WEST HENDRED NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2026

Deadline for next Newsletter
25 Nov 2026

IMPORTANT! Please can we ask that, if you know of any neighbours who may not have access to the internet, you print a copy off for them and pop it through their door. Thank you.

Parish Council Minutes
To find the most recent and past Parish Council meeting minutes please follow the link below:
https://www.westhendred.org/parish-council/meeting-minutes/

The Wantage Downs Benefice is hiring
We have two roles available to support our wonderful church communities in the Hendreds, Ardington, and Lockinge. Both roles are offered for an 18-month initial contract.
Administrator: a hub for communication between clergy, volunteers, worshippers, and the wider community. This role would suit someone with good interpersonal and IT skills and a capacity to work much of the time without close supervision. 12 hours per week. Salary negotiable based on experience and skills.
Organist: playing for regular services at three of our four churches. This role would suit an able musician who already plays the organ or is motivated to learn quickly. 4 hours per week on average. Salary of £4,000 per year plus additional fees for occasional offices like weddings and funerals. 18-month contract.

We welcome applicants who are interested in one or both of these roles. Please see https://wantagedowns.org/vacancies for more details.

Ride & Stride - September 2026
This year Angela decided to Stride rather than Ride to support the Historic Churches Trust, she and her friend found themselves in Oxford on the same day as the Open Doors event: this is when historic, or just intriguing, buildings allow the general public in. "This added to the interest of our Stride around Oxford - for instance at Christchurch Cathedral there was the opportunity to see the Alice Door and the tree where the Cheshire Cat perched made famous in "Alice in Wonderland". These distractions meant we managed to visit fewer churches than in the past but still feel glad we were able to raise money for this great cause. The Historic Churches Trust have provided many generous grants for our church, Holy Trinity, over the years. Thank you to everyone who's sponsored me already - there's still time if you wish!" Angela Findley

Hugh opened Holy Trinity Church at about 09-30, then cycled on to East Hendred – both St. Augustine and St. Mary, and then Steventon. His journey was then delayed by 3 trains at the level crossing; he then continued on the causeway, crossing the A34 by bridge to St. Blaise at Milton – and the Methodist Church, then continued to Sutton Courtenay – which has a fascinating interior, as well as being where Eric Blair (George Orwell) is buried. From there, on to Abingdon via the Hanson Way track. He continued on to Radley, with its unique tree-trunk roof supports. The church's pulpit and chancel woodwork are from the Houses of Parliament. During the Civil War Charles 1 wanted these moved by barge up the Thames to Oxford, to "legitimise" his war-time headquarters. However, the Roundheads had a chain across the Thames below Oxford, so the woodwork was off-loaded and hurriedly dumped in the nearby Radley Church. Hugh crossed the Thames at Sandford Lock, and then cycled up the steep slope to St. Andrew's Church and lunch.

From Sandford, it was on to Littlemore, Cowley, Iffley, and across to the Cowley Road, where he cycled up the little lane to St. Bartlemas Chapel. This small, early-14th-century chapel was built as part of a leper hospital founded in the early 12th century by Henry I. On to St. Clement's Church, a John Newman effort relocated from The Plain in the early nineteenth Century – with many graves still in the middle of The Plain.
This year Hugh again managed to see the interior of the Russian Orthodox Church of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker in Ferry Road, Marston, which has very vivid colours. He saw part of a teenager's baptism service, which involved immersion in a small bath.
From there, he went across the river Cherwell to central Oxford, then cycled along the Thames Path to St. Frideswide's Church on Osney Island, and then off via St. Thomas the Martyr close by the railway station, the City Centre and to St. Barnabas in Jericho. Its unique interior is a glorious mix of Torcello meets Ravenna's very early basilicas.
He cycled on to the Greek Orthodox church of The Holy Trinity and the Annunciation in Canterbury Road and arrived at the end of an infant's baptism – this involved lots of baptismal water! Finally, he wended his way via St. Andrew's Church on Linton Road, to finish at St. Michael & All Angels Church in Summertown, which he went to from his primary school (long gone) nearby.
Money continues to come in from sponsors. The total so far received is £420, with quite a lot more yet to come in. Thank you to all who have sponsored. Hugh Rees

Holy Trinity Church, West Hendred Christmas Cards
There are 2 designs of Holy Trinity Church, West Hendred. The cards are in packs of 10 (with envelopes), £5 per pack, and are sold in aid of repairs to the Church. This is excellent value! From mid-November the packs will be available at the church, which is open every day. You can pay by either - contactless – there's a "Goodbox" card-reader just inside the church.
https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6046
Or by cash or cheque payable to West Hendred Parochial Church Council. We'll be at West Hendred Village Hall's Christmas Fair on Sunday 29th November. We'll have contactless card payment there too! Also look out for pop-up sales, which we're hoping to do in November and closer to Christmas. There is one design using a photograph taken in February 2019 printed to high-quality, as well as the very popular 2009 design, re-printed on high-quality textured card. The greeting inside the card is "Best Wishes for Christmas and New Year". Also available are packs with no greeting inside the card. Further information from Hugh and Annabel Rees on 01235-833174.

Community Chain of Survival Event
Sunday 8th November 2-4pm
2 hour first aid course last few spaces
Join us to learn (or refresh) lifesaving first aid, including CPR, and how to use a defibrillator. Less than one in 10 people survive an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest. By learning CPR and feeling confident to use a defibrillator, you can give someone their best chance of survival. The Chain of Survival activates key emergency response links, giving the collapsed person the best chance of recovery. calling for help, providing CPR, or retrieving a defibrillator are all vital links in this chain. Places cost £12.50 Contact: villagehallbookings@westhendred.net to book your place.

West Hendred Christmas Fair
Sunday 29th November 12noon - 3pm. Fantastic stalls, the BEST Christmas Raffle, fun for children, food to eat, mulled wine and mince pies. Springline Singers sing your favourite carols. Please bring cash as not all stalls have card readers.

Update on the fencing of the path in the woods from West Hendred to Ginge
Dear neighbours and friends,
It's been a while since we updated you, but we now have some concrete information to share so here are the brief highlights.
OCC (Oxfordshire County Council) have now reviewed the case that was made to show that the historic path between West Hendred & Ginge has always been there and always used by the general public.
OCC accepted that there has always been a path since at least the late 1800s as our proofs showed.

They accepted that the Government appointed surveyor who made the first Ordnance Survey for the army in the late 1800s did designate the path as a footpath (FP) and part of it as Bridleway and with the agreement of the local Meresman.
They also accepted that members of the public had regularly used the path from 1978 to 2025 as proven by our many user evidence statements.
However, the Estate apparently submitted a formal statement stating that it was not a public footpath – that covered the period between 1998 and 2009. Unfortunately the number of people confirming their unhindered use for 20 years between 1978-1998 was just a handful and they say that is an insufficient number of the general public using it to warrant it becoming a PROW.
They also say that there is no evidence the landowner agreed to it being a public path.
Apparently the 16 years of frequent general public use between 2009 and 2025, when it was partially fenced off, does not count because unimpeded use must apparently be for 20 continuous years.
If we had had more of the older generation available and willing to confirm their use of the path in the 1978-1998 period it would have swung the argument our way (according to OCC legal) but so many people have moved on or away.
Currently we have appealed to the Secretary of State for the Environment regarding the OCC decision not to amend the definitive map. We have applied a range of legal arguments, with some external help. If the appeal is allowed then an Inspector will hold a public hearing.
Incidentally at least one of the Lockinge Estate employees has recently been stopping people in the woods and advising them of their trespass. He also admitted that these checks are now a part of his job description and will continue.
A Lockinge Estate Trustee agreement in December 2025 to create a permissive path around the edge of the woods (subject to funds and ground conditions being suitable) has not yet materialised.
We will keep you informed as important stages are reached.
James, Tim, Paul & Marcus 24.10.2026
hendredpaths@gmail.com

George Clarke's Two Houses One Home
Are you, anyone you know, or anybody you are working with merging two households into one? Channel 4 are creating a brand-new property and renovation series with presenter and architect George Clarke, and we want to hear from you!
We're looking for families, couples, relatives or friends who are:
✓ Selling one home
✓ Renovating another
✓ Combining two households into one shared home
You might be:
A parent moving in with your adult children
A blended family creating a new home together
Moving in with your partner
Downsizing after a life change
Preparing a house that will fit everyone's needs
We'd love to hear your story!
The series follows the renovation, the decisions, the emotions and - ultimately - the reveal of the brand-new home.
Along the way, you'll have support and practical tips from George Clarke, one of the UK's most trusted renovation experts – who can help you get the most out of your project!
For more information and how to apply, head to
https://shortaudition.com/TwoHousesOneHome
IWC Media collect, store and use your personal data in accordance with our privacy policy which is available at
https://www.iwcmedia.co.uk/privacy
Any questions don't hesitate to get in touch.
Jojo Murray (she/her) Casting Assistant Producer

For Sale

8 John Lewis classic bath towels 70x125cm plus 2 63x125cm and 1 bathmat; burnt orange colour. £35. 07493 710 307

The deadline for items for next month's newsletter is 25th November. Please email to newsletter@westhendred.net

West Hendred and Ginge Village Hall News

All hall bookings should be made online via the hall website: **www.westhendred.net** Enquiries should be made via email to **villagehallbookings@westhendred.net**

Regular Events at the Hall
New Wednesday evening fitness classes, started Wednesday 16th October:
RockBox (7–7:45pm): Boxing-inspired fitness to rock music, combining cardio, strengthening and toning.
Broadway Boogie (8–8:45pm): Fun, easy-to-follow dance fitness inspired by musicals from stage and screen.
Both classes are suitable for all fitness levels, with no experience needed. £7 per class or both for £11.
Bookings: https://gymcatch.com/app/provider/11743

Matwork Pilates - Fridays in the Hall
Is anyone interested in a Matwork Pilates course in the Autumn term run by a Women's Health Physio? I have a couple of spaces left.
Term time Fridays in West Hendred Village Hall.
1) 10:30-11:30 (1hr)- female only, or
2) 12:40-1:25 (45minutes) - mixed gender
Start date: 11th Sept, End date: 11th December
Note: there are no classes on 23rd and 30th October over half term. Total number of classes 12.
Cost: 12 X £11 = £132. Text or email me if you would like to find out more. Emma Marsh
Emma@womensphysiotherapy.co.uk
https://www.womensphysiotherapy.co.uk/about

Dog training classes at West Hendred Village Hall
Training Foundations take place on **Tuesdays, 6:30–7:30pm** and are suitable for puppies and dogs of all ages once fully vaccinated. **£160 for an 8 week block.**
Starting **Monday 19th October**, we are also offering a new **Introduction to Scent Detection** course, running **6:00–7:30pm** for **6 weeks. This course is £160**. Each dog works individually, so dogs must be able to **settle calmly in the car between their turns**.
1-to-1 training sessions are also available for more tailored support with your dog's individual training needs.
To book, please contact Krissy on **07809 283700** or **admin@krissyscanines.co.uk**
Come along, have fun and enjoy learning with your dog!

Springline Singers Thursdays 7.30-9.30pm
Springline Singers, your community choir, welcomes anyone who loves to sing.
We sing a range of music from pop to folk, spirituals to classical.
Come and join us at West Hendred Village Hall on Thursdays at 7:30-9:30pm.

Yoga at West Hendred Village Hall
Gentle / Chair Yoga
Tuesdays 10 – 11 am (on Zoom)
Wednesdays 10 – 11am
Hatha Yoga
Wednesdays 4.30 – 5.45pm; Thursdays 9.30 – 10.45 am
Please contact me for further information on 01235 863647 or linda@soderstrom.myzen.co.uk
Not sure if yoga is for you? Contact me and arrange for a free trial lesson.
Linda Davey – British Wheel of Yoga Teacher and Yoga Therapist / Yoga in Healthcare Alliance

Village Hall Contacts: Hugh Rees (Chair) 01235-833174 / 07802-416031, Stefan Povolotsky 07460-727374