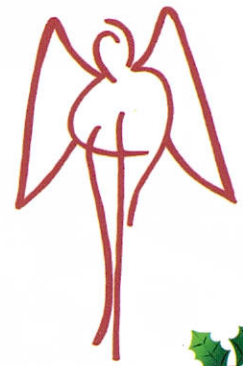


the guardian angel

your community's news & views



This publication is produced by a team at St. Michael & All Angels Parish Church, part of the Summertown-Wolvercote Church Partnership.

Summertown to London A new route!

The new Oxford Parkway service to London Marylebone, via Bicester Village, runs 2 trains an hour, starting at 5.42am on weekdays with the first off peak train at 9.22am.



The last trains leave London Monday to Saturday at 11.10pm and Sundays at 11.15pm. Journey times are just over the hour. The station sits adjacent to Water Eaton Park & Ride. There is a café with snacks and newspapers, open 5.30am-7pm, and a good platform lift, (if you can't manage the stairs).

The 500 bus to and from Oxford via Summertown meets all trains seven days a week, running every 15-20 minutes during the day; and now for the first time, this service extends to Oxford station. The stops are Harefields, Squitchey Lane and South Parade shops; the fare is £1.80 single and £2.60 return and up to 3 children under 16 are free with an adult. Car parking at the station, with spaces for over 800 cars, is only £2 for 11 hours and £4 for 24 hours - but beware traffic holdups getting there at peak times.

If you're cycling, there is constant traffic on and north of the Banbury Road roundabout and a cycle lane which merges with the pedestrian path well before the right turn into Parkway Station. A petition has been raised by Layla Moran for safer cycling lanes to the station. Walking enthusiasts should estimate around 35 minutes from Summertown shops, and 20 minutes or less for those living near the roundabout. In Spring 2016, the track from Parkway to Oxford Station will be connected. Future plans are to link the new mainline at Bicester Village with Milton Keynes, and who knows, the old Varsity line through to Cambridge might eventually run again!

www.parkandride.oxfordbus.co.uk

www.laylamoran.com/better_provision_for_cyclists

www.chilternrailways.co.uk

Seeking Safety: Asylum Seekers in Oxford

An asylum seeker is a person who has fled their home country because of persecution or fear of persecution. They are entitled to basic accommodation and minimum maintenance payments. The wait for their case to be considered could take a few weeks or many years. If they are considered to be a genuine asylum seeker, then they will be granted refugee status and the right to remain here. Then they will be eligible to work (asylum seekers aren't) but will lose their basic accommodation.

Refused asylum seekers have the right to appeal, and many such people are lodged in Campsfield House Immigration Removal Centre in Kidlington. If their appeal is refused they may be returned home, but many refused asylum seekers end up living rough, outside the system and reliant on charities and friends for help.

Asylum Welcome provide a range of services to



Food bank delivery

help clients cope with life in Oxfordshire. They run a food bank that had over 1,000 visits last year, and have volunteers to teach people English. There is also a team of volunteers who visit detainees in Campsfield House. They run a popular youth club, and a drop in centre for all ages where tea, coffee, books, toys, food and clothes are all available.

Kate Smart, Director of Asylum Welcome says "It can take years for people to feel that they have regained a "normal" life. But in my experience refugees are the last people to complain – they are overwhelmingly grateful to the UK for giving them a home and appreciate being somewhere safe". Kate Smart explains how local people can help: "Keep informed, ask politicians to support a fairer asylum system, become a member or supporter of Asylum Welcome, fundraise for us!"

www.asylum-welcome.org

Please email comments or contributions for the next edition of Guardian Angel to guardianangel.newsletter@gmail.com. or write to Summertown Church Hall, Portland Rd, OX2 7EZ.

The deadline date for the next edition is Feb 7th (2016); we look forward to hearing from you.

Dec 2015