

UPTON NEWS

DECEMBER 2006

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VILLAGE HALL EXTENSION

A planning application is currently going through due process for the proposed extension and improvements to the village hall. The drawing below shows the proposed new section and alterations. This is all part of our Parish Plan for improving village amenities. There will eventually be a bigger and extended car park as well.

We are all hoping that the modest extension and improvements will encourage more activities and thus become more of a village hub. When this project is complete we hope it will enable us to develop many other village activities which up until now have not been possible.

Raising funds to do this will be a challenge, but the Parish Council and UVHAT (Upton Village Hall Amenities Trust) feel sure that with your help we will be able to make this happen. Once the planning is approved we shall be asking for help in fund raising and any other ideas, donations or otherwise which people might have.

Graham de Wilde
PC Chairman

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Saturday 16 December
4-6pm at 2 Fieldside

Sheila and Vic Dawson

invite you to come and see their

Inside Christmas Lights and Train Set

There will be Tea and Cakes and a Raffle

Proceeds to Upton Children's Play Area

Love to see you and the Children!

UPTON CHILDRENS' XMAS PARTY

Wednesday 20 December 5-7pm

at Upton Village Hall. Admission Free

Contact Karen Fenn on 851072

or Angela Barton on 850957.

NEXT A PLAY ABOUT US

The November visit from the Oxfordshire Touring Theatre with *The Firebird* was again another enjoyable performance. Their expertise with staging, lighting and this time screen display did much to enhance the excellent acting.

The children in the audience were very interactive and added greatly to the enjoyment of the evening. The Theatre will come again on 6 March with *The Falling Sky* by Brendan Murray — 'A play about here, a play about now, a play about us....England, Middle England'.

Jessie West

Chilton are about to set up a Beavers and Cubs pack starting on 10 January and have invited eligible young persons from Upton to join them. It will run on Wednesday nights from 6.30-8pm in Chilton village hall. On the first evening it will begin at 6 as there will be an opening ceremony. Anyone interested should contact Marcia Pearce 07861658880 or email chiltonvillagecubs@yahoo.co.uk

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Once again we are approaching the feast of Christmas. When Jesus was born two thousand years ago his disciples saw him as God's message of love to the world. Those who followed him recognised him as 'the human face of God', 'God made visible', the one who shows us definitively what God is like. But he was not a king or a prince, but the child of a homeless mother born in an outhouse.

Christians throughout the world will be celebrating this God who could find no better way of demonstrating his love for all humanity than laying aside his glory and entering our broken world of risk and uncertainty. In the end it would kill him but not before he had demonstrated both the extent of God's love and the transforming power that is released when we really let that love break into our lives.

We would like to invite you all to share in the celebrations of the birth of Jesus. You will be assured of a warm welcome at any of our

services. The story is well-known and the carols will have been sung in our shops for weeks but that is no substitute for coming yourself and joining in the celebration.

After all Christmas is actually God's invitation to us all to open ourselves to receive him and his love and so to become ourselves part of God's message of love to the world.

Have a joyful and love-filled Christmas.

Fr Anthony Lury

Fr Anthony has recently joined Fr Edwin and the team of clergy and lay-people ministering in the 6 parishes of our Churn Benefice.

He is living with his wife Rosemary in South Moreton and was until recently the priest-in-charge of All Saints, Ascot.

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

This year in Upton we collected £292, a record total. Thank you to everybody for your generous contributions.

Also a special thank you to the collectors who year in year out battle with the elements and dark evenings to do their best to reach as many houses as possible. Thank you. **Helen Weston**

Tree Planting in the Rec.

On 11 November some 30 of us turned out to plant trees as the first step of the recreation ground re-development plan. We were very pleased to see quite a few young children coming to help.

Austin Maytham had spent a considerable time drawing up a planting plan, for which many thanks. And huge thanks to Peter and Juliet Gardiner who helped pick out the trees and shrubs, which arrived promptly for unloading at 9.am.

The whole selection were planted in three drifts, which run up the Rec. parallel to Fieldside. All are English native species such as Field Maple, Wild Cherry and Plum, Mountain Ash and Common Walnut trees and Dogwood, Hazel, Hawthorne, Spindle and Purging Blackthorn shrubs. Everything was finished by 12.30. We've had substantial rainfall since so they should be well watered in. Now we look forward to spring and the growing season. **Graham de Wilde**

50s Club Winners

September £15 Mrs Eighteen, £15 Mrs Hardy, £10 Mrs J. Smith £7 Mrs Maytham, £5 Mr Thwaite, £4 Miss Spackman.

October £10 N. Davies, £7 N. Hubbard £5 C. Hubbard, £4 Mrs Stewart.

November £10 Mrs Davies, £7 Mrs Prior, £5 Mrs Gardiner, £4 Ms Whatmore.

UPTON NEWS is produced on behalf of the Parish Council, Parochial Church Council, Upton Methodist Church and the Upton Village Hall Amenities Trust. Please deliver or send items for publication to Old School, Church Street, or carol-uptonoxon@zen.co.uk. There is more information about village affairs on the website — www.upton-village.co.uk

Editor: CAROL HALL
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CHURCH SERVICES DECEMBER/JANUARY

ST. MARY'S

Sunday 9am

December **3** Sung Eucharist
10 Sung Eucharist
17 Sung Eucharist
10am **24 Christmas Eve** —
Crib and Carol Service.
A short service for all ages followed by mince pies.
9am **25 Christmas Day** —
Sung Eucharist
31 No service at Upton
10.30am Combined benefice service at Blewbury
January **7** Sung Eucharist
14 Sung Eucharist
21 Sung Eucharist
28 No service. Invited to join Upton Methodist Church for their

METHODIST

10.30am — Preacher

Barbara Sexton
Pam Martin
Alan Fudge
Rev. Helen White

At Blewbury

David Kershaw
John Dennis
Brenda Boyer
Rev. Helen White

Covenant Service

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