

# Newsletter

Milcombe Newsletter will be produced each month and will be available from the New Road Shop only while Covid-19 restrictions remain in place

**The Milcombe Newsletter is funded by the Milcombe Parish Council**



September 2022  
Issue 84

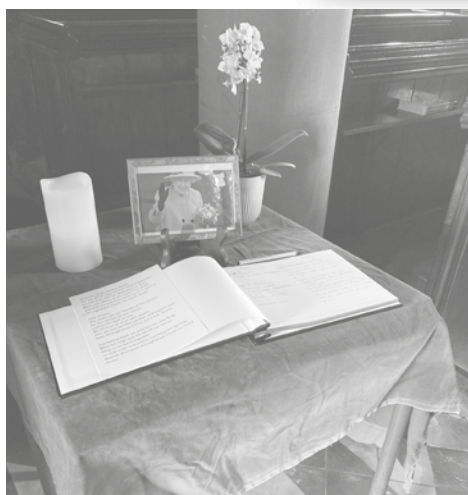
Contributions, by email (Microsoft Word 2010 compatible), to be received by 18th of month prior to publication to [milcombepc@gmail.com](mailto:milcombepc@gmail.com) or [marlene.cowell@milcombe.com](mailto:marlene.cowell@milcombe.com)

All contributions are published 'as recieved' and do not necessarily represent the views of the Parish Council.

1926



2022



The Book of Condolence is now open in St Laurence Church and the flag is being flown at half mast, following the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II.



## Your support for Michael Haynes and his endeavours for the Ride and Stride benefit us all

Michael has done the Ride and Stride for many years and raised much needed funds for our and other churches around Oxfordshire. Look out for him and sign his sponsorship form.

## The last Milcombe News?

Now that so many use facebook and other digital devices to get their news fake or otherwise, is it time to stop producing the Milcombe News? A few copies are taken from the Church foyer, less from the Pub and the ones found in a box on the floor in the shop are often left to go into the recycling bin. The reasoning for keeping this was that some in our village do not have email or smart-phones, let alone want them. However we get very little any relevant news and like the Parish Council meetings few are interested enough to participate. If you feel strongly that this should continue and would like to take over please make yourself known [milcombecp@gmail.com](mailto:milcombecp@gmail.com)



### MILCOMBE VILLAGE HALL

[villagehallmilcombe@outlook.com](mailto:villagehallmilcombe@outlook.com)

MONTHLY COFFEE MORNINGS ARE BACK

on the first Friday of the month from 10.30am-12 noon with Bacon Baps and homemade cakes Help is always appreciated as well as contributions of homemade cakes

To book Milcombe Village Hall, please contact Amy Jackson, who is the bookings Clerk. Hirers of the Hall still need to be cautious. Hand sanitiser is provided in the foyer. Hirers are requested to tidy up and to leave the Hall in a clean state, especially wiping down all surfaces in the kitchen.

**THANK YOU ROB for stepping up when you did.  
It was really appreciated.**

### VILLAGE HALL TREASURER REQUIRED

**We are sorry to report that  
our Treasurer, Rob Paul,  
and his family are moving  
from the village and we  
wish them all the best for  
the future.**

## RIDE + STRIDE for Churches

**10<sup>TH</sup> SEPT. 2022**

Many of the churches and chapels in Oxfordshire will be open.

Help preserve the history on your doorstep by raising funds for Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust.

All funds raised go to OHCT and 50% can be passed on to a church or chapel of your choice.

join us  
as we cycle  
or walk, ride a  
horse or mobility  
scooter



County Organiser: Hilary CakebreadHall  
Email: [rideandstrideoxon@ohct.org.uk](mailto:rideandstrideoxon@ohct.org.uk) Tel: 07831 690524

For full details including sponsorship forms, link to InvestMyCommunity and list of churches visit  
[www.ohct.org.uk/ride-stride](http://www.ohct.org.uk/ride-stride)

Supporting the  
Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust  
Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust



**THE HORSE & GROOM PUB  
AND KITCHEN**

CHECK THE WEBSITE OR PHONE  
FOR DETAILS AND BOOKINGS  
[horseandgroominn.co.uk](http://horseandgroominn.co.uk)

Tel: 01295 722142

# Milcombe Parish Council

[www.milcombepc.co.uk](http://www.milcombepc.co.uk)

Follow Milcombe Parish Council on Facebook July 2022

**Co-option** – Chris Hill was co-opted onto the Parish Council. There is still one vacancy and anyone interested in joining the Parish Council, should contact the Clerk.

**Play Area** – The new equipment has been very popular with residents and further work would be carried out to lock on the gate.

**Wheelie Bins** – Residents are kindly requested not to block the footpaths with their wheelie bins, where possible. If they could also be collected back in as soon as they had been emptied, this would avoid the footpaths being blocked for those pedestrians with pushchairs or wheelchair users.

**Highways** – Repairs which were required to potholes should be reported to the County Council's Fix My Street web site. <https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/>

**Defibrillator** – The defibrillator had been installed at the Village Hall and Parish Councillor Nigel Davis along with John Ellison, were both thanked for assisting with the installation. The defibrillator was donated to the village by the Parish Council as part of the celebrations for HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

**Oak Farm** – Cherwell District Council would be contacted with regard to completing maintenance on the amenity areas and works to trees on Oak Farm Drive and Oak Farm Close.

**Trees/Bushes/Hedges** – Residents were reminded that trees/bushes/hedges should not be causing an obstruction because they were overhanging a boundary onto a footpath or road. If an obstruction was occurring in the village, it should be reported to <https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/>

**Proposed 20mph Speed Restrictions** – The results of the village survey showed that the majority of the village are in favour of 20mph speed restrictions in Milcombe and these results would be submitted to the County Council to support the Parish Council's application. The County Council would be contacted again to progress the vehicle speed and volume survey.

**Civil Parking Enforcement** – Oxfordshire County Council is providing Civil Parking Enforcement Officers in the Cherwell area and it is hoped that they will monitor Milcombe for illegal parking. For more information and to report illegally parked cars, please visit the OCC web site. <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transport/parking/illegal-parking>

**Internet Connection** – Councillor Nigel Davis will be investigating costs for the installation

of broadband at the Village Hall. Contact will also be made with the Village Hall Committee for their thoughts on the installation.

**Banbury Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan** – Comments have been submitted as part of the consultation requesting a cycleway from the play area in Milcombe to Bloxham Recreation Ground. This would provide a safe route for children to be able to move between each site.

**Planning Applications** – The Parish Council had no objections to the following planning applications:  
22/00434/TPO OS Parcel 3400 South of Dismantled Railway, Bloxham Road, Milcombe Tree works  
22/00484/F Milcombe Hall, Horton Lane, Milcombe  
Erection of a single dwelling and garage with associated landscaping  
22/00536/F Rickfield Farm, Station Road, Milcombe  
Variation of condition 4 (hedgerow management scheme) of 21/03635/F  
22/01212/DISC Land north of The Green and adj to Oak Farm Drive, Milcombe  
Discharge of Conditions 6 (Construction Traffic Management Plan), 7 (vehicular accesses, driveways and turning areas) and 16 (covered cycle parking facilities) of 20/03609/F

Results of planning applications are as follows:  
Cherwell DC Application No.  
Identification  
Milcombe PC Observations  
Cherwell DC Decision  
22/00434/TPO OS Parcel 3400 South of Dismantled Railway Bloxham Road, Milcombe  
No objections  
Permitted  
22/00484/F Milcombe Hall, Horton Lane, Milcombe  
Erection of a single dwelling and garage with associated landscaping  
No objections with observations  
Permitted  
22/00536/F Rickfield Farm, Station Road, Milcombe  
Variation of Condition 4 (hedgerow management scheme) of 21/03635/F  
No objections with observations  
Permitted

**Land to the East of Heath Close** – Tim Northey from Abbeymill Homes attended the meeting and provided information to Councillors and residents on the proposed scheme. Details on the proposal will be available on the Cherwell District Council web site, once the application has been submitted and validated. It could be a number of weeks for this to be completed. In readiness for the submission of the application, the Parish

Council intends to request Section 106 funds from the developer for footpaths, public rights of way, a cycleway, traffic calming measures and for the play area.

Planning applications and comments could be viewed on Cherwell District Council's web site at:  
<https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/info/115/planning/443/see-or-comment-on-a-planning-application23as>

## Adverse Weather:

Oxfordshire County Council works closely with all its partners to monitor the weather and as a reminder there are some numbers that you can call to report weather related issues if you become aware of them:

- To report fallen trees or other debris which pose a risk to your safety or the safety of others, please call 999

- To report fallen trees or other debris which doesn't pose such a high risk but still needs to be dealt with, please call 101

- If you lose power or can see that a power line has come down please report it by calling 105

- If you are concerned about flooding, you should visit the Oxfordshire Flood Toolkit online - <https://www.oxfordshirefloodtoolkit.com> – and I will summarise the key numbers to call below:

- If you have a flooding emergency which is a threat to someone's life, contact Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service on 999

- To report flooding relating to a highway such as blocked ditches, blocked drains or flooding on a road call Oxfordshire County Council Floodline on 0345 310 1111

- To report flooding from a main river contact the Environment Agency through the Floodline (Tel: 0345 988 1188 or 0800 80 70 60) or visit their website

- If your property is at immediate risk of surface water flooding please contact Thames Valley Police on 101

**Meeting Dates** – Future meetings, starting at 8.00pm would be held at the Village Hall, Milcombe. However please check the agendas on the Parish Council web site the week prior to the meeting.

- Tuesday 6 September 2022
- Tuesday 1 November 2022

## All welcome to attend!

Agendas and minutes are available on [www.milcombe.com](http://www.milcombe.com) or please contact the Clerk, Theresa Goss, at [milcombepc@gmail.com](mailto:milcombepc@gmail.com) or ring 01295 710965 during normal office hours.



# Milcombe Parish Council

www.milcombepc.co.uk

Follow Milcombe Parish Council on Facebook September 2022



Land at the South Side of Bloxham Road, Milcombe – The developers for this proposed planning application, attended the Parish Council meeting and provided high level details of their plans for the site. The residents and Parish Council were encouraged to forward their comments on the application to the developer, via the Clerk. More details on the application would follow in due course.

**Play Area** – The bridge had now been repaired, but the litter bin had been vandalised. If residents witness any vandalism, please report it to the Parish Council. Monthly play area inspections would be carried out by a contractor.

**Wheelie Bins** – Residents are kindly requested not to block the footpaths with their wheelie bins, where possible. If they could also be collected back in as soon as they had been emptied, this would avoid the footpaths being blocked for those pedestrians with pushchairs or wheelchair users.

**Highways** – Repairs which were required to potholes should be reported to the County Council's Fix My Street web site. <https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/>

**Trees/Bushes/Hedges** - Residents were reminded that trees/bushes/hedges should not be causing an obstruction because they were overhanging a boundary onto a footpath or road. If an obstruction was occurring in the village, it should be reported to <https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/>

**Civil Parking Enforcement** – Oxfordshire County Council is providing Civil Parking Enforcement Officers in the Cherwell area and it is hoped that they will monitor Milcombe for illegal parking. For more information and to report illegally parked cars, please visit the OCC web site. <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transport/parking/illegal-parking>

**Planning Applications** - The Parish Council had made observations to the following planning application:

22/02104/F Land to the rear of No.12 and south of dismantled railway, Heath Close, Milcombe  
Erection of 35 two storey dwelling houses, construction of access off Rye Hill, together with garaging, parking, open space with LAP, landscaping and all enabling works

*Planning applications and comments could be viewed on Cherwell District Council's web site at:*

<https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/info/115/planning/443/see-or-comment-on-a-planning-application23as>

## Milcombe Neighbourhood

Development Plan – Councillors Nigel Davis and Chris Hill were investigating how to develop a Plan for the village and would be liaising with Cherwell District Council.

**Anti-Social Behaviour** – An anonymous letter had been received by the Parish Council, alleging that there was drug dealing going on in the village. The letter had been referred to Thames Valley Police.

## Adverse Weather:

Oxfordshire County Council works closely with all its partners to monitor the weather and as a reminder there are some numbers that you can call to report weather related issues if you become aware of them:

- To report fallen trees or other debris which pose a risk to your safety or the safety of others, please call 999
- To report fallen trees or other debris which doesn't pose such a high risk but still needs to be dealt with, please call 101
- If you lose power or can see that a power line has come down please report it by calling 105
- If you are concerned about flooding, you should visit the Oxfordshire Flood

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## Reminders:

Roads (including potholes)/footpaths/street lighting/overhanging trees/hedges: Report to Oxfordshire County Council <https://fix-mystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk/>

Faulty Street Lights: Report on freephone 0800 317802 giving exact destination and pole number if possible.

Electricity: SSE 0800 294 3259 or text phone 0800 316 5457, UK Power Networks – 0800 169 9970, Western Power Distribution – 0800 096 3080

Water: Thames Water 0800 009 3652 or text phone 0800 316 6899, Anglian Water 03457 91 91 55

Power failure: If there's a power cut call the free number 105 to check what's happening with your local provider



**DOG WASTE BAGS** – Cherwell District Council are no longer supplying free bags so please ensure that you take a bag with you to clean up after your dog as you will still be liable for a penalty if caught allowing your dog to foul public highways and private fields.



## What's coming up later this autumn and into winter?

We may be more than halfway through the year, but there are still plenty of ways to get involved and events to enjoy. Your support helps us to make every moment matter for local people living with an incurable illness. We couldn't do it without you! Below is just some of what's coming up in the next few months.

## Make a Will Fortnight returns

This year Make a Will Fortnight celebrates its 10th anniversary and will be running from 3 to 14 October. We're thrilled to have six local solicitors who have very generously agreed to waive their fee for writing or amending a basic will, and are instead asking for donations to Katharine House. Check our website for a list of participating solicitors and to find out how to make an appointment. [khh.org.uk/make-a-will](http://khh.org.uk/make-a-will)

## New lease of life for Banbury shop

When was the last time you popped into our Banbury shop? It's recently undergone an upgrade and renovation to give it a fresher appearance and improve the layout. But don't worry, the shop's traditional feel, community focus and competitive pricing will always remain. You can find details and donation times for all six of our hospice shops on our website: [khh.org.uk/retail](http://khh.org.uk/retail)

## What's on the cards this Christmas

This year's Christmas cards and 2023 calendars will be on sale from September. Get sorted for the festive season nice and early, whilst supporting the hospice at the same time. Choose from a dozen great designs, including local winter scenes. Order your cards and calendars here: [khh.org.uk/christmas-shop](http://khh.org.uk/christmas-shop)

## Santa Fun Run – 4 December

December may feel far away, but we're already planning how to make our next Santa Fun Run the best one yet. Our fabulously festive fun run is taking place on Sunday 4 December at Spiceball Park, Banbury. Put the date in your diary and don't forget to let your friends and family know. Get your ice skates on and sign up now! [khh.org.uk/santa](http://khh.org.uk/santa)

## Put the fun in FUNdraising

Fundraising can be as easy as ABC... In fact, we have an A-Z of fundraising ideas. So if you're keen to help raise money for our hospice, but not quite sure how, then take a look at some of the great suggestions. Don't forget to let us know what you're doing to raise money for our hospice – we love to hear what our supporters get up to. [khh.org.uk/fundraising](http://khh.org.uk/fundraising)

## Digital monthly newsletter – keep up to date with your hospice

Sign up to receive our Katharine House digital monthly newsletter, which is designed to keep you in touch with all our latest news and fundraising events at the hospice.

## Find out more

Head to our website for more details, events and news: [khh.org.uk](http://khh.org.uk).

## BUMPS AND BABIES

We are a drop-in café for mums, carers and babies with baby toys, group singing and homemade cakes!

### BUMPS AND BABIES

Contact [office@bloxhambenefice.co.uk](mailto:office@bloxhambenefice.co.uk) or Margaret Craggs [mjcraggs@saintconsulting.co.uk](mailto:mjcraggs@saintconsulting.co.uk)

### FREE Adverts for local business

**WBS PROPERTY SERVICES**

- Building work
- Renovations
- Property improvements
- Wood burning stoves

WBS Property Services offer a building and renovation service in Banbury and the surrounding towns and villages. Being a company with many years of qualified experience we can provide services ranging from building spacious extensions from initial planning, to construction and final decoration, creating beautiful loft conversions, renovating properties including full re-roofs.

01295 722720  
07787 908268  
[office@wbspropertyservices.co.uk](mailto:office@wbspropertyservices.co.uk)  
[www.wbspropertyservices.co.uk](http://www.wbspropertyservices.co.uk)

**Mobile Hairdresser**  
Scissor Happy  
07463120122

Wet cut £10  
Cut and Blowdry £15  
Restyle £30  
Restyle with blowdry £35  
Child cut under 12 £9  
Regrowth £25  
Full head cut £35  
Half head highlights one colour £55  
Full head highlights one colour £85  
£8 extra for each additional colour

Omber Ego  
Babylage Ego

FREE Adverts for local business

## TEA AND TOAST

TEA AND TOAST HAS NOW  
OPENED UP IN THE PARISH ROOMS  
ON FRIDAY MORNINGS.  
Please contact Jan Ogilvy  
720054 for details

**PLT PLUMBING**

**MILCOMBE, BANBURY**  
FOR ALL YOUR DOMESTIC PLUMBING  
FULLY QUALIFIED ENGINEER

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**E-mail: [info@pltplumbing.co.uk](mailto:info@pltplumbing.co.uk)**

# HOW SAFE IS YOUR ELECTRIC BLANKET?

**FREE ELECTRIC BLANKET CHECKS IN OXFORDSHIRE**

Make sure your blanket is safe to use this winter.

**JOIN US** and bring a friend for free refreshments and information about keeping safe and well.

## SEPTEMBER 2022

Monday	19th	Oxford City
Tuesday	20th	South Oxfordshire
Wednesday	21st	Cherwell
Thursday	22nd	West Oxfordshire
Friday	23rd	Vale of White Horse

Collections from your house if you can't get to us:  
**3 – 7 OCTOBER 2022**

**FREE**

### BOOKING INFORMATION:

To book your safety check appointment call **01865 895999 Option 3** or email: [duty.officer@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:duty.officer@oxfordshire.gov.uk)  
(Pre-booked appointments only on a strictly first come first served basis)



## CHEQUER TREE FARM PLANT NURSERY

ELLS LANE, BLOXHAM, OX15 5EE.

**EXTENDED COVERED AREA OPEN FOR BROWSING.  
FRESH GARDEN VEG AVAILABLE.  
SEEDS, COMPOST, HOUSEPLANTS, CONTAINERS OF ALL SIZES AT REASONABLE PRICES.  
EVERYTHING YOU REQUIRE FOR YOUR SUMMER BEDDING AND HANGING BASKETS.  
ALSO IN STOCK A LARGE VARIETY OF ROSE TREES, FRUIT TREES, ORNAMENTAL TREES AND SHRUBS.  
EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO FEED THE BIRDS AS WELL AS NESTING BOXES AND BIRD TABLES.  
LARGE CAR PARK AND AMPLE SPACE INSIDE FOR SOCIAL DISTANCING.  
Telephone: 01295 720778  
Email: [office@wyattsgardencentre.com](mailto:office@wyattsgardencentre.com)  
[www.wyattsgardencentre.co.uk](http://www.wyattsgardencentre.co.uk)  
**OPEN EVERY DAY****



### FREE Adverts for local business

#### Footcare by Lesley

07789697670  
[lesley.toenails@gmail.com](mailto:lesley.toenails@gmail.com)  
(Dip non-surgical footcare, RGN, Enhanced DBS)



Nail Cutting & Foot Care in your own home.

### FREE Adverts for local business



**Hammer and tongs Farrier**  
Professional and reliable  
Please contact Hannes on

07377 405626  
[hammertongsfarriers@gmail.com](mailto:hammertongsfarriers@gmail.com)

### FREE Adverts for local business

For over 19 years Barking Mad dog boarding has offered a bespoke, 5-Star Trustpilot rated alternative to kennels for your waggy-tailed one. If you would like to learn more about our local 1 to 1 home boarding service call Andrea and David on 01295 477295 or email [cawleys@barkingmad.uk.com](mailto:cawleys@barkingmad.uk.com). You can also learn more at [www.barkingmad.uk.com/local/oxfordshire/banbury/](http://www.barkingmad.uk.com/local/oxfordshire/banbury/)



**Barking Mad**  
Happy Dog. Happy Holiday.  
Happy You.



### FREE Adverts for local business

## GARRETT Electrical Services

Domestic - Commercial - Industrial  
Offering a professional, friendly and competitive service.

- New Installations
- Alterations
- Repairs
- Electrical testing and inspection
- Full or partial rewires
- Fuseboard replacements
- Free lighting design
- PAT testing

01295 721854  
07738 164551

[enquiries@garrettelectricalservices.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@garrettelectricalservices.co.uk)  
[www.garrettelectricalservices.co.uk](http://www.garrettelectricalservices.co.uk)



## ST. MARY'S THURSDAY CLUB

### ST. MARY'S THURSDAY CLUB HAS NOW RE-OPENED IN THE PARISH ROOMS

St Mary's Thursday Club is holding it's AGM on Thursday 16th June 2022 at 3.00 pm in the Parish Rooms. If any members of the public would like to attend please contact our Secretary Jenny Smithson by email [Jennysmithson58@gmail.com](mailto:Jennysmithson58@gmail.com). Many thanks.



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01608 738373  
[info@hooknortonbutchers.co.uk](mailto:info@hooknortonbutchers.co.uk)

## THE CHERRY TREE CENTRE

### THE CHERRY TREE CENTRE IS NOW OPEN DURING TERM TIME

THE CHERRY TREE CENTRE – PLAY AND LEARN AT THE CHERRY TREE CENTRE, Bloxham Primary School, on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9.30-11.00am (term time only).

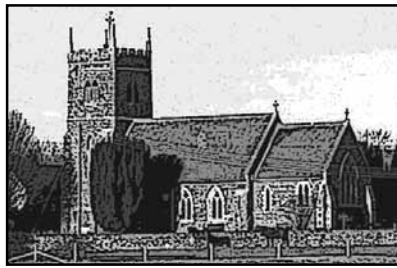




# CHURCH NOTES

## ST. LAURENCE'S CHURCH

MORNING SERVICES ARE AT 11.15am



The Church marks September as the Creation Season. Prayers are said for the works of nature and the preservation of the environment.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4th** (Trinity 12) HOLY COMMUNION AND BAPTISM

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11th** (Trinity 13) – UNITED BENEFICE HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE TO MARK THE PATRONAL CELEBRATIONS OF ST. MARY'S, BLOXHAM, AT 9.30am. (There is no Service in Milcombe.) SN has a Service of Evening Prayer at 5.00pm

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18th** (Trinity 14) – BIBLE READING SERIES from Genesis to Revelations led by Suzette and Blue Watson at 2.00pm

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25th** (Trinity 15) – HARVEST FESTIVAL

The Church is open every day between 10.00am and 4.00pm for quiet prayer and reflection. You are very welcome to come into the Church to just sit quietly or to sit on one of the seats in the Churchyard, give thanks for God's creation, and enjoy the beautiful countryside around us. There is a prayer book just inside the main door for you to write your own personal prayers.

The PCC thanks those who take on the task of unlocking and locking the Church each day, for which we are most grateful.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10th** – OXFORDSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST RIDE + STRIDE Michael Haynes is cycling around local Churches and will be requesting sponsorship to be divided between St. Laurence's Church and OHCT. Please sponsor him if you are able as this produces much needed funds for our Church. **GOOD LUCK MICHAEL!**

The Church will be open all day and volunteers required to welcome in the riders. Light refreshments will be available.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25th** – HARVEST FESTIVAL IN ST. LAURENCE'S at 11.15am  
It would be appreciated if the Church flower ladies could do their regular arrangements for Harvest on Friday/Saturday – whichever is convenient to you. There will be a table for produce as usual and hopefully we shall be able to revive the tradition of a box of non-perishable (in date) items for the Beacon Centre. A box will be placed in Church for contributions.

We are still looking for additional flower arrangers. If you are able to help, please contact Marlene (720750 or email [marlene-clowell196@gmail.com](mailto:marlene-clowell196@gmail.com)).

PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE ANY CANS AT THE CHURCH AS WE ARE NO LONGER ABLE TO RECYCLE THEM. IT WOULD ALSO BE APPRECIATED IF THOSE TENDING GRAVES DID NOT THROW ANY RUBBISH ON THE GRASS HEAP IN THE CHURCHYARD. PLEASE RECYCLE YOUR RUBBISH IN THE CORRECT BINS.

Tony and Joan Stickings are still collecting USED STAMPS AND PRINTER CARTRIDGES to take to the Redwing Horse Sanctuary near Stratford for recycling. These can be left just inside the Church by the main door.

CONTACT DETAILS FOR ST. LAURENCE'S CHURCH are Rev. Dale Gingrich 01295 720252 or email [office@bloxhambenefice.co.uk](mailto:office@bloxhambenefice.co.uk). The Churchwardens are Michael Haynes ([hynmicha6@aol.com](mailto:hynmicha6@aol.com)) and Suzette Watson ([churchwardenmilcombe@gmail.com](mailto:churchwardenmilcombe@gmail.com)).

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## Bloxham & Hook Norton Surgeries

### Patient Participation Group (PPG) update for village newsletters

At the July meeting of the PPG it was agreed with representatives from the practice that we should attempt to ensure regular updates are provided for local residents on the latest news from our surgeries. The detail behind these headlines can be found on the practice website: <https://www.bloxhamsurgery.co.uk>

- Face-to-face appointments are now available on request. Many patients continue to prefer a telephone conversation with their GP, but it is possible to book an appointment. Routine appointments are offered within two weeks. However, if you need to see a doctor urgently, please ring at 8.00 a.m. There are always several staff taking these calls but there is often a queue. You can either stay on the line or leave your name and contact details and the practice will return your call.

- The Bloxham Pharmacy is currently completing over 250 prescriptions a day. This is an immense workload for a small team and patients can help by ensuring repeat requests are submitted a week before their medicine is required. Even more important is the need for patients to collect their prescriptions. Hundreds of uncollected prescriptions have to be destroyed each month. This has to be done safely and in line with government requirements and is a significant waste of time and money.

- A number of new doctors and health professionals have joined the practice over the past few months and our wider partnership with NORA (North Oxfordshire Rural Alliance) is leading to a number of exciting new developments. Our physiotherapist will see patients with aches and sprains without the need for referral from the doctor. From the autumn, NORA practices will develop a rolling programme of more flexible working so that it will be possible to book early evening appointments with a doctor, (though not necessarily with your own GP.) The appointment of paramedics has increased our capacity to assess patients and ensure they receive the treatment they need.

We shall write again after the next meeting of the PPG in October but in the meantime please remember to check the Practice website for news and announcements. Thank you.