

UPTON NEWS

June 2009

Vol 3 No. 28

ST MARY'S CHURCH

Services for June

7th June - 10.30 a.m. United Benefice Service at St Michael's Blewbury. This is a special service to celebrate Ministry within the benefice to which everyone is invited. This is a time of worship and fellowship.

Please note no service at Upton on this day.

14th June - 9.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist

21st June - 10.00 a.m. Family Service followed by refreshments

28th June - 9.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist

UPTON METHODIST CHURCH

Services commence at 10:30am

7 June Barbara Sexton

14 June Rev. Helen White
(Blewbury joining us)

21 June Brenda Boyer
(Service at Blewbury)

28 June Andrew Lockley

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

There will be another police drop in surgery at the Methodist Church Hall in Upton on Tuesday 9th June 2009 from 7 - 8pm. All visits are treated in confidence.

Celia Davies

ORANGES AND LEMONS

The latest fund raising event for the Village Hall extension, on May 23, took the form of a concert for hand-bells, under the direction of Daphne Simpson. It has been encouraging to see how her team of ringers has gained in confidence and ensemble over the years. The programme moved from the comparatively simple, nursery rhyming of *Oranges and Lemons* (which proved to have fascinating historical undercurrents to it) via the serenely pastoral atmosphere of Gounod's *Angelus* to the harmonic complexities of Jeremiah Clarke's *Trumpet Voluntary*, thrown off triumphantly.

Interspersed with the music were readings about bells (mostly church bells), both familiar – in poems by Betjeman, Hardy and Houseman and in Dorothy L Sayers' *The Nine Tailors* – and less familiar, for instance Idris Davies's poems about church bells in Wales that reflected the black years of the thirties Depression. The poem ended with voice and bells together, as a gentle pair of bells faded into the final cadence of the poem – a truly magical moment.

The fifty of us present were able to enjoy as well an excellent ploughman's supper with dessert and a glass of wine. This is a format that sits snugly and sociably in the Hall. Many thanks to the bell-ringers and the five readers, and to all those who so expertly prepared and served the food and drink. A truly convivial occasion which raised the sum of £291.

Peter Gardiner

PARISH COUNCIL

Reorganisation for the coming year

At the meeting on 27th May the following duties were agreed.

Mike Brown and John Dickens will share the roles of Chairman and Vice Chairman with John taking over as Chairman in a few months time. Stuart Norman will be the contact for problems related to Roads and Footpaths.

John Dickens or Mike Brown will be the contacts for Planning problems.

Other responsibilities for the next year

Geoff Summers – Village Hall Liaison and Parish Transport Representative.

David Mason – Young Parishioners and the Play Area.

Tracy Seelig – Recreation Ground and other Amenities and Harwell Site Stakeholders Representative.

Minutes of the meeting of 27th May will be available on the Notice Boards and on the Web by Wednesday 3rd June

Community Responders

Community Responders are people who volunteer to help save lives in their own community. There is good evidence to suggest that if local people are provided with the right equipment and are trained to be able to help someone until the ambulance arrives then many lives will be saved.

Two days training are provided for all volunteers by the South Central Ambulance Trust who also supply each group with the latest equipment. It is our intention to set up a group in Upton, training will be provided in one of our village halls at the weekend.

If you are prepared to join the group to help provide a local service or if you would like to know more about what is required, please give me a call.

Mike Brown 850135

GEORGE AND DRAGON

George and Dragon will be closed every Monday lunchtime except School Holidays and Bank Holidays. Back to normal updates next months. Cielo

It is with much sadness that we have to report the deaths of Julia Williams and George Milford-Cottam.

Julia who lived in Elmstgate, Fieldside passed away on Sunday 24th May. Our thoughts and prayers are with Howard, Simon, Sam, George and families and all Julia's many friends. A Memorial Service will take place on Tuesday 2nd June at St. Michael's Church Blewbury at 4 pm. following a private family cremation earlier in the day.

George who until recently lived in Stream Road died on the 19th May at the age of 91.

BLEWBURY SCHOOL

Residential Visits

At Blewbury we have a strong tradition of school trips. Each year Key Stage 2 group as a whole stay at an activity centre, where the children experience abseiling, climbing, zip wire, team building, archery, fencing and many more activities.

In May year 4 and 5 also trialed a new trip to Cheddar which included elements linked with Isambard Kingdom Brunel and their summer term "Victorians" theme. Clifton Suspension Bridge and the SS Great Britain were the venues for the first day, both including role play and dressing up which helped to reinforce the messages as well as being great fun. During the four days there was also time for fossil hunting, a ride on the West Somerset Railway, Cheddar Caves, Wookey Hole and a bike ride along the Somerset and Avon Canal.

Also in May our Year 6 children visited South Wales where their marine exploration included canoeing and body boarding.

All of these trips not only bring alive the curriculum for the children but develop self esteem, social bonding and independence and hopefully open their eyes to some of the splendours of our own country

RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS



AN INTERESTING PERSON AND A FAMOUS PRAYER

I do so like finding out about the saints of the church. They're such a varied bunch – men and women of every race and every class, some of whom seem to have led quite normal lives, while others can only be described as rather odd! This variety reminds us that holiness comes in many different shapes and sizes.

On the 16th June, the church remembers one of my favourite saints: an Englishman called Richard of Chichester. Despite his surname, he was born at Droitwich, Worcestershire, during the reign of Richard the Lionheart. He worked hard on the family farm for several years, and received an offer of marriage.

However, he decided marriage was not for him, and he went off to University instead. He later became a parish priest in Kent, before being appointed bishop of Chichester - hence the surname. He was a model bishop – charitable, accessible, and generous to the needy.

He was also a gifted administrator, seeking to encourage high standards among the clergy and their congregations. He was not afraid to speak out against things that were wrong, but at the same time he spoke of God's mercy to sinners. Although the church was at the heart of his life, he had other interests as well. For instance, he grew figs in his spare time. As Richard spent some of his University career in Oxford, it is quite possible that he would have been familiar with our local villages.

Richard died in 1253, and he was buried in Chichester cathedral, where his shrine became a centre of pilgrimage. There was nothing spectacular about Richard. He was simply a good and able man, who tried his best to be a faithful follower of Jesus Christ.

Many people know of St. Richard through a prayer which he wrote – a prayer which, although written so many centuries ago, still speaks to many people today:

*Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits thou has given me,
For all the pains and insults
which thou has borne for me.
O most merciful Redeemer,
friend and brother,
May I know thee more clearly,
Love thee more dearly,
And follow thee more nearly,
Day by day.*

I can well imagine Richard saying this prayer to himself as he went out to tend his figs! May we all follow Richard's example of generosity to those in need, and his desire to grow in the love and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Fr Jason

Youth in the Benefice

Sunday 7th June, 7pm - Benefice Centre

A meeting for everyone who is interested helping/supporting Youth (teenager) activities in the Benefice.

Do you have a particular skill you could share? Would you like to be involved with Youth Worship? Do you have even a small amount of time as a one off or regularly to share with our teenagers.

This meeting will be looking at the following
What are the aims?

Who is it for? Age group?

When and how often will it meet?

What sort of events/activities?

Publicity? Who/how?

Who will lead?

If you are interested in any way please come along. Thank you

UPTON LADIES COVEN

Upton Ladies Coven will be meeting at the George & Dragon on Thursday 4 June at 8pm and Thursday 2 July at 7pm when we will be holding a Coven meal so if you would like to come along please let me know by email or call Maggie Maytham on Tel 850126 to book your place!! - everyone welcome.

VOLUNTEER GROUP

If you are already one of our many parishioners who help out with tasks around the village like litter picking, cutting hedges, improving the children's play area and other manual tasks, then you should have recently received an email from me explaining how the group is to be reorganised and the way in which future projects will be initiated and undertaken.

If you have not received that email and you are prepared to help the group improve our village environment, please give me a call.

If you are relatively new to the village please consider joining the group, you can choose the projects you are prepared to work on and it is a great way of meeting like-minded people and doing a very useful healthy job at the same time.

Mike Brown 850135

WINE CLUB

May Meeting.

The wine club had a wonderful evening tasting some very interesting Chilean wines, discovered by Derek.

As you are all aware Chile is that wonderful South American country with two great growing elements the sea and the mountains. Running between the two are plenty of valleys that have wonderful micro climates. These help make Chilean wines some of the tastiest and reasonably priced wines around.

Derek had managed to acquire three whites and five reds, all of which went down well, what a surprise; we managed as ever to get through the lot without much effort. We are slaves to our taste buds at the wine club! Hopefully see you all at the next meeting which is the Call My Bluff evening, which is always great fun with prizes!!!

Chris

Items for inclusion in the July issue to be sent to kameki39@btinternet.com, or handed in to Cathy or Mike by Wednesday 24th June.

VILLAGE DROP-IN SESSIONS

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Drop-in. The next three sessions will be held on: 11 June, 25 June and 9 July 10.30 until 12.00 noon in the Village Hall (alternate Thursdays).

If anyone has a problem getting there please give me a ring. We will probably be able to help – especially if you could let me know the day before.

Yvonne Collins - 01235 850989

BLEWBURY WI

YUM! BLEWBURY WI are providing the pudding for "An evening with Ron Freeborn" at 19.30 on Wednesday 24th June in Blewbury Village Hall. This is part of the Blewbury Festival fortnight and should be a great night out. Tickets include a glass of wine (or a soft drink) plus a delicious home-made pudding Cost £10. Extra puddings and, of course, more refreshments can be purchased. Many of you will know Ron from his teaching days in Didcot. We will all be entertained and enlightened in Ron's inimitable style! Tickets available from Blewbury Post Office.

UPTON 50 CLUB

50s Club winners for April

£10	Mr Caffyn	75
£7	Mr G Davis	33
£5	Mrs Concannon	13
£4	Mr B Stimpson	17

50s Club winners for May

£10	Mrs Hardy	96
£7	Mrs C Jones	174
£5	Mrs Eighteen	44
£4	Mr Sayers	25

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