

UPTON NEWS

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2004

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UPTON PARISH PLAN

We need your help again!

Upton is drawing up a Parish plan that sets out how the village wants to develop over

the next 5 to 10 years. The response to the original questionnaire was excellent and you told us what you liked and disliked about Upton. Over the last six months the Working Groups have been making good progress on the ideas you gave us. A number of key issues have now been identified where we need to know your views before we can go ahead and propose an Action Plan to make things happen.

MORE QUESTIONS

We would be most grateful if you could spend a few minutes to complete another questionnaire. This time each adult member of each household in the parish should complete a separate form. A special, shorter questionnaire has been written for the younger residents (aged between 9 and 17). The answers will tell us how well various ideas are supported by the Village. Your answers are most important, as the Plan must represent the views of all the village residents.

FORMS TO FILL

One of the Plan team will bring the questionnaires to you at home before the end of November and ensure that you have enough forms. They will then come back in about a fortnight to collect them, but if you prefer you may leave them at the Post Office, where there will be some spare copies of the form. If you have any questions or wish to make any suggestions, please talk to any member of the plan team.

PRIZE DRAW

Some prizes have been donated and there will be a prize draw of champagne (adults) and DVD vouchers (youth) before Christmas for those who complete and return their forms by 20th December.

Thank you once again for your help.

**William Betts and
Derek Whitmell, for the
Steering Group.**

VILLAGE HALL DIARY DATES

Tuesday 30 November, 7.30pm

Upton Village Hall Amenities Trust and Abingdon

College and District Film Society bring

TOUCHING THE VOID —

much acclaimed, best seen on large screen!

Tickets £4.50 (£3.50 concessions)

from JESSIE WEST, 851206

Saturday morning, 18 December

UVHAT Christmas Raffle — for Village Hall Funds

Many prizes including hamper, whisky, cake, chocolates,

wines... Ticket sellers are Jessie West, Sheila Dawson,

Lesley Shaw, Celia Davies, Margaret Maytham.

Refreshments from 10.30am

NEW YEAR

Tuesday 4 January, 7pm

**Another entertaining Family Show from the
Oxford Travelling Theatre Company**

NOAH'S ARK

Join the Arkwrights (and their assorted animal friends) on a voyage that's always a pleasure (if never a cruise!) in this affectionately comic take on the tale of the Great Flood.

An amazing magical musical menagerie. Don't miss the boat!

Tickets £6 (£4 concessions)

from JESSIE WEST, 851206

Curate's Jottings

November is a month of remembering. We began by celebrating All Saints and All Souls, and then comes Remembrance Day. Winter is suddenly upon us, and the approach of Christmas always brings a certain nostalgia.

But is remembering a waste of time? I don't think so. To remember our predecessors is to know we are in a world that was made by others. Our world is not an unused blank canvas, but one chapter in a very long epic. To specifically remember the departed — those fallen in war, victims of violence, or whose lives were taken from them early— is to know that today's world was bought at a cost. We did not come easily to where we are today.

But what do we do with the knowledge of costliness? My recurring tendency, wrong I know, is to look for vindication in remembrance. I read a lot of history, and I've just finished a study of sixteenth century British politics. All the way I find myself cheering for Charles, the Royalists, and the Restoration. But that can't be how I ought to read history! As Archbishop Rowan Williams has argued

'history as the quest for vindication is servitude; history as the quest for understanding may be the beginning of freedom.' I suppose I need to return to the sixteenth century, and really try to understand the Parliamentarians, Anabaptists, and those whose voices it is hard to hear. Whatever we remember at this time of year, we should try to remember with honesty and understanding.

Russell Dewhurst

! The **Harvest Supper** proved to be a very enjoyable social occasion. It was the brainchild of Jessie West that St. Mary's should keep up the tradition set by the Methodists; for the first time money was raised for both churches. I hope she remembers how happy the evening was, then maybe next year?

Daphne Simpson

! **House-to-house collection** We would like to thank everybody who gave so generously of their time to collect or simply gave money to enable the National Children's Home to continue its work. The village total this year was £150.

Chris and Jane Smith

50 Club Winners, October
£10 Mrs Gutfreund, £7 Mrs Timblich,
£5 Mrs Scotney, £4 Mrs Prior.

GWEN GREENOUGH

1906-2004

On 12 November some 80 friends and relatives from near and far attended Gwen's funeral in the Methodist Church, followed by a magnificent tea-party in the Village Hall. At the service Jeffrey Kayman, who had lived as an evacuee ('from the evil of Adolf Hitler') in the house in Fieldside where Gwen spent her life — remembered how she read him Hans Christian Andersen stories by candlelight, and spoke of the compassion of the Greenough family, and support and friendship of the people of Upton 'during that terrible war'.

Gwen's second cousin Marcia Mitchell from Torquay, whose grandparents lived next door to the Greenoughs, told us that these 'typical country folk' worked for farmers and Gwen went into service at the age of 14, 'progressing to housekeeper, then companion'. Three Williams sisters, whose parents Gwen worked for at Corderoys, all attended the funeral of their 'honorary granny'.

With her sharp intellect and many talents Gwen never married, although she 'had her chances'; it's said that Mr Rowland the baker, whose three vans once set out daily from Stream Road, was a special friend. In the '50s she helped to raise a lot of money to build the Methodist Church.

As the years passed her vivid memory and keen interest in village affairs turned her into a gentle matriach. Until well into her nineties 'she still used her hands to make beautiful corn dollies'— best-sellers in the '80s in the Upton Crafts Shop. As Hon. Vice-President of the Village Produce Association for life, Gwen is remembered for her beautiful flower arranging, and for growing sweet-peas — for which her family were renowned. She played cricket, and kept on bowling at the Skittles Evening even from a wheel-chair. For Marcia, Gwen was 'a truly remarkable country lady. May she rest in peace.'

C.H.

CHURCH SERVICES UNTIL CHRISTMAS

ST. MARY'S

Sunday 9am

November 7 Parish Eucharist
14 Remembrance Day
21 Matins
28 Parish Eucharist
December 9 Parish Eucharist
12 Parish Eucharist
19 Matins
4pm Nine Lessons & Carols
4pm 24 Crib Service
25 Festive Eucharist
26 Morning Prayer

METHODIST

10.30am — Preacher

Geoffrey Caudle
Paul R. Williams
Alan Fudge
At St. Mary's
Barbara Kershaw
At Blewbury
At St. Mary's
At Didcot

On Tuesdays from 7 December the daily office will be said at St Mary's at 8.15am and 5pm.

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