

THE APPLETON WITH EATON

AUGUST 2026
NUMBER 708

Advertiser

PRODUCED BY THE CHURCH FOR THE COMMUNITY



FUN DOG SHOW

TO RAISE FUNDS FOR VILLAGE ORGANIZATIONS

.....
MONDAY 31ST AUGUST * 2 TO 5 PM

GATES OPEN 1.30PM • FIRST CLASS AT 2.00PM

APPLETON SPORTSFIELD

.....
🐕 BARBEQUE 🐕 ICE CREAM 🐕 BEER
TREASURE MAP 🐕 FAVOURS AUCTION
🐕 WINE 🐕 SOFT DRINKS 🐕 & MORE

.....
FREE ENTRY DONATIONS MUCH APPRECIATED
PLEASE BRING CASH AS CARD PAYMENTS MAY NOT WORK

.....
SCAN THE QR CODE TO DOWNLOAD AN ENTRY FORM
PRINTED VERSION AVAILABLE IN VILLAGE SHOP



Getting in on the sister act

I have always had a soft spot for nuns, even before I fell in love with one. (It's a long story, and you'll have to wait. She was young, beautiful, Italian. I was none of those things. It was never going anywhere.) In the Church we fondly make fun of nuns as women who fuss, mothering the clergy and putting labels on everything. In the media they are either the (in some tragic cases genuinely) wicked tyrants of girls' schools and worse, or they are presented more probably as just a bunch of lumpy women, intrinsically risible, who looked a whole lot better and more dignified before they gave up their habits and wimples back in the 1960s.

To people like us (you know, realists, grown-ups, people with smart phones and stuff) nuns are too weird for words. They have promised obedience, giving up their own career plans and preferring to fulfil the needs of a religious community, dedicating their whole life and youth and strength to heaven knows what menial tasks and unglamorous people. Then there's the poverty. They don't do that allegedly womanliest of things, spending hours in shops looking at clothes they don't buy, before adding to their stock of optimistically tiny dresses, as they finally grab one in a mad impulsive rush to quit the Bicester Village and find the A34 to be home in time for their husband, and a bottle of something chilled.

And then (oh we can't escape it) there's the whole sex thing. We live in an age that's permanently on heat, in a mad narcotic binge of lurid images and tired titillation. Our society is just mad for it: downloading the lives we think we want, endlessly chasing sex and celebrity, when what we've needed all along is love. In saying 'No thanks!' to all of this, nuns are signalling something deep about human dignity in general, and the dignity of women in particular. They are staking out a precious place of freedom: freedom to be themselves; freedom from the straight-jacket of other people's expectations; and freedom to rise above the petty slaveries of a society that so easily confuses value with consumption.

I saw some nun-friends in London recently. Dwindling in number, they have moved out of their massive convent into a three-bedroom semi, keeping only their chapel and working in the old-people's home they've run for decades. They look every inch a failure, living a life which seems to have had its day as many of its once-natural candidates opt for careers and same-sex marriage. And good luck to those who make that perfectly coherent choice. But as the fashionable dash off for summer breaks in exotic locations, we might remember those who think differently, who turn their backs on the stuff we're taught to crave, as they gamble their entire life on the one simple bet that God's promises might just be true.

Wealands Bell

Grant available for local school leavers

If you previously attended Appleton Primary School, live in the parishes of Appleton with Eaton or Besselsleigh, and are leaving secondary education this summer, you may be eligible for a grant of £100 towards university books or tools for an apprenticeship.

To make an application, please send an email with details of your proposed course or training to Mrs Sue Halliday, Clerk of the Appleton Trust:
ClerkAppletonTrust@yahoo.com

Heritage Weekend

Following a very successful event last year, The Friends of Abingdon are organising another Heritage Weekend on 19-20 September. This year's theme is "The history of everyday working life" and we will have pictures and real-life stories of the changes Abingdon people have seen over the past 200 years. With several exhibitions and around 10 "Open Doors" properties this promises to be a great event - and it will be free for all the family. The full programme, which will be updated as new events are included, can be seen at <https://www.abingdonheritage.org.uk/>



A New Venture for Appleton Baby and Toddler Group

After our summer break, the Appleton Baby & Toddler Group is delighted to announce a new community initiative starting from the first session of the new term on:

Friday 4th September at 9.30am in the Village Hall.

We will be welcoming **members of the village community** to join us for **coffee, chat, and a fun, relaxed morning** alongside parents, carers, grandparents, and their under 5s.

Whether you have little ones or simply enjoy being part of village life, you're warmly invited

to come along, connect with others, and share in the friendly atmosphere.

This new venture aims to bring generations together and strengthen community ties. We look forward to seeing familiar faces—and hopefully some new ones too.

Louise Russell

Email appletontots@gmail.com

Green Appleton Repair Cafe

in the Village Hall
10am – 1pm
15th August



- * Sharpening * Garments**
- * Small Electricals**
- * General Repairs**

Free Tea and Cake

Bike Advice

Come and feel the buzz!

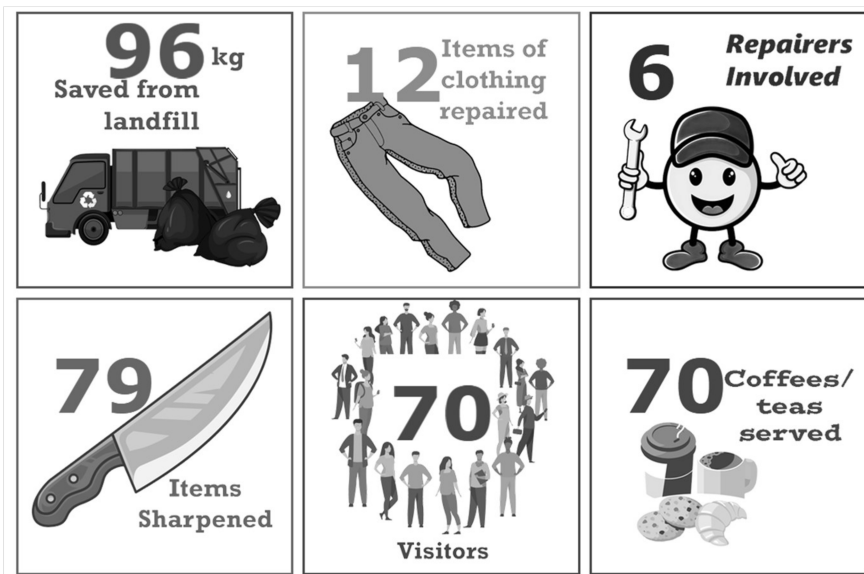
Dates for your diaries:

* We are holding our AGM on Thursday 13th August, 7.30pm at 66 Netherton Road. It has been another busy year and we'd love more of you to be involved. You are all very welcome.

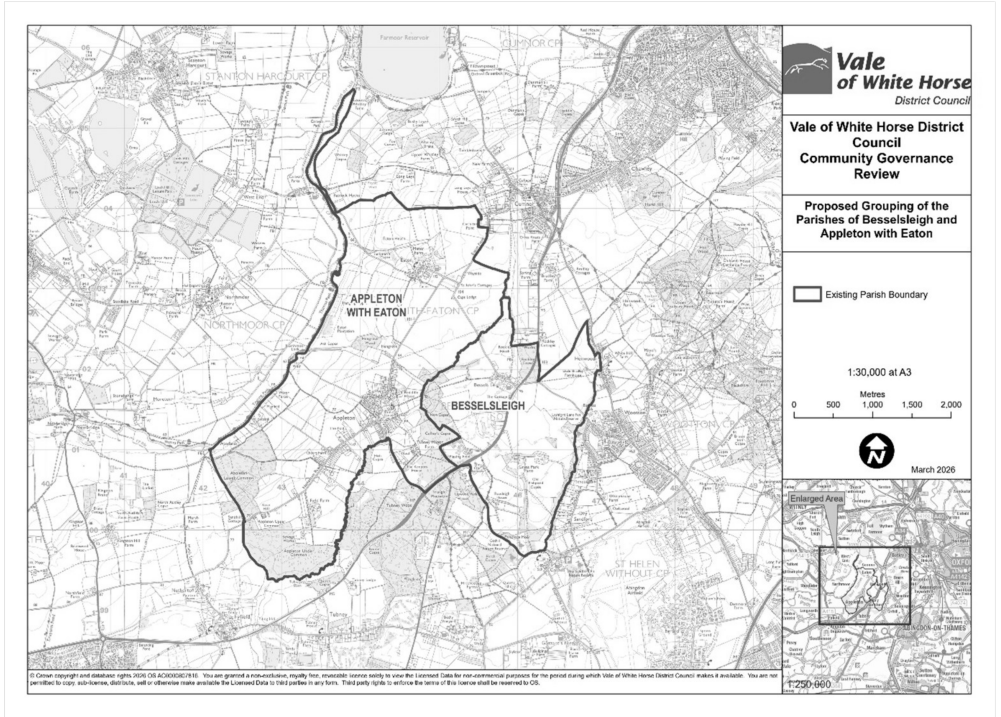
* Our next Repair Cafe will be on Saturday 15th August, at the Village Hall, 10-1. We look forward to seeing you there. Please see our poster.

We'd like to say a huge thank you to those who joined us in Besselsleigh Woods to do some Himalayan balsam pulling. Thank you also to Earth Trust for organising working parties during the day. We've noticed that the amount of balsam has significantly reduced to the right of the path against the stream. Of course, this is an ongoing problem and we'll be asking for volunteers next year.

Here are the statistics for our repair cafe at school on 6th June. We'd like to say thank you to Appleton school for kindly hosting again. We look forward to running more cafes there in the future. As always, a huge thank you to our magnificent repairers. Knife sharpening continues to be our most popular offering. Roger has suggested that we should be succession planning so if anyone out there wants to learn the skill, do let us know. We can offer training. It would be a shame not to be able to offer this service in the future.



News from Appleton with Eaton Parish Council (AWEPC): Proposed Grouping of AwE and Besselsleigh Parishes



The Vale of White Horse District Council's consultation is now closed. The District Council will be collating all feedback received and produce a summary report. The report will be presented to the council's Community Governance and Electoral Issues Committee on 1 October 2026. The Committee will consider the responses and decide whether to adopt the proposed changes to community governance.

We are aiming to implement any changes agreed so that they can be applied in time for the May 2027 elections. More information is available on our website: whitehorsedc.gov.uk/community-governance-review.

Local Government Reorganisation

As you may be aware, the government has announced that, from 1 April 2028, the seven existing councils in Oxfordshire will be replaced by three new unitary councils. The full details of the three-council proposal can be found on [3councils.org](https://www.3councils.org). More information is given on p16

MP Charlie Maynard made an impromptu visit to the village in July to hear any comments from residents and the Parish Council will be looking to have him come back for a planned meeting so more residents can come and raise any views.

AWEPC will continue to inform residents as we have more information, especially as to how this will affect parish councils.

Pavilion Update

- The Pavilion Working Group has been working hard behind the scenes! A few upgrades are imminent:
- Wi-Fi is now installed and set up nearly completed.
 - A new oil tank to be installed. The Council has received a grant to cover most of this cost.
 - A new boiler is to be installed.

The Council has applied to the Vale of White Horse Climate Action Fund for partial funding (they only offer up to £10,000) of an upgrade of the windows and doors.

There has been much interest in the Sportsfield and the Pavilion recently which is exciting. We will be looking at fundraising efforts and further grants and will keep you informed as these occur.

Memorial Bench

The bench outside of the village shop needs replacing and AWEPC is considering a new memorial bench to replace it. If anyone is interested in donating a bench and/or a plaque, please contact the Clerk.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on the
14th September, 7:15pm, Appleton Village Hall.
All are welcome!

Allison Leigh, Parish Clerk
07767 596 650 / parishclerk@appleton-eaton-pc.gov.uk

Appleton Chapel

Sun 9th Aug 3:00pm	Family Service followed by refreshments
Tues 11th Aug 7.30pm	Heart to Heart healing forum
Tues 18th Aug 7.00pm	Sausage sizzle, salad, drinks and games
Thurs 27th Aug 7.00pm	Applejack Club
Dr Ken Stallard	01235 868304

Appleton School

End of Year Message from Governors

Dear Parents, Carers, and members of our School Community,

As the summer holidays draw near, governors would like to share our reflections on the 2025-26 school year.

This year has been significant in the life of Appleton School. In our school vision, we invite our pupils to build wisely for life. As governors, we have witnessed a whole-school effort toward laying increasingly aspirational foundations, rebuilding relationships, strengthening our sense of school community and celebrating the fabric – our wonderful pupils and staff – of Appleton School. We would like to acknowledge the enormous role that our Head Teacher – Mr Zaheer Ahmed – has had in this rebuilding and regenerating process. In conversations with pupils, we have heard how quickly this year has flown. This speaks volumes to the happy and vibrant culture that our leadership team and staff have cultivated. And, it also calls us to acknowledge the incredible changes that have been implemented over a single year under Mr Ahmed's leadership.

For governors, points for celebration include: the number of sporting opportunities our pupils have enjoyed this year, the focus on active breaks and lunch periods, strengthened connections with the community (for example, the combined School and Church Christmas Fayre and collaborations with Green Appleton), the growth in extracurricular after-school clubs (many of which have been led by our wonderful teachers), all of the improvements to the school site, the receipt of funding for an Enhanced Provision Pathway, the refinement of our strategic development plan and progress toward each of our school priorities (around leadership, pupil outcomes, curriculum and relationships), the appointment of our School Business Manager (Lisa Lee), and the positive trajectory of responses on staff, parent and pupil voice surveys.

Governors have taken our school values seriously – asking challenging questions with *respect* and taking *responsibility* for monitoring curriculum, SEND and inclusion, safeguarding, pupil outcomes, staff wellbeing, parent and pupil voice. At each governing board meeting, we have also emphasised and modelled kindness even, and indeed especially, during the more challenging conversations. The decisions to reduce our pupil admission number (PAN) and combine classes from September were recognised as necessary to ensuring the continued success of the school, the balancing of our school budget, and the best possible outcomes for our present and future pupils. And yet, despite ultimately recognising their necessity, we did not make these decisions without a careful and thoughtful process in which we tabled alternatives, asked and re-asked questions, and reflected on longer-term consequences. We are confident that the changes that have been made are wise and will pave the way for longer-term stability for our pupils and the school.



We would like very sincerely to thank our school leadership team, our wonderful teachers and teaching assistants, and all of the support staff. Your collaboration, creativity and care for each pupil make Appleton School a very special place. We have come away from every governor monitoring visit feeling inspired and deeply thankful for the work that you do.

Sadly, we are saying farewell to staff members who leave a profound impact on the pupils they have worked with. We extend heartfelt thanks to: Miss Swan for nurturing the pupils in Year 1 over the last two years, Mrs McLauchlan who has been our Assistant Head and Year 6 teacher this year, ensuring our pupils leave with wonderful memories of their final year at Appleton School, Miss Bradbook and Mrs Butler both of whom have been valued teaching assistants forging strong relationships with individual pupils and class groups, and Emily Payne who has held many roles in the school including supporting pupils in the classroom and at after-school club, and preparing delicious school lunches. We wish all of you the very best in your next steps. Finally, a very big thank you to Mr Ahmed. You have achieved so much in your year at Appleton School. It has been a pleasure to govern alongside you and we are thankful for your transparency, expertise, enthusiasm, can-do approach, and deep commitment to our school. You will be missed.

Finally, we would like to wish teachers, staff, pupils and their families a very safe, happy and rejuvenating summer break. We would like particularly to extend warmest wishes to our Year 6 pupils. We hope you have a happy, celebratory, reflective end to your time at Appleton School. We wish you the very best for your next steps and for gentle and positive transitions to secondary school. We hope that you will carry happy memories from your time at Appleton School and that you will take with you a deeply-engrained determination always to build wisely for life.

With best wishes,

Appleton School Governors



Appleton WI

Our August meeting is our picnic and fundraiser. We are invited to the garden of Ros, our president, at 66 Netherton Road, at 2pm on Thursday, 20th August. We are asked to bring a bottle for the tombola, and to park on the road. There will be a £5 charge.

The title of the talk in September is Reducing the Risk, and is a fundraiser for Women's aid, a great charity. The competition is A Thing of Beauty.

At the Sports field event on 31st August we shall be running a stall, so do come along and support us.

Elaine Flint

EVERGREEN CLUB

Our next meeting will be on Friday 14th August at 2pm. Oxfordshire Museum will be reminding us about 'A Trip to the Seaside' when we were young!!

August 2026 Appleton Community Shop news

School holidays

The 3-4pm slot on school days is our busiest time of the day (along with the mid-morning sausage-roll rush!), and we'll miss seeing everyone after school throughout the August holidays. But don't forget us, as we are still here for ice creams, sweets, fruit treats and drinks, along with the other necessities to see you through the summer holidays.

Shop cover during holidays

We rely on our lovely volunteers to man the tills, and know that holiday season is upon us (throughout August and September), so please do watch out for calls to cover slots when someone is away.

Summer reading

Did you know that we have a book swap in the shop? A perfect place to deposit books that you have read and enjoyed, and to pick up some summer reading!



Summer Shop opening hours

Monday-Friday: 7am–6pm

Saturday: 8am–3pm (extended summer opening through August)

Sunday: 8am–12noon

Post office Mondays and Thursdays, 9am–1pm

Shop telephone: 01865 863191

Email: appletonship@gmail.com

Follow us: <https://www.facebook.com/appletoncommunityshop>

Shop monthly turnover			
	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
May	£27,718	£26,869	£26,316
June	£28,268	£28,376	£27,079
July	£30,582	£27,256	
Aug	£25,678	£24,839	
Sept	£25,345	£23,608	
Oct	£26,522	£25,290	
Nov	£26,224	£24,547	
Dec	£26,525	£24,005	
Jan	£23,937	£ 24,055	
Feb	£22,477	£21,380	
March	£25,360	£26,058	
April	£24,843	£24,801	

appleton
village
cinema

MAMMA MIA!

[PG] 2008
108 MINUTES

FREE

Bring chairs, rugs.
In the village hall
if wet.

**The Plough
garden
Sun 30 August
8pm**

Appleton with Eaton Tennis Club

Club Tournament Finals Day 2026

Congratulations to all those who played in our club tournament finals at the end of June. There was some fantastic tennis on display and a lot of support from the sidelines, despite the extremely hot weather. Thank you to everyone who helped make the day a success. We are especially grateful to Andrew and Adrian for their excellent barbecue skills, and to everyone who volunteered to umpire. Do consider entering the tournament next year as it could be you playing on finals day!

Men's Singles

Paul L beat Paul M 6-3, 6-1

Men's Singles Consolation

Adrian W beat Mark M 6-3, 6-0

Men's Doubles

Paul L & John P beat Graham & Paul H
6-4, 6-3

Ladies Singles

Lucy beat Rochelle 6-2, 6-1

Ladies Doubles

Lucy & Aileen beat Jill & Tracey 6-4, 6-1

Mixed Doubles

Rochelle & John beat Emily & Steve 6-2, 6-4

Autumn 2026 Junior Tennis Coaching Booking Information

Bookings for the Autumn term will officially open on the club website on **August 16th, 2026**.

Please note that several coaching sessions during the previous term reached maximum capacity and operated with waiting lists. Places are limited, and registration will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis once the booking page goes live.

Term Dates and Schedule

Start Dates: Thursday, September 10th or Friday, September 11th, 2026 (depending on the assigned coaching group).

End Date: Friday, December 11th, 2026.

Half-Term: There will be no coaching sessions during the half-term week on **October 29th and 30th**.

Important Requirements & Credits

Club Membership: All junior participants must be active club members to attend coaching sessions. Membership is available either as an individual Junior Membership or as part of a Family Membership. To apply or renew, please contact John Stedman at appletonwithheatontennisclub@gmail.com.

Account Credits: Any outstanding credits from cancelled summer coaching sessions can be applied as a discount towards the Autumn term payment.

For queries regarding group placements or scheduling, please contact Andrew Bowen, Volunteer Junior Coaching Online Co-ordinator through the website.

Weekly adult coaching sessions and cardio tennis

These sessions are expected to restart in early September – date to be announced.

Membership

If you would like to join our friendly tennis club, please email us on appletonwithheatontennisclub@gmail.com or turn up at one of our club sessions (Saturdays 10 am-12.30pm, Wednesday 7-9 pm, or Thursday 1.30-3.30 pm). You can see our membership fees on our website under the “Join us” tab.

For more information on tennis club events, coaching or membership see:
<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/AppletonwithEatonTennisClub/> or email us on: appleton-withheatontennisclub@gmail.com



The Comet Minibus

Now running on Tuesday mornings

From early July, the Comet minibus now runs from Appleton via Fyfield to Abingdon, ON TUESDAY MORNINGS

Leaving Appleton at 10am and Fyfield at 10.10am.

Return from Abingdon at 1pm.

We have made the change in response to requests from users.

All we ask is that passengers donate £3.00 for each return journey, for which there is a money box kept by the PO counter.

For more information, please contact Mary on 07812 354496

Appleton Trust Hardship Fund

The Appleton Trust has some funds available to help those individuals or families in immediate hardship with no other means of support.

Please apply to the Trust Clerk by email at

ClerkAppletonTrust@yahoo.com

Or Mrs Sue Halliday at 12, Netherton Road

The Appleton Trust takes your privacy very seriously and will not pass your personal details on to anyone

Making Room for Nature: Micro Habitats in Urban Areas



You may think nature only thrives in big reserves. But it also squeezes into the cracks and corners of our urban environments.

So, whether that's a garden, a balcony, a windowsill, or just the wall of your home, there's always room for a splash of green amongst the urban landscapes.

Mini habitats - what's in the name?

In ecology, a "microhabitat" is a small area with its own unique environment that differs from the surrounding habitat. But you may know them by a different name.

Mini ponds, bee hotels, and even bird boxes, each creating a quiet refuge for the creatures sharing our built landscape (just remember that bird feeders in warmer months increase the risk of disease in birds). These small sanctuaries carry real ecological weight.

Never underestimate the power of cumulative effect: each species, no matter how small, has a part to play in all ecosystems.

The key benefits of micro habitats include:

- Attracting insects that play a role in pollination.
- Storing moisture and regulating temperature
- Breaking down organic matter

Walls

Urban walls can host a surprising range of ecological functions.

Living walls are particularly beneficial to local wildlife. These vertical green sites,

formed of flowering climbers and wall mounted planters, can attract bees, hoverflies and other pollinators.

Micro planters and crevice habitats, which are small pockets of soil, stacked tiles, logs with holes, stone crevices or even swift bricks attached or built into walls, create nesting and overwintering sites for solitary bees and beetles.

Water

Water sources such as ponds or streams with natural features are ideal, but rare in highly urban areas. But artificial water sources such as birdbaths or rainwater pools/ponds can still support amphibians, insects, birds, and mammals while contributing to local microclimate regulation.

For example, a recent study in the *Journal of Urban Ecology* found that urbanised aquatic microhabitats, such as water-filled tree holes and other small standing waters in cities, create “unique but inconspicuous” breeding habitats for a range of insects.

Gardens

Gardens are probably the first green space that comes to mind when discussing microhabitats. And that’s because even small spaces can support many microhabitats due to the varying environments and features which can be created within them. Gardens are a mosaic of interconnected micro-ecosystems within one space.

But when discussing our urban environments, rewilding towns and cities might sound like something left to greater powers, such as your local council, but in fact, urbanisation doesn’t need to mean a loss of biodiversity.

You don’t need a large rural garden to support nature – urban gardens are becoming ever increasingly vital passages in our increasingly fragmented country.

These small patches of green can become a wildlife sanctuary surprisingly easily: try growing as many different types of plants as you can, including native species, and provide natural food sources. And importantly, let nature do its work!

Sometimes, the best thing you can do is simply step back and leave a corner (or two!) undisturbed. For example, fallen or stacked

logs and retaining piles of leaves and wood chip can serve as habitat for insects, fungi, amphibians, reptiles and small mammals.





Oxfordshire and West Berkshire councils submitted three different proposals for local government reorganisation to government in November 2025.

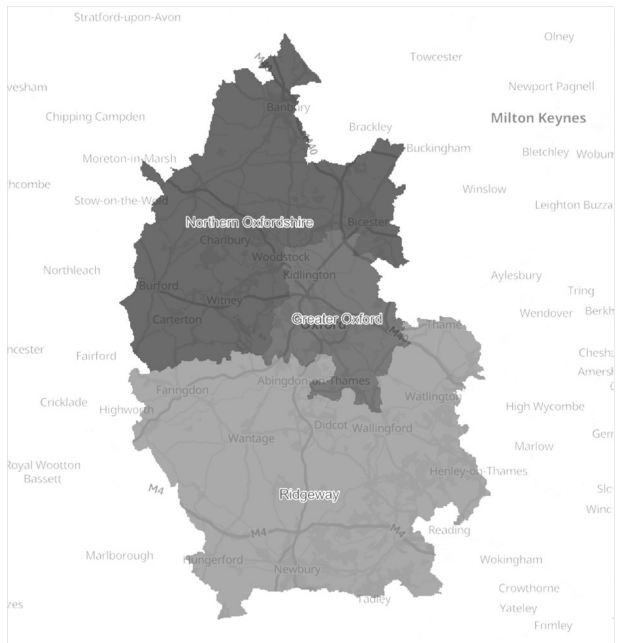
Following public consultation and assessment of the options, the government decided to proceed with the three-council model for Oxfordshire and West Berkshire.

The three new councils are:

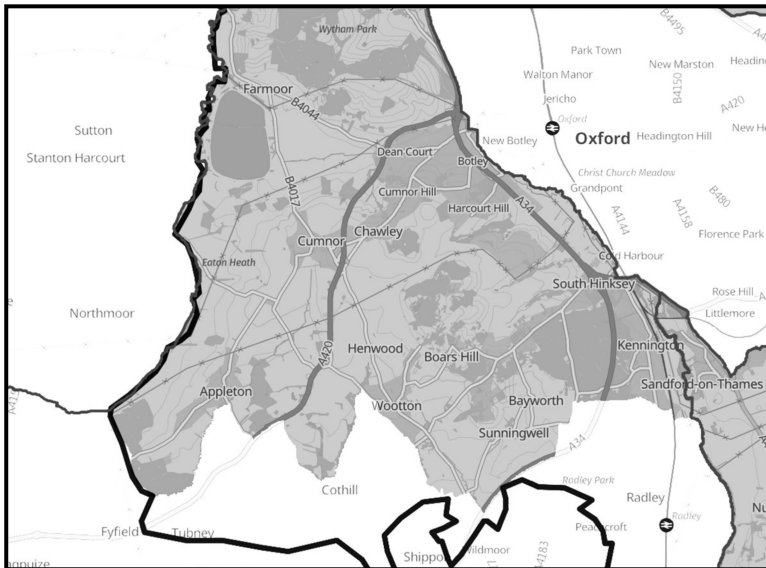
- **Greater Oxford Council** – covering Oxford and its immediate surroundings
- **Northern Oxfordshire Council** – covering most of the existing Cherwell and West Oxfordshire districts
- **Ridgeway Council** – covering most of the existing South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse districts combined with West Berkshire

Each council will be responsible for all council services in their area, including:

Social care	Bin collections
Housing	Street cleaning
Planning	Community centres
Transport	Leisure centres
Education	Libraries
Licensing	Parks



Appleton will become part of Greater Oxford, the area in grey on the map opposite. The thick black line is the boundary of the current Green Belt.



The change to the new council setup will follow a procedure established in other similar councils over the following timeline:

July to September 2026

The existing councils will continue working together.

Autumn 2026

The government will lay the legislation necessary to make the change. This is called the Structural Changes Order.

September 2026

Joint committees will be formed of councillors from existing councils to start preparing the transition to the new councils. They will be in place until May 2027.

May 2027

Elections are held for the new unitary councils. The newly elected are called the 'shadow authority' because they will run alongside the existing councils for a year.

May 2027 to end of March 2028

The new councils will set up everything they need to take on the running of services.

1 April 2028

The new unitary councils start running services on what is called vesting day.

Advertiser

Deadline for September issue:
19th August

Notices for village organisations

All printed copy to the editor - just post it through the letterbox—or by email to editor.advertiser@gmail.com before the deadline. Please email if you can!

No formal payment is required but we ask for a donation towards the running costs of the Advertiser: between £5-50 depending on the length and frequency of entries. Liaise with Wanda Todd to agree an appropriate donation.

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Please indicate whether you want (1) a display advert or (2) a listing. If you want a listing the charge is made per word so please either supply the text or say how many words. Note that payment is required in advance, and for long-term adverts we would like 3 months in advance.

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and sent to Wanda Todd, 12 Badswell Lane, Appleton OX13 5JN

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References available.

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Appleton Village Hall

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and wedding receptions.
www.appletonvillagehall.com



St. Laurence Church website
www.stlaurenceappleton.org

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NOTE: This newsletter is also available on
the Parish website. If you do not wish
your item to be displayed online, please
inform the Editor. All items are included in
good faith, and the Appleton with Eaton
Advertiser cannot take responsibility for
any content.

St Laurence Church
Appleton with Besselsleigh

SERVICES – AUGUST 2026

Sunday 2nd August	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP, said)
	10.00am	All-Age Pet Service: ‘Four Legs Good’ – a shorter service for families, to celebrate the love of our pets, no matter how many legs, fins and wings they have. Refreshments from 9.40am.
	5.30pm	Eucharist (said)
Sunday 9th	10.00am	Parish Eucharist and Patronal Festival of St Laurence with celebration drinks to follow
	5.30pm	Evensong (BCP, sung)
Sunday 16th	10.00am	Parish Eucharist (sung)
Sunday 23rd	10.00am	Parish Eucharist (sung)
	5.30pm	Evensong (BCP, sung)
Sunday 30th	10.00am	Parish Eucharist (sung)
Sunday 6th September	8.00am	Holy Communion (BCP, said)
	10.00am	Parish Eucharist (sung)

The Eucharist (Holy Communion) is celebrated every Wednesday at 10.00am
(a quiet, said service lasting 30 minutes)

See the website: www.stlaurenceappleton.org

The church is open every day from 9am to 5pm. **All are welcome** to visit.

Contact us:

For enquiries about baptisms, weddings, funerals, pastoral care and home visits,
please contact the Rector, The Revd Wealands Bell:

01865 599003, 07588 598277; stlau.rector@outlook.com

For matters concerning the church building and churchyard, please contact one of
the Churchwardens: Jane Cranston: 01865 863681; jane@cranstonjane.co.uk;

or Pete Day: 01865 862671; phm.day202@btinternet.com