

# From the Horse's Mouth



**December  
2022**

**The  
Horspath Magazine**

## A note from the editors:

WELCOME to this first edition of a new look Magazine, which is being delivered to every home in Horspath. This replaces the Church and Hub magazines, and there is still room for your own stories, activity reports, letters or puzzles. We will do our best to publish them here, as we want this to reflect the activities in Horspath Village.

Printing has been paid for via a grant from Stone Pit, so there is no need for advertisements. Do let us know what you think of this issue.

The submission date for the next issue is **23rd January 2023**.

All 'copy' **must only** be sent to our special email address or given as a paper copy to one of our editors.

John Underdown, Anna Radcliffe or Brian Lowe.

**[thehorspathmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:thehorspathmagazine@gmail.com)**

### Village Contact Information

*(prefix for Horspath is 01865)*

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The cover photograph was taken by Bob Gambles  
So where is this post box in our village?

# What's On ...

## **In the Church:**

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 10th Dec. 7pm | Carols in the Churchyard   |
| 14th Dec. 9am | Chatter & Clatter Christmas Party<br><i>(pre school children &amp; parents/carers)</i> |
| 18th Dec. 5pm | Friends of St Giles' Carol Event<br>Followed by Drinks & Nibbles                       |
| 21st Dec. 7pm | Village Carol Service  |
| 24th Dec. 4pm | Childrens' Crib Service  |

## **The Hub:**

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| 8th May (afternoon) | Garden Party at the Hub to celebrate the<br>Coronation of King Charles III            |
| 20th May 10-12.30   | Spring Market   |
| Sept. 2023          | Special event planned to celebrate the tenth<br>anniversary of the opening of the Hub |

## **The Horspath Nursery:**

- |           |                              |
|-----------|------------------------------|
| 12th Dec. | Wriggly Nativity Performance |
| 13th Dec. | Children's Christmas Party   |
| 14th Dec. | Wriggly Nativity Performance |
| 15th Dec. | Children's Christmas Party   |

## **Parish Council:**

- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| 6th Dec. 8pm | Village Hall |
|--------------|--------------|

## **Stone Pit:**

- |               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| 13th Dec. 8pm | Village Hall |
|---------------|--------------|



## Letter from the Vicar

Dear Friends

It's difficult to believe that, by the time you read this, it will be Advent, and many of us will have begun the countdown towards Christmas. Advent is traditionally a time when Christians pause and reflect, and observe a season of waiting, before we celebrate Jesus' birth on Christmas Day, and throughout the Christmas season. However, it's very difficult to maintain a period of waiting, and not begin our Christmas celebrations early, when – out of necessity – many of our Christmas services and events must take place some weeks before Christmas. School nativities, Carol Services and Christmas parties must, of course, take place before schools break up in December – and it's always a joy to welcome our school into church in the run up to Christmas.

It's difficult to observe Advent as a period of waiting and reflecting, when we're also watching nativity plays, attending Christmas parties, and singing Christmas carols. Then, there's presents to buy and wrap, cards to write, baking, sweet-making, decorating, and all the other practical tasks we do to get ready for Christmas.

I wonder, how can you ensure that *you* have time to pause and reflect, this Advent, and enjoy the season of waiting, amidst all the busyness of preparing for Christmas? Perhaps you could find a different Advent or Christmas carol each day, and spend some time reflecting on the words and their meaning? Perhaps you could read a poem a day? Or a Bible passage? Perhaps you could buy an Advent candle and spend some time each day, as the candle burns, reading a chapter of Luke's Gospel? (There are 24 chapters in Luke's Gospel so, if you begin on 1<sup>st</sup> December, you'll finish on Christmas Eve, and can then come along to Midnight Mass, which begins at 11:30pm, to begin your Christmas celebrations).

If you like the idea of reading a poem each day in Advent, I can recommend Malcolm Guite's *Waiting on the Word*, and Janet Morley's *Haphazard by Starlight*. If you prefer a novel, there's *The Advent Calendar*, by our own bishop, Steven Croft; *The Christmas Mystery* and *Through a Glass, Darkly* by Jostein Gaarder; or – for younger readers



cont.

and the young at heart – perhaps C S Lewis's *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. If you prefer a more traditional Advent book, with daily Bible readings, reflections, a carol or hymn, and a prayer, then someone recently recommended *Repeat the Sounding Joy*, by Christopher Ash.

I'd like to end with a prayer-poem for Advent, written by Ruth Burgess:

Bright star-maker God,  
travel with us  
through Advent  
shine into our dark corners  
lead us into ways of justice  
warm us with joy and wonder  
bring us  
to a new birth.

I pray that you may find time, this Advent, to pause, reflect and pray, as we prepare to celebrate Christ's coming at Christmas; and I hope to see you at some of our Advent and Christmas events and services in St Giles'.

May God bless you in this time of waiting, and give you his peace.

With my very best wishes for Advent, Christmas and the New Year.

Karen x

### **Esme Shorter, R.I.P.**

It is with great sadness that I have to announce the death of a long-term Horspath resident, Esme Shorter, who originally came from New Zealand, and was an active and loyal servant of St Giles' Church for many years, acting as organist, choirmistress and also churchwarden from 1982 to 1990. Her talents extended far beyond her musical ability, to her consummate skill as a potter, and she made the beautiful ceramic of St Giles (seen here), housed in the south transept of our church.



*Rest eternal grant her Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon her.*

Services at



St Giles' Church

**4th December - The Second Sunday of Advent**

11am for 11.15am Christingle Service  
(Refreshments served from 11am)

**10th December (Saturday)**

7pm Carols in the Churchyard with the Shotover Singers

**11th December - The Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)**

11am Parish Communion

**18th December - The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

11am Morning Worship

5pm Friends' of St Giles' Carol Service

**21st December - 7pm Village Carol Service**

**24th December - Christmas Eve**

4pm Crib Service

11.30pm Midnight Mass

**25th December - Christmas Day**

11am Parish Communion

**1st January 2023 - The Naming of Jesus / First Sunday of Christmas**

11am Morning Worship

**8th January 2023 - Epiphany**

11am Parish Communion

**15th January - The Second Sunday of Epiphany**

11am for 11.15am Family Time

(Refreshments served from 11am)

**22nd January 2023 - The Third Sunday of Epiphany**

11am Parish Communion

**29th January 2023 - Candlemas / The Presentation in the Temple**

10am Joint Benefice Service in All Saints', Cuddesdon

No service at St Giles'



## The Tree of Light on the Village Green

Please email your message of remembrance to [horspathtreeoflight@gmail.com](mailto:horspathtreeoflight@gmail.com) so it can be hung on the tree ready for Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December, when the tree will be blessed at approximately 12 pm on that day. To add a small donation in aid of Sobell House please visit: [justgiving.com/page/horspath-tree-of-light-2022](https://justgiving.com/page/horspath-tree-of-light-2022)

## Chatter & Clatter

Are you under 5, including babies, looking for a fun time? Why not join us every other Wednesday from 11th January 2023 in St Giles' Church. We meet between 9am - 11am. So why not drop in or stay all morning. Toys, stories, playmates. Bring an adult along for coffee, cake and a chat to other parents or carers.



**For more information please contact the organizers on 07584080661**

## Friends of St Giles' Church

Would you like to join the FRIENDS OF ST GILES to help support and maintain our village church?

**Help us to:** preserve, maintain and improve the building of St Giles and its surrounding churchyard and to ensure St Giles remains a place enjoyed by, and at the heart of, the Horspath community for generations to come.

**Benefits include:** Information and discounted refreshments at St Giles' Church events, an invite to our Annual Friends Christmas Carol Service with festive refreshments and Newsletters to keep you informed of the work you are supporting.



### Annual Membership is:

£15 for individuals, £25 for a joint membership  
& £25 for corporate membership

If St Giles' Church means something to you and you would like to support it, then please contact the Churchwarden, Maureen Underdown, at 27a Manor Farm Road or pick up a leaflet from inside the church for joining details.

## Classes and Activities at the Horspath Hub

Below are all the classes and activities we run at the Hub, but for far more information, contact emails for each class and phone numbers, please visit our website: [horspathhub.co.uk](http://horspathhub.co.uk) or call Natalie on 07779672163. You can book the Hub here too with discounted rates for residents.

### **Mondays**

Pilates - Weekly during term time	09.15 - 10.15
Making Time - first Monday in the month	14.00 - 16.00
Creative Writing - Flexible Mondays	15.00 - 16.30
Art at the Hub - except the first Monday in the month	14.30 - 16.30

### **Tuesdays**

Table Tennis - Weekly	10.00 - 12.00
Seated Wellness (Seated Exercise) Weekly	14.15 - 15.15
Yoga - Weekly	19.00 - 20.15

### **Wednesdays**

Senior Residents' Club - First Wednesday of the month	14.00 - 16.00
Age UK Film Club - Second Wednesday of the month	14.00 - 16.00
Computer Club - Third Wednesday of the month	13.00 - 15.00
One-to-One Yoga & Massage - Once a month by appointment	12.00 - 17.00
Yoga - once a month (flexible)	18.00 - 19.00

### **Thursdays**

One-to-One Massage (as above)	08.00 - 16.00
Line Dancing - Weekly	14.00 - 15.30

### **Fridays**

Post Office - Weekly (except Bank Holidays)	10.00 - 13.00
Coffee Mornings - Weekly	10.30 - 12.00
Age UK Information and Advice - First Friday of the month	10.30 - 12.00
Horspath Wine Club - Third Friday of the month	19.30 - 21.30

For booking requirements and further information please email:

Sheila at [horspathhub@gmail.com](mailto:horspathhub@gmail.com) or Sally at [sallylhumphrey@gmail.com](mailto:sallylhumphrey@gmail.com)





**The Post Office at the Hub is open every Friday  
from 10am to 1pm.**

The only time it closes is if a Bank Holiday falls on a Friday.

We provide the following services:

Cash withdrawals	Cash deposits	Cheque deposits
Balance enquiry	Home Shopping Returns	Buying Stamps
Parcels weighing under 20kg	Signed for postage	Tracked and signed postage
International tracked and signed postage	Purchase of international currency with one week's notice	Deposit of old bank notes into your account

*The only things we cannot provide are passports and driving Licences.*

**The Post Office and Coffee Morning will open as usual over the  
Christmas holiday period, as follows:**

Friday 23rd December	Post Office	10.00am - 1.00pm
	Coffee Morning	10.30am - 12.00pm
Friday 30th December	Post Office	10.00am - 1.00pm
	Coffee Morning	10.30am - 12.00pm

**New stamps for Old**



The deadline for using old stamps has been extended to June 2023. Royal Mail has supplied Post Offices (including the one at the HUB), with forms and freepost envelopes in order for customers to swap old stamps for new barcoded stamps.

Judy Kent: Sub Assistant Post Mistress

## **Creative Writing in the Hub**

*(Flexible Mondays 15.00-16.30 in the Hub)*

A small group of aspiring writers met with Paul Walton as our teacher in 2017. He guided us through personal memoirs and travel writing to book reviews. It was taxing but great fun and we learned a lot. So much so that Paul published a booklet with examples of our work in 2021 (this is available to buy for a small sum from The Hub). When Paul moved to new things we continued to write. Recently we have been very lucky to have the advice and encouragement from our local poet Paul Surman and we have grown to really love poetry, become acquainted with reading other poets' work and having a go ourselves. A Wonderful experience. At the moment we are back writing prose with one member of the group bringing an item for us to write about for 10 minutes and then discuss. We meet about once a month in the Hub at 3pm on a Monday. Members pay £2 to pay for the hire of the room. We are a diverse but happy small group and would love you to join us.



Please email Anna Radcliffe on: [annaradcliffe@gmail.com](mailto:annaradcliffe@gmail.com)

### **The Seated Wellness Class** *(Tuesdays 14.15 - 15.15)*

The seated wellness class has proved to be more than exercising whilst seated. A strong bond has developed between the participants, who are always happy to welcome new people. Part of the class is devoted to exercising to music and we can choose songs to go on the playlist. Our tutor, Francesca, has done a wonderful job of bringing us together to enjoy an afternoon of exercise and fun.

### **The Spectacular Zoo themed Horspath Scarecrow Trail**

Returning for its third year, it raised more than £1,700 for Horspath Hub and St Giles' Church. 42 residents and groups displayed scarecrows based on 'a visit to the zoo' for nine days, with six special mini scarecrows for some of our older villagers. The weather was mainly kind, allowing an estimated 1000 families to walk around the trail and vote for the winning scarecrow; The Grand Lion at the top of Gately. The organizers choice was the Regal Peacock in Gidley Way. A BIG WELL DONE and thank you to everyone who got involved.

## Horspath Parish Council



Horspath Parish Council welcomes Eddie Parker, the newest councillor on HPC. Over the last few months several new residents have been co-opted on to HPC all brimming with enthusiasm and new ideas. Plans to carry out improvements to the village are in the pipeline but everything takes time. Sorting out quotations, contractors etc. but some improvements have been made. The burial ground gates now open and 3 quotations for repairs to the coping stones on the wall have been received. New goal posts are to be fixed in the Mutton Field. Engaging with Oxfordshire County Council in relation to traffic calming measures is proving difficult. There seems to be a lack of impetus in helping the Parish Council achieve its aim but we are not disgruntled and will plod on. The majority of residents voted in favour of introducing the 20mph speed limit through most parts of the village but this could take up to two and a half years before O.C.C. Implements that decision.

I wish to remind all residents that parking on the pavements is restricting access for some of our infirm residents and people with pushchairs. Although it may not be a traffic offence it is causing considerable distress to many who might be forced into the road, so please be courteous to our fellow residents.

A major change to HPC protocol is that there are no longer sub committees. All councillors are equal members and decisions are carried out by the whole of the council. This will ensure no financial transactions are made unless ratified by full council and full transparency is paramount in all dealings.

The date of the next Horspath Parish Council meeting will be December 6th in the village hall at 20.00.

Any queries please contact HPC clerk [Hayleykogel@btinternet.com](mailto:Hayleykogel@btinternet.com)

Beverley Oakley - Chair

## **Horspath Stone Pit Charity**

All Parish Councillors are Trustees of Horspath Stone Pit Charity. We are very fortunate to welcome two independent advisors, Bob Hamlet and Hilary Franklin to join Brian Lowe, Elizabeth Gillespie and Tim Bearder. At the September meeting it was agreed by almost all Trustees that the Infrastructure Fund be scrapped which had been introduced in January. The Trustees felt there was considerable opposition from Horspath residents to this grant which meant village organisations could potentially receive up to £75,000.00 from the Stone Pit Charity. One of the main differences in how the Trustees deal with applications is that every application will be assessed in an open Stone Pit meeting. It has been mentioned numerous times that residents do not know where the money is being allocated. Anyone applying for a grant will also sign acceptance that the reason for the grant will be displayed on the noticeboard and on the website. No personal details will be shown. I would also like to point out for residents information that in accordance with Charitable Law NO Trustee is permitted to personally gain financially from this charity.

The date of the next Stone Pit meeting is December 13th 2022 in The Village Hall at 20.00

### **Stop Press: Free meals for senior residents**

For the attention of all Horspath senior residents. From February 2023 using support from a Horspath Stone Pit Charity grant, once a month a lunch at either The Queens Head or The Chequers will be provided free of charge for all Horspath senior residents. Everyone is invited to attend but please reserve your place by phoning Beverley Oakley on 07917968292 at least one week in advance. Further details will be advertised after Christmas on the noticeboard, at The Hub and on Horspath Village website.

If you have mobility problems and would appreciate a lunch delivered to your house please also apply. This is open to all Horspath senior residents with a huge thank you to Horspath Stone Pit Charity.



**Horspath Nursery**  
**Nursery Hours: 7.30am - 5.30pm for 2-4 year olds**  
**15/30 hours Government Funded spaces available**  
**Register now for September 2023**

Our curriculum is planned carefully to provide a wide range of exciting play opportunities and to develop basic skills and the knowledge necessary for a smooth transition into school.

**Forest School** Is running for children between the ages of 2-11 years

**All Stars Club.** Hours: 7.30 - 9.00am and Monday-Friday 3.00 - 5.30pm  
The aim of the club is to provide a wide and varied programme of After School entertainment for children, extracurricular activities as well as offering childcare.



Please contact us on 01865 876750 or email us at [staff@horspathnursery.org.uk](mailto:staff@horspathnursery.org.uk)

Visit our website for more information at [www.horspathnursery.org.uk](http://www.horspathnursery.org.uk)

**Our Ofsted Rating in April 2022 was GOOD**

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## **Horspath Church of England Primary School**

Pupils in Year 6 spent an enjoyable and relatively balmy week on the beach in Devon during October. (See back cover)

Meanwhile back at school, children in Years 4 and 5 were busy writing poetry:

Quickly the cheetah shoots by  
Quickly the swallow rockets through the sky  
Quickly the rocket blasts through the air  
Quickly the plane flies everywhere  
Quickly the sprinter trips on the crack  
Quickly the train zooms down the track  
Quick is the falcon - but quickest of all  
Is the strike of lightning hitting the wall.

Slowly the sloth climbs a tree  
Slowly the tree grows by the sea  
Slowly the traffic goes by  
Slowly the child tells a big lie  
Slowly the slug goes along the wall  
Slowly the child passes a ball  
Slow is the snail - but slowest of all  
Is Mount Everest growing so tall.

By Zebedee

By Aroush & Antonia



## **And in other News.....**

### **The Kennet & Avon Sponsored walk for St Giles' Church**

At last I have the total sum raised on my walk in July from Bath to Newbury along the lovely Kennet & Avon Canal, totalling £970 (plus some gift-aided extras!). Everyone's generosity was astounding, and I have to thank all those whose contributions made it possible... Where next? **Brian Lowe**

### **The Horspath Calendar for 2023**

I have finally sold all the calendars with a total profit of £655 going this year to St Giles' Church. This could not have been possible without the generosity of all our faithful sponsors and of course with the many villagers who snapped the calendars up so quickly! Thank you very much. **John Underdown**

After the final submission date for our first magazine in this format, very sadly on the 20th November, Dr Marjorie Lettice Bowen passed away. Being such a well known and loved villager and Doctor I thought it only right to include her obituary in this issue.

### **Dr Marjorie Lettice Bowen R.I.P.**

Dr Bowen liked to be known as Lettice. She was a senior partner in the Temple Cowley medical practice and when she retired became a key person in the breast screening programme. Lettice did not have any close relatives, she looked after her parents in her house in Blenheim way until they died. Many people in Horspath remember her as their GP. She was a marvelous doctor and many are the tales of how she saved people because of her skill and knowledge. She had a brisk manner and did not suffer fools gladly! She was very much part of our community and was a member of the Parish Council. The piano in St Giles was given by her.

In her later years she went to live in St Luke's care home and was happy there. The home really liked her too.

Hopefully her ashes will be buried in our churchyard so she can continue to be part of our community

**May she rest in peace.**

## Obituaries

### George Bown, R.I.P.



George Bown, who has died as the result of a tragic accident, was a familiar figure in Horspath. He and his wife, Joy, came to live in Collcutt Close in 1983. George, an engineer and mechanic by trade, worked for twenty-two years at Pressed Steel; later, he worked as a mechanic for British Telecom and subsequently at Oxford University where he used his skills 'fixing anything that was broken' (says his daughter, Cara).

Always full of energy and a desire to work, 'retirement' was not really the appropriate word to describe George's life. His long lasting interest in repairing and breathing new life into vintage cars and motorbikes developed into something of a passion. He loved acquiring beat-up old cars, vans, push-bikes (including at least one penny farthing bicycle), trucks – anything with wheels, basically – pulling on his overalls, getting out his tools from his immaculately kept garage and making each one like new again. Engines purred, wheels turned effortlessly, gears slotted into place, bodywork gleamed once George had worked on them. He never lost his restless energy – always up before 7.00 am to go swimming, work in his garden or get back to his beloved engines. His other passion was engaging in political or philosophical discussion, chatting with anyone who came by and putting the world to rights. George was a real friend, a tirelessly helpful neighbour and he is sadly missed by all. He leaves his wife, Joy, and daughters Cara and Julia.

**NESTA RUTH LONG, R.I.P.** It is with great sadness that I have to announce the death of Nesta Long, a much loved and well-known Horspath resident, the daughter of Winifred & Percy Long, who for most of her life lived in Cuddesdon Road, in the house built by her grandfather. She went to Horspath School, and later joined the famous Oxford department store of Elliston & Cavell (continuing with Debenhams), in ladies fashion, right through until her retirement. Throughout most of her life she was an active member of the Women's Institute and Horspath Methodist Church, later worshipping at St. Giles from 2005, where she was again very involved in the church community as a long-term flower arranger and a valued bellringer. She traveled widely, with her 35mm camera, and produced many excellent slides wherever she went, both of her travels and of her village, Horspath. Nesta had a caring personality combined with a famously dry wit, which she carried through her last illness.

**Rest in peace, Nesta.**

*Brian Lowe.*



Pupils in Year 6 at Horspath Primary School spent an enjoyable and relatively balmy week on the beach in Devon during October.

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