

UPTON NEWS

AUGUST 2006

Vol.2 No.60

VILLAGE DIARY

Friday 18 August at 2.30pm

**To Senior Citizens and
anyone at home alone**

You are invited to a

Summer Garden Party at Toad Hall

We do hope you will be able to come for tea and a chat. Personal invitations will be sent out nearer the time. Transport can be provided. For further information contact **Clare 850486 or Maggie 850364.**

Celebrating the feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Upton's Patron Saint. You are invited to participate in these special events:

Sunday 13 August, 10 am Family Service

Tuesday 15 August, 8 pm Sung Eucharist

Sunday 20 August at 4pm

SONGS OF PRAISE

in the garden of Prospect House

(by kind permission of Simon and Hilary Powell), followed by a bring and share tea.

Saturday 9 September

**Oxfordshire Historic Churches –
Ride or Stride**

Last year £109,480 was raised in Oxfordshire by the Ride or Stride event. This money all goes towards the upkeep of our churches. I have plenty of sponsorship forms. If you are unable to take part but would like to sponsor somebody, then please let me know. **Clare 850486**

CHRISTIAN AID

The total amount raised in the village during the recent house-to-house collection for Christian Aid was £260.02, a decrease of £25.73 compared with last year. A sincere thank-you to all who contributed and also to those who helped with the collection. **Alec Chenery**

UPTON CHURCH FETE

SATURDAY 2 SEPTEMBER

starting at 2 pm

on the recreation ground

Stalls include: cakes, produce,
plants, books, bric-a-brac

craft demonstrations,

games, competitions

Blewbury Brass Band

A fun afternoon –

delicious home made teas, etc.

Admission free

I As usual we need your help. We would be grateful for donations of books, toys, discarded treasure/white elephant PLEASE NO JUMBLE, raffle prizes, tombola prizes, etc, etc.

The village hall will be open to receive your contributions on:

Friday 25 August from 7-9 pm

Saturday 26 August 10-12 noon

We will be pleased to receive cakes and plants on the morning of the fete.

Please get in touch if you are able to help in any way, either before the fete or on the day. If you would like us to collect your contributions please contact Clare 850486 or Jessie 851206.

STOP PRESS —

Attention All!

Tuesday 5 September, 7.30pm

Village Hall

The Parish Council will be making presentations on the progress of various working party reports initiated by the Parish Plan. **Plans for the proposed development of the recreation ground will be on view in the hall at the Fete.**

RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS

Glyn Evans, the Diocesan Rural Officer, recently highlighted a statistic emerging from a survey showing the importance of the parish church in rural communities. It came fourth in a list of institutions thought to be most valued in a village.

Few parish clergy can be unaware that the buildings in their care are important resources and I like to think that the church here is seen and used as such. An additional function is the ministry it offers to the whole community. However, changes to the parochial structure have impacted on the traditional perception of the relationship between priest and people. Last year ministry costs in the Oxford diocese came out at £18.7m, of which £14.3m was from direct giving of members.

What must be done to provide what the survey shows is a valuable asset? The solution is two-fold and something we discovered over 10 years ago: collaborative ministry, which is visible in the Local Ministry Team, and the acceptance by parishioners of this style of ministry.

Through hard work and dedication, members are ensuring that ministry is available for everyone throughout the parishes of the new Benefice, enhancing

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worship, developing Christian education and exercising effective pastoral care in different ways.

This does depend upon people accepting ministry from other lay people, which I am glad to say has never been a problem. This may be due to the high standard achieved by team members, who have a range of extraordinary gifts. I hope we are growing into a time where the Church will be seen as authentic because of the ministry of all its members.

Churn is a good name for the enlarged Benefice because it reflects the early Christianity here watched over by St. Birinus. So begins a partnership of six parishes (including the Astons and Moretons) and the future is bright — not orange but golden.

It has been my experience that parishes flourish in partnership because, with shared resources, so much more can be accomplished. Already we have learnt much about working together. This is especially true of all the churchwardens who have developed a real collegiate relationship.

We are also fortunate indeed to have a new colleague in **Fr. Anthony Lury**, who will join us at the beginning of September. At present the parish priest of All Saints, Ascot Heath he will be coming here, with his wife **Rosemary**, as a part-time Associate Priest. With three ordained clergy and our highly valued Team, we shall be in the best possible position to work to build up the Kingdom of God in our delightful rural communities. Yours in Christ

Fr. Edwin

VILLAGE HISTORY —

Upton's leaking stream

an occasional series contributed by

Juliet Gardiner

Our little intermittent stream, originating high above the village, which has been running predictably for countless years, was found to be in full flow one day in October 2001, not from its usual source but from under the main road near the George & Dragon. Over the next three or four months we repeatedly alerted Thames Water to the probability that this was a massive water leak, but nothing was done. The stream continued in full flow without interruption over three and a half years. During this time tiny fishes appeared in the water, the number of frogs increased — perhaps many other water creatures benefited. But by July 2005 water was breaking through the tarmac at the end of Prospect Road, and at last Thames Water turned up to repair the leak. The flow in the stream immediately stopped.

So what of the future? At the moment we are simply not getting enough rain in the autumn and winter to get the springs running again. The stream bed is blocked with vegetation and debris in many places and parts of it look rather neglected. It would be lovely to restore this small waterway some time, in the hope that wetter winters we have been promised will materialise to fill it.

50s Club Winners

April £10 Mr Bunston, £7 Mrs Williams, £5 Mrs Gutfreund, £4 Mr Field.

May £10 Mrs McLaughlin, £7 Mr Caffyn, £5 Mr Simpson, £4 Mr Warren.

June £10 Mr Lott, £7 Mr Savage, £5 Mr Corderoy, £4 Mr K. Jones.

CHURCH SERVICES IN AUGUST

ST. MARY'S

Sunday 9am

6 Parish Eucharist

13 Family Service

8pm Tues 15 Sung Eucharist

20 Parish Eucharist

27 Parish Eucharist

METHODIST

10.30am — Preacher

Michael Howlett
At Blewbury

Marlene Chalkley
At Blewbury

Coffee is served after church at St. Mary's on the first Sunday in the month