

UPTON NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2004

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HAPPY FACES AT THE BUS STOP

Clare Lightfoot has pointed out that bus users and passers-by now have a bright new mural in the bus shelter. This is the handiwork of the First Upton and Blewbury Girl Guides, who use the village hall weekly in term time, to learn about being responsible citizens and do fun things like preparing for cook-outs in Mrs Potter's field.

Led by Guider Jane Kinneburgh, the troop of twenty 10-16 year-olds — from Upton and other villages — embarked on this community activity to qualify for Challenge badges; its aim was to develop teamwork and 'encourage them to think for themselves'. The planning took

a long time and the Parish Council saw various designs.

When they went shopping at B&Q, the cost of mixing limited the colour scheme to red, yellow and blue.

When everyone wanted hands-on with the gloss paint, the first session 'turned into a lesson in how not to do it'.

But the drips were sorted, and the circles clearly outlined in black. Finally, with the help of her mum, Eva Pappenheim (East Hendred), who has a steady hand, carefully added the smiling faces.

By the way, the bus shelter is 50 years old. Records show there was probably once a plaque reading:

'This shelter was presented to the village of Upton in memory of the late Miss Lucy Jane Linthwaite, for so many years a resident here, by her nephew, Sir Henry and Lady Braund. December 1954.'

Carol Hall

117 years ago

SEPTEMBER 11, 1887. Sunday: Lilian Ravening returned thanks for God's great mercy to her in saving her life when she fell down the well (70 feet deep) at Upton Station. (Excerpt from the diary of the Reverend Richard Hooper, Upton's first rector.)

LETTER from the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, Chilton

Last year you were kind enough to print details of our 'talking science' lecture programme. As a result the lectures were enjoyed by many first-time visitors to the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory. Enclosed are details of the first lectures in the new series.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Upton News is produced on behalf of the Parish Council, the Village Hall Amenities Trust, the Parochial Church Council and the Methodist Church. The aim is to cover village life in-the-round. To this end it would greatly help if more people put forward ideas to write about.

Friday 8 October 7pm

LET'S LOOK AT LIGHT — Bryson Gore will demonstrate that light travels in straight lines, but prisms, mirrors and lenses can change its direction. Ideas are combined to build a pinhole camera and a simple 'eye'. The nature of colour is also investigated. (Age 8+)

Friday 12 November 7pm PHYSICS v

SPORT. How does a pole-vaulter appear to break the laws of physics? How does spin help David Beckham to fool his opponents? How did technology affect British Olympic hopes for gold in Athens 2004? Taking advantage of the latest science and technology is all part of the search for the extra millimetre, or split second that can make the difference between Gold and Silver...but is it cheating? Dr David James will examine how the boundaries of human performance are being pushed. (Age 11+) Contact Lisa Faircloth on 445789 to book.

village diary

HARVEST SUPPER

A reminder that the Harvest Supper is being held in the Village Hall on Monday 4 October at 7pm

All are welcome

Come and make this a great village occasion.

Tickets £6 and £4 for under 12s, from Jessie West (851206), Helen Weston, Clare Lightfoot and Jane Smith. Proceeds for St. Mary's Church and Upton Methodist Church

VPA AUTUMN PRODUCE SHOW Saturday 11 September, Upton Methodist Hall, 2.30pm Prizes for heaviest tomatoes, etc. Photography, Cookery, Teas, Plant Stall, Auction. Karen Brooks (850219) has details.

CHRISTIAN AID SPONSORED WALKS have been arranged for Saturday 9 October. There is a choice of either five or ten miles, starting from Chilton Parish Church. Sponsorship forms are available for anyone interested in taking part. For forms and further information please ring Alec Chenery 850477.

TIDDLYWINKS parent and toddler group is moving from Tuesday lunchtimes to Thursday mornings from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Term starts on Thursday 9 September.

CHURCH SPECIAL

Curate's Jottings

I'm reading Raimond Gaita's *The Philosopher's Dog*. In it, he talks about the 'understanding of the heart as complementary to the 'understanding of the head.' It's not an idea that's very popular these days. If we can't analyse something, or write theories and papers about it, we don't think it's serious.

Gaita is talking about the heart-understanding we can reach through our relationships with other human beings and with animals. But what's 'heart-understanding'? I suppose it's the same kind of thing that St Augustine means when he talks about the profound spiritual lessons we can learn tending our gardens. Not lessons we can reduce to facts or written theories: but lessons nonetheless, through which we learn and grow.

My heart-lessons at the moment are coming mainly through teaching myself (achingly slowly) to play the piano. Ever so gradually, my fingers are beginning to learn the shapes of the various musical keys. Bit by bit, I'm managing to keep time and rhythm. And even though I'm only playing very simple ditties I'm getting to see them 'from the inside' rather than merely as an outside spectator.

I feel I'm learning a lot from all this. It's hard to put into words, but I'm understanding more about my mind and body working together; how tiredness and moods and emotions affect me; the necessity of patience, the futility of haste.

Russell Dewhurst

EARLY CHRISTIAN LEARNING (for adults!)

A short course of four sessions exploring what it means to be a Christian in the 21st century is planned to start in October.

Week 1 **Living the Christian life — God's priorities for the world.**

Week 2 **All you need is love — relationships.**

Week 3 **Faith under fire — overcoming difficulties.**

Week 4 **Living it and giving it — your money or your life!**

Contact one of the following if you are interested in attending: Jenny Balshaw 815452, Louise Butler 851011, Fr. Edwin 850267, Fr. Russell 814729.

Rector's Reflections

I am delighted there is a new course planned for people who are very much at the enquiry stage regarding the Christian faith. There has been an upsurge in church lately of new attenders, and others who want to find out more.

We are trying to meet this challenge and very aware of the need to create the right conditions for enquirers to meet in a friendly environment and feel comfortable enough to ask basic questions. I believe that we are all in the same boat, and none of us are in positions of superiority when it comes to religious belief.

Many people seem to be searching for 'extra' meaning in life; by this I mean that which is other than just living through each day. If we pause and reflect on the simple wonder of our creation and that of everything and everyone

around us, then I think we are coming into contact with God. For the Christian, Jesus is God made visible and knowable, thus someone to worship. Such activity has the effect of drawing us out — we decentralise ourselves, focus on God (the meaning of life).

A DEACON 'OF THIS PLACE'

The important event this month is the ordination of **Louise Butler** at Christchurch, Oxford. Louise set out on this road about six years ago. I remember the disappointment when she was not recommended by a selection board, but we worked hard together and looking back, I am sure she would agree this was a necessary phase in the testing of her vocation. When she started, the Ordained Local Ministry was a novel idea, especially in our archdeaconry of Berkshire.

Louise will be a deacon like any other deacon, and next year a priest like any other priest, but will exercise her ministry only in this Benefice. There is a strong apostolic element to such ministries. Louise is and will be 'of this place'. Our three parishes had to agree that she should test her vocation, and they have been heavily involved in supporting her and sharing in her training.

BENEFICE PORTFOLIO

An important spin off from this is the Benefice Portfolio, organised through the Local Ministry Team by **Angwin Marples**. This document records a good deal of the life and work of the United Benefice over the past few years. Copies of both volumes will be available from the Benefice Library.

Thus we have an investment in Louise's future and welcome her as an addition to the ordained ministry here. Please support Louise and make a point of coming to the special Eucharist on the evening of 26th September. Yours in Christ. **Fr. Edwin**

50 Club Winners August

£10 Mrs Thomas, £7 Mr Abbott, £5 Mrs Lightfoot, £4 Mrs Webb

CHURCH SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER

ST. MARY'S

Sunday 9am

- 5 Parish Eucharist
- 12 Matins
- 19 Harvest Festival
- 26 No service due to

Mrs. Butler's ordination

Please note in OCTOBER there will be no service at St Mary's on 3rd (10.30 Harvest Celebration at Upton Methodist Church) or 10th (10.30 Joint Benefice service at St Andrew's, Hagbourne).

METHODIST

10.30am — Preacher

- John Dennis
- Rev. Tim Dibble
- Peter Hemmings
- Brenda Boyer

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Editor: CAROL HALL

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