

# UPTON NEWS

August 2009

Vol 3 No. 30

## ST MARY'S CHURCH

### Services for August

2 August - 9.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist followed by refreshments

9 August - 9.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist

16 August - 9.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist to celebrate St Mary our patron saint. Followed by refreshments

23 August - 9.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist

30 August - 9.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist

You will notice that there is no family service in Upton during August, we hope you will go along to the Play Close (Church if wet) in Blewbury at 10.30 on 2nd August and join in a family service followed by a bring and share lunch.

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## UPTON METHODIST CHURCH

### Services commence at 10:30am

2<sup>nd</sup> August            Marlene Chalkley

9<sup>th</sup> August            Rev. Helen White

Holy Communion Blewbury Methodists will be joining us.

16<sup>th</sup> August            David Kershaw

At Blewbury Methodist Church

23<sup>rd</sup> August            Michael Howlett

30<sup>th</sup> August            John Dennis

Blewbury Methodists will be joining us

Please refer to the notice on the Chapel Gate for any alterations to the above arrangements.

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## THEATRE GROUP

The Committee has not been able to agree on a further outing - and the choice seems to have been pretty limited, too. Am I right in thinking that we'd rather be entertained than challenged?

I'll keep looking, though, and will welcome ideas to put to the Committee.

Malcolm Wright

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## UPTON LADIES COVEN

Upton Ladies Coven will be meeting at the George & Dragon on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> August at 8pm

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## UPTON OIL SYNDICATE

The next order is scheduled to be placed on Monday 17th August. To be included, I need to have your orders by Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August at the latest.

My contact details are (preferably by e-mail) [colin.batchelor@eggconnect.net](mailto:colin.batchelor@eggconnect.net) or by telephone 01491 671253 (after 7.00pm).

Colin Batchelor

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## GEORGE and DRAGON

I do apologise for the lack of updates these past couple of months. We have been very busy with both pub and our family lately and organizing our tasks have become a real challenge. It seems that people are now getting fed up with the credit crunch as it feels as if the curtain of doom and gloom is finally lifting. I'm sure it's also because we've been having lots of beautiful weather lately but not even the occasional rain showers are preventing people from coming to the pub because we're still busy even when the weather is not at its best. Long may it last, I pray.

Please take note that we are now closed on a Monday lunchtime. It's the quietest time in the pub and therefore the best time to give ourselves a day off. We're still open Monday evenings for drinks. Also, it is always a good idea to book a table especially if you plan to dine after 8pm. Most of the time people can walk into the pub and I'd be able to fit them in but there have been occasions when I had to stop taking orders as early as 8.30pm because Bill is already fully booked until 9pm. To avoid disappointment, please call to book a table. Our phone number is 850723.

Good news and bad news regarding Bill's ever popular Sunday Roast and our Sunday Menu. Good news is that we'll be on the regular Lunch Menu on a Sunday. Bad news is, to be able to do that, we have to stop doing the Sunday Roast, at least for the summer. Our biggest problem is our tiny kitchen. The roast takes up all but very little space in our kitchen preventing us to do pretty much anything else. Hopefully, Sundays will continue to be warm and sunny so that the Sunday Roast will not be missed too much.

### Dates for your calendar:

**31<sup>st</sup> August Bank Holiday Monday** is our bi-annual pub trip to the Thai Festival in Surrey. If you're interested in joining us, we still have a few seats left. £10 deposit for the coach. £7.50 entrance fee per person. One child free for every two adults. There will be lots of Thai food, Thai beer, cooking demonstrations, cultural dance exhibitions and shops. The pub will be closed

for lunch and will open at 6.30pm for drinks only.

**11<sup>th</sup> of September Friday 9pm**, 80's Night with live music, fancy dress optional. We will be celebrating the end of the Aunt Sally season and the birthdays of two members of our team, Steph and Emily who will be turning 18 that month! Soon I'll be able to leave them behind the bar and go on holiday!

Once again, thank you to all valued customers. Last year, with everything going against publicans, trade became so dire we thought we'd be very lucky if we're still here by the summer but your continued support has seen us through, has kept us going and it looks like we're here to stay. Here's to more good times at the George and Dragon.

See you at the pub!

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## RECTORS REFLECTIONS

### The Mysteries of Milton

As I write this, I am getting quite excited about a short trip which I am about to take. I am shortly off to spend a couple of days in the little Welsh town of Brecon. As far as I can remember, I have never been to Brecon before. I have enjoyed the challenge of working out how to get there by public transport, have booked my tickets, and thinking about where I will stay. Within a few days I will leave Didcot on a train heading for Cardiff, and the adventure will have begun!

I wonder if you share my love of exploring new places. Of course we don't have to travel far to discover something new. Speaking for myself, there are still plenty of footpaths in the local area which are unfamiliar to me, and there are some local villages which I haven't visited yet. Milton, for instance. I've been meaning to visit Milton for months, but never quite got around to it. Perhaps it's something about its location, squeezed as it is between the A34 and Milton Park, that means one wouldn't normally drive through it on the way from A to B. But one of these days I shall plan a special expedition to the



village, and give myself time to have a good look around.

Thank God for the sense of curiosity which he has given to us human beings! The very human desire to explore and to experience something new makes life so much more interesting than it would otherwise be, and it gives us the opportunity to learn so much more about ourselves and our world. Of course not every new experience is necessarily a source of pleasure – the new experience which we have longed for can turn out to be a great disappointment, and some experiences can leave us confused or deeply hurt.

Nevertheless, there is something about travelling into a new place or a new situation which brings us close to the heart of what it means to be a human being. The Bible is full of stories about people travelling from somewhere familiar to somewhere new. Occasionally, the journeys are without incident; more often than not, there are various upsets along the way, accompanied by hardship and feelings of confusion and uncertainty. At the same time, there is a profound belief that the process of travelling from the old into the new is a deeply spiritual experience - an experience which brings us closer to God.

So I do hope that this summer you will have the opportunity to discover somewhere new, in this area or somewhere further afield. And next time you see me, do ask me about Brecon – and who knows, I might also finally have managed to experience the mysteries of Milton!

Fr Jason

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## **PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Swine Flu**

All Parish Councils are being asked to consider putting in place an emergency plan to lessen the impact should the village succumb to Swine Flu en masse. We have looked at a very detailed plan drawn up for a much larger village and have selected just a few of the points that we feel we should be putting in place for Upton.

We are well aware that this village is well blest with people prepared to help others and therefore we do urge all of you who are likely to need

medication or other essentials during the time that you may be unwell to seek out a 'Flu Buddy' who will do their best to keep you provided with your essential needs. The problem will come if your flu buddy is also unwell so we are setting up a back up service in which you can ring Maggie Maytham (850126) or Clare Lightfoot (850486) for help. Maggie and Clare will enlist a small team of helpers who as a minimum will provide you with a sandwich and a hot drink to keep you going.

There could also be two significant problems if all the adult members of a household are unwell at the same time.

There may be healthy under fives in the household who will need attention. We are hoping that in such an emergency the Tiddlewinks network of mums (contact Katie 851330) will help one another where they can but obviously this is a service we cannot guarantee as it will almost certainly mean taking the bug into another household where there are other young children.

We must not forget the dogs who will still need to be walked even if you cannot get out of the house. I am setting up a small team of walkers and will arrange for someone to call round to provide that necessary service (contact Mike 850135).

If you think there are other areas where we should be taking action I will be pleased to hear your suggestions but hopefully the bug will quickly pass through this area and that it will not cause any of us a serious problem. So far I understand there have been 7 cases in Upton, it is expected to peak early in September.

### **Planning**

UPT/1062/5 Application for the construction of a house and garage at Rowlands – Permission granted

### **Rats**

The Parish Council has approached several firms with the idea of being able to set up a single visit to deal with the rats at all the households that reported a problem. This has not been possible and a note has gone out to all interested households to advise that the best service is through our local District Council

Mike Brown 850135

## **FIRST RESPONDERS**

I am sure you will be pleased to hear that Upton is the first village in this area to set up its own First Responder Group.

9 volunteers from the village have undertaken a NHS training course and all have passed an assessment to allow them to help out in the case of a medical emergency in the village. The 9 have organised themselves into a rota such that for most of the week, both day and night, at least one of them will be available to be asked by the 999 operator to attend an emergency and handle the situation until the ambulance arrives. It is hoped and intended that by having the right equipment and trained personnel within the village, parishioners will receive treatment much quicker than the normal waiting time for an ambulance and this reduced time will greatly increase the chances of a full recovery from the likes of strokes and heart attacks.

If you require emergency help your first action must be to dial 999 or get someone to dial 999 for you. Do not call one of the volunteers before calling the emergency services unless you require help from the volunteer to make the emergency call. As soon as you call 999 the operator will decide whether a volunteer will be able to assist you and will immediately mobilise whoever is on duty.

Over the next few months I will be including requests for you to do things that will help the team to help you. Unfortunately space does not allow me to include them all this month.

Please be aware that the NHS have made available to our group, equipment to the value of £1600 that could save your life. Whilst we do not have to immediately pay for the equipment the budget for financing groups like ours is very small. If any of you are prepared to make a donation towards the cost of our equipment please let me know and I will be pleased to collect it and feed it back into the system to allow another village to set up a similar group.

If you are interested in joining the group of volunteers please give me a call.

Mike Brown 850135

## **DIARY DATES**

### **Sunday 9th August at 12.30pm**

**Pimms, Pate and Puddings** on the Recreation Ground or in the Village Hall if wet.

Forget the Sunday Roast for once and come and join the UVHAT for a socialable lunchtime sampling delicious homemade fare and sipping Pimms!

If you are new to the village this event is an ideal way to meet up with fellow villagers.

Salads, Homemade Pates, Puddings and 1st glass of Pimms £8.00 per Adult in Advance or £10.00 on the door. £4.00 Under 15. Under 5s FREE £1.00 per glass of Pimms thereafter

Soft drinks available

Book your tickets and table now from.

Maggie Maytham 850126, Celia Davies 850684  
Lesley Shaw 850308, Clare Lightfoot 850486

All profits to Upton Village Hall Extension Fund

### **Saturday 15th August, 2pm to 4pm,**

**Cream Teas** in Upton Village Hall

My name is Alex, I am 12 years old and have lived in Upton all my life. Four years ago my Auntie died of a Brain Tumour. I have wanted to do something in her memory and have decided to organise and sell Cream Teas to raise money for 'Brain Tumour UK'.

Please come along and support me so I can raise as much money as possible.

### **Saturday 5th September at 2.00 p.m.**

**Village Fete** on the Recreation Ground in aid of Church funds.

Cakes, Plants, Preserves, White Elephant, Books, Toys, Tombola, etc etc

Grand Raffle, Home made teas, entertainment by Blewbury Band

For more information please contact  
Jessie - 851206, Clare - 850486 or Maggie - 850126

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Items for inclusion in the September issue to be sent to [kameki39@btinternet.com](mailto:kameki39@btinternet.com) or handed in to Cathy or Mike by Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> August.

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Delivery organised by Jessie West

