

# UPTON NEWS

June 2011

Vol 3 No. 52

## ST MARY'S CHURCH

### St Mary's Services for June

Sun 5 June 09.00 Sung Eucharist followed by refreshments  
Sun 12 June 09.00 Sung Eucharist  
Sun 19 June 10.00 Family Service followed by refreshments  
Sun 26 June 09.00 Sung Eucharist  
Each Tuesday 10.00 Holy Eucharist  
18.00 Exploring Silence

\*\*\*\*\*

## SPRING LINE METHODIST CHURCH

Morning Services for June start at 10.30 a.m.

5 <sup>th</sup>	Local Arrangements	
12 <sup>th</sup>	Upton	Brenda Boyer
12 <sup>th</sup>	Blewbury 6.30pm	Festival Songs of Praise
19 <sup>th</sup>	Blewbury	Stephen Atkinson
26 <sup>th</sup>	Upton	Helen Carter

**Rev Richard Bittleston** There will be no Holy Communion Services at the Spring Line Churches this month because our minister, the Rev. Richard Bittleston, is ill and although he is now out of hospital we are likely to be without him for some time. Please remember him in your thoughts and prayers. We will be able to hold Communion Services in July and August.

### Festival Time in Blewbury!

**Saturday June 11th:** we are running a Children's Tombola stall at the Family Day event on Tickers Folly Field, and we hope to see you there. Do say hello even if you don't want to win a new teddy bear.

**Sunday June 12th: Festival Songs of Praise, 6.30 pm, Blewbury Centre.** A chance to sing well loved hymns, to listen to performances from the Upton Hand Bell Ringers, Blewbury Gospel Choir and other local singers and music groups, and to learn a little about the origins of the hymns. Do join us. Richard Bittleston was going to lead the service and play the organ, so we are very grateful to Father Jason and Philip Shipman from St Michaels for stepping in at short notice.

## PLAY AREA DEVELOPMENT

On Sunday 8th May, despite the threat of rain, we were delighted by the number of children of various ages who came for a play at our village playground. The play area committee had a look at how the children used the playground, in light of the ideas already submitted by the children. Some photos from the day are displayed on the Upton Village website. A big thank you to everyone who came along!

Our next planned event is on **Saturday 25th June at the village hall between 10am and 12pm.**

All young people (and adults of course) are invited to a Play Area Drop In Morning, at which you can have your say regarding the new play area. There will be games for our younger visitors, drinks and cakes and the chance to contribute your views and design ideas for the new play area. Please drop by and "play your part" in creating an exciting new play facility for our village.

We are also currently waiting to hear if we have been successful in our grant application to WREN. This effort has been supported by many individuals and organisations - in particular a big thank you to the Uptonogood organisers who are donating a large proportion of the net proceeds, to UVHAT and the Parish Council for their donations and to Blewbury School, the Brownies and to all the children who have offered their support. This local support and fund raising really does significantly strengthen our case when we apply for funding, and we welcome comments and contributions to the scheme.

Ros Caffyn  
Upton Playground Development Committee

\*\*\*\*\*

## KEEP FIT GENTLY

We would like to hear from anyone who would be interested in joining a **gentle** keep fit class in the Village Hall, for 1 hour, on a Monday afternoon. We need 10 people in order to get this off the ground. For more information please contact Clare Lightfoot, 01235 850486

## RECTORS REFLECTIONS



### Running The Risk Of Resurrection

Over the last few weeks, I have had several conversations with people about the world of work. More particularly, the conversations have looked at the question of changing career, perhaps with a view to doing something completely different. In one case, someone was about to be made unemployed, and this has prompted the question. In another case, there was a sense of dissatisfaction with an existing job - there was a feeling that there must be something more to life, but what?

These conversations bring to my mind something that Jesus said:

“...those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it. What does it profit them if they gain the whole world, but lose or forfeit themselves?”

Sometimes we have a particular view of who we are as persons, and we struggle long and hard to maintain that view. We are desperate to save our life as we know it, and we cannot imagine anything different. It might be that this image of ourselves involves the belief that we must do a certain type of job, and that we must earn a certain level of income so as to afford a particular standard of living.

But is this image of ourselves a true image - is our image of ourselves who we really are, or is it simply what other people have told us we are? Perhaps it's something we've simply taken for granted, and never really thought about. But there are issues here which are fundamental to our happiness and sense of fulfilment. Might we have to lose what we think we are, and what we think we need, in order to become the person we really are? Might we have to lose the person we currently are, in order to become the person we want to be?

God wants us to be our true selves. Sometimes we can only become our true selves if we are prepared to give something up. Often, this means we need to take a risk - to leave behind the certainty of the tried and tested, in favour of something new. It might be that we have to give up something which is good in itself, in order to experience something which is better. We know that this giving up is often far from easy - to say the least!

But many have found Jesus' words to be profoundly true. By giving up their false selves, people have found their true selves. By losing their life, they have found it. By surrendering themselves

to the pain of Good Friday, they have opened themselves to the possibility of Easter Day.

I wonder whether God is inviting us to run the risk of Resurrection - to lose something which appears to be important, so that we may gain our true selves?

Fr Jason

\*\*\*\*\*

### VPA

The gardeners and “allotmenters” are all praying for a decent drop of rain, I am fed up of watering my seedlings already, the water butt is empty, and the ground is dry and dusty! However, in the rest of my garden, there are trees, roses, shrubs or perennials'; I don't have to water them at all, and they all look great!

I gave prior warning about our trip to Lime Kiln Gardens in Drayton on June 1<sup>st</sup>, this garden has a wonderful Iris display, if you haven't booked yet, ring Eileen on 510095, asap, as we have sorted the car rota, £5 each. (But we can organise another car I am sure!)

The new Show Schedule is now ready and in Blewbury Post Office, please come and collect your copy, or download from [www.uptonvillagenews/vpa](http://www.uptonvillagenews/vpa) The organisation is well under way, The show is on August 6<sup>th</sup>, so plenty of time to plan your entries! Do try to pop in to our Presidents garden on “yellow book gardens day”, Abners will be open, and we hope to have a marvellous plant stall, selling cuttings and plants from our own gardens, which are bound to be “good do'ers” in our soil! Remember to take your camera, as one of the photography classes in the annual show is “yellow book gardens”!

Happy Gardening

Karen Brooks

\*\*\*\*\*

### THEATRE GROUP

We have just one ticket left for “A Midsummer Night's Dream” in Stratford on 27 October. We have still not found something suitable for our summer outing. Blewbury Players are doing “Peter Pan”. Anyone interested?

Malcolm Wright

850705

\*\*\*\*\*

## WOMENS INSTITUTE

One of the events during the Blewbury Festival is an exciting evening called "Only Joking, the Vicar of Dibley and other Comedy writing". We are thrilled to have Paul Mayhew-Archer with us telling us all about his role as co-writer of numerous comedies including 'The Vicar of Dibley' and 'Two pints of lager and a packet of crisps'. The evening will be Wednesday 22nd June at 1930 in the Blewbury Village Hall. Tickets cost £10 each and will include one (or two?) portions of dessert made by the Blewbury WI plus a glass of wine or soft drink.

This evening is open to everyone and last time we did it was a sell out!!

Tickets for the evening will be on sale with the other Festival events from Blewbury Post Office only.. A great night out!

During June we are also having a Scrabble evening on 1st June and a walk on 7th June. If you would like a lift or further information about the WI, please ring Judy on 850381.

\*\*\*\*\*

## UPTON 50'S CLUB

Winners for March 2011

£25	Mrs Walker	67
£25	Mrs Lightfoot	74
£10	Mrs West	58
£7	Mr Bucknell	130
£5	Mr Rippon	65
£4	Jo George & Dragon	153

Winners for April 2011

£10	Ms Donoghue	3
£7	Mr B Simpson	17
£5	Mr Bucknell	59
£4	Mrs Weston	121

Winners for May 2011

£10	Ms Saysell	171
£7	Mrs Timblich	140
£5	Mr Fraser	112
£4	Mrs Pinckney	109

\*\*\*\*\*

## THE UPTON COVEN

The Upton Ladies Coven will meet at the usual time of 8pm in The George & Dragon on Thursday 2 June - everyone welcome.

Lesley

## PARISH COUNCIL

### New Council

The new Council that took office at the meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> May is:

John Dickens (851330) Chairman

Bob Lott (07890316126) Vice Chairman

Other Councillors are Lesley Shaw, Ben Shaw, Stuart Norman and Stuart Fraser.

Clare Lightfoot (850486) is continuing as Clerk.

### Potholes

As some villagers may be aware there are a number of potholes throughout the village that only ever seem to get as far as being marked with a white line! If you find a pothole that hasn't been fixed or marked please call the Highways Reporting line (0845 310111) and ask for the reference number. If after a reasonable time no action is taken please give this information to one of your Parish Councillors to take it up with your County Councillor who will do his best to get it fixed.

### What's Your View?

The Caravan Club visited our village once again this Easter and Upton has proved so popular, that they would like to come and see us again next year. The Caravan Rally has generally, been viewed by the Village as a positive event. However, some comments were received by the Parish Council, about the impact of the event on village amenities such as the Recreation Ground, which suggests that a review should be held again about extending an invitation for 2012. If you would like to offer your view please come to the next Parish Council meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> July or contact one of your Councillors by phone or by email.

Ben Shaw

\*\*\*\*\*

## OBITUARY

### Barbara Blond

We are sad to record the death of Barbara Blond, known to many in the village as "Mrs Blond" who taught for many years at Upton School until the school closed in 1961. Barbara was born in West Hagbourne in 1920 and died at The Meadows Nursing Home in Didcot, aged 91. Her whole life was devoted to teaching and raising her family. A service of thanksgiving for her life was held at St Andrew's Church East Hagbourne on 24th May. Our sympathies go to her sons David, Philip and their families.

Clare Lightfoot

## THE GEORGE AND DRAGON

### WOW What a Year!

We have just celebrated our first year at the pub and we are now looking forward to many more, *although I think a holiday is well overdue*. The pub has seen it's best year for a very long time and we would like to thank you all for our successful first year.

Our aunt Sally team have now started playing in the Oxford league and we are very pleased with our performance so far, although I must say that we seem to do better in the beer round than in the actual game... We are still looking for some new members to join us, if you would like to join our team please feel free to come along on Wednesday evenings and give it a try.

We would like to say a big thank you to the Covan group and the cyclist group who use the pub as their meeting place on Wednesday and Thursday evenings.

Our next events are:

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June Quiz night

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June live music by Tripple A from 7.30pm

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June Uptonogood Charity bike ride followed by live music by Sub Way and not to forget our fantastic Pig Roast.

Friday July 8<sup>th</sup> live music by Shake Down Profets, a great Rhythm and Blues band.

**NEW TO THE GEORGE AND DRAGON**

Serious 4 Sports every Saturday from 3 to 5pm

Football coaching by professional coaches for children from 2 years to 10 years. Please note that a small charge is made for this event.

Special Offer Monday's Only

2 jacket Potato Meals with a filling of you choice  
Just £10

Kind regards      Kenny and Jo

\*\*\*\*\*

### STYLE ACRE

Style Acre have opened a Tea Room at Savages in Blewbury where they provide opportunities for paid employment and work experience for people with learning disabilities.

They urgently need Volunteers who you can spare a few hours to help run the Tea room, if you can help them, they would love to hear from you.

Please contact Tracey Collins on 01491 827 599

\*\*\*\*\*

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

## UPTONOGOOD

Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> June will see the holding of the second "Uptonogood?" Mountain Bike Challenge. We're hoping for an even bigger turn out this year and we've added a climbing wall, vintage bike display and an additional 12 mile route to help keep everyone entertained. We've also stocked a beer tent with the finest local ales, so come along and enjoy the BBQ with a pint or two!

The event will be principally supporting the Children's Play Area project, which will result in a new facility for children on the recreation field.

You can support the event in many ways: participating in a ride; volunteering to marshal; bake a cake or two; get your family, friends and work colleagues to participate; or help run the kitchen/registration.

If you would like to contribute a cake, please call Jessie West on 851206 as Jessie will be coordinating cakes. Otherwise please contact Bob Lott (851222) or Mike Tibbetts (851474) should you want to help. Finally please see our website [www.uptonogood.org.uk](http://www.uptonogood.org.uk) for full details of how to enter and everything else happening on the day.

Bob Lott

\*\*\*\*\*

### BROADBAND IN UPTON

Several people in the village have asked what's happening with our fibre broadband upgrade. A BT source that we've accessed says that the installation work is planned to start in October 2011 with completion for March 2012. The start date may slip a little but the end date is committed. They did say at the start of this exercise that it would be early 2012, so to give them their due, they seem at the moment to be sticking to these dates but we'll keep you posted if there is any improvement in the timeline. Otherwise we will update date you in October anyway.

For more information on the Broadband situation please see our village website [www.uptonvillage.co.uk](http://www.uptonvillage.co.uk)

Graham De Wilde

\*\*\*\*\*

Items for inclusion in the July issue to be sent to [kameki39@btinternet.com](mailto:kameki39@btinternet.com). or handed in to Mike by Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June .

