

UPTON NEWS

October 2009

Vol 3 No. 32

ST MARY'S CHURCH

St Mary's Services for October
Sunday 4th October 9.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist
Sunday 11th October - no service at St Mary's - we will be joining the Upton Methodist Congregation at 10.30 for their Harvest Festival - everyone welcome
Sunday 18th October 10.00 a.m. - Family Service followed by refreshments.
Sunday 25th October 9.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist

UPTON METHODIST CHURCH

Services commence at 10:30am
4 October Brenda Boyer (at Upton)
11 October Barbara Kershaw (at Upton)
We will be joined by St Mary's and by Blewbury Methodist for Harvest Festival.
18 October Rev. Helen White
Holy Communion at Blewbury Methodist Church.
25 October David Martin (at Upton)
1 November Barbara Sexton (at Upton)

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

OPEN GARDENS

Sunday 6th September
We were blessed with a perfect day – the sun was shining but not too hot - for our 3 open gardens and plant stall at Prospect House, Stocks and Orchard Lodge. It was all arranged just a couple of weeks prior and we raised £298 for the village hall. Thank you to everyone who supported us.

Sarah Sayers

ST. MARY'S FETE

We were so lucky to have picked a fine day for the fete. More visitors than ever came through the gate this year and I'm sure the dog agility demonstration given by the Wallingford Dog Training Club was a big attraction. Of course the Fun Dog Show and the Wacky Races were also very entertaining and a great crowd puller. Well done to all the stallholders and to the raffle ticket sellers who all excelled themselves. The winner of the Hot Air Balloon Ride was Chris Davies. A full list of prize winners is available let me know if you would like a copy. The Chairman of the Vale wrote saying how much she had enjoyed the fete and said "I do believe Upton is the cake capital of the Vale".

The receipts to date amount to £2,800 which is amazing, well done everyone for pulling out all the stops and making the afternoon a very special occasion.

Clare Lightfoot

GEORGE and DRAGON

As expected, it's slowing down a bit now with the kids back in school. We're expecting things to start getting busy again near the end of November for the Christmas season. Aunt Sally party was a very good night. The pub trip to the Thai Festival was also a huge success. We're all looking forward to the next one.

The next event at the pub will be the much-anticipated Halloween Party, 30th October, Friday, with Live Music featuring Mew and Wooster. Fancy dress optional. From 9pm. Also, children are welcome to knock at our door on Halloween, the 30th. We always have sweets for Trick or Treaters.

See you at the pub!

VILLAGE HALL EXTENSION

More good news! The South East England Development Agency has just awarded the Parish Council £27,000 towards the cost of extending the hall. The Council's application was successful largely because of the efforts made by so many people in the village, including those responsible for the preparation and execution of the Parish Plan, the provision of the wide range of organised social activities, and the many local fund raising events. The most recent event, the "Open Gardens" on 6th September, raised £298.

All of this means that the Village Hall Amenities Trust and the Parish Council will soon be able to let contracts for the work to commence. The Trust still needs to raise a few thousand pounds, but the end is in sight.

Brian Simpson

PARISH COUNCIL

Extraordinary Meeting

You will have seen above that it is intended to place the contracts for the extension to the Village Hall in the next few weeks. The Parish Council will be holding an Extraordinary Meeting on Thursday 22nd October to agree the actions necessary to set the Council up to be able to place, monitor and pay for some very large contracts.

The Council will also discuss proposed changes to the play area, and the area adjacent to the hall where it is proposed to extend the car park, construct a patio and plant some shrubs.

At the last meeting of the Council it was proposed that the mounds in the recreation field be removed to allow for easier mowing of the recreation field using the ride-on mower. The mounds can only be strimmed or sometimes cut with the hand mower if the grass is not too high and the ride-on mower has to be manoeuvred around them. As you are aware a voluntary work force from within the village cuts the grass in the recreation ground and this takes considerable commitment, removal of the mounds will make the task less onerous.

It was also suggested that in order to effect a relatively small decrease in the cost of the hall extension that the bricks needed to be removed from the end wall of the existing hall should be recycled as "hardcore" for the village hall patio and the top and sub soil removed as part of the extension construction could be used within the recreation

ground. A suggestion for use of the sub surface and top soil is that a low flat grass platform could be created adjacent to the extension. The platform could be used both as an easy to maintain play feature for the youngsters and maybe for the occasional outside theatre/music performance.

If any parishioners have any ideas or opinions relating to these proposals the Parish Council will welcome your input such that it can be taken into account when making decisions at the meeting on October 22nd.

Please contact any member of the parish council with your thoughts.

Tidy Up

It is intended to tidy up areas around the Recreation Ground. If anyone has a spare 2 metres of 3 feet high, green plastic coated chain link fencing or 5-6 buckets of gravel suitable for making concrete please could you give me a call, they are needed for the work.

Mike Brown 850135

50'S CLUB

Winners for August 2009

£10	Mr Yates	15
£7	Mr Hartley	21
£5	Mr Summers	31
£4	Mr F Napper	34

Winners for September 2009

£15	Mrs G Churchman	150
£15	Mr G Collins	138
£10	Mr Beckles	143
£7	Mr Bunston	2
£5	Mrs S Napper	69
£4	Mrs Bunston	39

DROP-IN

Village Hall Drop-in Sessions

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Drop-in. It would be nice to see a few new faces.

The next three sessions will be held on:

1 October – 15 October – 29 October
10.30 until 12.00 noon in the Village Hall

Yvonne Collins 01235 850989

RECTORS REFLECTIONS



Rectors Reflections

On Christenings and Post Offices

Do you like riddles? Well, if you do, how about this one: what is the

connection between a Christening and a post office - or more precisely, between a Christening and a new initiative in the provision of post office services?

It is always a joy to welcome new members into the church through Christening or Baptism – these two words mean exactly the same thing. Some people tend to use the word “Christening”; others tend to use the word “Baptism”. But it doesn’t matter which word you chose: the meaning is the same. When a person is Christened or Baptized, they are made one with Jesus Christ, who died to win for us forgiveness of our sins, and who rose again from the dead in order to share with us God’s gift of eternal life. You are never too old or too young to be baptized, as the love of God in Jesus Christ is available to us all - it doesn’t matter whether you’re a child or an adult, just as it doesn’t matter if you are rich or poor, male or female, white or black, highly educated or a graduate with honours from the university of life. The love of God in Christ is for us all.

So, you are doubtless thinking to yourself, where does the link with the post office come in? Well, you may or may not know, that in a new initiative, post office services are now available in the Astons. Every Tuesday morning in the village hall, 9.30am to 12.30pm. I believe there used to be a post office in the Astons some years ago, and it is wonderful that post office services will be available in the village once again. There is also a cafe open in the village hall on Tuesday mornings, with various stalls. So you can refresh yourself with a welcome cup of coffee and a slice of cake, after the exertions of inquiring about the rate for posting a letter to your great aunt in Outer Mongolia.

This new provision of post office services in the Astons is a pointer to what God is up to, in our own lives and the lives of our communities. For God is the God of new beginnings, and He is continually offering us the chance to make a fresh start. A Christening is also a sign of God’s work, bringing new beginnings into our lives. But it is more than a sign. For through our Baptism, God actually helps us to make a new start. He gives us forgiveness of our sins and the gift of His Spirit to inspire and enable us to make this fresh start.

There is a wonderful verse in the Bible which sums all this up. In the last book of the Bible, the Book of Revelation, Jesus says: “See, I am making all things

new!”. God is continually at work through Jesus to make all things new, in our lives as individuals and in our communities. Let us be open to God, and allow Him to bring these new beginnings into our lives.

Fr Jason

VPA

I do hope that your gardens and allotments have fared better than mine this year, the tomatoes’ that I put in pots have been great, but the ones in the veg plot were a disaster, however courgettes in pots produced tiny fruits and mildew, but the ones in the plot, fabulous! Ho hum!! The pigeons ate all the cherries before I could get to them, but I did pick all the red and blackcurrants in time!

Well done to all the entrants and winners in our annual show, surprisingly good turnout for both entries and visitors, lots of new exhibitors made the competition very close with only a few points between us all! Despite the dire weather earlier in the year, and winds and rain the week before which decimated my roses, I still managed to salvage enough, but with only 1 point between 1st and second! 11 lemon drizzle cakes made the judges work very hard!!!

On Saturday 11th October, our annual plant bring and buy stall will be held at Abners, Church Road, at 2.30pm, plants and cakes and chutney will abound, please bring any plants that are surplus to your needs, and also a cake or jam etc to help us raise funds for next years shows etc. I have made more marrow and chilli chutney after we sold out for the last 2 years!!! If we are lucky, Mo will make Apple Pies! Yummy!!

Also in October, the committee have organised a guided tour of Harcourt Arboretum, Saturday 24th October, thinks its in the afternoon, but if you would like to join us, please email me on karencbrooks@googlemail.com or leave a message on the answer phone 850219, stating whether you can offer to drive or just want a lift, we will organise a car rota nearer the time, we will ask for donations for the petrol, and there will be a nominal fee for the tour itself.

PS; we found the garden roller, think it had gone on holiday, but was found trying to disguise itself as a gazebo pole!!

Happy gardening

Karen Brooks

COMMUNITY RESPONDERS

The last of my bits on how you can help your local Responder Group

If you are living alone and feel that after making an emergency call you will be unable to answer your door please be aware that it is not permissible for a volunteer, or an ambulance crew, to use any force to gain entry to your property. Do you need to consider your present arrangements, if you live on your own why not ask someone living local to you to hold a key or know the details of your keypad. If you do have to call the emergency services and you are immobilised you may then also call your key holder such that when a volunteer or the ambulance arrives someone will be there to let them in.

Please consider making myself aware of who your key holder is such that I can draw up a confidential list for use by the volunteers. It is possible that having called the emergency service you may be unable to contact your key holder, if that is the case it is absolutely vital that we know who to contact such that the volunteers and the ambulance service can gain immediate access to you otherwise valuable minutes will be lost waiting for the police to arrive.

Our thanks for the generous donations that several of you have made towards the cost of the equipment supplied to the group by the South Central Ambulance Service League of Friends. So far we have received £235 from parishioners which together with a donation from the Parish Council of £250 means that we are almost a third of the way towards the cost of the equipment supplied to us.

Mike Brown 850135

BLEWBURY WI

Blewbury WI next meet at 19.30 on Wednesday 28th October in the Vale room of the Blewbury Village Hall. The topic will be "How to survive in an English Vicarage when you are not the Vicar" ! The mind boggles!!! If you fancy an evening out please just come along and you'll be made very welcome as a visitor, no pressure to join. Blewbury WI has something for everyone - walks, theatre visits, pub lunches, Scrabble, Mah Jong and most of all good company! Hope to see you there.....

WINE CLUB SEPTEMBER 2009

Well here we go again I hope every one has rested their vital organs over the summer, by that I mean your taste and olfactory senses, for the next wave of aromas and flavours to hit your palates. We would like to welcome all old members who have rejoined and a special welcome to new members. I hope that they will have as much fun as we have had over the past few years. The first meeting was a sampling session to try to tell the difference if any between the same grape varieties, produced in different countries or different areas in the same country/continent this proved as challenging for some of us as ever, but enjoyable. The next meeting will be on the wines of Spain, as we have not visited them for several years. I do hope people will come as from personal experience the Spanish wines have improved over recent years. And I hope people will be pleasantly surprised.

Chris Traynor

DIARY DATE

Saturday 17th October

The Christian Aid Sponsored Walks are being held on Saturday 17 October 2009 starting from Chilton Church Hall between 9 and 10 am. There are two routes, one of 5 miles and the other of 10 miles, both in the West Ilsley and Ridgeway area.

Sponsorship forms and further information are available from Alec Chenery, 'Dulcina', Newmans Close, Upton, 850477.

UPTON LADIES COVEN

The Upton Ladies Coven are having a meal at the George and Dragon on Thursday 1 October at 7pm, please let Lesley or Maggie know if you wish to eat. If you want to join at 8pm for a drink please do.

Items for inclusion in the November issue to be sent to kameki39@btinternet.com. or handed in to Cathy or Mike by Monday 26th October .

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