

Like everyone, Childrey residents pay a small element of their council tax bill as a village “precept”; money that does not go to the county for redistribution like the main bill, but is used to fund parish spending for the benefit of local residents. In Childrey our precept last year was £50 for a house falling in to Band D Council Tax (which is treated as the average).

This year the precept raised £12,200. Total expenditure will be £14,500 leaving a £2,300 deficit.

The deficit this financial year (FY) means the total balance in the PC’s accounts brought forward at the start of the next FY will be significantly less than one’s years expenditure. The PC is subject to a rule that says it must maintain a balance of reserves of between three and 12 months’ expenditure. To put that in context, on present income we expect that at the end of FY23/24 the balance in reserve will be £4,900 less than our expenditure. Rising inflation and costs, combined with no new precept income (see later), is the issue.

So what does the PC pay for?

Grass cutting across the village and its environs, your newsletter, maintenance of village assets, insurance, legally-required independent auditing, support for the village hall, VAT of course and, finally, the salaries of our parish Clerk and our finance officer (these are set by national government not by the PC). Then there are individual items which, this year, have included emergency tree work and small contributions to village events like the wonderful Jubilee party (and our financial forecasts do not include any of these “extra” things). Parish councillors are unpaid volunteers, of course.

One of the things we love about Childrey is it’s a small, unspoilt village. However, there’s a downside to this. The amount a village raises from its precept is heavily dependent on how many properties it has. So new houses being built, or the presence of dense housing such as a retirement village, leads to a much larger income and can off-set inflationary costs. Childrey builds almost no new houses and doesn’t have any dense housing.

All this means that to continue to be able to undertake services on behalf of parishioners, and avoid breaching the rules, the PC needs to raise the precept in Childrey.

The PC is proposing to raise the precept by £15 a year for a Band D property.

Whilst £15 a year doesn’t sound much, it will secure the village’s finances in the year ahead and, barring exceptional circumstances, the one after that too.

We all love living here, but keeping our village maintained happens thanks to this small budget.

Councillors want to hear your views so please email clerk.childreypc@aol.co.uk

Childrey & Sparsholt Newsletter

October 2023



The Griffin Memorial Hall.
Sparsholt



Childrey Village Hall

www.childreyandsparsholt.org

email address for newsletter articles

clerk.childreypc@aol.com

By 9th of October for November newsletter please

Chat from the Clerk

The next **Childrey Parish Council Meeting** will be held on Monday 16th October 2023 starting at 7.30pm in Childrey Village Hall.

clerk.childreyipc@aol.co.uk

The next **Sparsholt Parish Council Meeting** will be held on Monday 2nd October 2023 in Griffin Memorial Hall starting at 7.30pm.

clerk.sparsholtipc@aol.co.uk

Please check the Childrey, Sparsholt and Westcot website or village notice boards for information.

[Childrey, Sparsholt & Westcot, Oxfordshire | A noticeboard for our villages \(childreyandsparsholt.org\)](http://childreyandsparsholt.org)

Clerk to both Parish Councils Debbie Lewis-Pryde 01235 751923.

Agendas will be posted on both the website and the Village notice boards. Both Parish Councils reserve the right to change the meeting dates, times and venues – please always check the notice board for correct information – Agendas are published three clear working days before each Parish Council meeting. Also Planning meetings will be inserted periodically to allow the Parish Council to discuss and respond before the VOWHDC deadlines and the Agenda will be published on the notice board three clear working days prior to the meeting. Planning applications can be viewed on the VOWHDC planning register.

If you notice any potholes, overgrown footpaths or verges or any other Highways issues please report to the “fixmystreet” website. Highways respond quicker to the problems that have the most logs on their site and include photographs.

Please DO NOT wait for a parish Council meeting to report Highways issues.

CHILDREY WELFARE TRUST

Are you struggling to pay your bills with the cost of living increase?

Childrey Welfare Trust may be able to help.

The Trust is a charity which aims to help inhabitants of the village in financial hardship.

To apply for help please contact Sarah Noviss on 751435 or email sarahnoviss@hotmail.co.uk.

All applications will be treated in complete confidentiality by the trustees. More information about the Childrey Welfare Trust can be found on the village website.

www.childrey.org.uk.

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www.thechildreypactice.co.uk

Searle School of Motoring

My name is David Searle and I am a Childrey based Driving Instructor offering professional and patient tuition to new learners. I also provide refresher courses and motorway experience for those who have already passed their test but want to build up their experience and skills. I cover a wide area surrounding Wantage, Grove, the villages and beyond. I am a DBS checked and DVSA approved Driving Instructor. I am also a member of the Institute of Advanced Motorists.

I am very proud to say that my first time pass rate for learners is 80% - the national average is 47%

I have now started tuition for those wanting to learn how to tow a trailer. This is aimed at beginners or those that just need more confidence with manoeuvring/parking etc.

Tel: 07747 630 202
Email: davemsearle@aol.com
Google Search: Searle School of Motoring
Website: www.davidsearledrivingsschool.co.uk


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Childrey Parish Council

Advice to those with planning approval and their contractors.

There are few large developments within Childrey, however those residents who have building companies engaged to deliver their works should follow the guidelines laid out in the VWHDC website.

These are broadly define working hours as

- 7.30am to 6pm from Monday to Friday
- 8am to 1pm on Saturdays
- no noisy works on Sundays and Bank Holidays

The use of radios and other media players should not affect the properties around you.

Parking in Childrey is difficult and the parking of contractors' vans should not block access to neighbours' properties or block narrow roads.

Dust and waste materials should be kept under control and not be allowed to litter the area outside the construction site.

The rules on noise disturbance do not apply to DIY building works however please take sensible precautions to minimise any complaints from neighbours by:

- Apologising to them in advance for any disturbance caused by DIY.
- Tell them what it is you're doing. Try to agree times of work. Often neighbours will tolerate more disturbance for a short period if they know the work will be finished sooner.
- Think about your neighbour's circumstances. Do they have young children who go to bed early during the week? If so, negotiate to work longer during the weekend so as to minimise disturbance.
- Remember, at some stage your neighbour may wish to undertake DIY works you can hardly expect to be shown some consideration if you've ignored your neighbour's views!

Childrey Parish Council

Formally agreed at the Parish Council meeting on Monday 11th September 2023

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info@thechildreycellar.com

Childrey and District Tuesday Club

We have some changes coming up to our published programme, starting on 3rd October when we shall have Hayley Thorne talking to us on Scam Awareness, sadly a very relevant subject in today's climate. And then we have an additional meeting to put into your diaries in December on the 5th when we have a return visit from 'Simply Singing' who are going to entertain us with carols and Christmas songs, which will be followed by a Festive buffet lunch, prepared once again by Rose Rea.

In between these meetings we have our November meeting on 7th, of course, which is still in the planning process, followed by the Christmas shopping trip to Cardiff on 28th November. The coach will leave from the village hall at 8.45 and return from Cardiff at 4pm. There are still a couple of vacant seats and Maureen Thomas is the person to speak to for more information 01235 751651.

Come and join us - we always have a good time.

Jenny O'Hara

01235 772502

Ridgeway Baby Group

The Ridgeway Baby Group began in May 2021 as a support group for new mums and first babies born during the COVID pandemic and since that time we have welcomed over 25 babies, their mums, dads and carers to weekly sessions in the Methodist Church in Childrey. Since then, those original babies have grown into energetic and delightful toddlers (and some have welcomed new siblings) and we have seen a second group arrive as tiny babies and watch their development with joy. Now those babies, and some of our stalwart volunteers, are moving on to other activities and so it seems the right time to draw our sessions to a close. Thank you to all those who have contributed in so many ways: to the volunteers, to the Methodist Church and, of course, to the parents, carers and babies. It has been a joy to spend this precious time together.

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XMAS ARTS & CRAFT SALE
in aid of Breast Cancer Charity
CHILDREY VILLAGE HALL
SATURDAY 11TH NOVEMBER
10AM – 2PM



CHRISTMAS GIFTS*CARDS*PRINTS*
LUCKY DIP*THE BODY SHOP*
CAKES*GIFT LABELS*WOODEN
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SJS St James Singers
presents

**ON LAND
& SEA**

*A selection of songs and poems contrasting
the land and the sea*

7.30 pm Saturday 14th October
St Mary's Church, Childrey



There will be a
retiring collection
for the Christina
Noble Children's
Foundation



NEWS FROM ST MARY'S

For more details about any of the items in this news article, please talk to Linda or Paul – contact details below.*

Music in St Mary's

We had a wonderful evening with **Ninebarrow** in September – if you enjoyed their music, they have a new album. You can find out more about it and them on their website: <https://www.ninebarrow.co.uk>

Next, we are looking forward to welcoming Mike Jones and the **St James Singers** for a concert in St Mary's on **Sat 14th October at 7.30**. Admission is free but the concert is to raise money for **The Christina Noble Foundation** <https://www.cncf.org>. The Foundation provides education, healthcare and community development humanitarian services to vulnerable and destitute children and their families and poor rural communities in Vietnam and Mongolia. The charity has been chosen because we have a Childrey link with their work through Miranda Marsh.

St Mary's Churchyard Trees

Back in the summer, we commissioned a **tree survey** of the churchyard. We now have a detailed plan of all the trees in the grounds with lots of information about their condition and species. We are planning an **event in the churchyard in the Autumn** so people can discover and identify the various trees and also get to work removing some of the unwanted ivy from the trunks! Coffee and cake and some children's activities will be involved. Please contact Linda* if you are interested or want to know more. Dates and times will be posted on social media and put up on the village noticeboards.

'Eco Churchyard'

A reminder that if you are attending to family graves please use the compost heap only for plant-based waste and **use the bin provided for non-recyclable waste**.

Church Services in Childrey

- 1st Sunday 8.30am Said Communion in St Mary's
- 2nd Sunday 11am Service in the Methodist Church
- 3rd Sunday 10.15am Communion with Hymns
- 4th Sunday 11am Service in the Methodist Church



Beautiful Wedding Flowers in the church.

Congratulations to all the couples married in St Mary's this summer, come rain or shine on the day!

Reading Partners at King Alfred's – Update

The Reading Partners scheme restarted at the end of September, and the volunteers are just catching up with their training. It's not too late to join the team so do get in touch if you would like to know more about supporting the youngest pupils at King Alfred's with their reading. This is the latest from Alice Visser who leads the programme at the school: *Once again we had fabulous results in 22-23 with the Reading Partners cohort. These students made on average 17 months progress over the period when they received support from you, which is about 3 times the amount of progress as the cohort as a whole. Equally important to the attainment progress is the change in reading attitudes and motivation that we saw amongst so many of the students you worked with; most of these students used to say 'I hate reading' or 'I'm not a reader', but they changed their self-perceptions and gained confidence through the Reading Partners sessions.*

Save the Dates!

Childrey **Christmas Festival Weekend** will be from **Fri 8th– Sun 10th Dec** with a **Christmas Tree Festival** in St Mary's on **Sat 9th 2.30-6pm**.

Keep up to date with us on social media and look out for our posters.

<https://www.facebook.com/StMarysChildrey>

instagram: [stmaryschildrey](https://www.instagram.com/stmaryschildrey)

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com>

**Linda*

lindasoames7@outlook.com

Tel: 751297 or 07766 794704

**Paul (churchwarden)*

pbeacon@hotmail.co.uk

07791 026332