<p>Mary Hancock (Chairman), Steve Sherwood, Sue Harris, Lucy Guinn</p>
Appleford Village Hall Committee	<p>Claire Cousineau (VH administrator), Andy Guinn (Chairman), Peter Walker, William Finch, Lucy Guinn</p>
Church of St Peter & St Paul	<p>Priest in Charge: Reverend Helen Kendrick (tel 848297).</p> <p>Churchwarden: vacancy, Deanery Synod Representative: Elizabeth Duffield</p>
Parochial Church Council	<p>Ian Cook, Anne Hounslow, Iris Ramkissoon, William Finch and Sue Helby.</p>
Appleford Allotment Association Committee	<p>M Stanmore, J Bray, G Clarke</p>
Appleford Community Project	<p>Steve Flinders (Chairman), Judy Wyatt (Treasurer), Mary Hancock (Secretary tel 848336).</p>
Power Station	<p>Sue Harris Andy Guinn and Gervase Duffield (Vale).</p>

- Millennium Common** Susan Ironside and Gervase Duffield (Vale)
- FCC Composter** Sue Harris Andy Guinn and Gervase Duffield (Vale).
- Neighbourhood Watch** Crimestoppers (tel 0800 555 111).
Neighbourhood Officer: PC Keith Morton (tel 101)
Neighbourhood Watch: Coordinator Terry Wickens (847354), Daisy Webb (847258), Alan Oldfield (848652) and Diane Miles (848454).
- Edmund Bradstock's Charity** Rev Helen Kendrick (Chair of Trustees), Patrick Gale, Jim McCarthy and Christopher Owen Clerk: Rosemary Allen (01235 848667)
- Appleford United Charity** Chair of Trustees Rev Helen Kendrick; Trustees (nominated by Appleford Parish Council) : Jo Richardson; Audrey Sharp; Clerk: Rosemary Allen(01235 848667)
- Reporting odours:** 24 hour Environment Agency Hotline on **Freephone 0800 80 70 60**