

# UPTON NEWS

October 2010

Vol 3 No. 44

## ST MARY'S CHURCH

### Services for October

Sunday 3rd October 09.00 - Sung Eucharist, followed by refreshments.

Sunday 10th October 10.30 - we are invited to join the Spring Line Methodist Church for their Harvest Festival at Upton Methodist Church.

NO SERVICE AT ST MARY'S

Sunday 17th October 10.00 - Family Service, followed by refreshments

Sunday 24th October 09.00 - Sung Eucharist

Sunday 31st October 09.00 - Sung Eucharist

PLEASE NOTE - New Week Day Service Times

Every Tuesday 09.30 - Morning Prayer followed at 10.00 by Said Communion.

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## CHRISTIAN AID SPONSORED WALK

If anybody would like to take part in the Sponsored Walk for Christian Aid, we have sponsor forms and maps. It will take place on Saturday 9 October; it starts between 9 and 10 am from Chilton Church; and a 5 and a 10 mile route are available.

Elisabeth and Malcolm Wright 850705

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## UPTON LADIES COVEN

The Upton Ladies Coven will meet at the usual time of 8pm in the George & Dragon on Thursday 7th October. Everyone welcome. Lesley 850308

## SPRING LINE METHODIST CHURCH

### Services for October commence at 10.30 am

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|---------------------------|---|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>           | Local Arrangements  |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> Upton    | Rev Richard Brittlestone  |
|                           | Harvest Festival. We are pleased to be joined by the congregation of St Mary's Upton. |
| 17 <sup>th</sup> Blewbury | Paul Williams   |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> Blewbury | Michael Howlett   |
|                           | (Chapel Anniversary)  |
| 31 <sup>st</sup> Blewbury | Rev Richard Brittlestone  |
|                           | (Holy Communion)  |

### Chapel Anniversary

The Spring Lines first anniversary service will be at the Blewbury Centre on 24 October. The reason we are holding the service in October is because it was on 12 October 2009 that the church councils of the two churches voted 'to join to form a new church to be known as Spring Line Methodist Church with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010'. So our real anniversary is in October each year. Everyone is invited to help us celebrate our first birthday.

### Fund Raising for the Spring Line Church

Our stalls did very well at last month's Fete. We raised over £150 - thank you for your support.

### Church Council

A reminder to Methodist Church Members that the autumn Spring Line Church Council will take place on Tuesday 26 October at 7.30 pm at the Blewbury Centre. Anyone interested in the running of our Church is invited to attend.

Jo Lakeland

## RECTORS REFLECTIONS



### A Favourite View

Do you have a favourite view? One of the joys of moving to this area has been the pleasure of discovering the local countryside. I have several favourite views. There's the view from Churn knob, on the downs above Blewbury. On a clear day, you can see as far as the John Radcliffe Hospital. Then there's the view looking south from near the Wittenham Clumps. Another favourite view is from the cemetery at the end of The Croft in Aston Tirrold, looking out across the fields towards Cholsey, with the Chilterns on the horizon. We are fortunate indeed to live in such a beautiful area.

There's something restful and re-assuring about looking out over miles of the English countryside. It settles the mind, and helps to put things in perspective. It can help us to get things into proportion, to think about the things that really matter in our lives.

Most of the time, life is simply too busy to give us the time and space to take stock of things, and think about what really matters. Before Jesus started his active ministry of healing and teaching, he took time out and went on a forty day retreat in the wilderness. (I know a few people who have managed to go on 28 day retreats - I am afraid the most I have ever managed is 3 days!).

At the end of Jesus' 40 day retreat, his mind was focussed on trying to choose what was going to be most important for his life. One of the choices involved Jesus picturing himself on a very high mountain. He was shown all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. The devil said to him: "All these I will give to you, if you will fall down and worship me". Jesus' replied as follows: "Away with you Satan! For it is written "Worship the Lord your God and serve only him".

Jesus had decided that serving God was what was most important to him in his life. I wonder what is most important to us in our lives? Now may well be a good time to get our lives back on track, to take stock of our lives and do a bit of re-arranging so that we may live our lives in

accordance with what really matters to us. I wonder what will go through our minds, next time we enjoy that favourite view?

Fr Jason

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## UPTON WINE APPRECIATION SOCIETY

Welcome back to everyone, I hope you all had a good summer break and now back to the hard part of life in Upton - drinking wine. Mike Collins hosted the first meeting with a cheap and cheerful look at wine for under £6, quite a challenge with the strength of the pound. The first wine was a tickle your taste buds number, to aide us through the annual general meeting. A sparkling wine from Hungary, not know for its frivolity! But this wine hit the mark Chapel Hill Sparkling Chardonnay-Pinot Noir Brut 12%, light and enjoyable, (Waitrose) and has good credits as it won a Silver Wine Medal at the International Wine and Spirit Competition in London.

This was followed by a very good Riesling from the banks of Bio Bio river in Chile 13.5% high alcoholic content for a Riesling, I really enjoyed this, available from the wine society.

The reds were as interesting as ever, starting with a French full red from the wine society, very robust at 13.5%, a good little all rounder, swiftly followed by the wine society's Montepulciano D'Abruzzo 13% was also interesting from a vineyard on the Italian Adriatic, half way down the boot bit of Italy, and then the Daddy of them all Icarus Gravity Shiraz, Maclaren Vale at 14.5% you need to be grateful for the earths gravity pull to keep you near the ground and too much of this and you may float off and come down with a bump, again from the wine society.

Next month is a little different as Kevin and myself, (must have been a little light headed when I volunteered for this) are looking at lesser known grape variety's hope to see you, book early as it is on the 13<sup>th</sup> of October.

Chris Traynor

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## GEORGE AND DRAGON PUB

Good News .... The George and Dragon pub has now got a new web site [www.thegeorgeanddragonpub.webs.com](http://www.thegeorgeanddragonpub.webs.com) . We have been developing our new site over the last 2 months and now it is fully up and running. On the web site we have added our menu as well as our monthly special offers and photos of our events. On our contact us page you can provisionally book a table reservation or to submit an enquiry with The George and Dragon simply complete the form and we will contact you back to confirm your booking, our events page will be regularly updated with all our current events.

Talking of events..... On Friday October 22<sup>nd</sup> from 7.00pm till late, we will be hosting a James Bond themed night (Themed dress code) with Karaoke and a great disco. There will be a prize for the best dressed person on the night (*and possibly dancer*) and on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> of November why not come and celebrate Bonfire night with us at the George and Dragon, Fireworks and live music till late.

And finally Christmas.... yes it's nearly here again. We are now taking bookings for Christmas. Our Christmas menu meals will be available from December 1st until December 31st. If you would like a Christmas menu but cannot get to us to collect one just call us at the pub and we will get one to you. The Christmas menu is also available on our web site. We would recommend that you book your table early in order not to be disappointed. Please note that we are fully booked on Christmas Day and Boxing Day for meals. Our opening times for the Christmas period are displayed on our web site.

Kenny and Jo

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## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Jean Parker on joining our elite band of nonagenarians. Jean celebrated her 90th birthday on 20th September.

## VPA

I found the dreaded first fallen leaf of autumn on my lawn this morning (9<sup>th</sup> Sept), brown and crispy, surely this is not right? I am still picking beans and tomatoes? However, the weed & feed has worked wonders on those dratted dandelions in the lawn, and the borders are still flowering well, and the bees are still buzzing in the lavender!

Speaking of bees, Mr Nickless gave us a splendid talk on keeping bees, getting honey and the dangers of wasps to the hives! While talking about the wasps, Mr Nickless explained that we have had the big European wasps here this summer, which explains why I have had such a nasty reaction to the 2 stings I received on guide camp in August! Something else to blame the EU for!

Our next talk is on "Cider Making", this is now in Upton Village Hall, (not the Methodist Chapel as advertised) at 7.30pm on 6<sup>th</sup> October. Val & Bob Fitchett of the acclaimed Upton Cider Farm, are coming to tell us all about the art of cider making, and hopefully tasting it too, and even more hopefully selling us some!

Happy Gardening

Karen Brooks

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## VILLAGE HALL DROP-IN SESSIONS

Hope to see you at the next Drop-in Sessions. 10.30am to 12.00am on 14<sup>th</sup> October, 28<sup>th</sup> October, and 11<sup>th</sup> November.

Yvonne Collins 850989

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## UPTON 50 CLUB

Winners for August 2010

£10	Jo G&D	153
£7	Mr Bucknell	103
£5	Mr Maytham	157
£4	Mrs G Napper	170

(Prospect Rd)

## VILLAGE HALL

### Help Required

Jessie West has acted as the Village Hall's unpaid caretaker/cleaner for the past 4 years. This was Jessie's generous gesture, saving a considerable amount of money towards the hall extension. Jessie is very happy to continue with the caretaking role but it would be really good if we could have a rota of volunteers to help her. We envisage that a volunteer would help out with the cleaning duties for 1-2 hours during their week on duty so the task will not be too onerous. If you would be prepared to join the rota or would like more information on what is required please contact Clare Lightfoot (850486) or Jessie West (851206). Many thanks.

### Cutlery Required

The village hall kitchen could really do with some more cutlery for entertaining purposes, in particular knives and spoons. If anyone is having a clear out at home or doing a house clearance perhaps they could bear us in mind?

All donations most welcome.

Celia Davies                      850684

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### BABYSITTING OFFER

Anais is an 18 year old French girl who has come to live, with our family, in The Old Shop in Upton for one year. She is a kind, helpful girl who likes to spend time with our children. While she is in England Anais is keen to babysit for local families, and if the families would like her to she will be happy to play games, in French, with the children to help them improve their French in a fun way, before bedtime.

So if you would like a babysitter who is good with children and who can also make French fun, please call Anais on 01235 850 847.

Emma Watts-Lay.

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### MOBILE SHOP

A mobile shop will be calling at the village hall car park each Tuesday morning from 9.00 - 9.30. This service will start in November, date to be confirmed.

## DIARY DATES

Blewbury Apple Day - **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October**  
11.30am to 4.30pm at the Blewbury Methodist Hall and at the Red Lion Garden.

Activities and Events for all the Family including Apple Display and Tasting, Juicing Demonstration, Cakes and Produce, Children's Displays and Activities, Cider with Rosie, Basket Making and a Honey Stall.

Entry Free.

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## PARISH COUNCIL

### Village Website

Are you aware of all the items of interest that are posted on your village website each month.

There are articles and information that are too big to go in your monthly newsletter plus lots of other items of interest to this village.

Also on the website is a Village Calendar that tells you all the things going on in the village such as, which days to put out which bin or who is giving the next talk at the Wine Club.

### Fouling in the Recreation Ground

Please be aware that there is currently a problem with badger fouling in the Recreation Ground particularly near the old railway line. You will notice a small scrape in the ground with a mess neatly placed in it.

There is also evidence of dog 'poo', dogs don't bother with the scrape. Dog owners should be aware that it is an offence under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 if a person who is in charge of a dog does not clean up after it when it fouls any footpath, highway, verge or other open space to which the public have access. If you do not clean up after your dog, you could face a fixed penalty of £50 or if the case is prosecuted in court a fine of up to £1000 may be incurred.

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

Printed at the Duck House, Blewbury.  
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