

# UPTON NEWS

September 2010

Vol 3 No. 43

## ST MARY'S CHURCH

### Services for September

Sun 5<sup>th</sup> Sept - 0900 - Sung Eucharist & Refreshments

Sun 12<sup>th</sup> Sept - 0900 - Sung Eucharist

Sun 19<sup>th</sup> Sept - 1000 – Harvest Festival Family Service and Refreshments. Gifts of produce will be gratefully received and donated to Didcot Hospital, non perishable food items will be go to the Didcot Food Bank.

Sun 26<sup>th</sup> Sept - 0900 - Sung Eucharist

**Historic Churches Ride & Stride** will take place on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September.

If you would like to take part in this sponsored event please contact Clare Lightfoot on 850486. Volunteers are required to man the church on the day - please let me know if you can help.

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## SPRING LINE METHODIST CHURCH

### Services for September commence at 10.30 am

5 <sup>th</sup>		Local Arrangements
12 <sup>th</sup>	Blewbury	Andrew Lockley
19 <sup>th</sup>	Upton	Rev John Rowland (Holy Communion)
26 <sup>th</sup>	Blewbury	Brenda Boyer

### Funding for the Spring Line Church

Please support our Children's Tombola at St Mary's Church Fete on the Recreation Ground, starting at 2 pm on September 4<sup>th</sup>. There are boxes in both centres (Blewbury and Upton) for toys for the Tombola.

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## VILLAGE HALL

At last the screed in the new meeting room and store has dried out sufficiently to allow the floor covering to be laid. Thanks are due to Keith Eighteen and Sherfield Flooring Ltd for generously providing and laying the carpet in the meeting room free of charge.

Because of the increased capacity of the hall the Trust needs to incur expenditure on a number of further items. These include extension of the car park; extension of the ladies toilet to provide a second cubicle; and the purchase of additional tables and storage racking.

Funds raised this year will go a long way to meeting these additional costs, these include the proceeds of two events in the last few weeks.

Our thanks to Hilary Powell and her team of helpers who organised a very successful barn dance in the garden of Prospect House on the 10<sup>th</sup> of July. This yielded an amazing £1343.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of August 72 people met at the hall for a lunch of Pimms (and soft drinks), Pate and Pudding. Thanks are due to Celia Davies and Maggie Maytham, their team of helpers and all those who helped provide such a wide and inviting spread. This yielded £633. This event was so enjoyable that Celia and Maggie were pressed afterwards to arrange a similar event next year! By then it will have become a village tradition!

Brian Simpson

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## RECTORS REFLECTIONS



### Changing Direction

Have you ever been in a situation where things haven't been working out in your life, and you feel that you need a change of direction? Changing direction can, of course, be a scary thing to do, but there can be occasions when a change of direction in our life can be the best thing we have ever done.

I have recently come back from a few days holiday in Wales. In my travels, I passed the burial place of a seventeenth century Welsh poet, Henry Vaughan. He is buried in the churchyard of an isolated church in the Usk valley, between Abergavenny and Brecon. The views from the churchyard are stunning - you look across the Usk valley to the Brecon Beacons. Even on a wet day, it's worth visiting the spot simply for the view. The name of the church is Llansantffraed, and it is well worth a visit if you are ever in the area.

Henry Vaughan was someone who had to change direction in his life. He went up to Oxford, perhaps with the intention of becoming a lawyer, but the Civil War intervened and he left without taking a degree. In due course, Henry turned to the study of medicine and went back to his native Wales, where he practiced as a country doctor. However, when he was in his late twenties, he experienced a profound spiritual transformation, connected in part with the death of his twin brother. Henry felt called to write religious poetry, and his works include some of the finest poems of the seventeenth century. They are not always easy reading, but they include lines and phrases of great beauty, and moments of profound insight into the nature of our world, and God's relationship with it. Looking back on Henry's life, one can't help but think that the fact that he never became a lawyer was the best thing that ever happened to him!

Jesus said some challenging words on the subject of changing the direction of our lives. This is what he said:

"For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake, will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?"

I wonder whether Jesus is calling us to make a radical change of direction in our lives?

Fr Jason

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## WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Wednesday September 22nd finds the Blewbury WI hearing about "Weddings from around the world". We meet at 19.30 in the Vale Room of Blewbury Village Hall.

Up and coming events include a visit to Gaugin at the Tate, a talk at Benson on The Music of Elgar, Calender Girls in Oxford (watching not taking part!!) and a visit to the Grand Lodge of Free Masonry in London - that should be fascinating! As always, we will be having our monthly scrabble evenings, our monthly local walks and when the winter evenings draw in (already??) we'll be having our weekly Mah-Jong afternoons - just to keep the old grey cells active.

Come on Upton ladies!!! If you would like to come and need a lift or have any queries, please call Judy White on 850381. Or just turn up as a visitor - you'll be made very welcome.

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## UPTON LADIES COVEN

As advertised last month the Upton Ladies Coven will meet at the earlier time of 7pm on Thursday 2 September for a meal at the George and Dragon. Everyone welcome. If you would like to join us for the meal, please let Lesley Shaw know Tel: 850308, or by emailing [lesley.thorpe.shaw@googlemail.com](mailto:lesley.thorpe.shaw@googlemail.com) or alternatively contact Sheila Dawson or Maggie Maytham. Anyone who just wants to come along and join us for a drink as usual is of course also more than welcome.

Lesley 850308

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## **THEO GORDON (1913 – 2010)**

It is with great sadness that we reflect on and pay tribute to Upton's oldest resident - as her son, John, proudly acclaimed at the official opening of the extended Village Hall earlier this year.

She came of an almost entirely clerical family, and was for a long time a regular worshipper at St Mary's, with a deep personal faith. It greatly grieved her when she became too crippled to attend services

Theo and her husband, Jim, a Professor at Reading University, moved to Upton in 1968 and she frequently said how happy they were in the village. The many cars sometimes parked in High Street suggested there were great parties going on - she was renowned as an excellent cook - while a notice "Quiet, please; a book is being written" indicated other activities at "Littlecote". The spacious garden, designed on classical lines by Jim Gordon, was once or twice used for open-air performances.

Since his death in 1998, Theo had made a life on her own. She had a wide range of interests, continued to entertain, made new friends amongst her neighbours. These later enabled her to remain independent and stay in her home, while in her last years she was further supported by home carers and of course her family as well. When John and Liz moved to Cholsey, she saw more of them, and more of her beloved great-grandchildren.

The welfare of the village and its inhabitants was always very close to her heart, and she especially enjoyed the OTTC performances and specifically requested our home-produced evenings of words and music. Quite recently, indeed, Theo hosted a private rendition of "Animal Crackers".

She came of a bygone age, when traditional values and good manners were presumed without question, she was punctiliously grateful for any little services rendered, and anxious always that she and her house were in a proper state to be visited. But she was also so interested in and concerned about other people, so amazing at remembering the detail of their lives and plans, and so good at making everybody feel welcome and important. She had also an acute sense of humour, enjoyed a

good laugh as much as a serious discussion, and bore the problems of her increasingly poor health with a quiet fortitude.

Other residents of Upton will recollect scenes in which she featured during her 42 years in the village; for many there will be a Theo-shaped hole in our lives for a long time.

Elisabeth and Malcolm Wright  
August 2010

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## **PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Planning Applications**

UPT/19353/1 – Application for the erection of a front entrance porch at The Paddock, Chilton Road - Approved

UPT/20551/1 – Application Received for proposed change of use of land at the rear of Scotlands Ash

UPT/21243 – Application received for proposed front, side and rear extensions at Thistledome Stream Road.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September at 8.00 in the Meeting Room of the Village Hall.

Mike Brown 850135

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## **VILLAGE HALL DROP-IN SESSIONS**

I hope you have all had an enjoyable summer break.

The Drop-in sessions will resume on Thursday, 2 September when we will be hoping to see some of you in the Village Hall for tea, coffee and biscuits at the usual time of 10.30 until 12.00 noon.

Further sessions will be held on 16 September and 30 September.

Yvonne Collins  
01235 850989

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## VPA

Well done to everyone who entered the Summer show, our largest ever! 55 competitors put together 385 exhibits between them, just phenomenal! As usual the standard was pretty high, particularly in the cookery, floral art, handicraft and photography sections, with just one or two points between the winner of the cup and second place! Fruit, flowers & vegetables were not so good this year, but hardly to be expected given the weather conditions this year! The children's' section was brilliant, 14 kids entered this year, which gave the judges a bit of a headache, well done!

As usual, my roses were not up to scratch on show day, but 3 days later they were looking fabulous, typical! I had no runner beans ready, only 2 courgettes not 4, my teabread decided to burn itself then sink, but at least it got a 1<sup>st</sup> in the committee reject class, such fame!

Our next talk is on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September, at 7.30pm, in the Vale Room, Blewbury, when we have a Bee Demonstration, sadly they are not doing Morris dancing, but the beekeepers are going to tell us all about bees and how to keep them happy, and I think there was a mention of real honey being available to buy!

Happy Gardening                      Karen Brooks

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## JOB OPPORTUNITY

Many people in Upton will know that Nick Parham has MS and is confined to a wheelchair. At present he receives 2 hours of exercise a week following a regime designed by a physiotherapist. The young man who has been conducting these exercises with Nick is off to University in September and so we are seeking a fit individual who would be interested in continuing to support Nick with the exercises. Full training by a physiotherapist will be given and the payment is £25.00 per hour (£50.00 per week).

Please contact Ann or Nick Parham  
850748 or [anneparham@hotmail.com](mailto:anneparham@hotmail.com)

## DIARY DATES

### St. Mary's Fete and Fun Dog Show

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2.00 pm on the Recreation ground

Entertainment by Blewbury Brass Band, Dog Agility demo. Upton Olympics.

Stalls galore: books, white elephant, plants, preserves, produce, cakes, raffle, games, crafts, fairtrade, face painting, delicious teas etc. Etc

Dog Show entries to be made on the day

See you there.....

For more information contact Jessie – 851206 or Clare – 850486.

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## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Frances Burrow who recently graduated with a BA (Hons) History. Sorry Francis, news of your success did not reach me in time to go in with the other successes last month.

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## PETER AND JULIET GARDINER

It is with some sorrow that we say farewell to Peter and Juliet who left the village on 20<sup>th</sup> August after living in Upton for 17 years. During their time in the village they have been active in helping to organise social evenings, compiling documents on the early history of the village, helping out the Parish Council with tasks like being our Parish Transport Representatives, keeping the village roads and lanes free of litter and in many other ways.

We thank them for their contribution to the village, our best wishes go with them and hope that they will enjoy their new life just along the road in Goring.

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

Printed at the Duck House, Blewbury.  
Delivery organised by Jessie West