

UPTON NEWS

February 2011

Vol 3 No. 48

ST MARY'S CHURCH

St Mary's Services for February

Sunday 6 Feb 0900 - Sung Eucharist, followed by refreshments

Sunday 13 Feb 0900 - Sung Eucharist

Sunday 20 Feb 1000 - CHRISTINGLE FAMILY SERVICE, in support of the Children's Society followed by refreshments

Sunday 27 Feb 0900 - Sung Eucharist

We are delighted to welcome Revd Geoffrey Barradale who has been licensed as an associate priest in the Benefice.

Clare Lightfoot 850486

SPRING LINE METHODIST CHURCH

Services for February start at 10.30 am

6 th	Local Arrangements	
13 th	Blewbury	Marlene Chalkley
20 th	Upton	Rev. Richard Bittleston (Communion Service)
27 th	Blewbury	Brenda Boyer

Church Council

A reminder to all church members that the next meeting of the Spring Line Methodist Church Council will take place on Wednesday 16 February at 7.30 pm at the Upton Centre. Anyone interested in the running of the Chapel is invited to attend.

THE UPTON COVEN

The Upton Coven will meet on Thursday 3rd February at 8pm in the George & Dragon - everyone welcome.

Lesley

IMPROVED UPTON PLAY AREA

We have now submitted a further two grant applications for funds to improve the Play Area in Upton.

I wanted to say a big thank you to all of the "under 18" residents of Upton who have sent back either their questionnaire form, with or without sketches, or a response to say they support the scheme. Our applications for grants won't be taken seriously unless the vast majority of under 18s show that they are keen, so the support is vital if we want to raise money to go ahead.

So far, I have had responses from approximately 65% of the young people in Upton. It's definitely not too late to send your form / questionnaire back to us if you haven't already done so and we would love to hear from you, particularly if you have any ideas.

We are trying to improve facilities to include exciting equipment for a wide age range!

We have tried to make contact with all of the young people in Upton but if for any reason we have missed you out, please let me know and we will make sure that you have the chance to be included.

Sketches that we've received are available to view on the village website, and will also be on show at an 'open day' event that we're planning in order to collect ideas and explore the siting of the playground.

Many thanks. Ros Caffyn 01235 851605
the.caffyns@btinternet.com

DROP IN

The next three Drop-in Sessions are scheduled for: 3 February, 17 February and 3 March in the Village Hall starting at 10.30am.

Yvonne Collins 01235 850989

RECTORS REFLECTIONS



Friends

Have you seen any good films recently? I saw an excellent film the other day, called The King's

Speech. In case you haven't seen it, it's about George VI, and the way in which he gradually overcame a severe speech impediment. The film is about so much else as well, not least the transforming power of friendship.

The Bible is full of references to friendship - its joys, and its challenges. Some of what the Bible says about friendship is quite surprising, and certainly challenging. There are, for example, several interesting sayings in a book of the Bible called the Book of Proverbs:

"The poor are not liked even by their friends, but the rich have friends in plenty"

"Disaffection sows strife, and tale-bearing breaks up the closest friendship"

"Never make friends with someone prone to anger, nor keep company with anyone hot-tempered; be careful not to learn his ways and find yourself caught in a trap"

We all know how important friendship is in our own lives. But we can sometimes forget that friendship is also important in our relationship with God. God wants to be our friend – to support us, to encourage us, to share our joys and to be with us in difficult times. God wants to help us, and wants us to change for the better. God knows that sometimes we are our own worst enemies and that there are times when we do some pretty stupid things; God also knows that we all have our off days. But God still loves us. There is nothing we can do which will stop God from being our friend.

Friendship is, of course, a two-way thing. God will always be our friend; but what do we do to respond to God's offer of friendship? God would love us to be his friends, but he doesn't force us into friendship. He is most wonderfully patient- he simply waits for us to respond. And as with many friendships, our friendship with God is not a static thing - it can develop and deepen over the years. There can also be periods when we lose touch, only to be re-united after a break of many years.

Let me finish with a verse from an old hymn:

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and grief's to bear!

What a privilege to carry everything to him in prayer!

O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,

All because we do not carry, everything to God in prayer!

Fr Jason

UPTON WINE APPRECIATION SOCIETY

Welcome back to the Upton Wine club after the Christmas break, I hope you all had an excellent one. We had another first for mankind, no not a moon landing, just sherry tasting at the Upton wine club.

John went gamely where no man has gone before and entered the world of sherry. He began with a couple of fine dry sherries a Fino del Puerto Solera Reserve, and a Manzanilla Solera Reserve. These were very dry and I think not to everyone's taste but if you are a fan of dry sherry these are both available from Waitrose at £8.99.

The next sherry was much more popular a little sweeter and more to the taste of Uptonites this was a Dry Olorosa Solera Reserve again from Waitrose at £8.99.

We then turned to the more tradition wine club fair, Mike introduce us to four wines from Spain. The first a white, a Gaba do Xil Godello Valdeorras. Once again the Spanish have released this lesser know ancient grape variety the Godello, to the world this grape has in the past been hard to grow but the clever Spanish have managed to develop a hardier variety and hence more wine for us. With a light but complex taste, most people liked this wine, available from the wine society at £8.95.

The last red was interesting and strong, plenty of alcohol content, a Pasanau Ceps Nous Priorat 2008. Apparently the Priorat is fast becoming one of Spains most important red wines and can fetch up to £40-50 a bottle, due to the more restrained budget of the wine club it rolled in as little as £11.50 from the Wine Society.

Hope to see you all next month when Simon will be reviewing white wines from Macon and Beaujolais.

Chris Traynor

GEORGE AND DRAGON

Jo and I would like to wish you all a belated Happy New Year.

Christmas at the George and Dragon Pub was a very busy time for us. Our Christmas menu was a huge success. This year we are expecting it to be even busier, so an early booking is well advised. We would like to say a big Hello and Thank you to the Upton Bike Riders who stop by each Wednesday and Thursday evenings no matter what the weather. We are now in the process of putting together an Aunt Sally team, if you would like to join please feel free to come and put your name down. I have been in touch with Green King who organise team outings to neighbouring pubs throughout the season. On April 15th we will be celebrating our first anniversary at the George and Dragon, we would like to invite you to join us at the pub from 7.30pm live music will be provided. We now have a new menu for lunch times and evening meals our lunch time menu will be available from Noon till 4pm and our evening menu will be available from 18.00 till 21.00.

Up and coming events

Steak Night February 14th come and celebrate St Valentines day at the George and Dragon. Two 8oz sirloin steaks served with all the trimmings and a bottle of wine just £45 per couple. Booking recommended

February 14th come and enjoy live music from a local group called Nameless from 7.30pm
March 25th back by demand will be Suede Alain a local band from Wantage who proved a huge success when they played at the George and Dragon in December.

May 6th come and support a great local band called Loaded, this band are highly recommended and well worth supporting.

And finally Monday night is Curry and a pint night just £7.99
Monday Lunch time special from Noon till 4pm
2 meals for £10

Kind Regards Kenny and Jo

DIARY DATES

Saturday 2 April at 2.00 p.m. A Jumbo Jumble Sale in the Village Hall in aid of hall improvements. For further info call Jessie 851206

ANYONE FOR TENNIS?

Many assume that playing tennis equates to warm Summer weather but you would be wrong! Tennis enthusiasts braved the elements on Bank Holiday Monday to welcome in the New Year. 27 people of all ages and abilities gathered at Blewbury Tennis Club and enjoyed getting out into the fresh air, catching up with friends and of course playing tennis! Mulled cider and mince pies sustained our reserves and those of spectators too who enjoyed watching their children racing about the courts.

This social event is one that the club hopes to run regularly now that all 4 courts have been upgraded. We will soon have a courtside "hut" to shelter in or make tea, which will improve the facilities even more.

The club welcomes new members at any time throughout the year and membership rates are extremely good value – especially for families. For 2011 we are delighted to be able to host Attack Tennis – all year round coaching for children of all ages and abilities, so book in early and get playing! All details can be found on www.attacktennis.co.uk. The classes are also open to non-members in the first term, so come along and give it a try! Membership enquiries can be made to rosemary.dewilde@mac.com
We look forward to seeing you soon.

Rosemary de Wilde

FASTER BROADBAND DESTINED FOR UPTON

We made it! As a result of our exchange (Blewbury) finishing the 'Race to Infinity' level with 5 other exchanges with a BT calculated score of 100% we have become one of the 6 rural exchanges across the country that will be fibre optic enabled in early 2012. A very big thank you to everyone for their support and special thanks to all the people who knocked on doors, spoke to people and generally cajoled everyone into voting. By the final day of the race 1234 out of an eligible total of 1236 votes had been recorded from the four villages that make up the Blewbury exchange, a fantastic effort that will be much appreciated by many parishioners who will eventually benefit from the much faster speed obtained by using fibre optic cables.

A more detailed report of the race and what is to follow from BT is given on the village website.

Graham de Wilde

PARISH COUNCIL

Precept

The council has agreed to keep the precept, our share of your dreaded Council Tax, at the same level for the 4th consecutive year. Details of the estimates and proposed spend for next year are on the village website.

Annual Litter Pick

The annual village litter pick has been fixed for Saturday 19th March, meeting at the village hall at 9.30am. You will all have noticed that this year the litter on our through roads is appalling and I hope as many as possible can come along to help us tidy up the parish. There will be a hot drink and biscuits to send you on your way.

Easter Caravan Meeting

The Parish Council together with UVHAT have again agreed that the National Caravan Club can hold its Easter meet on the Upton Recreation Ground. Please be aware that whilst the club are using the ground it does not restrict our use of the facilities. The playground and the area of the ground not used to park up the caravans are, as last year, for you to go and enjoy with friends from other parts of the country.

Planning

UPT/368//3-X – Application for proposed erection of 2 dwellings in the garden of Kameki has been withdrawn.

UPT/21068/2 – 5 Fieldside: application approved.

Mike Brown 850135

SHORT MAT BOWLS

Bowling has been booked for February 2nd, 9th and 23rd. all Wednesday evenings, starting at 7.45pm, playing fee £2 per session.

Those who have not yet tried the game are still welcome. There will be no fee to pay for your first session. Existing short mat bowlers living locally and seeking a venue to play are also welcome. Please contact Tony or Joan Durbin by telephone 850035 or email jo_ham@btinternet.com. We still want to select an appropriate slot for daytime bowling.

Tony Durbin

Items for inclusion in the March issue to be sent to kameki39@btinternet.com or handed in to Cathy or Mike by Thursday 24th February.

ST. MARY'S FETE

The date for this year's fete has been fixed for Saturday 3rd September.

There will be a meeting to discuss the fete on Tuesday 22nd February at 8.00pm in the Village Hall. Everyone welcome to attend. Please come along and bring your ideas with you.

If you have any bright ideas but are unable to attend the meeting please contact Clare Lightfoot 850486 or email Lthimbles@aol.com

UPTONOGOOD

Following on from the success of last year's Uptonogood bike event it is planned to repeat the event on either Saturday the 18th June or Sunday 19th June 2011.

Last year we rose just short of £3K for the Village Hall, £500 for Blewbury School, and donated £200 to Didcot Air Cadets for their contribution to marshalling. This year we hope to raise even more money, as we expect to increase the number of participants from the 300 mark to nearer 500.

As the Village Hall projects are largely complete we expect this year's money to go towards the new Play Area project. However we would be interested to hear of other village improvement ideas that you may have.

As before, a large number of volunteers will be required to ensure things run smoothly. If you would like to get involved this year please contact Bob Lott or Mike Tibbetts on 851222 or 851474 respectively.

Bob Lott

CAROL SINGING

Thank you so much to everyone who came carol singing on the perishingly cold night of 22nd of December and above all, thanks to the many Upton residents who so kindly filled our collecting boxes. We raised a grand total of £177.13 for Simon House, a local charity supporting the homeless in Oxfordshire. Well done to everyone involved.

Sarah Tenant-Flowers

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