

# UPTON NEWS

November 2010

Vol 3 No. 45

## ST MARY'S CHURCH

### Services for November

Sun 7th November 0900 - Sung Eucharist, followed by refreshments.  
Sun 14th November 0900 - Sung Eucharist.  
Sun 21st November 1000 - All Age Family Service, followed by refreshments.  
Sun 28th November 0900 - Sung Eucharist.  
Sun 5th December 0900 - Sung Eucharist.

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## UPTON LADIES COVEN

The November Upton Ladies Coven will be held on Thursday 4 November at the usual time of 8pm - everyone welcome. Advanced notice that The Coven Christmas Meal will be held at the George and Dragon Pub at 7pm on Thursday 2 December. If you would like to join the ladies for some festive fun and gourmet dining please contact Lesley Shaw by email: [lesley.thorpe.shaw@googlemail.com](mailto:lesley.thorpe.shaw@googlemail.com) or call her on Tel 850308 evenings to discuss/confirm available menu choices (also available from the pub) and to pay a £10 deposit to Lesley please **asap**.

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## VILLAGE HALL DROP-IN SESSIONS

The remaining Drop-in sessions of 2010 are scheduled for:

11 November - 25 November - 9 December

Yvonne Collins 850989

## VPA

Many thanks to Bob Fitchett of the Upton Cider company for coming to talk to us about the trials and tribulations of cider making, it coincided very well with the Apple Day in October, and was a great way to slide into autumn!

I do not like this time of year at all, the colours in the garden are fab, but putting the greenhouse 'to bed', cutting back, clearing undergrowth, cutting the lawn etc are very tedious, as I can really only do this on the scarce dry and bright days, when I would rather be doing something else!

However, to cheer us all up, my friend Richard Roslyn is coming to talk to us on the progress on the Manor Gardens, and to share his stunning photos, this is after the AGM on Weds 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov. at the Vale Room, Blewbury, 7.30pm, with a glass of wine or juice, and a selection of cheeses. I will also be announcing the winner of the Presidents Cup, which is given to the exhibitor with the most points in the whole show which was held back in the summer. I don't know who it is, I haven't added up all the points yet! It will be a surprise!

Also on sale at the AGM, will be tickets for the Xmas social evening at Toad Hall on 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec, this is always a special evening, mulled wine or juice, hot canapés and a quiz or something on those lines, with prizes. I shall not be there this year, I have a better offer!

Happy Gardening

Karen Brooks

## SPRING LINE METHODIST CHURCH

### Services for November commence at 10.30 am

7<sup>th</sup> Upton Ruth Dams  
14<sup>th</sup> Upton Brenda Boyer  
21<sup>st</sup> Blewbury Paul Williams  
28<sup>th</sup> Upton David Kershaw

### A welcome to our new minister

Our previous minister, Rev. Helen White, moved on to her new position in Derbyshire at the end of July, and the plan was that we would welcome our new minister in September. But the plan changed, and the Rev. Richard Bittleston has only recently become the local Minister in the Wantage and Abingdon Circuit who has pastoral charge of the Spring Line Church. Richard has been Minister of Trinity Abingdon since June 2008. Trinity is a joint United Reform / Methodist church within the Church in Abingdon, so he has responsibilities within both the URC and Methodist churches. We are especially pleased to welcome Richard because he plays the organ, which means that occasionally we will have live instead of electronic music at our services!

Jo Lakeland

### A country parson!

There is more than a little of the romantic in me and the chance to share Christian witness in a different setting greatly appeals to me. My ministry to date has always been in large churches and fairly city central. Even becoming the minister at Trinity in Abingdon felt like a step away from the busy world. I'm looking forward to the friendship, the fellowship and sharing a pace which is so rare in the urban settings – a time for God. If we find time for that in our ministry together – it will be a good time. We said our official hello at the Harvest Festival. It will take a while to juggle things to make the right spaces, but that's part of the fun and the challenge. I'm not planning on buying a horse though – just a bit too romantic an image!

Richard Bittleston, Minister for Spring Line Church

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## UPTON VILLAGE THEATRE GROUP

### Hairspray

The New Theatre, Oxford, 12 October 2010

Despite falling at the first hurdle and getting my wires crossed about what time the minibus was due to pick us all up, we had a smooth journey up the A34 and so I managed not to detrimentally delay the arrival of the other Theatre-Goers to the West End Production of Hairspray on tour at the New Theatre Oxford. The advert describing Hairspray as, 'the mother of all musicals' is certainly not wrong! We were treated to Scene after Scene of vibrant, noisy, feel-good singing and acting from an outstandingly professional cast that had the full house clapping wildly and up on its feet dancing and cheering as the final curtain came down.

There were some memorable performances, including the duet from Brian Conley as Edna Turnblad and Les Dennis as the amiable husband Wilbur who runs the Har-de-Har Hut, which left them – never mind the audience – reeling with laughter. Laurie Scarth gave a fantastic performance as the central character Tracy Turnblad, her singing only outshone by the stunning vocal chords of Sandra Marvin as Motormouth Maybelle.

It was a real treat and should definitely not be missed if you have yet to experience this Sixties style romcom with the happy ever after 'Aaahh' factor mixed with a poignant reminder of what segregation in the USA meant for youngsters at that time...In fact it was so fantastic young Liam had his fingers in his ears throughout much of the wild applause that followed every Scene.....it really was that good! Our thanks as ever especially to Malcolm and the Upton Village Theatre Group Committee for organising yet another fantastic evening out....may we all enjoy many more.

Lesley Shaw

October 2010

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## RECTORS REFLECTIONS



And the Greatest Is....

Do you tend to be an optimist or a pessimist? It can be so hard to look into the future with a positive frame of mind. We can be weighed down with all sorts of worries. We can have experienced our lives and our world changing for the worse, and assume that things will just continue to get worse. We might hear politicians talking about a new start, but we feel we have heard this all before (and we probably have!).

But the future doesn't always turn out to be as bad as we fear. And while it is true that sometimes change is for the worse, there are times that change is very much for the better. Thinking about my own life, there have certainly been times when, to me at least, the future seemed pretty grim. But I kept going, and in due course new grounds of hope emerged.

Hope is the key. Among the many gifts which God gives to us, Hope is one of the most precious. There are times when it is only Hope which makes life worth living. This can be true for us as individuals, but it is also true for us as communities and as a nation.

The challenge can sometimes be to find a sure foundation for Hope- something solid on which we can hang our hope for the future. There are lots of candidates for such a foundation – we might look to money in the bank, a good job, or a particular person who we regard as rock-solid. “Well, if all else fails, we can rely on so and so... their goodness, their kindness, their skill will carry us through”. Or we might put our faith in the brains and ingenuity of scientists, confident that science will solve our problems.

But in the end, none of these foundations prove as secure as we had hoped. Investments fall in value. Individuals prove to be fallible human beings. Scientists produce answers which produce a whole new set of problems!

The good news is that God is still around, and He still cares. God still offers us His gift of Hope, Hope that is grounded in the love of God for each one of us. God loves each one of us without limit, and He will not allow anything to get in the way of His loving purposes for us. In

the end, all will be well. Our task is to hang on in there – even when we hang by our fingernails!

An early Christian, St Paul, wrote that there are three things that last, three things that endure: Faith, Hope and Love. And the greatest? I wonder whether at times, the greatest is not Love at all. At times, I wonder whether the greatest is Hope.

Fr Jason

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## PROMISES

At the Upton church fete the Promises stall made over £200 but the following Promises are still available:

A cross stitch of a name in either winter, spring, summer or autumn colours £20.00

Have your gutters cleaned out before winter.

Kindly donated by David Warren roofing of Upton. Conditions apply up to a 4 bedroom

home, a max of two stories, within an 8 mile

radius of Upton. Access will be solely by ladders £80.00

If you are interested in either Promise please contact Ann Parham 850748

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## WOMENS INSTITUTE

Blewbury WI next meet at 19.30 on Wednesday 24th November in the Vale room of the Blewbury Village Hall. The topic will be "An Organ-Grinder Entertains", presume the monkey won't be there!!!! 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..... If you need a lift or have any queries contact Judy on 850381.

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## THANK YOU

Nick and Ann Parham would like to thank all those people who offered to help Nick with his exercises. He now has a team of three people who are doing a wonderful job of keeping his joints moving.

## UPTON WINE APPRECIATION SOCIETY

The October meeting was a little earlier than usual due to the Brownies extravaganza. This meeting was on unusual, none classic grape varieties, to find some uncommon wines for us to try. We began with a very nice Vega de la Verdejo 2008 from Spain. The grape variety the Verdejo, from the Rueda region of Spain, this was a popular wine with a light green citrus flavour, very good in the summer months with out door eating, from Majestic £5.99 for 2 bottles or more. The second white was a Marsanne from the Paul Mas Estate 2009, this retails again, from Majestic for around £7.99 for 2 bottles or more. A very floral intense flavour, almost waxy at times, the Marsanne grape is normally used as a blend in Cote du Rhone, and is unusual to find on its own, but very nice. The reds were as interesting a straight Grenache from Naked wines Domaine Crista Vin de Payes Grenache Organic 2009. I personally love this grape and enjoyed this wine - a long finish and a bit liquorish in flavour, but good. The next wine to mention was the Araldica Albera 2007 Barbera d'Asti Piedmont, the grape variety Barbera an Italian grape, I used to drink this in my youth in Manchester, in a very nice little Italian Bistro. This was a bargain at £4.99 from Waitrose, very popular on the evening. Fiona who has an excellent palate recommended that it may well benefit from another year in the bottle and if sampling now to open quite a while before serving to let in breath. However if I know Uptonites, it won't last the week never mind a year! The November meeting offers us a new perspective; a French grower is coming to talk to us about his wines from the Carcassonne, Languedoc Roussillon region if he lands in time hope to see you all then.

Chris Traynor

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## GEORGE AND DRAGON PUB

We would like to say a big thank you to all who attended our James Bond night, The night was a huge success, photos will be available to view on our web site this week  
[www.thegeorgeanddragonpub.webs.com](http://www.thegeorgeanddragonpub.webs.com) .

Our web site is updated every week with a full list of our current and future events. You will also find our main menu as well as our Christmas menu and opening times.

### **Monday Night is Curry and a Pint Night £7.99**

Every Monday night is curry and a pint night at the George and dragon. Our curry is home made and comes with a pint of your choice, or you might prefer to try our Pinot Grigio £10 per bottle (Mondays nights only)

Our next event will be on the Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November. Why not come and celebrate Bon Fire night with us at the George and Dragon, Fireworks and live music by "Triple A" till late.

### **Special offer**

(bookings are now available)

Two 10oz Steaks with all the trimmings plus a dessert

and 1 bottle of wine. Only £40 per couple

**or**

One 10oz Steak with all the trimmings plus a dessert

and 1 bottle of wine. Only £20 per person

Bookings are required for the Steak meal

Or maybe you would just like to pop along and enjoy a drink and the live music, and the Fireworks

And finally Christmas.... yes it's nearly here again. We are now taking bookings for Christmas parties. Our Christmas menu meals will be available from December 1st until December 31st. If you would like a Christmas menu but can not 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. A discount will apply to all bookings of 10 people or more

Please note that we are fully booked on Christmas Day and Boxing Day for meals.

Kenny and Jo

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## **IF YOU HAVE A PHONE LINE, PLEASE READ THIS!**

As you might be aware, BT is running a 'race' to decide which of the UK's smaller exchanges will jump the queue to get super-fast fibre optic broadband. (Didcot and the larger towns will get it automatically, but once again we'll have to fight for it.) There will be five winners, and one of them will also get computer equipment worth £5000 for a local school or community project. The race runs from now until December 31<sup>st</sup> and simply requires people to vote for their exchange. **There's no cost and no commitment – you just need to stand up and be counted.**

For the Blewbury exchange (serving Blewbury, Upton, the Astons, West Hagbourne and part of East Hagbourne) to be in with a chance, we need at least 1,000 votes from all the villages combined.

If you're on the Internet already, you can vote by going to

<http://www.racetoinfinity.bt.com/vote/cast> and entering your details. It takes less than a minute.

If you're not on the Internet, you can call Graham de Wilde on 01235 851600, he's the Upton representative for the campaign and he will place your vote for you. Only one vote is allowed per postal address, and according to BT there are only 1236 postal addresses with telephones in all the villages put together. That means in order to get 1000 votes, we need 81% of all our households and businesses to stand up and be counted. The faster speed may not be important to you but for many of our small businesses and individuals who work from home it will make an enormous difference, so you can see why we need your help! Please vote as soon as you can and ask your friends, family and neighbours to do the same.

As of today 341 votes have been recorded for the Blewbury exchange, we will report on progress in next months Upton News.

Graham de Wilde 851600

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## **SHORT MAT BOWLS**

It is hoped that in the next few weeks a Short Mat Bowls Club will be set up in Upton using the Village Hall. The intention is to organise a regular evening session, probably Monday or Wednesday, and also a mid week daytime session(s), the latter to accommodate those who find attending winter evening sessions difficult. To help those who are not familiar with the sport four FREE taster sessions have been arranged for **Sundays 14 & 28 Nov. 3pm - 4.30pm and Wednesdays 24 Nov. & 15 Dec. 7-30pm - 9pm.**

There will be players from other clubs with their bowls for you to borrow and after a very short introduction and demonstration game, you will be helped to play several ends yourself. Any flat soled shoes or slippers can be used on the bowls carpet or just stocking feet.

It is suitable for all ages and fitness levels (children need to be 10 years or older for safe control of the bowl)

If you are interested contact Joan Durbin on 850035 or just come along to one of the taster sessions.

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## **PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Planning Applications**

The following applications have been received.

**UPT/368/3** Outline application for two dwellings at Kameki, Chilton Road.

The P.C. have no objections.

**UPT/9435/3** Application for Chalet Bungalow and Garage at Jasmine, Chilton Road.

To be discussed.

**UPT/21068/2** Application for Double Storey Rear and Side Extension with Garage and a Porch to the front at No 5 Fieldside.

To be discussed.

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## VILLAGE HALL

**Oxfordshire Theatre Company  
bring  
Alice in Wonderland  
to Upton Village hall on  
Wed. December 1<sup>st</sup> at 7pm**

Long ago, in the city of dreaming spires,  
a boat set out along the Thames,  
on a trip to Wonderland...

The company is delighted to present this well known, Oxford based, tale inspired by the Lewis Carroll novel, and written by Neil Duffield, winner of the Arts Council England. This brand new version of the classic tale, combines puppetry, song and dance.

Tickets £8 adults, £6 children, from  
Jessie 851206.

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## UPTON OIL SYNDICATE

The next order is scheduled to be placed on Monday 15th November (this is the last order before Christmas). To be included, I need to have your orders by Saturday 13th November at the latest.

Also to let you know we have now moved back to Upper Basildon – please not new telephone number below.

My current contact details are (preferably by e-mail) [colin.batchelor@eggconnect.net](mailto:colin.batchelor@eggconnect.net) or by telephone 01491 672444 (after 7.00pm).

Colin Batchelor

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## UPTON 50 CLUB

### Winners for September

£15	Ms Ryan	100
£15	Mrs M Dawson	50
£10	Mrs Fox	165
£7	Mr Hawkins	11
£5	Mrs Arnold	142
£4	Mrs de Wilde	156

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The next Have Your Say meeting in Upton will be on Sat 6th November 2010 in the village hall at 7.00pm - 8.00pm.

If you have any thoughts or ideas for the police please do pop along and have a chat with them. They are very approachable and are keen to work with the village/community.

Celia Davies

850684

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## DIARY DATES

### Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November 10.30 to 12.00

“Coffee Morning in aid of the MS Society at Upton Village Hall.

Please come along and enjoy a cup of coffee with home made biscuits, children’s and adult raffle, home bake stall, and decorating fairy cakes for children (and for those adults young at heart).

For information please contact Carole Hubbard on 01235 851396 or alternately email Claire Hubbard at: [motherhubbard570@hotmail.com](mailto:motherhubbard570@hotmail.com)”

### Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November at 2.15 pm

Afternoon Tea with entertainment by the Steventon Singers is being held in the Village Hall

This tea party is open to senior citizens and anyone at home alone. Invitations will be going out at the beginning of November.

We would welcome offers of cakes beforehand or help from anyone who could spare a couple of hours that afternoon to serve tea or offer lifts.

For more information call Clare on 850486

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Items for inclusion in the December issue to be sent to [kameki39@btinternet.com](mailto:kameki39@btinternet.com). or handed in to Cathy or Mike by Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov. Sorry it has to be early next month.

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