

UPTON NEWS

April 2011

Vol 3 No. 50

ST MARY'S CHURCH

St Mary's Services for April

Sun 3rd April 10.00 a.m.

Mothering Sunday Family Service followed by distribution of flowers and refreshments.

Sun 10th April 9.00 a.m. - Sung Eucharist.

Sun 17th April 9.00 a.m. Palm Sunday - Eucharist and distribution of palm crosses

Friday 22nd April 10.00 a.m. Good Friday - Family Service, Easter Egg hunt and refreshments.

Sun 24th April 9.00 a.m. Celebration of Easter - Sung Eucharist

Sun 1st May 9.00 a.m. Sung Eucharist

Annual St Mary's Church Meeting - Tuesday 12th April - 7.00 p.m. in Church – All Welcome to attend.

UPTON ROYAL WEDDING STREET PARTY Friday 29th April at 2pm

Note - Change of date from that previously given.

All residents of Upton are cordially invited to join a Street Party on Friday 29th April at 2pm to celebrate the Royal Wedding. This will be held on Church Street between the High Street and Stream Road. (In the event of inclement weather we will be in the village hall). Please bring your own drinks, glasses & plates; also to share on a communal basis, sufficient finger food/buffet for your family. Squash will be provided for the children and an urn of hot water for anyone who wants to make themselves a cup of tea.

To enter into the festivities we would like to encourage everyone to enter into the spirit and come wearing a crown or tiara. There will be a fancy dress competition for the children – Princesses, bridesmaids, Kings, pageboys... - all welcome. We are hoping to give a souvenir mug to all the children who attend on the day. In order for us to plan, can you please let me know by 10th April if you intend joining us.

Sarah Sayers Tel No 851450

or email Sarahpsayers@btinternet.com

SPRING LINE METHODIST CHURCH

Services for April start at 10.30 a.m.

3rd Local Arrangements (Mothering Sunday)

10th Blewbury Michael Howlett

17th Upton Geoff Caudle
(Psalm Sunday)

24th Blewbury Rev. John Sturney
(Easter Sunday, Holy Communion)

The Lent Journey

The wonder of Spring is that it lifts the spirits. There is that strangely lifting sensation as we take a few steps in a world waking up to itself - a rising sap of possibility. I love it. I love being caught out by it. In the Christian tradition, resurrection is so often tied to a single event, but creation is a great deal bigger than one single opening up. As a scientist as well as a church minister, I enjoy the reality that life is amazing. The down side is that there is this other thing we don't look forward to – the return of winter. This can be literal or it can be a metaphor. It relates us to this changing thing that we are. Lots of people I know are getting older - so am I. We cannot do all we used to; although we really hope that we can. Each turn of the seasons requires us to face both life and less life – doesn't it?

The consolation is that we can step through the door and accept 'now' as the only energy there is. It will take us where it wills – which is not necessarily the place we want to go. On the other hand, it can also transport us to lovely, beautiful places.

This is, in the most traditional terms, the Lent journey. The Easter of it all comes as a real surprise. That's how it is. Finally, the members of the Spring Line Methodist Church wish you all a Happy Easter.

Richard Bittleston

THE UPTON COVEN

The Upton Ladies Coven will meet at the usual time of 8pm on Thursday 7th April in the George and Dragon Pub - everyone welcome.
Lesley

RECTORS REFLECTIONS



Crossing Bridges

Do you have any favourite bridges? One of my favourites is a tiny footbridge in Blewbury. It's on the footpath that links Nottingham Fee to Westbrook Street. Perhaps you know it. It's a charming spot. You can stand on the bridge and watch the clear water ripple under the bridge, and hear the birds sing, and see the gentle breeze play with the blossom on nearby trees. Another bridge that comes to mind is the road bridge at Clifton Hampden. The other day someone was telling me that in the old days, there weren't traffic lights on this bridge. They'd had a very scary moment when they met another car on the bridge, coming at high speed in the opposite direction. Given the width of the bridge, this must have been a scary moment indeed!

When we think about bridges, we are usually thinking about very practical things, like getting from place A to place B without having to take a long detour. But physical bridges can also get us thinking about figurative bridges, for example people who help to bridge the divides in our own lives and in the lives of our communities. Perhaps you are yourself acting as a bridge between people who find it hard to talk to each other – a worthwhile but often thankless task!

Well, some two thousand years ago God felt that the time had come for Him to do a bit of bridge building. The problem was that human beings, whom God had created and whom He loved to bits, had as a whole become a bit smug and self-centred. A pretty big chasm had opened up between God and the human beings He had created. God wasn't happy about this, so He thought He'd better take the initiative and do something about it. So He sent His son Jesus.

You're probably very familiar with the first part of the story. We hear all about it at Christmas – a baby, angels, wise men, and all that sort of thing. But this didn't quite do enough to satisfy God. It was a bridge, yes, a bridge between human beings and God. But there was a great big barrier across the bridge, which prevented human beings crossing over to God. A churchy word for that barrier is "Sin" – "sin" is simply the barriers which human beings erect between themselves and the loving purposes of God. Because we human beings tend to take pride in the barriers we erect, God knew that He would have to wait for ever before human beings got round to dismantling the barrier of Sin.

So God took the initiative a second time. He sent His Son Jesus to try and dismantle the barrier Himself. How did Jesus set about this task? What was the result? Why not come to church and hear the story unfold! We start telling the story on the Sunday before Easter, traditionally called Palm Sunday...

...and in anticipation, Happy Easter! Fr Jason

VPA

It must be spring as I am to be found out in the garden without a coat and hat! My propagator has tomato & chilli sproutlings, and the runner bean seeds are beckoning me! I had a paper potter gadget for my birthday, so I will be making eco pots out of newspapers soon! Some of my plants seem to have been hit hard by the winter weather, but I will wait a bit before I dig them up, in case they decide to revive a bit!

Our next talk is a change from the advertised one, we have a lady coming to talk to us about "History through the Landscape", and this is at the Vale room, Blewbury Village Hall, on Wednesday 6th April at 7.30 pm. Refreshments served too! Ring if you need a lift, 850219.

Dawn next door has been out and bought lots of snowdrops, we compared her "Blewbury Tarts" with mine, (which looked like all the others) and discovered that the plant label had moved, I blame the kids! Anyway, I have located the real "Tarts", which have spread nicely since I planted them, Dawn also discovered why they are so named, it's because they show their "underskirts" quite blatantly, don't think I can write "knickers" can I?

Happy Gardening Karen Brooks

DROP IN

The next three Drop-in Sessions are scheduled for: 31st March, 14th April and 28th April

For any newcomers to Upton: The Village Drop-in is held in the Village Hall on alternate Thursday mornings from 10.30 until 12.00 noon. These have been really well attended recently and it has been good to see some new faces so come along and join us for tea/coffee, biscuits and a chat.

Yvonne Collins 850989

UPTON WINE APPRECIATION SOCIETY

March Meeting 2011

This was another first for the wine club as we discovered the taste of Madeira. Ester Blanford was kind enough to present a very lively and informative evening on the delights of this delicious nectar. Mike also presented 4 wines from Portugal, which we had not tasted before.

As I am sure you are aware Madeira is a Portuguese Island in the Atlantic, with a fine mild climate with ample rainfall, which makes it so green.

The vines that produce Madeira are grown on terraces lots of rain at the top and a system of canals that lead down to the bottom. There are several grapes that are used to make Madeira the most interesting is the Sercial which is known locally as the dog strangler, I wonder why? We tasted 4 Madeira's all of which the group found most satisfying. The first Henriques & Henriques Sercial Maderia 10 years old very palatable and to try with nuts and olives £17 from the wine society. We then moved on to the wines from Portugal the first a Vinho Verde 2009 Quinta de Azevedo 2009 11%, I personally found this very acidic without much body or flavour but others liked it, drink it very young that's the wine not the participant, the second white a Crasto Branco Douro 2009 13.5%. This was preferred by most of the group. We then tried two reds, before returning to the Madeira's. These last 3 Madeira were very pleasant and most of the group enjoyed them very much, the most popular was the Henriques Bual 15yr old £22 which was very good with sweet biscuits and chocolate, all the wines this evening were from the wine society. Many thanks again to Ester for all her hard work in making our evening so enjoyable.

Chris Traynor

GEORGE AND DRAGON

I would like to start by saying thank you for your continued support throughout March.

It is always nice to see new faces coming in to the pub. Especially those who have never been to the pub before. So if you are new to the village, come along and enjoy a great relaxing evening out.

As the warmer weather approaches our beer garden is a great place to read a book and relax with a well deserved meal or drink from our new menu, it is now even more packed with a greater choice to choose from. And it is all cooked fresh on the premises.

Our Aunt Sally team has now been selected and will be starting their training within the next few weeks; however if you would like to come along and join in please feel free to do so. We will be meeting on Wednesday evenings at the pub to practice and have a drink.

What's on in April

15th April will see our first year at the pub and we would like you to come along and celebrate it with us. Pig roast and Live music from 7.30 till late.

24th April Easter Sunday we will be holding children's Easter Egg Hunt and disco from 3pm till 7.30pm a party buffet will be provided for the children. In the evening come and support our Local Band KAOS who will be performing from 8pm.

28th April Every last Thursday of the month we will be holding a steak meal night from 6.30pm till 9pm bookings are available, please book early to avoid disappointment

Every Monday night is curry and a pint night 6.30 to 9.00 pm at the George and Dragon. Spice up your week with our great value Homemade Curry and a Pint for just £7.99. Served with rice, onion bhaji, nann bread, poppadum and mango chutney and it comes with a Free drink, any pint of your choice, soft drink or a 175ml glass of wine.

For a 250ml glass of wine just add a £1 or you might prefer to try our Pinot Grigio £10 per bottle. (Monday nights only)

Kind Regards Kenny and Jo

UPTONOGOOD

Are you Uptonogood?

This year's preparations for the "Uptonogood?" are now well advanced. We are particularly pleased with the new website (www.uptonogood.org.uk) which features better maps, and on-line registration. There are lots of good photos from last year too, so please take a look. Our thanks go to Brian Rippon for a cracking job.

This year we've added an additional 12 mile ride, beer tent, and hired a climbing wall, so dust down your bike and invite your friends along for a great family day out.

As always we are in desperate need of volunteers to marshal the course, without which the event could not take place. If you would like to play a part in the day please contact Bob Lott (851222) or Mike Tibbetts (851474), or email info@uptonogood.org.uk and let us know.

Bob Lott

THEATRE GROUP

Relatively Speaking at The Watermill Theatre, 5th March 2011

This was the second play by prolific writer Alan Ayckbourn (well-known for the "Norman Conquests") to be seen by the Group and we were not disappointed by this very capable production of a comedy which provided literally a laugh-a-minute, as the basically simple plot unfolded through a series of hilarious misunderstandings.

After the performance we filed with aching ribs into the gazebo, where we sat down to an excellent afternoon tea and the chance for conversation.

Our thanks to Malcolm Wright and the Committee for organising the event and transport to the theatre. Stuart Norman

For a more detailed review of the play please see your village website www.uptonvillage.co.uk

WOMENS INSTITUTE

The Blewbury WI are pleased to have a talk by the Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance at their next meeting on April 27th. The TVCAA "patch" covers Berks, Oxon and Bucks. Their aim is to get people to hospital within the 'Golden Hour' - the vital period immediately after an accident or the onset of an acute illness. Every single penny of their running costs comes from donations. When might you need them? We can be sure it'll be an interesting talk.

The WI meets in the Vale Room of the Blewbury Village Hall at 7.30pm on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Do come along you will be made very welcome as a visitor and can decide if the WI is for you. We do loads of things other than the monthly talks, - theatre visits, pub lunches, local walks, days out - all sorts! If you need a lift to the meeting or more details on the WI, please contact Judy on 850381.

BROWNIES

Tuesday Brownies are holding a Coffee Evening on the 5th April in the Village Hall starting a 6.15 pm and finishing around 7.15.

The children will be manning their stalls which include cakes, biscuits, jewellery and toys. There will also be a children's book stall (new books) plus a raffle. All proceeds going to charity.

Angela Newlands

PARISH COUNCIL

New Council

The 4 year period for your present council is coming to an end. If there are more than 6 nominations of residents willing to serve on the new council there will be an election on Thursday 5th May.

If you are willing to put your name forward for election to the new council please contact Clare on 850486 to request a nomination form that must be completed and submitted to the District Council offices by mid-day on 4th April.

If anyone would like more information on what the job entails please either contact Clare or myself.

Litter Pick

Our thanks to the over 30 parishioners of all ages who turned out on a beautiful morning to clean up the parish on 19th March. It is pleasing to report that over the years the amount of litter to be picked up has reduced but it is disappointing to report that on the evening of the 19th a group of deadheads scattered litter across our Recreation Ground. If you see anyone depositing litter in the parish and can identify either the person or a car registration number please let me know so that we can take action against them.

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the Village Hall on Monday 11th April at 8.00 pm. This is your opportunity to talk with the council about what they have achieved in the past 12 months and indicate to the new council the issues you would like them to deal with in the coming year.

Wine and nibbles will be available from 7.45

Bus Survey

If you can find a few moments please fill in and return the attached survey form.

Mike Brown 850135

SHORT MAT BOWLS

Bowling evenings for April, all at 7.45pm are Wednesdays 6th, 13th and 27th. Prospective new players are very welcome whether experienced bowlers or beginners. Woods provided for beginners.

Tony Durbin

Items for inclusion in the May issue to be sent to kameki39@btinternet.com or handed in to Cathy or Mike by Tuesday April 26th.

