

Cuddesdon & Denton Newsletter



February 2025

❖ Church Directory ❖

Vicar: The Revd. Tom Wallis, The Rectory,
17 Southend, Garsington. Tel: 361146
therevdtomwallis@gmail.com

Asst. Clergy: Canon Professor Mark Chapman,
1 Church Close Tel: 874310

Churchwarden: Vacant

Treasurer: Galliopi Demetriou

Organist: Mr Keith Randall, 3 Butts Road,
Horspath Tel: 874587



Church Services at All Saints, Cuddesdon

8.00am Holy Communion (BCP), 1st and 3rd Sundays

9.30am Parish Communion, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays

10.00am Benefice Communion (alternating between Garsington,
Cuddesdon and Horspath), 5th Sundays



Private Prayer

St Mary's Garsington: Tuesday & Fridays, 9.30am – dusk

Monday, Saturday and Sunday, 10.30am – dusk

All Saints' Cuddesdon & St Giles' Horspath: Daily 10.00am – dusk



To book Weddings and Baptisms

And for other queries, please call: 07856 456363

or email: gchbenefice@gmail.com

CUDDSDON AND DENTON COMMUNITY ORCHARD

We're very pleased to say that the fifty year lease for the community orchard below the recreation ground has now been signed with Richard Farrant and Susan Jupp.



We're also very pleased that just before Christmas, the Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE) approved a grant of over £6,000 to pay for new trees to plant out the orchard as well as the equipment we need to look after them.

The grant is funded by South Oxfordshire District Council. The Parish Council formally accepted the grant at its January meeting.

We plan to plant the trees in February – depending on the weather. You're all invited, so please look out for the actual date on the village WhatsApp group. We're particularly keen to encourage children and even grandchildren to help plant the trees so do bring them along as well.

Nicko King
Orchard Committee

NEW FRIDESWIDE CHORISTER

Congratulations to Alexandra Smith Fitchett after being made a full chorister of the Frideswide Voices at Oxford Cathedral, after two years of hard work as a Pre-Probationer and then Probationer.

Along with three other girls from across the county, the Dean of Christ Church Cathedral admitted Alexandra as a full chorister to the *Choir of the Cathedral Church* at a special "surplicing ceremony" during weekly Evensong, in readiness for their busy Christmas schedule.

FROM THE VICAR

Dear friends

I'd like to begin by wishing you a happy and healthy New Year. (As I am writing this on 9th January, a New Year greeting feels appropriate – though by the time you read this, in early February, it might seem less so!) I hope that you had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year. I really enjoyed the run up to Christmas, with its Carol Services, singing around the Christmas tree (in Cuddesdon), school Nativity (in Horspath), Crib Services, Christingle Services, etc. Advent and Christmas are one of my favourite times of year, and this year was no exception – although I was particularly pleased to enjoy a break in Northumberland immediately after Christmas.

We arrived in Northumberland on Boxing Day, after a long drive through heavy fog, just as the sky cleared and the Milky Way lit a path across the night sky over our cottage. It reminded me of the carol, 'It was on a starry night,' which I sung many times in school services during Advent, and then, again, on Christmas Eve. Another favourite moment of Christmas was presiding at the Midnight Mass, with the baby Jesus, from the church nativity set, laying on the altar before me, then placing him in the stable, after distributing communion, shortly after midnight. I wonder what your abiding memories of Christmas 2024 are?

Many of you are already aware that I am now called Tom Wallis (or Thomas), having changed my name by deed poll in November 2024, as part of a process of social transitioning from the gender I was assigned at birth, to the gender which I feel to be correct. However, newsletter deadlines – and the desire to inform church officers before informing the wider parishes – meant that I couldn't announce and explain my change of name and pronouns / gender in my December 'From the Vicar,' as I would have liked.

I'd therefore like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to everyone across the village, and wider Benefice, who has welcomed, encouraged and supported me as Tom / the Revd Tom. Your kindness, love and support have meant a great deal to me and to Martin. Thank you to all who have sent Christmas cards, or messages of support and encouragement. And thank you to all who have prayed for Martin, for me, and for the churches of our Benefice.

For those who were not aware of this news, or who have found my transitioning difficult, I would like to reassure you that I am still a Christian – a disciple, deacon, priest and your Vicar. I still believe in Jesus, and in the Good News contained within the Holy Scriptures. I remain committed to serving God.

I am still here for the people of Garsington, Cuddesdon and Horspath. I remain available for pastoral visits, conversations, prayer, worship, baptisms, weddings and funerals ... or just for a cup of coffee, or a pint in the pub, and a friendly chat. All that is changing, for the time being, are my name, pronouns and gender identity. I will also be discussing and working through the medical implications with my GP and others.

I would also like to assure those in the Benefice who – I have been informed – believe that I have known for many years that I am a transgender man, and have deliberately kept this information from you, and deceived you, that that is not the case. I only began to discern, in May 2024, that 'she/her' no longer seemed to fit. I shared this information with Martin, and with my bishop, as soon as I felt able to do so. Martin and I then both needed some time to explore and digest this very private, personal and surprising discovery, and to inform family and friends, before my bishop and I discerned that the time was right for me to tell my congregations.

For me, it was a matter of integrity to tell you as soon as possible, and to begin social transitioning at the same time, so that I was not deceiving you, or living a lie. I assure you that I have shared the news with you within six months or so of my discovering that I was uncomfortable trying to live as a woman, and am happier as Tom.

Thank you, again, for your ongoing support, love and kindness. And, if you would like to chat – about my change of name, or about what is happening in your own life – do please get in touch. I am also discussing with senior colleagues the possibility of holding an open meeting, or a Question and Answer session, so that those with questions and concerns may raise these in a gentle and constructive way. If senior colleagues agree that this might help to build bridges, and prevent further incorrect assumptions and gossip, I hope to advertise an event shortly.

My new email address is: therevdtomwallis@gmail.com

God bless,
The Revd. Tom

THANKS FOR USING THE VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall Committee would like to say a huge thanks to everyone who booked the Hall or came to an event in 2024. We are volunteer-run and the hall relies solely on its events revenue to pay for upkeep and maintenance, and so every booking helps to keep this vital community space going – please do bear us in mind if you need a space for a gathering this year or wish to start a local event.

Our volunteer committee always welcomes new members, and speaking truthfully would love a couple more – we meet every other month to discuss events and take care of whatever the hall needs, if you can spare even just a few hours every few weeks we'd love to hear from you.

We are hosting a **Spring Table Top Sale with Coffee & Cake** in the Hall on March 23rd – tables are £10 each if you wish to sell on the day, get in touch to reserve your table on a first come, first served basis. And please put the date in your diary!

Thank you again for your support

Fiona, Gillie, Anne-Marie, Lynda, Sue & Nicola
Contact: villagehall.cuddesdon@gmail.com

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Mobile 07711 443050	

CUDDESDON COFFEE MORNING

The next Coffee Morning is on Tuesday 11th February.

Come along and meet up with friends. We extend a warm welcome to new members.

Entry is £1 to include coffee, biscuits and homemade cake. We always have an excellent raffle.

We are happy to provide transport to and from the Coffee Morning for anyone having difficulties with the journey. Contact Marion on 01865 872037 or Lynda via email lyndaware@aol.com to make arrangements.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Jean, Marion, Lynda, Melanie and Paul.

CUDDESDON AND DENTON WI

We would be delighted to see former members, current members and new members so do come along, bring a friend and enjoy getting to know everyone.

Visitors, including gentlemen, are very welcome to individual meetings at a charge of £4.50 per meeting. Refreshments are served.

We meet in the Village Hall at 6.45pm on the first Wednesday of the month.

The next meeting will be:

Wed 5th Feb. John and Ann Ford will be talking about something close to the hearts of residents of Oxford and Cowley, in their presentation 'Morris Minors in the Media'.

Gentlemen very welcome!



SERVICES IN ALL SAINTS' CHURCH AND THE BENEFICE

February 2025

- 2nd February** **Candlemas -The Presentation of Christ in the Temple**
8.00am Holy Communion
9:30am Parish Communion
5.00pm ***Benefice Choral Evensong at St Giles' Horspath***
- 9th February** **The Fourth Sunday before Lent**
9:30am Parish Communion
3.00pm ***Benefice Story-Time Church*** in the Forest Church at Ripon College Cuddesdon (share stories about love, around a campfire, with marshmallows, hot chocolate, songs and conversation)
- 16th February** **The Third Sunday before Lent**
8.00am Holy Communion (BCP)
9:30am Parish Communion (all-age Eucharist)
- 23rd February** **The Second Sunday before Lent**
9:30am Parish Communion
- 2nd March** **The Sunday next Before Lent**
8am Holy Communion (BCP)
9:30am Parish Communion

DO YOU WANT TO PUT ANYTHING IN THE NEWSLETTER?

If you would like an article or anything else in the Newsletter please send your contribution to
cuddesdon.dentonnl@gmail.com
by the 15th of the previous month

**The Benefice of Garsington,
Cuddesdon and Horspath**

invites everyone to

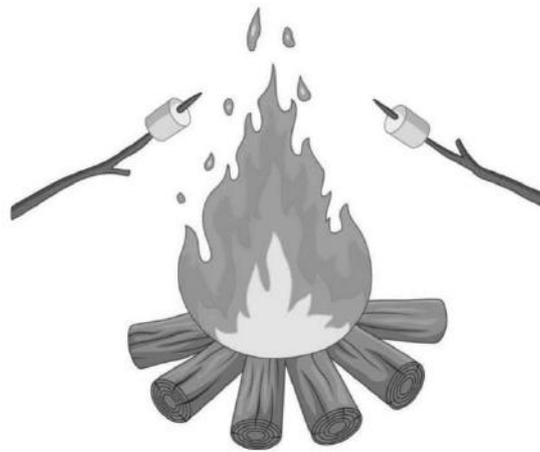
Story-time Church

Sunday, 9th February 2025 -

come early for a 3pm start

Meet in the Forest Church area of Ripon College
Cuddesdon – from the main college car park,
look for the wooden gate heading towards the
allotments.

All are welcome to:



Share stories and conversations round the
campfire (this month's theme is "Love.")

Campfire songs Hot Chocolate

Marshmallows and other refreshments

Dress appropriately for cold weather!

FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

Dear Parishioners,

Happy New Year! With no separate January edition of the Newsletter, I think this is still appropriate, but if you insist, then Happy Valentine's Day. There have been some great steps forward in the last 2 months with the liquid launch of the Bat & Ball before Christmas and then the delights of food in January. I know that the whole community has been lifted by the pub's re-opening and I hope that Ben and his team can build on our enthusiasm to make the Bat & Ball a thriving business for many years to come.

Also, we have signed off on the Community Orchard Project finally, which means that the Orchard Group can buy trees and start to make our new Parish Orchard, below the recreation ground, a new green space that we can all enjoy. The Parish Council thanked the 'apple scrimpers' responsible for making this happen when we met in January. I know that the likes of Ron, Nicko, Salt, Graham, Roger et al will be looking for new enthusiasts in the village to help make the project a success over the next 50 years. I'd also like to thank Richard Farrant and Susan Jupp for entrusting us with this farmland and believing in the idea of a community orchard.

Sadly, Robin Baylie is stepping down from the Parish Council and I want to thank him for all the years of service he has given the community. Robin's last job for the PC was to take down the lights with Lisa on the village Christmas Tree at the start of January and they'd also put them up a month earlier. This has all been on top of Robin being Neighbourhood Watch lead for Parkside and Lisa delivering the Parkside Newsletters. They continue to be proper troopers.

On the subject of the Christmas Tree, I'd like to thank David Keene for supplying our village tree again and also Graham Sellar for its removal.

We'll miss Robin on the PC and you may have seen that there's a notice up on the Parish Notice Board declaring the vacancy. There's more information in this edition of the Newsletter about the process of appointing a new councillor. Please do throw your hat in the ring if you

think you can help. The PC is all about helping people. That's the only reason I'm on it. I look forward to having a full Council again as soon as we can achieve it. The main requirement is to be able to make the meetings, usually on the first Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm, as that's when we discuss things.

In the meantime, Happy February everybody.

Ohana,
Chris

**CUDDESDON – THE BALDONS / KINGS COPSE – OXFORD
SERVICE 49
TUESDAY AND THURSDAY**

	Tu	Th
CUDDESDON, Parkside	10:00	10:00
Cuddesdon, The Green	10:01	10:01
Denton, Castle Farm	10:05	10:05
Garsington, Denton Lane	10:10	10:10
Toot Baldon, Mole Inn	10:17	...
Marsh Baldon, Seven Stars	10:20	...
Kings Copse Caravan Park	...	10:15
Cowley, Tesco Store	...	10:20
Cowley, Templars Square	10:35	10:25
OXFORD, Carfax	10:50	10:40

	Tu	Th
OXFORD, Turl Street T1	13:05	13:05
Cowley, Templars Square	13:20	13:20
Cowley, Tesco Store	...	13:25
Kings Copse Caravan Park	...	13:30
Marsh Baldon, Seven Stars	13:35	...
Toot Baldon, Mole Inn	13:38	...
Garsington, Denton Lane	13:45	13:35
Denton, Castle Farm	13:50	13:40
Cuddesdon, The Green	13:54	13:44
CUDDESDON, Parkside	13:55	13:45

NO SERVICE ON BANK HOLIDAYS

THE APPOINTMENT PROCESS AND HOW TO APPLY TO BE A PARISH COUNCILLOR

Notice of a 'casual vacancy' has been posted on the Parish Notice Board, as we have a vacant position on the Parish Council. If 10 electors (parishioners with voting rights) have asked for a formal election during the first 14 working days since this has been posted then there will be an election, organised by SODC. (See Parish Notice Board for details but I believe the deadline is 6th February).

If this is not triggered then we move to co-option. This is in fact the more usual route to replace councillors mid-term, as elections cost money and it requires strong feeling in the community to want a full SODC-run polling process to replace a councillor with all that it entails.

If we do move to co-option then this is how it works. (This info is also on our Cuddesdon & Denton Community Website.)

Anyone who would like to help the community just email Dee Corney, our amazing new Parish Clerk, with a note, paragraph or page maximum saying they have the time and skills and would like to help the village by coming onto the PC. The email is cuddesdon.dentonpc@gmail.com

We then select a new parishioner to join the team as soon as we can, probably at the March or April meeting.

There has been some confusion in the past on Parish Council co-option. This is not an SODC-run official election. It's decided by the current councillors who take into account where we are missing representation and skills, but it is up to the PC who is selected. We are always extremely grateful for any shows of interest to help our community but, in the event that we're lucky enough to have a choice of candidates, we can only make our best judgement. We'd like to encourage anyone who has some time to offer to put their name forward.

Chris Luke
Chairman



Friends of All Saints' Church Cuddesdon

After Michelangelo ... After Raphael ...

An exhibition of engravings and etchings inspired by renaissance artists



Portrait of Michelangelo, engraved by Giorgio Ghisi, based on Daniele da Volterra's unfinished portrait of Michelangelo in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, c. 1564.

Portrait of Raphael, engraved by Giulio Bonasone c. 1545, after Raphael's "Self-portrait with a Friend" in the Louvre.

**You are warmly invited to a reception and short talk in All Saints' Church
on Friday 28th February from 6.00pm to 8.00pm.**

This is to introduce an exhibition of some 30 engravings and etchings largely from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. They are from Robert Wilson's collection and will be displayed in the chancel from February 24th to March 15th 2025. Subjects range from biblical and mythical to more personal images.

The Friends of All Saints' Church are delighted to be sponsoring this exhibition, hosting the reception and providing refreshments. Donations towards their work of restoration of the fabric of the church would be gratefully received.

The exhibition will be open on **Sunday mornings from 10.30 a.m.** and on **Tuesday afternoons from 2.30 p.m.** Failing those times, please contact Robert Wilson (robwil@myphone.coop 01865 873513 or 07881664332) for a private view.

All Saints' Church Cuddesdon, OX44 9HF

MORLAND HOUSE SURGERY



Morland House Surgery, Morland Close, Wheatley OX33 1DP
The usual surgery opening hours are Monday to Friday 8am to 6.30pm.

Saturday mornings (excluding Bank Holiday weekends) 8am to 10.30am, for prebooked consultations only.

Enhanced access hours are offered outside these times, please speak to one of the reception team on 01865 872448 for more information. When the surgery is closed, please contact the Out of Hours service by phoning 111

Ordering Repeat Prescription – Please use the NHS App or log into your account on the NHS website. For more information on ordering, visit the ‘prescriptions’ page on our website.

Staying Well this Winter – It is important to get your winter flu and COVID-19 vaccines if you are eligible. You may also be eligible for the pneumococcal and RSV vaccines. Some people are more vulnerable to the effects of cold weather, including those aged 65 or over, babies and children, people with long term conditions, a disability or who are pregnant. If you are in an at-risk group, it is important to get medical help as soon as you feel unwell. The Morland House Surgery website provides more information. Also, you can dial NHS for free on 111 for a short assessment of your condition and you will be directed to the right service. In an emergency, go to A&E immediately or call 999.

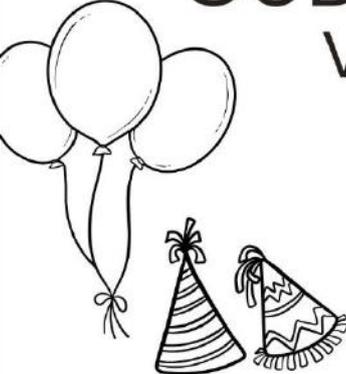
Visit **Morland House Surgery Website** for a wealth of information and guidance on managing a vast number of health conditions, symptoms, and treatment: www.morland-house.co.uk For example:

- **Medical Records and Test Results** – Guidance on how to access this information.
- **Pharmacy First Service (PFS)** – whereby pharmacies can treat directly seven common health conditions.

- **Group Consultation Clinics** – Group clinics are currently being offered for the menopause and hypertension. Eligible patients are being invited to attend, but if you would like to know more, please do contact us.
- **Whooping Cough** – Infections, symptoms and treatment
- **Drink Coaches** – Take the quick and confidential text
- **Travelling abroad** – What MHS can and cannot do for you



CUDDESDON & DENTON VILLAGE HALL FOR HIRE




Our Village Hall is available to hire 7 days a week for all kinds of events, whether you are celebrating a birthday, holding a workshop or remembering a loved one.

What can I book? Parties, pop-ups, classes, workshops, memorials, wakes, markets, coffee mornings, parent groups, games nights...you name it! Unless it is dangerous or politically divisive, you can (probably) hold it in our hall.

How much does it cost? £12.50 per hour

Capacity: up to 150 for a standing event, 100 seated theatre-style, 80 if seated around tables.

Facilities: tables and chairs, domestic kitchen, crockery, cutlery and tea service for 30-40 people, hot water urn, children's toys, access to community play park, projector, speakers.

Contact: villagehall.cuddesdon@gmail.com for more info or to book



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Part P

THE MAPLE TREE



Greetings from the (rather damp) Maple Tree to the wonderful local community!

Our ongoing leaky roof situation will hopefully be resolved by the time you read this! As you may know, the volume of rain on an old, flat roof resulted in a constant drip and then a partial ceiling collapse in our resource cupboard right above the electricity boxes. This made the centre unsafe and very cold over Christmas and New Year, however OCC have finally started the repairs.

We have been overwhelmed by the encouragement, words of support and contributions to our GoFundMe page. Extra special thank yous go to Great Haseley Village and Sean and Katy Manning for their generous contributions. Many thanks also to The New Club for hosting our Christmas Disco at a moment's notice, as well as the Forest Hill Village Hall and St. Mary's Church for allowing us to hold our sessions!

The Maple Tree needs £100k to keep going next year! We are looking for a group of our supporters to help fundraise. If you have some creative ideas and a little free time, please email: laura@mapletree.org.uk

Please also look at our Maple Tree Market page on Facebook or just come to The Maple Tree for a browse! We have some wonderful children's clothes, baby essentials, toys, and games available. This aids the environment by recycling, helps families during these difficult financial times and helps to sustain our charity.

Check out our Website and Facebook page for details about our programme and special events, including Emergency Paediatric First Aid, which we had to postpone until February.

Date for your diary; **Daffodil Day** – 23rd March.

We are here to help if you need advice or support: 01865 236700.

Email: info@mapletree.org.uk

Website: www.mapletree.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheMapleTreeWheatley

Instagram: [@themapletreecentre](https://www.instagram.com/themapletreecentre)

Laura Spencer

The Maple Tree Centre Manager

WHEATLEY LIBRARY



Happy New Year! Joining the library is free, allows you access to all 44 county libraries, and everyone is welcome. We offer more than just books!

We also provide free digital support every Thursday 2:30 – 3:30pm. Book yourself in for guidance from our Digital Helper for a variety of needs including using your mobile phone, laptop, or tablet. You can also learn how to access our free audiobooks or e-books on BorrowBox, Libby and PressReader, as well as Which?, Ancestry, Find My Past, Naxos, & Playlist for Life, among other online resources.

Please join us for the following regular events in the library:

Rhymetime	Every Friday 10.30 – 11.00am for kids up to five years old
Digital Help	Every Thursday 2.30 – 3.30pm
Jigsaw Puzzle Swap	First Saturday each month 9.30am – 12.00pm (1st February, 1st March, 5th April, 3rd May)
Art Group	First and third Monday each month 4.00 – 6.00pm
Textile Fibre Group	First and third Monday each month 2.00 – 4.00pm

For news and event updates, follow the 'Friends of Wheatley Library' Facebook page or visit wheatleylibrary.org. For library queries, phone us or email wheatley.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk. Access our library website directly at bit.ly/WheatleyLibrary.

Our opening hours are:

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	2.00 – 7.00pm
Wednesday	9.30am – 1.00pm & 2.00 – 5.00pm
Thursday	2.00 – 5.00pm
Friday	9.30am – 1.00pm & 2.00 – 6.00pm
Saturday	9.30am – 1.00pm
Sunday	Closed

Wheatley Library
The Merry Bells
High Street, Wheatley

We have a new phone number!
Call 01865 815204

Oxford, OX33 1XP

EDITORIAL POLICY

The Cuddesdon and Denton Newsletter welcomes contributions and adverts from everyone in the Parish, and from businesses and organisations serving the area. News and reports from village organisations are particularly welcome.

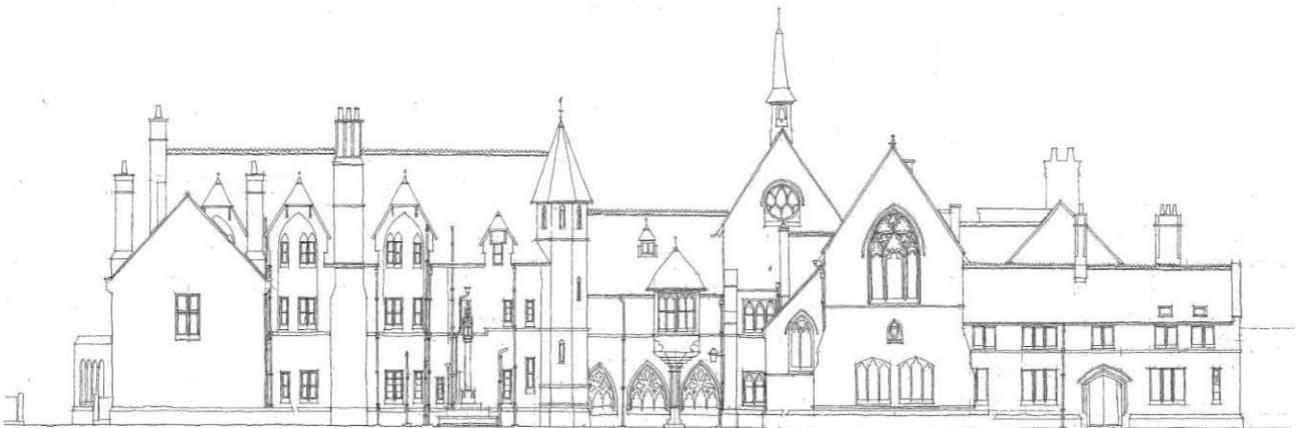
Please send any contributions to cuddesdon.dentonnl@gmail.com

Contentious issues, articles promoting personal causes, or content which is offensive or discriminatory will not be included.

The Editor reserves the right not to include items and to edit items submitted for publication.

Every effort is made to ensure that content is accurate. Any errors will be corrected in future editions.

The views expressed in the Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor.



RIPON COLLEGE CUDDESDON

Accommodation, catering and conference facilities for special occasions, meetings and friends coming to stay in the area.

For more information and all enquiries:

Contact the Hospitality Team on 01865 874404 or hospitality@rcc.ac.uk

www.rcc.ac.uk/venue-hire



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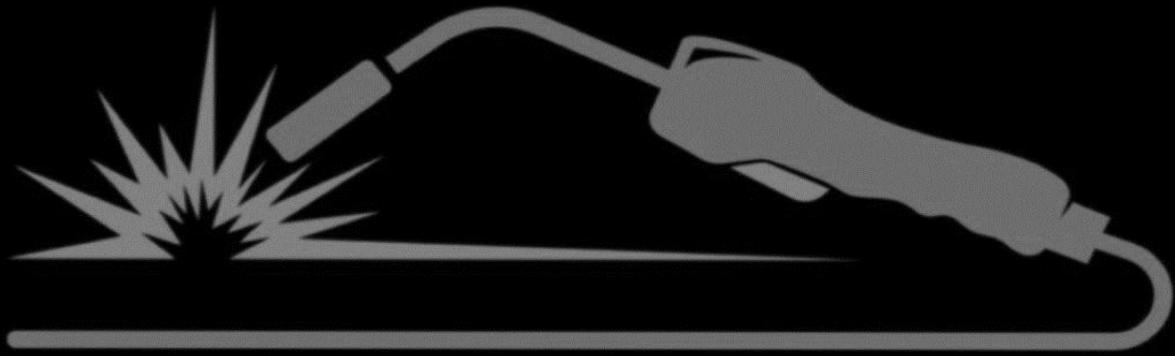
Mobile: 07894466025 or 07849116805

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❖ Parish Directory ❖

PARISH COUNCIL

email: cuddesdon.dentonpc@gmail.com

Evie Bennett	15 Denton Hill, Cuddesdon	
Stuart Flockton	1 Orchard View, Cuddesdon	
Chris Luke	Oak Tree Cottage, Denton	875551
Arthur Smith-Fitchett	The Orchard, Cuddesdon	876048
Philip Spinks	The Granary, 1 Dove House Lane, Cuddesdon	
Louisa Vincent	The Stables, Church Road, Cuddesdon	
Clerk: Dee Corney		07831 437575

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

County	Tim Bearder	07789 754727
Councillor	tim.bearder@oxfordshire.gov.uk	

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

District	Sam James-Lawrie	
Councillor	sam.james-lawrie@southoxon.gov.uk	

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

P. Rutt Co-ordinator	Denton	874402
R Baylie	Parkside	872340
J Bennett	Wellbourne	874582
J Cook	Cuddesdon	874416
J Luke	Denton	874440
G O'Shea	Chippinghurst	872995

VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

email: villagehall.cuddesdon@gmail.com

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