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October 2026

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SERVICES AT ST MARY THE VIRGIN, FREELAND

Sunday 27th September

10.00am Morning Praise

Sunday 4th October

Revd Rachael Bell

10.00am Harvest Morning Praise

Joint with Christ Church at St Mary's

Preacher: Revd Rachael Bell

Sunday 11th October

Revd Dr Steve Stewart

10.00am Morning Praise

Preacher: Revd Dr Steve Stewart

Sunday 18th October

Revd Steve Bellamy

10.00am Communion

Preacher: Revd Steve Bellamy

Sunday 25th October

10.00am Morning Praise

Joint with Christ Church at Christ Church

Sunday 1st November

Revd Rachael Bell

10.00am Morning Praise

Preacher: Revd Rachael Bell

The above information is correct on the date published (**21st September 2026**). Should any changes be necessary, the up-to-date information can be found on our website below.

St Mary the Virgin is open seven days a week from 9am to 5pm/dusk.

Please enjoy the space to look around, for prayer or for quiet reflection.

See our website at www.stmaryfreeland.org.uk

or the Benefice website www.hfchurch.org.uk

ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCHYARD

The Churchyard is now closed for burials unless previously reserved by faculty. A faculty indicates a space that has already been reserved under the Church of England rules.

The churchyard does still have space for the interment of ashes.

For further information or to contact the church, please see our website at **stmaryfreeland.org.uk** or use the QR code.



St Mary the Virgin Parochial Church Council

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Useful contact details

Rector: Revd Dr Steve Stewart
01993 881270

The Rectory, Swan Lane
Long Hanborough OX29 8BT
Email: rector@hfchurch.org.uk

Curate: Revd Rachael Bell
email: rachael.bell@hfchurch.org.uk

Churchwarden: John Hayward

Licensed Lay Minister:
Hugh Dalton *Emeritus*: 01993 881742

Flowers in the Church:
Janet Dalton 01993 881742

Weddings: Revd Dr Steve Stewart
01993 881270

rector@hfchurch.org.uk and
administrator@hfchurch.org.uk

You will find all sorts of interesting information about St Mary's on the "A Church Near You" website: www.achurchnearyou.com/5863. You can see a virtual tour of St Mary's on Google Street View at: <http://goo.gl/g53NJH>.

Thank you to Nikhilesh Haval for allowing the use of the images.

Children's and Youth Work - families are really welcome at all our services. At St Mary's the **first Sunday of the month is a Family Service** where everyone stays in Church, and everyone joins in with the all-age service. At the other **10am** services, children and youth can take part in games, discussion, art, and other activities in small groups close by. Come and give it a try!

Bible Fun Club

Future events will be publicised on our website www.stmaryfreeland.org.uk and you can join our email list by sending your details to administrator@hfchurch.org.uk. See the advert for the Light Event **31st October** on Page 9 or check our website www.stmaryfreeland.org.uk.

The above information is correct on the date published. Should any changes be necessary, the up-to-date information can be found on our website www.hfchurch.org.uk.

Thank you to Bruce Hammersley for the Front Cover photograph of Freeland playpark.



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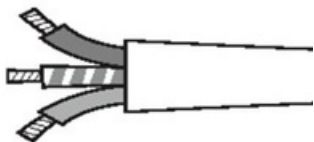


SERVICES AT ST PETER & ST PAUL, CHURCH HANBOROUGH

Sunday 27th September	10.00am Morning Praise
Sunday 4th October	10.00 am Harvest Communion
Sunday 11th October	No Service
Sunday 18th October	10.00am Morning Praise
Sunday 25th October	10.00am Communion
Sunday 1st November	10.00am Communion

SERVICES AT CHRIST CHURCH, LONG HANBOROUGH

Sunday 27th September	10.00am Morning Praise
Sunday 4th October	10.00am Joint service with St Mary's at St Mary's
Sunday 11th October	10.00am Morning Praise
Sunday 18th October Leader:	10.00am Communion
Sunday 25th October	10.00am Morning Praise Joint with St Mary's at Christ Church
Sunday 1st November	10.00am Morning Praise



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hanboroughgardenservices@gmail.com for a quotation.

HANBOROUGH METHODIST CHURCH

Contact Gill Brakespear **Tel: 01993 883914 Email: gillbreakspear@btinternet.com.**

All services are in the chapel. A warm welcome awaits you all.

Sunday 4th October 10am Libby Hawkness-Smith

Sunday 11th October 10am Revd Sue Jacobs Holy Communion

Sunday 18th October 10am Mr Grahame Faulkner

Sunday 25th October 10am Revd Charles Harris

Sunday 1st November 10am Revd Dr Sonia Hicks (Chair of the District)

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST PETER, EYNHAM

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THE PARISH PRIEST: Father Mark Lagorio can be contacted by phone on

01865 881613 or email **stpeterschurcheynsham@gmail.com**

Address: **Abbey Street, Eynsham OX29 4HR** Phone: **01865 881613**

Website: **www.stpeterseynsham.org.uk**

THE CHURCH IS OPEN for Public Masses on Saturday at 5pm and Sunday at 10am.

For any Weekday Masses, please see the webpage



**Light Event for
Children &
their Families**

**Saturday
31st October 2026
5pm to 7pm
St Mary's Church
Freeland**

Join us for activities
and hot chocolate

ST MARY'S BELL RINGING REPORT

The bells will be rung at the following times:

Sunday 4th October 9.30am - 10am

Sunday 18th October 9.30am - 10am

Weekly Monday practices will commence at 7.30pm and finish at 9.00pm.

Please contact the Tower Secretary, Michael Probert (01993 882687), should you wish to discuss any bell ringing matters.

EYNSHAM COUNTRY MARKET VISITS FREELAND

Eynsham Country Market is looking forward to bringing its fresh autumn produce to **Freeland Village Hall** on **Saturday 3rd October from 9.30am to 12.30pm**

including a variety of home baked cakes, cookies and savouries, jams and marmalades, hand-made crafts including cards, knitted and sewn items, jewellery, studio pottery, stained glass and resin produce and much more besides.

Please pop by and support our first ever event in Freeland, which is free to enter, and enjoy a cuppa and a piece of home baked cake.

PLEASE NOTE OUR CHRISTMAS MARKET AT EYNSHAM HAS CHANGED.

Sat 21st November Christmas Market St Leonard's Church, Eynsham

Sat 12th December Christmas Market Long Hanborough

If you would like to join our friendly team of local people, why not get in touch for more information? **eynshamcountrymarket76@gmail.com**. Please follow us on Facebook and Instagram where you can find updates on our latest markets.

J Dyson

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT THE AUCTION OF PROMISES - SEE PAGE 43

Lots so far: Rides in a classic Morgan car | Wool spinning course | Cat sitting
Framed rugby shirts | Knife sharpening course for two people
Indoor air quality assessment | Food voucher at Eynsham Market
Piano Lessons | Introduction to digital photography
Introduction to 3D printing **and more!**

LETTER FROM OUR RECTOR, REVD DR STEVE STEWART



AN INTERVIEW WITH OUR NEW CURATE RACHAEL...

So, Rachael, how would you describe your upbringing?

Eccentric! It was loud, physical, musical, humorous and strict but also very God-conscious. We consumed a lot of potatoes – mashed or roasted, sometimes both at once! I am the middle child of seven children – mostly boys, just one sister; who thankfully screeched in at number seven – so I was in competition to be smartest, strongest and fastest! When we get together, now in our 50s and 60s, not much has changed, though some have discovered lycra and 2 wheels, which is unfair (and not a good look)...

What happened when you left school?

I had an amazing trip to South Africa, which was a real education because it was right in the middle of peace talks as the apartheid regime started to unravel. I got to see the best – and the worst – of what humanity is capable of. I came back and went to university, doing an English degree – I loved the reading and the learning, but found being a student a kind of weird, limbo-land. It was a relief to come back to real life in London.

I then did various jobs, including working for a large church, helping with the youth and kids' work. It was an exciting time – the church was growing and it had an amazingly strong sense of identity; a place where people described it like coming home to a family, where they really belonged. After a year of teacher training, I worked for a charity as a kind of schools' chaplain; the young people went to different schools but came together at a Christian camp in the Easter holidays.

It was my favourite job, but sadly short-lived, because I moved out to deepest darkest Oxfordshire to marry a hunky farmer I'd fallen in love with. He was called Jamie – and so I handed over to another girl who lived in London.

So, you're a farmer's wife?

Sadly, no! I'm a plumber's wife!

Oh dear! What happened to the farmer?

He changed career! And so did I – many times! ... I worked in publishing as an editor and ...

Continued.../

FOLK MUSIC EVENING

**Same Auld Story
Amelia Burgoyne
Barefoot Molly**

**SATURDAY 10th OCTOBER 2026
FREELAND VILLAGE HALL
7PM FOR 7.30PM START**



**TICKETS £10 IN ADVANCE
OR £12 ON DOOR
jane.duff17@gmx.com
to reserve tickets**

...Continued from Page 11

...author, then taught in between having three children, and then I did a big switch and jumped into garden design. Sadly, that didn't last long either, because I was diagnosed with cancer...

What was that like?

It was pretty brutal, and I had the full English breakfast in terms of treatment – and a long road to recovery – especially in my head and heart – a good seven years! I found that God was not who I thought he was, and I wasn't sure who I was, either! Life had a lot more grey and a lot less black and white. Gradually and slowly, mostly outside and in my gardening, my despair and lostness diminished – as I was asking God to show me what he was really like... I think seeing the beauty, wisdom and capacity to heal all around me in nature gave me a way back to him and probably myself.

So how come you are here?

Well in that recovery, God's nudges for me to get revved up (that I had been determinedly ignoring since I was in my mid 20s) just got so loud, I had to give in. That's a cool story, but I'll save that for another time...

So here I am – after four years of jumping through hoops for the Church of England and going to vicar school – revved up and hopefully good to go... Thanks for having me, I'm looking forward to seeing what happens next!

Thank you, Rachael! We're delighted and excited to have you here.

With much love in Christ Jesus,
Rev'd Dr Steve Stewart,
Rector, Hanborough and Freeland

If you would like to learn more about church and what it means to be a Christian, simply join us at any of our churches on a Sunday morning (see hfchurch.org.uk) or contact me for a chat at rector@hfchurch.org.uk

**Hanborough & Freeland Church**

Free viewings of

The CHOSEN



See the life of Jesus Christ and his disciples
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17th September 2026

Details at hfchurch.org.uk/event-list





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Traffic calming working group

We are looking for some volunteers for a traffic calming working group to help deliver a scheme for the village to help reduce speeding and volume of traffic. We cannot do this alone and need support from the village. If you are interested please contact

Clerk@freelandparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Councillor Opportunity

We still have a vacancy on the Parish Council and would welcome another member for our team. The more councillors there are, the more can be done for the village. Please drop our clerk, Fay, an email if you are interested and would like to find out what is involved.

Fix My Street

Please continue to use the Fix My Street App to report any highway issues to the County Council, such as potholes, overgrown hedges, damaged footpaths, or kerb, as well as grass cutting on the A4095. Additionally, if you would like to become a super user to help speed up the process in which things can be repaired, then email

Clerk@freelandparishcouncil.gov.uk. We are looking for super users to speed up how quickly these requests are fixed.

Defibrillators

The 2 defibrillators in the village are located in the telephone box by the Primary school and at the village hall to the left hand side of the porch. If these are used for an emergency please let me know asap on **Clerk@freelandparishcouncil.gov.uk**.

Planning Applications

The main notable planning application this month is the Listed Building Consent submitted for the restoration of the Methodist Chapel **ref: 26/01707/LBC** and the linked application **ref: 26/01706/FUL**. All planning applications can be viewed online via the WODC website at **www.westoxon.gov.uk/planning** Woodgreen Council Offices or you can contact the Planning Team at WODC on **01993 861420**.

Contacting the Council & Date of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Monday 12th October 2026 at 7.30pm**, in the Newell Room. Please note this time and venue is subject to change; please check the village website and noticeboards for the final agenda up to five days before the meeting in case of alterations.

If you wish to contact the Parish Council about a particular matter, please have a look at the Council website **https://freelandparishcouncil.gov.uk/** or email

Clerk@freelandparishcouncil.gov.uk You can also follow us on Facebook (@freelandpc). Fay, our clerk, can be contacted by phone from **9.00am – 4.00pm, Monday to Friday on 07818 572997**. You can also text on this number.

Freeland Energy Group & Go Green Hanborough

invite you to their

LOOK!
FREE ENTRY
event

‘Better living’ family friendly event

Saturday 10th October from 2 to 5pm

Freeland Village Hall

Energy help & advice

How does a heat pump work?
Are there grants?

*‘meet neighbours not salesmen
to chat about their retrofit
experience’*

Join short expert talks on:

- > **‘Power-Up’** bulk buying
- > **Solar** and **Storage** could work here
- > **Sustainable** development
- > **Hanborough’s** Community Meadow

Info, stalls, demos and family fun

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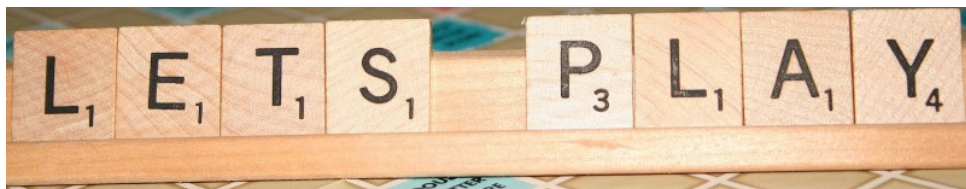
.. all this *and* a nice cup of tea.



FREELAND ENERGY GROUP

The word is out about the Better Living, community family event on the afternoon of **Saturday 10th October at Freeland Village Hall**. Do pop along, at the very least for some company and a cup of tea. We are working hard to make it interesting for as many people as possible. Be curious and see if we manage it. **And** for an arty suggestion for you and your family **and** to bring along to the event, contact: **freelandenergygroup@outlook.com**. Curiosity might be piqued too if you run a business. Did you know that your business might qualify for a free energy assessment? This in turn could lead to a grant towards the cost of implementing the advice to improve the energy efficiency of your business. See here for how this works
<https://www.energysolutionsoxfordshire.org/case-studies/>

COME AND PLAY SCRABBLE!



On **Saturday 3rd October at 2-4pm in the Newell Room, Freeland**. Proceeds in aid of Freeland Community Hub. Admission £5 (cash). Refreshments provided. Book your place, email jane.duff17@gmx.com Places limited to 16 players only.

THAMES VALLEY FARMERS' MARKET COOPERATIVE

Witney 08.30 - 13.30 Friday 23rd October

Woodstock 08.30 - 13.00 Saturday 3rd & 17th October

Details of other Farmers' Markets at:

www.tvfm.org.uk 01235 227266



Baby and Toddler Group

Wednesday (term time only), 10:00 - 11:30

Christ Church, Long Hanborough

£2 per family

We welcome all under 5s and their parent/carer.
Join us to meet others and enjoy free play and fun activities together.
Each session finishes with refreshments, a Bible story and song time.

For more information: hfchurch.org.uk/firststeps



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FREELAND WINE CLUB

The next meeting will be on **Friday 25th September in Freeland Village Hall**, with a presentation by The Oxford Wine Co and will introduce wines entitled 'Discovering Chile's' thriving wine regions. There will be accompanying food and of course the Wine Raffle in aid of the Freeland Village Hub. To book places, £10 members, £14 guests email to: **freelandwineclub@gmail.com**. Hope to see you there for a great value evening.



The year is wrapped up on **Friday 27th November** with a short AGM followed by a bring and share buffet with wines provided by the Club. This event is FREE for members, and guests are welcome at £14 per person. Please bring along your thoughts for the coming year and enjoy the evening of food, wine, Raffle (for the Village Hub), a fun quiz and another cork challenge. To book places email **freelandwineclub@gmail.com**

FREELAND COMMUNITY HUB

Chapel Gardening Volunteers – come and lend a hand!

We're starting monthly gardening sessions to tidy up and improve the grounds around the Chapel. First Saturday of the month, 10:00–11:30am, with the first session: **Saturday 3rd October**. Come along for some weeding, pruning, clearing and general gardening. No special skills needed – just enthusiasm! Please bring gardening gloves and suitable hand tools if you have them. **Very importantly, tea and biscuits provided!**

These are informal volunteer sessions. Volunteers will be asked to read and accept our safety information and take reasonable responsibility for their own safety while participating. Come for one session or come every month – all help is very welcome. We'd love to see you there and gradually make the Chapel grounds something the whole village can be proud of.

Drop in sessions about the Planning Applications

Thank you to everyone who came along to the drop-in sessions, it was good to receive your thoughts and feedback, which were noted and will be followed up and replied to as soon as possible. We had some excellent discussions about a wide variety of issues including walls, heating and cooling, accessibility and ceilings.

It's important that the whole village has the opportunity to make their opinions known to the Committee, so there will be more sessions in the future as the project progresses - or contact us at any time via the form on the website. We are expecting our planning applications for the renovation of the Chapel (26/01706/FUL and 26/01707/LBC) to be decided soon. We continue to be expertly guided by our architect Maya Ellis and will keep you posted on developments. **www.freelandhub.org.uk**



Freeland House & The Lodge



Situated in the friendly village of Freeland, 11 miles from Oxford, on the edge of the Cotswolds, set within beautiful grounds overlooking the Oxfordshire countryside.

Both homes offer a variety of care services including nursing, residential, respite, dementia, convalescent and palliative care.

Freeland House offers a comfortable, homely and welcoming atmosphere in contrast to The Lodge, which is a unique, modern 45 bedded purpose-built extension located beside Freeland House. Our individually designed person-centred care packages offer the highest quality of care.



So much to look forward to...



Freeland House & The Lodge, Wroslyn Road, Freeland, Nr Witney OX29 8AH
tel: 01993 881258 | email: manager.freeland@minstercaregroup.co.uk

UNACCEPTED FREELAND RAMBLERS

No two walks are ever the same, and the last one was a walk like never before with the UFR, that's for certain! Seven became three, 3 miles became 5, and a cool morning breeze turned to a hot muggy noon scorcher.



The walk kicked off with a nervous edge as on no occasion before in the history of this group have we been leaderless and left to our own devices! (We wish The Boss a swift recovery).

A straw poll was undertaken, route negotiated and departure commenced all within 10 minutes - that's not bad at all for a bunch of walkers. That was the start of our merry jaunt.

The burning question I hear you ask, 'how did seven become three?' we need to thank some trusty cows on our path about a third of the way into the walk for that. As we approached the stile and route through the fields, they just would not budge, munching their hay, mooing, jostling and blocking the way at every turn adoring us just as if they were the UFR pesky fans! Another discussion ensued, refreshments eaten and the hope of the cows clearing dissipated, so for the first time in our walking history we had to return the same well-trodden way we came, not achieving our loop at this point thankfully still with seven ramblers and the dog. Nearing the edge of Freeland again and some feeling the pull of home more than others, we split into two groups, one sub leader and their group off to The Yeoman with strict instructions on only stopping for one! and the others off with their sub leader to the Co-op for ice cream...

I'm told all safely returned, or we assume everyone got home ok as the UFR Whatsapp group has not lit up with missing mugshot posters.

Don't let that put you off, all welcome to join us. Our next ramble will be Sunday 4th October at 10am from the bus shelter opposite the Oxfordshire Yeoman next to the Little Free Library.

PS Boss leader we really need you back!

WITNEY MUSIC SOCIETY

The 2026/27 series of Witney Music Society concerts starts on **Friday 9th October at 7.30pm at High Street Methodist Church, Witney.** Details of all the concerts are on the Witney Music Society website www.witneymusicsociety.org.uk and in its new brochure, copies of which may be obtained via the website or from locations throughout Witney.

The opening concert will be given by the acclaimed Italian String quartet Quartetto Nous who will be performing works by Haydn, Shostakovich, Boccherini and Beethoven.

Tickets (£18, £1 for under 19's) on the door or in advance online.

HANBOROUGH & FREELAND

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WEDNESDAY
21 OCTOBER 2026



7.00PM



FREELAND VILLAGE HALL
Wroslyn Road, Freeland OX29 8AQ

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED • EVERYONE WELCOME

STEVE EVINS ELECTRICAL

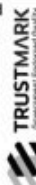


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FREELAND GARDENING CLUB

The Club had a very successful Social Evening on 24th August, starting with Cheese and Wine supplied by the Committee. This was followed by Rock and Roll Bingo. Instead of numbers on the cards each one had a selection of tune titles. These were then ticked off as you heard the tune played. The younger members did rather better at this than some of the older as most of the tunes came from the 1960/70 era.

How lovely it has been to at last get some rain after months of drought. Noticing which plants survived this dry period was important as future years may again be the same. The meeting on **Monday 28th September at 7.30pm in Freeland Hall** is a talk by a lady from Missenden Seeds. She is likely to encourage us to save seeds from our own garden plants as well as encouraging us to plant seeds ready for next year.

On **10th September** the Club had its postponed visit to Wisley which was a much more pleasant time of year to go than the time originally planned. Our **Annual General Meeting** is on **Monday 26th October**. As well as the usual business, one of the highlights of the evening is a list of the Speakers and subjects June Counsell, our Programme Secretary has booked for us for the coming year. There will also probably be cakes baked by Committee members.

There is a Plants and Garden Items Sale at most of our meetings. For any further information about the Club please contact me at **daltonjanet9@gmail.com**

Janet Dalton (Secretary)

NORTH LEIGH HISTORY GROUP

The talk on **Tuesday 6th October** has a Welsh theme. Rhys Williams will be telling us the exciting tale of **Owain Glendwr, the last Welsh King of Wales** and his battles with the English in the 1400s. It is surprising how many people unearth a Welsh family connection when exploring their family history, and we always aim to cover different avenues of history in our talks. **Memorial Hall, North Leigh, 7.30pm**

We are a friendly crowd and welcome all our visitors with a cup of tea or coffee so do come and find out more. Further details from Robert Kyte at **kyterobert@gmail.com**



HANBOROUGH FORGET-ME-NOTS

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Every first Tuesday in the Month 10.00am - 12noon

Long Hanborough Methodist Church

For people with memory loss and their carers



WEST OXFORDSHIRE COMMUNITY TRANSPORT

411 BUS SERVICE: MONDAY-FRIDAY (NOT BANK HOLIDAYS)

West Oxfordshire Community Transport (WOCT) are pleased to announce that from September 1st 2025, we will be operating the services 411/s/418 formerly operated by First & Last Mile. Oxfordshire County Council have written the timetable for the route which we are happy to publish. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions regarding the new services.

MyBus ticket	Day	Week	The tickets are available now in addition to the usual £3 one way ticket. Bus passes are still valid.
Adult	£6.50	£25.00	
Young Person (5-18)	£3.50	£14.50	

Eynsham - Long Hanborough via Freeland

Eynsham Church (o/s)	08.45	10.25	12.25	14.25	17.25
Eynsham o/s Surgery	08.50	10.30	12.30	14.30	17.30
Freeland o/s St Mary's Church	08.56	10.36	12.36	14.36	17.36
Long Hanborough, opp. New Road	09.02	10.42	12.42	14.42	17.42
Long Hanborough on Station Forecourt	09.05	10.45	12.45	14.45	17.45

Long Hanborough - Eynsham via Freeland

Long Hanborough, on Station forecourt	09.10	11.05	13.05	14.50	17.50
Long Hanborough, adj New Road	09.13	11.08	13.08	14.53	17.53
Freeland opp St Mary's Church	09.19	11.14	13.14	14.59	17.59
Eynsham o/s Surgery	09.25	11.20	13.20		18.05
Eynsham Church (opp)	09.29	11.24	13.24	15.09	18.09

Buses should stop anywhere along Wroslyn Road where it is safe to do so.

RAIL CONNECTION TIMINGS

FREELAND / HANBOROUGH / OXFORD & return

411 Bus	Freeland, Village Hall*	08.56	10.36	12.36	14.36	17.36
411 Bus	Hanborough Station	09.05	10.45	12.45	14.45	17.45
Train	Hanborough Station	09.18	11.19	13.19	15.17	18.14
Train	Oxford Station	09.30	11.29	13.29	15.27	18.32
Train	Oxford Station	08.44	10.46	12.45	13.44	17.23
Train	Hanborough Station	08.53	10.55	12.54	13.54	17.33
411 Bus	Hanborough Station	09.10	11.05	13.05	14.50	17.50
411 Bus	Freeland, Village Hall*	09.19	11.14	13.14	14.59	17.59

West Oxfordshire
Community Transport
woct.org.uk 01993 630124



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Little Free Library – 138 Wroslyn Rd --- 10.05 am
Nash Lane ----- 10.05 am
Freeland Primary School ----- 10.05 am

With drop off at:

Waitrose car park, Witney
Sainsbury's supermarket, Witney

Return pickup:

Sainsbury's supermarket, Witney ----- BY REQUEST
Waitrose car park, Witney----- 12.30 pm

With drop off by request anywhere along Wroslyn Road

INFORMATION

For more information or to volunteer as a driver or helper please contact:
Sue Hooper **Tel: 07880 207835 Email: eagle.hooper@gmail.com**

MORE DRIVERS AND HELPERS WANTED!

FLM ROUTE 611

**North Leigh - Eynsham This service is DISCONTINUED AFTER
26TH SEPTEMBER 2026.**

FREELAND CRAFT CLUB

Now that the Summer holidays are over, we are back to full strength and working hard on various projects. These items have been produced for demonstration on the Craft Stand at the October "Better Living" event. Would you like to meet some new people from the village and share a chat and some "crafty" time with them?



We meet in the Newell Room at the back of Freeland Village Hall every Wednesday from 2:00pm – 4:00pm. There is usually a subscription of £1 per meeting to cover hire costs. For further information, or someone to go with, please contact: **Helen 01993 882305** or **Margaret 01993 881316 marglwright52@gmail.com**

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WEST OXFORDSHIRE UPDATE - LIDIA ARCISZEWSKA

As a former member of the Council's Local Plan Working Group, I am proud of many of its policies. The plan puts great weight on providing infrastructure in line with development. For the first time, Infrastructure Delivery Plans will be required for all 'major' developments (>9 dwellings), and it clarifies the use of Grampian conditions to ensure sewerage infrastructure is delivered before houses are occupied. The plan responds positively to the Climate Change Emergency by demanding net zero operational carbon in new buildings, which is above the current building standards. It also responds to the Nature Crisis by emphasising the requirement to protect and enhance the natural environment.

Is there a catch? The government demanded expansion by over 18,000 homes in West Oxfordshire by 2043, which is almost twice as many homes as the Council's assessment of the district's need, and well above a third of the current housing stock. This rapid growth will put a real strain on infrastructure, traffic, schools and GP surgeries.

What's in it for Freeland? There is no housing development allocation for Freeland. Moreover, the Plan sets up caps to control the scale of speculative development in any area. For Freeland, this cap is 10% over the period of the Plan, based on the number of dwellings as of April 2025.

**To access the consultation, follow: www.westoxon.gov.uk/localplan2043
It closes Friday, October 9th, 2026.**

I am delighted that a motion I originally tabled at the end of March was debated and passed at the Council meeting on July 22nd. Protection and enhancement of sites of high ecological value are crucial, as they can serve as nucleation sites in creating a well-connected ecological network.

West Oxfordshire has sites of high ecological value scattered across the district. Some of them are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and are given special protection during the planning process. However, most of them are assigned as Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs). Some LWSs, such as ancient woods or floodplains in our area, are just as ecologically valuable as SSSIs, but have not been assessed.

Responsibility for SSSI designation lies with Natural England, but the agency has been failing to meet its obligations, with only two sites receiving SSSI status since 2022. Therefore, many precious habitats are at risk of being lost due to pressure from housing development. The Council resolved that the Leader asks Natural England and the government to resume the designation process and give better protection to the highest ecological-value sites that have not yet been awarded SSSI recognition. Coincidentally, the area, named The Three Rivers, located between Woodstock, Long Hanborough, Bladon, Yarnton, Cassington, and Church Hanborough, has recently been included on the list for consideration for SSSI designation.

Dr Lidia Arciszewska, Lidia.arciszewska@me.com



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FREELAND WI

It is now quite noticeable that the seasons are changing with the weather turning cooler, thankfully, and the nights drawing in. This feeling was reflected at our September meeting when Sara Richards joined us for a practical session on how to create needle felted pumpkins for the autumn. Following a clear and concise demonstration, our members enthusiastically went about the task resulting in a wonderful selection of woolly produce varying in colour and shape, very much resembling a harvest festival display.



Our committee is currently finalising our 2027 programme with crafting sessions, speakers on a variety of subjects, a chocolate making evening and much, much more. In June we will run our 'open' meeting once again with a very well known speaker..... watch this space!



On **Monday 12th October Al Sylvester OBE** will be giving his talk: '25 years In Air Force Mountain Rescue' and comes to us as a highly recommended speaker.

Freeland WI is always looking to welcome new members so if you think that the WI is only for 'mature' ladies and is all 'Jam and Jerusalem', think again, we are more 'Gin and Bubbles' with fun, friendship and often cake along the way. Please feel free to join us one evening, we would love to see you.

Freeland WI meet on the second Monday of the month in the Village Hall commencing at 7.45pm. The meetings usually consist of a speaker or activity followed by a raffle and refreshments. A copy of our 2026 programme was included in the February edition of The Grapevine (available on the St Mary's website **www.stmaryfreeland.org.uk/grapevine**) and on the Village Hall noticeboard. Visitors are welcome to join us for an evening for a suggested donation of £5.

For information and to see what we have been up to, please check out our Facebook page: Freelandwi. Alternatively, contact our secretary Rosie James on 01993 881997 or email: **freelandwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk**.

Anne Marvin

TABLE TENNIS

If you are retired and would like to join a group playing Table Tennis each week, please contact Nick and Sue Rous **01993 883944** or email: **suerous47@gmail.com**. Freeland Village Hall, Fridays 3.15-4.45pm



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Our speaker in October will be on **Thursday 1st October**. Professor Roger Davies who is the Philip Wetton Professor of Astrophysics at Oxford University. His presentation is entitled 'The Vastness of Space' starting with a model of the Solar System based on the Earth as a peppercorn, we'll voyage to the distant Universe using the speed of light as our yardstick. Followed by a glance into what to see in the night sky this Autumn. **Arrive 2.15 for a 2.30pm speaker**. Visitors welcome £3.00 to include tea/coffee and biscuits.

November's speaker on **Thursday 5th November** is Graham Twemlow who will talk about the golden age of posters in Britain during the 1920s and 1930s. This was a thriving industry enabled and enlightened by client such as Shell-Mex, the London Underground and the four railways. **Arrive 2.15 for a 2.30pm speaker**. Visitors welcome £3.00 to include tea/coffee and biscuits.

Our monthly meetings are held on the **first Thursday of each month at St Hugh's Centre, Hensington Road, Woodstock OX20 1JL, 2.15pm for a 2.30pm start**. We would be delighted to see you. **www.woodstock.u3a.uk** for further information.



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Raising funds for the Freeland Community Hub renovation

1ST HANBOROUGH FREELAND SCOUTS GROUP

As we head into Autumn, our Scout Group has continued to enjoy a busy programme across all sections, with plenty of outdoor activities, practical skills and opportunities to get involved in the local community.



The Scouts have had a particularly active month, with a number of members volunteering at the Party at the Pav barbecue, helping to raise vital funds for the group. Looking ahead, they will be developing their navigation skills with a mapping evening at North Leigh Common, carrying out water testing at Combe Mill, and trying their hand at pickleball.

Cubs have enjoyed a welcome back session, including welcoming new Cubs from the Beavers waiting list. Over the coming weeks they will be putting their teamwork and practical skills to the test with shelter building and pioneering, as well as heading out on a night hike.

Explorers have their camp coming up and are looking forward to getting outdoors and spending time together. Their programme through to half term will also include evening walks, world cooking and a range of other activities.

Our **Beaver** section is currently paused, and we are still looking for someone to come forward and help lead the section. Further information about the role can be found in the advert on **Page 22** of this Grapevine. As always, we are extremely grateful to all our volunteer leaders and supporters who make these activities possible.

Hugo Pottinger Publicity Rep, hugopottinger@gmail.com

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OXFORD BUS AND MORRIS MOTORS MUSEUM

Come to the museum on **Sunday 25th or Wednesday 28th October** for a thrill or a shock. During October we shall be decorating the museum ready for Hallowe'en. Each year we introduce new devices to entertain and scare. As usual we shall dress up one of our buses, which will take visitors out for rides at 12.15 and 2.15pm on each day.

At 6pm on the Wednesday the bus will emerge from our eerie running shed into the dark yard to pick up passengers for a night ride through the dark countryside. You are invited, to come dressed up appropriately. Last year a skeleton turned up! Buses are built for a specific role but sometimes how they get used is quite different.

CXX 171 visited the museum recently. It was built for London Transport's Green Line services and entered service at Hitchen garage in June 1936 as T448. It still carries the brackets for the destination boards which all Green Line coaches had attached to their sides. However, the coach was under-powered so within two years it was relegated to bus work in the country area. It carried the same green livery into which it was restored 18 months ago as shown in the photograph.

Three things struck me about T448. The first was the immaculate interior and exterior paintwork. The second was an original bell push inside the coach and the third was the working trafficator arm. The latter two are trivial things, but they appealed to me.

Frank Collingwood



NORTH LEIGH MEMORIAL HALL FILM NIGHT

Film nights are back! Forthcoming dates: **Saturday: 17th Oct**

Films to be confirmed, please check the Hall website **Northleighmemorialhall.com**

Doors open 7pm. Film showing 7.30pm Entry £5 (cash or card)

Refreshments available.

FOLK CONCERT 10th OCTOBER

As the last one was so successful, I am running another Village Hall Folk Concert on 10th October to raise funds for the Hub restoration. This one will be all folk music, with maybe another 'Folk and Spoke' one in the Spring.

Same Auld Story, who went down so well in April will be opening again, followed by Amelia Burgoyne, a young keyboard-based singer songwriter, with a six-piece band Barefoot Molly headlining. All three acts place the emphasis on presenting their own material and, to quote from Ben of Same Auld Story, "it won't all be middle aged men playing guitars", though I wouldn't rule out some of that. There will of course be a bar and tickets can be ordered for **£10 from jane.duff17@gmx.com** or for **£12 on the door**.

We have dispensed with physical tickets this time round and instead your names will go on a list, so no need for cash until you get there.

Graham Warby

CLUES FOR CROSSWORD #15 OCTOBER 2026 BY MR NATI

ACROSS

1. Car wash leaves Charlie and Romeo flooded.
4. Read why you see. See a plant?
7. HOWZAT with party beat.
9. The Spanish are after Beverly's diminutive mitre.
10. Reused VD aid is a giant killer.
11. Institute a process in law against duke and earl for using animal-based material.
12. Tale I retold about Red Sea resort.
15. He lit before, he's fit!
18. Sounds like Romeo left Greece for some birds.
19. African homestead located in Akra also.
21. Mike left mother for alternative.
24. French World in a spin about malevolent supernatural entity.
27. Plea, for Alison Small, h ways.
28. Furious about result of 50+4+1+500.
29. Omphalos corrupted Venal.
30. Come with others into cathedral ongoing construction.
31. Blonde ursine's neck hugging sweater.
32. Atlantic, for example, where canoe broke.

DOWN

1. Walk or ramble without Romeo.
2. Broken down van I left at Smith's block.
3. Whole, we left with holy man having an interest in the planets.
4. Disorientated Doyle has a change in register.
5. Evict confused cat
6. Paddle without papa and confuse his mind.
8. Bird song before time of Musk.
13. Got in cocktail bar.
14. A tree collapsed off sharp edge.
16. Picture of game I reviewed.
17. Salutation Oscar got after perdition
20. Man in charge breathed in air in capital.
21. Plant a bull smacker.
22. Heaved left into pigsty.
23. Royal Academy of the Dramatic Arts run detected by radio detection and ranging.
24. Doing wrong by dog.
25. Move about India to make feature.
26. Punny longbowman found to make tights.

CROSSWORD #15 OCTOBER 2026 BY MR NATI

1		2		3				4		5		6
				7		8						
9								10				
				11								
12	13		14					15	16		17	
	18						19					
						20						
21		22		23				24		25		26
				27								
28								29				
				30								
31								32				

ANSWERS TO SEPTEMBER CROSSWORD #14

ACROSS

1. BAFFLINGLY, 6. GO, 10. OUZO, 11. WALKINGSTICKS, 13. JUS, 14. IN, 15. NEAR, 16. OS, 18. TRIG, 19. COW, 20. CORGI, 21. FIG, 22. LION, 23. OW, 24. SAGE, 26. AX, 27. SIT, 28. STOW ON THE WOLD, 31. FINE, 33. HE, 34. DELIQUESCE

DOWN

1. BLOW, 2. FJELDS, 3. LOCI, 4. NO 5. YAKITORI, 7. JOKING, 8. ROLLRIGHT, 9. ASIS, 12. NUN, 13. JACKSTAFF, 14. IS, 17. DON, 18. TGV, 20. COTSWOLD, 22. LETTER, 23. OX, 25. AONB, 26. ASH, 27. STONES, 28. SN, 29. ECRU, 30. DALE, 32. PI



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FREELAND WOMEN'S SOFTBALL TEAM

The team has had a great season; we've welcomed four new players. Training with our coach Matthew Smith has continued on Wednesday evenings – only one session was cancelled this year, not because of rain but due to extreme heat.

We've played in six midweek matches against Combe, Cumnor and Witney Mills, winning four, and have taken part in several Sunday festivals.

We finished the season with an inter-team match and an awards evening in The Yeoman. Congratulations to all and especially - Best New Player – Alice Harden, Most Improved Player – Julie Stuart-Thompson, Captain's Player – Catherine Bean and Coach's Player – Rachel Morris.

If you fancy joining us next season do get in touch **clairesoanes@hotmail.com** or **freeland.play-cricket.com**. Look forward to seeing you in April!

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY NEWS

This month's news was written by Sue, one of our Little Free Library volunteers.

I was reading in The Grapevine that someone sends copies of The Grapevine to a relative in Australia, which made me wonder how far and wide our Little Free Library books come from and travel to?

We once had a book chosen for distribution by Bill Gates, that had travelled all the way here from the US. In my case, many of the books I donate and pass on come from London and Winchester.

While it's not Dr. Who's time travelling police box, the old telephone box near the village hall can take you back in time to the past, look into the future, and remain in the present by trying to solve a murder mystery – depending which books you happen to pick up!

Not to mention the wide selection of children's books and the magic of reading to a little one.

With its smaller sister box further down Wroslyn Road, we're always amazed at the quality, quantity and diversity of the books that get donated. If you've not visited yet do try them out and see how far you can travel!

Happy Reading!

Matthew & the Little Free Library volunteers (Sue, Fi, Jenny and Catherine)

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ABOUT THE GRAPEVINE

The deadline for articles or adverts for the November **2026** Grapevine is **MONDAY 12th October**. The edition should be online at **<https://freelandparishcouncil.gov.uk>** and **www.stmaryfreeland.org.uk** from about **Tuesday 20th October with the print copies in the church porch and elsewhere from Friday 23rd October**.

We welcome handwritten or typed articles and adverts. However, if at all possible, please send by email, formatted to fit an A5 magazine - it will certainly help to reduce the number of our mistakes!

The font we use is Gill Sans MT at 10 point. If submitting electronically please use Word, **not PDFs**. Photographs should be **JPGs or PNGs**, again **not PDFs**. The cost of a Small Advertisement **25p per word**. Payment for all advertising by BACS, details can be obtained from Jane Duff and any other costs for adverts. 1/3rd page size is 60mm high x 127mm wide, ½ page size is 90mm high x 127mm wide, and a full page is 190mm high x 127mm wide.

PLEASE NOTE: With effect from 1st June 2026 there will be a small charge of £5 for posters advertising charitable, fundraising or other not-for-profit events taking place that are **not** Church events. This will be for a half A5 in size, **landscape orientation** sized 90mm high and 127mm wide. Normal rates apply for commercial events.

Adverts: **grapevineadverts@gmail.com**

Articles: **freelandgrapevine@gmail.com**

Or phone: **01993 880623 (Jane Duff)**

Note: Please put your name and telephone number on any submission in case we need to contact you. These will only be printed if requested by you.

The editor reserves the right to edit all copy.

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information, liability cannot be accepted for any errors or omissions in compiling this magazine.

Neither the Church, the Editor nor the Printer assume responsibility for any effects arising therefrom.

The presence of an advertisement in the Grapevine does not constitute a recommendation by the editors regarding the goods or services advertised.

We are not able to publish any correspondence between tradespersons or other organisations placing adverts in the Grapevine and their customers in the event of dispute. We do not endorse any articles, reports of suggestions in the Grapevine.

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

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Sat	3 Oct	Scrabble-athon 2-4pm Newell Room, Freeland £5 entry
Sun	4 Oct	UFR Ramble 10am from Bus shelter opposite Ox Yeoman
Tues	6 Oct	Cake Cafe 9am-11.30am Village Hall
Tues	6 Oct	North Leigh History Group talk Memorial Hall 7.30pm
Weds	7 Oct	Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection
Frid	9 Oct	Witney Music Society Concert, High St Methodist 7.30pm
Sat	10 Oct	Better Living family event 2-5pm Freeland Village Hall
Sat	10 Oct	Folk Music Concert in aid of Hub, 7.30 Village Hall £12 on door
Mon	12 Oct	Copy Deadline for Freeland Grapevine
Mon	12 Oct	Parish Council Meeting, Newell Room 7.30pm
Mon	12 Oct	WI meeting 7.45pm Village Hall, talk, Mountain Rescue
Weds	14 Oct	Green Week: recycling+food waste+garden waste
Sat	17 Oct	North Leigh Film Night, Memorial Hall 7.30pm
Sun	18 Oct	Combe Mill Woodcrafts, 10.30-4.30pm
Weds	21 Oct	Grey Week: household rubbish + food waste collection
Weds	21 Oct	Scout Meeting, Village Hall 7pm
Sun	25 Oct	British Summertime ends CLOCKS GO BACK
Weds	28 Oct	Gardening Club, Village Hall 7.30pm
Weds	28 Oct	Green Week: recycling+food waste+garden waste
Weds	28 Oct	Hallowe'en at the Bus Museum

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WE NEED YOUR PROMISES!

Our fundraising **Auction of Promises** will now be held **entirely online**. While there will be no physical auction in the village hall, we will be able to reach a much wider audience online – and raise more funds to support the renovation of the Chapel for Freeland Community Hub.

We are using a proven and successful online platform for the auction:

www.auctionofpromises.com

Please visit this site to view other auctions already in progress.

Our auction will run

Saturday 1st November to Saturday 14th November

**So far we have 24 promises but need far more
to make the event a success!**

Please consider what Promise or Gift you can contribute. Contact either

Graham or Ria Lay: grahamlay4@gmail.com or 07460 223048

rialay57@gmail.com or 07791 560793.

Further details about the auction and lots pledged so far can be found at

www.freelandhub.org.uk



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