

# UPTON NEWS

July 2010

Vol 3 No. 41

## ST MARY'S CHURCH

### Services for July

4<sup>th</sup> July - 9.00 a.m. - Sung Eucharist, followed by refreshments

11<sup>th</sup> July - 9.00 a.m. - Sung Eucharist

18<sup>th</sup> July - 10.00 a.m. - Family Service, followed by refreshments

25<sup>th</sup> July - 9.00 a.m. - Sung Eucharist

1<sup>st</sup> Aug - 9.00 a.m. - Sung Eucharist

1<sup>st</sup> Aug - 10.30 a.m. – **Family Service at the Play**

**Close in Blewbury.** Come along and have fun knocking down the walls of Jericho - everyone welcome

There will be no family service at St Mary's during August

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## RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS



### The Demand of Love

Well, the Summer is upon us, and the Wedding Season is in full flow. In churches up and down the

land, couples are making their wedding vows to each other, in the presence of God and His people.

In the modern marriage service, husband and wife promise to love, comfort, honour and protect each other. The word “protect” in the modern service replaces the word “keep”, which appeared in the old service; this was a wise change, as for many people nowadays the word “keep” has lost its connection with the concept of protection. If you were to describe someone today as a “kept” man or a “kept” woman, you would be very unlikely to mean that they were being kept safe from danger, lovingly protected by their other half!

The idea of protection is an important ingredient in all the different things that go to make up what we mean when we use the word “love”. Nowadays, we tend to be rightly cautious about intervening in other people’s lives, even if our sole wish is to protect

them from what we see to be a real danger to their well-being. Perhaps we are frightened that if we do get involved, we will simply make things worse, or even end up being sued! Sometimes we might be painfully aware of how little we know about a particular situation, and take the view that in the face of such limited knowledge it would be best simply to do nothing. Sometimes, of course, we’re simply too busy to get involved, and soothe our conscience by telling ourselves that the person in question has to “take responsibility” for their own lives.

Of course, all this is true enough. But there are times and situations when we do need to intervene directly in the lives of those we love, in order to protect them from harm. It could be that they are living their life in a way which is profoundly destructive, not only for themselves but also for those who love them. They might be in a situation full of danger, of which they themselves are blissfully unaware.

I’m not suggesting it is always easy to protect someone we love from harm; it is often exceptionally difficult, and sometimes impossible. We will, of course, make mistakes, and sometimes things won’t work out quite as we had hoped. But there are times and situations when we will need to intervene to protect someone we love. It is the demand of love.

Fr Jason

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## VILLAGE HALL DROP-IN

We hope to see you for tea, coffee and biscuits on the following two Thursdays:

8 July and 22 July, 10.30 until 12.00 noon

There will be no Drop-in sessions during August.

Yvonne Collins

01235 850989

## SPRING LINE METHODIST CHURCH

### Services for July commence at 10.30 am

4 <sup>th</sup>		Local Arrangements
11 <sup>th</sup>	Upton	Brenda Boyer
18 <sup>th</sup>	Upton	Rev Helen White (Holy Communion)
25 <sup>th</sup>	Blewbury	Marlene Chalkley

### Special Service

July 18<sup>th</sup>: This will be Helen's last service as our Minister for the Spring Line Church. She has been with the Wantage and Abingdon Circuit since 2005, and we will miss her cheery smile and encouraging presence in our lives

It has always been the custom for Methodist Ministers to spend 5 or more years in a circuit, then to move on. Helen leaves us for her new appointment in Derbyshire at the end of July, and the Rev Dr David Rankin arrives to replace her at the beginning of September. We all wish Helen well in the future and hope that she will keep in touch with us. The official Circuit Farewell Service will be at Wallingford Methodist Church at 7.30 on July 29<sup>th</sup>.

### Well Being

I wonder what 'well being' means to you. Do you think primarily about your physical health, or does it include your emotional, spiritual and mental health as well? I've always counted myself fortunate to be blessed with good health – able to undertake long walks and with only a few days sickness as an adult. That changed last summer when I was off work for two and a half months with depression. It has been a tough road to recovery – some of you will have some idea of just how hard from your own experience. Oxfordshire Mind have played a significant part in supporting me in my recovery so I'm now planning on putting my physical good health to use in helping them. I'm taking part in another long walk – in Slovenia this time – to raise money for Mind. (*It's not until next June, to give us all time to raise as much money as possible*). In the meantime, let's not forget that our 'well being' includes our emotions, our minds and our spirits, as well as our bodies – all that together is what makes us who we are.

Helen White

\*\* Helen has not asked for this, but if you would like to read about the walk, and to sponsor her in her fundraising for Oxfordshire Mind, her fundraising page is [www.justgiving.com/Revd-Helen-White](http://www.justgiving.com/Revd-Helen-White)

Jo Lakeland

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## VPA

The VPA had a lovely trip to Pam Lewis's garden, great weather and beautiful gardens and lunch! Our next little jaunt is on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July, to Clematis Corner in Shillingford, to book, please ring Eileen on 510095. We are meeting at Blewbury Village Hall at 7pm, car sharing will be organised there if necessary.

It has been such a hectic year so far, dogs, kids, dandelions, guide camp etc that I completely forgot to mention the Annual Summer Show, this will be held on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> July, the schedules are available from the Post Office in Blewbury, or on my front porch, (Tadcombe, Besselslea) or by downloading one from the Upton Village website. Please pick one up if you would like to enter the show, entry forms need to be back to me by Weds 28<sup>th</sup> 10pm, email [karencbrooks@googlemail.com](mailto:karencbrooks@googlemail.com) or pop them into the Post Office, Blewbury or to Maggie in Upton. Then simply bring your entries to the village hall between 8.30 and 11am on the Saturday, and come back at 2.30pm when the show opens to the public, to see if you have won!!

If you can't be bothered to enter, then just come along at 2.30pm, to see who has scooped all the prizes, and who will be winning the coveted silver cups! We will be serving teas and homemade cakes, a tombola and raffle, and at 4.30pm, we will auction off some of the prize-winning entries!

If you need more info, then ring me (Show Secretary) on 850219, and I will try to help you! I will be fighting off the pigeons who are trying to eat the cherries off the tree, and waging war on anything that may dare to eat or destroy my roses!! Maybe I should train the dog to guard them?!

The talk for the September meeting is on the 1<sup>st</sup>, Vale Room, Blewbury, when R & J Nickless will be giving a "Bee Demonstration". Are they making cakes? Making them dance? I think we should know?!

Happy Gardening

Karen Brooks

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## UPTON LADIES COVEN

The next Upton Ladies Coven will be held at the George & Dragon at 8pm on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July - everyone welcome.

Lesley 850308

**PARISH COUNCIL**

**Village Hall Car Park**

Please be aware that work will start on extending and re-surfacing the car park on Monday July 12<sup>th</sup>. The car park will be closed to all vehicles for the whole of the week starting on the 12<sup>th</sup> but the pedestrian access to the hall, the play area and to the Recreation Ground will remain open; all persons using that access should proceed with caution.

It is requested that all children visiting the play area during that week are at all times accompanied by an adult as there will be large equipment operating and at times will be using hot material.

Alternative arrangements are being made for the Blewbury School Bus to pick up from a safe location.

**Planning Applications**

UPT/12955/2. Application for alterations and extension to Elms Rise, Chilton Road has been approved.

UPT/4042/1 Application for erection of a 2 storey side extension to create a ground floor carport with bedroom above and roof alterations with new dormers to front and rear at Mouse House, Station Road has been approved.

UPT/21068/1. Application for a double storey rear extension and a single storey rear extension at 5 Fieldside, Upton has been re-submitted. The P.C. have no objections.

UPT/20226/2. Application for the demolition of existing bungalow and erection of 2 chalet bungalows has been re-submitted. The P.C. has again objected but the application has been approved.

Mike Brown 850135

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**UPTON 50'S CLUB - MAY 2010**

£10	Mrs Whitmell	124
£7	Mrs Hammond	22
£5	Mrs Timblich	140
£4	Mr G Napper	37

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**THEATRE GROUP**

**ANTONY and CLEOPATRA**

**The Courtyard Theatre, Stratford, 21 June 2010**

Perhaps it was just as well we went on the longest day because the performance ran for three hours and twenty minutes, even with a few cuts. But tedious it wasn't for a moment!

The last time I saw the play at Stratford, Antony was drunk - literally - and Cleopatra spent her time in what looked like a shapeless dressing gown. So I was worried that the group were going to be subjected again to a director's weird ideas or an actor's incapacity. Wrong on both counts. Granted there was modern dress, but the business suits and Air Force uniforms of the Romans acceptably contrasted with the colourful, often outrageous, fashions and khaki camouflage battledress of the Egyptians. The set was simple so that the action was almost breathlessly continuous, and often excitingly choreographed.

While the ensemble's portrayal of the characters was always good and sometimes brilliant. Kathryn Hunter's Cleopatra was tiny, wrinkled, skeletal, and she limped, but the passion and charisma and temper and theatricality were all there, and she rose effortlessly to the tragic regality of her end. Darrell D'Silva's Antony was also well past his prime, but it was easy to see how he engendered such loyalty, how he had once been a consummate general, and he matched the fire and fury of his great love. Octavius is always a clear contrast to Antony but John Mackay gave him a new dimension. He was an eminently calculating politician who became more and more objectionable as his power grew, though he was allowed displays of anger and a deep affection for his sister.

It was a pity that some jobsworth official would not allow us to board the minibus near the Stage Door and kept the group waiting while the driver toured Stratford's one-way system to get the bus back outside the theatre after practically all the audience had departed. Still, all the other memories are exciting and colourful and entirely pleasurable.

Malcolm Wright  
June 2010

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## WOMENS'S INSTITUTE

Wednesday 28th July sees the Blewbury WI hearing about "Tales from the Arabian Nights" - sounds exotic! We meet at 19.30 in the Vale Room of Blewbury Village Hall.

Up and coming events include a talk by Prof Richard Dawkins in Abingdon, Calendar Girls in Oxford (watching not taking part!!), a Celebrity evening with Ken Bruce, lunch at The George and Dragon in Upton and "Spend, spend, spend" at the Watermill Theatre in Newbury. As always something to suit all tastes.

Come on Upton ladies!!! If you would like to come and need a lift or have any queries, please call Mrs Gettings on 851579. Or just turn up as a visitor - you'll be made very welcome.

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## ANIMAL CRACKERS

Many thanks to all who were involved in Animal Crackers on April 16<sup>th</sup> and to all who attended an enjoyable evening of the readings and an excellent meal. The tangible result was £417 for the Village Hall.

Peter Gardiner

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## DIARY DATES

### **Pimms, Pates and Puddings**

on **Sunday 15th August** at 12.30  
at the village hall on the new patio

Advance tickets - £10.00 Adult, £5.00 5 - 15s and Under 5s free

Adult £12.00 on the day, Child £6.00

On sale from 1st July from

Celia Davies 850684, Maggie Mayham 850126

Clare Lightfoot 850486, Jessie West 851206

Book your table now, ticket includes the first glass of Pimms, soft drinks also available.

All proceeds to UVHAT

### **St Mary's Fete**

on **Saturday 4th September**

At 2.00 p.m. on the Recreation Ground.

If you would like to help or have any bright ideas please call Jessie on 851206 or Clare 850486

## A FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY

### **Earn Real Green Money and Help the Environment**

On Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July the Blewbury Energy Initiative (BEI) will be holding an information meeting to describe the very attractive investment opportunity now made available by the new feed-in tariff for generating your own electricity.

The BEI is organising a collective approach so that residents in Blewbury and Upton may club together to obtain an attractive discount by installing solar photovoltaic systems during a limited time span in 2010. To achieve the best benefit for all it is important that as many as possible come to the meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> July in the Blewbury Methodist Chapel at 8.00 pm. If you cannot come to the meeting and you would like to partake in the opportunity please contact John Richards on 850218 or e-mail: johnr@gmail.com

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## UPTON O' GOOD

You will see that this month we have a first for Upton News with the issue of a colour supplement. If ever an event deserved such treatment it was the Uptonogood cycle event organised by Bob Lott and Mike Tibbits ably assisted by many others and in particular Richard Brown and Stuart Fraser. The supplement gives you a good idea of the success of the event and how it had the fantastic effect of bringing so many of the residents of the village to work together to both enjoy themselves and provide so much pleasure to so many people from such a wide area. What is does not record are the hundreds of hours of preparatory work of advertising and putting together all the support infrastructure necessary to run such a huge event, neither does it record the hundreds of miles the group of young dads have cycled between them in finding a suitable route, setting up all the direction indicators and even setting off at 4.00 am to check the route was in order on the morning of the event.

To all those who helped out a big thank you from the village and in particular a big thank you to Bob and his team.

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Items for inclusion in the August issue to be sent to [kameki39@btinternet.com](mailto:kameki39@btinternet.com). or handed in to Cathy or Mike by Monday 26<sup>th</sup> July.

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