

# UPTON NEWS

April 2010

Vol 3 No. 38

## ST MARY'S CHURCH SERVICES

Fri 2nd April 1000 -GOOD FRIDAY - All age family service, followed by refreshments and Easter Egg hunt  
Sun 4th April 0900 - EASTER DAY - Sung Eucharist  
Sun 11th April 0900 - Sung Eucharist  
Sun 18th April 0900 - Sung Eucharist  
Sun 25th April 0900 - Sung Eucharist  
Sun 2nd May 0900 - Sung Eucharist, followed by refreshments

The Annual Church Meeting will be held on Tuesday 6th April at 7.30 p.m. in Church, followed by refreshments.

Come along to hear what has happened at St Mary's in the past year and our plans for the future.

Everyone welcome - we would like to hear your comments.

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## VILLAGE HALL DROP-IN

I think we'd all agree that the wait has been worth it. Our extended Village Hall looks superb – a very fitting venue for the Drop-in. A big thank-you to all those who worked so tirelessly on the project. So come along and join us for tea, coffee and biscuits. The next three sessions will be held on:

15 April – 29 April – 13 May  
10.30 until 12.00 noon

Yvonne Collins 01235 850989

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## SPRING LINE METHODIST CHURCH

Services for April commence at 10.30 am

4<sup>th</sup> Didcot Rev Helen White  
(Easter Sunday)  
11<sup>th</sup> Upton Preacher from Oxford Circuit  
(Local Preachers' Sunday)  
18<sup>th</sup> Blewbury Michael Howlett  
25<sup>th</sup> Upton Peter Bennett  
(Holy Communion)

**Special Services April 4th** is Easter Sunday, and so the service at Didcot is a Family Service with Holy Communion. **April 11th** is Local Preachers' Sunday, so the worship at most of the churches in the Wantage and Abingdon Circuit (our local group of Methodist churches) will be led by preachers from the Oxford Circuit, and our team of local preachers will be leading worship elsewhere.

**Our Annual Cream Teas** Keep the afternoon of Thursday 27th May free: that's when we are doing Cream Teas at 4 Westbrook Green, Blewbury. More information in next month's Upton News.

And finally, all the members of the Spring Line Methodist Church join in wishing you all a Happy Easter.

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## UPTON LADIES COVEN

The next meeting of the Coven will be on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> April at 8.00 at the George and Dragon. Everyone welcome

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## **PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Council Vacancy**

We are sorry to announce that Geoff Summers has resigned from the Parish Council. Geoff joined us a year ago and in that time has become a valued member of the council taking on the roles as UVHAT representative and Parish Transport representative as well as providing a wise head on all other matters.

We thank Geoff for his efforts on our behalf and wish both Geoff and Celia good fortune in their new venture.

Geoff's resignation does mean that we have a vacancy on the council and we would like to fill that vacancy as quickly as possible by co-opting a new member. If you are interested in filling the vacancy, which will only be until May 2011 when a new council will be elected, then please give me a call or contact the Parish Clerk, either of us will be pleased to give you more information on what is involved.

### **Litter Pick**

On a damp and dismal morning it was great to see no less than 16 volunteers come along to give our parish its annual litter clean up. Over 95% of the litter was again collected from the main roads that pass through our parish with Chilton Road being particularly bad. It is a pleasure to drive those roads for a few days seeing them clean and tidy but it is unfortunate that we have so many motoring morons who have no respect at all for our local environment and even by the time we went round to pick up the sacks on the following day there were bottles and a beer can lying in the side of the road. Our thanks to all the volunteers and to Bob and Geoff who helped me with collecting up the bags on the following day and to the District Council who supply all the equipment and back up collection service.

### **Annual Parish Meeting**

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on the Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April at 8.00 in the Village Hall. Please come along any time after 7.30 and join us before the meeting for light refreshments and a pre-meeting chat.

As last year we want you to come along not to hear about the things that we have done but to give us your help and guidance on what you would like us to do over the next 12 months. Our plan for next year will be based on your requests.

All the usual reports will be available on the web in advance of the meeting. Copies of the reports will also be in the hall on the night or can be obtained in advance from Clare or myself.

On the evening, authors of the reports will be asked to give a very short summary and answer your questions and listen to your advice.

Please come along to give us your support and most important your thoughts and opinions.

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## **UPTONOGOOD?**

The mountain bike event reported in last month's Upton News, now has a name! It is to be called the "Uptonogood Mountain Bike Challenge".

Preparations are well underway for the event which will take place on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June. Keep a look out for information appearing on the Upton Village website over the next week or so.

By way of a reminder, this event is to raise money for the continuing Village Hall refurbishment. Some considerable funds are still required for toilet and car parking facilities to name just two items.

We should attract several hundred mountain bikers as well as family cyclists on the dedicated 5 mile family route.

For the day to be a success however, we need volunteers from the village to help out on the day. Please contact the organizers on [info@uptonogood.org.uk](mailto:info@uptonogood.org.uk) if you would like to help out.

Cheers, Bob

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## **HOUSE TO HOUSE**

Volunteers will be calling around the village with envelopes collecting for the Children's Society between 10<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> April.

## RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS



### Birds at Eastertime

Are you a bird watcher? One of the joys of living in this area is the sheer variety of birds there are – majestic kites circling high in the sky, rooks building their nests in the trees, playful blackbirds in the garden, pheasants strutting across the lawn.

In recent weeks, as the weather has got a little brighter and a little warmer, I have been struck by the number of birds with twigs in their beaks. The birds clearly think it is high time to repair their nests, and perhaps to build new ones. Before we know it, the chicks will have hatched, and the fledglings will be learning to fly. For me, the picture of a bird with a twig in its mouth is a powerful sign of hope. It brings to mind the story of Noah and the Flood.

Noah “waited another seven days, and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark; and the dove came back to him in the evening and lo, in her mouth a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. Then he waited another seven days, and sent forth the dove; and she did not return to him any more.”

We can have hope in the future because God is not only all powerful- He is also all loving. In the end, things will work out. This does not mean that things always work out according to our plans, or according to our timetable – sometimes they do, sometimes they don't. But in the end, in God's good time, they will work out. This is what the Christian faith means by hope. To believe in hope is not about ignoring suffering, or about simply accepting suffering in a passive way. On the contrary, to believe in hope is to believe that there is a purpose to life, and that this purpose will gradually reveal itself, ever more clearly and ever more powerfully, until that day when it becomes clear to everyone, everywhere.

This revelation of the purpose of life started on the first Easter morning, and the revelation has continued to unfold itself ever since. It is the belief that each one of us is made for relationship with God, and that through faith in Jesus Christ we can enjoy such a close

relationship with God that God's life lives in us. Because God's life lives in us, we need not fear death; our earthly death is but a gate that leads to a new experience of life.

May this Eastertime be a time when we all enjoy a renewed sense of hope, confident that God is continually at work to bring new life to ourselves and to our communities.

Fr Jason

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### VPA

My early daffodils are open at last, the ones by my front fence, all the others are in various stages, from almost out, to just about 6 inches high and feeling cold! The Daphne is blossoming; it is one of my favourite scents in the garden, almost spicy! I have Pulmonaria out too; my Grandma always called it “bird dirt plant”, because of the spotty leaves! Bless her! Apparently the talk on Hagbourne in Bloom was well attended and was very good, all villagers tried to make their own gardens and the village look really good, they succeeded I think! Our next talk is on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> April, in Upton, I think its in the Methodist Hall, at 7.30pm, Brian Davis will be giving a talk on “Bulbs for all Year”, give me a ring on 850219, nearer the date and I will confirm whether it's the Methodist Hall or the village hall (or if you need a lift)! One of my doggies is not very well, so I am a bit scatty at the moment!! I also need to tell you about the forthcoming trip to Pam Lewis' garden, near Devises, this is a lovely garden, with morning coffee, lunch, a flower arranging demo, with tea and cake before we leave, for those not interested in floral art, she is also a blacksmith, so a look round the workshop, or a snooze in the garden may be the answer!! The date is Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> June; cost is £25, with a small contribution to fuel costs if you need a lift with someone! To book, call on above no, or email [karencbrooks@googlemail.com](mailto:karencbrooks@googlemail.com), or put a note into the post office in Blewbury, or to Maggie in Upton.

Happy Gardening      Karen Brooks

## GEORGE AND DRAGON

Since our last news, things have progressed at an extremely rapid pace. A family, local to the area, has applied for and has been selected to take over the pub's tenancy. Papers that will formalize the deal are being drawn up as we speak. As this will definitely be the last of our updates, I will take advantage of the opportunity to thank everyone who has supported us from the beginning. You did your best and so did we but even after all our combined efforts, in the end, the strong current of the changing times are simply too strong for us. At the moment, nothing is definite about our future but it's not bleak either. There are jobs in the pipeline and one of them might even be a pub management position for Bill! We are keeping our fingers crossed.

Our date of leaving is on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April and we refuse to go quietly in the night! You are all invited to our leaving do, aptly entitled, The Last Hurrah Party on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April from 9pm. Our favourite band, "Mew Wooster and Boon" will provide the Live Music on the night.

On our last week, opening and restaurant hours will slightly vary. Please take note of the following dates:

April 12 Monday: Closed

April 13 Tuesday: Regular hours and last day we will be doing food.

April 14 Wednesday: Closed at lunchtime. Open from 6pm for drinks only.

April 15 Thursday: Change-over day.

April 23 St. George Day: We have arranged for the usual celebrations to happen but couldn't get the confirmation in time for publication. The incoming landlord has been informed about this and so I will leave it up to him to finalize the arrangements.

Again, thank you for all your support. It was good while it lasted. You will be missed. Godspeed Upton.

*"Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened." - Dr Seuss*

## UPTON CALOR GAS SYNDICATE

An Upton Calor Gas Syndicate run along similar lines to the Upton Oil Syndicate is now up and running and available to join for anyone in the village who currently uses Bulk Supply LPG and would like to be included. Current Calor Gas customers can benefit immediately. Users of other LPG for example Flo-Gas must be out of contract with their current supplier before they can join. The current bulk discount price negotiated is a substantial reduction on the normal zonal price and likely to save an average user about £200. If I have not contacted you directly already it is almost certainly because I was not aware you were a Calor Gas user - so do please get in touch with me if you are interested as soon as possible in order to enjoy the benefit. Please contact me preferably by email: [lesley.thorpe.shaw@googlemail.com](mailto:lesley.thorpe.shaw@googlemail.com)

Lesley

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## LONDON MARATHON

A few months ago I was approached by the charity RedR, asking if I would run the London Marathon to raise funds for them.

RedR is the leading training and recruitment charity working in international disaster relief. Their work saves and rebuilds the lives of people affected by disasters worldwide - the need for this has recently been so clearly demonstrated in Haiti and Chile.

Any support you can give to this great cause will be hugely appreciated. The easiest way to donate is through:

<http://www.justgiving.co.uk/David-Mason/>

Some might say I am mad doing this and Lucy definitely agrees with you! Though I have pointed out to Lucy that as a mid life crisis go this is cheaper than a fast motorbike! In anticipation, thank you for your support.

David Mason  
Netherbrook, Church Street.

## UPTON 50's CLUB

Winners for February

£10	Mrs Suttar	76
£7	Mr Buxton	9
£5	Mr Davies	148
£4	Mr Napper	37

Winners for March

£25	Mr Lott	57
£25	Mrs Prior	41
£10	Mrs Yates	15
£7	Mrs Murphy	135
£5	Mr Smith	16
£4	Mrs S Concannon	13

Thank you for supporting the 50's Club.  
April is the start of another year for subscriptions, still at £6 for the year. Hopefully many of you will feel able to continue. The prizes remain the same, £10, £7, £5 and £4 monthly with two extra at £15 in September  
" " " £20 in December  
" " " £25 in March

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## ANTHONY SAUNDERS

Going through the old photo's of people past on your wonderful village website I discovered a picture of a 'Victor Saunders' who is a great uncle of mine. I have made contact with someone who has confirmed the identity of this person and his wife and children. I am now trying to find out what happened to them, especially their children, as my father wishes to contact one in particular Anthony Martin Saunders, Victor's youngest son. I have tried to find him with no avail so I wondered if there was anyone in the village that may remember the family and help me out.

My past relatives were mostly born in Wantage, Upton, and other places in the area my name is Butler and I know members of the Saunder's family married into the Butler family. I shall watch my e-mails with bated breath and hope upon hope that someone out there can help, any information would be much appreciated.

Debbie Butler

[debbiebutler001@gmail.com](mailto:debbiebutler001@gmail.com)

## ANIMAL CRACKERS

Celebrate the refurbishing of the Village Hall on April 16<sup>th</sup> by coming to ANIMAL CRACKERS. A light hearted entertainment with words and music featuring the voices of animals in crazy situations, plus a tip-top supper. Tickets £10 in advance from Geoff Summers 850801 and Peter Gardiner 850449  
Curtain up at 7.30

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## WOMENS INSTITUTE

We are all concerned about the plight of Bees. Blewbury WI has a very topical meeting coming up in April - "The incredible world of the Honey Bee" with Steve Moll. This will be at 19.30 on Wednesday April 28 in the Vale Room of Blewbury Village Hall. All are most welcome. If you are interested in the topic and would like to come as a "one off" then please do just come along and join us, we'd be delighted to see you. If you need a lift please telephone Judy on 850381 and she will 'fix it'. Blewbury WI are a very convivial bunch, coming up are: a pub lunch in Appleford, the Theatre in Abingdon, a visit to the Botanic Garden in Oxford, a walk near Nettlebed and talks on a variety of topics including "An organ-grinder entertains" and "Diary of an acting look-alike". Do come and give us a try!

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## KARATE

Last Sunday was a big day for 5 residents of Upton. Ben Lott (6), Katie Fenn(6), Alicia Dickens (11), Robert Dickens (13) and Dick Fenn all travelled to Reading to take their 9th KYU TISKA karate grading and they all passed. This means they can wear red belts. Well done to you all!

Lindsay

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Items for inclusion in the May issue to be sent to [kameki39@btinternet.com](mailto:kameki39@btinternet.com). or handed in to Cathy or Mike by April 26th

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