

Upton News



Vol 5 No.21 April 2018

St. Mary's Church Services

Sun 1st April 9.00am	Easter Day Sung Eucharist.*
Sun 8th April 9.00am	Sung Eucharist.
Sun 15th April 9.00am	Sung Eucharist.
Sun 22nd April 10.30am	All Age Service.*
Sun 29th April 9.00am	Sung Eucharist.

*Followed by refreshments.

The church is open every day from 10.00am to 4.00pm for personal prayer.
Please see porch notice for weekday services.

Litter Pick

How pleasant it was to drive along our bit of the local roads on Monday morning without seeing litter everywhere. A very big thank you to the 20 people aged 8 to 80 who turned out on Sunday morning to tidy up our parish. A special thank you to Rob Traynor who organised it all and to John Lightfoot who used his trailer to ferry all the rubbish back to the car park.

Editor

Upton 50 Club

Prize winners in the March draw were:-

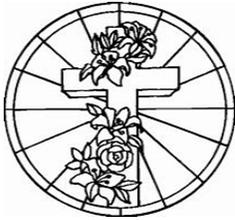
1st	£25	No 181	John McKenna
2nd	£20	No 117	Kay Fraser
3rd	£15	No 44	Mimi Eighteen
4th	£10	No 162	Marion Saunders

Lesley Shaw

Drop In

The Drop-In is an informal gathering to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a pleasant chat. Meetings take place in the Village Hall on Thursdays from 10.30am to 12.00pm. Dates for April are the 12th and the 26th.

Rectors Note



A Question with Four Answers

Do you like quizzes? Well, here's a question for you: How long does Easter last? There are at least 4 answers, all of which are correct!

To start with, Easter is of course a day, always a Sunday, on which Christians celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Jesus's Resurrection happened on a Sunday in around 30 AD, give or take a year or two, and Christians have been celebrating it ever since. A day is of course 24 hours, so Easter lasts 24 hours. Simple.

Well, not quite so simple. Is a day to be measured by the hours of a clock, or by the presence or absence of sunlight? There is an old tradition of measuring a day in terms of the hours of sunlight. For some, Easter Day actually starts at dawn: Jesus called himself the Light of the World, and the rays of the Sun at its rising are seen to symbolise the Light of Jesus illuminating the world with God's love, mercy and joy.

Both these answers assume that Easter lasts one day - the difference lies in how you define "day". But is this assumption necessarily correct? Ever since earliest times, Christians have had the tradition of celebrating significant events in Jesus's life not just on one day, but for a prolonged period of time, typically 40 days. So Easter is celebrated for 40 days, starting on Easter Day and ending on Ascension Day. The arithmetic means that Ascension Day always falls on a Thursday - this year, Thursday 10th May. So Easter lasts 40 days.

But there is a sense in which Easter is actually timeless. Easter had a start: the morning of Jesus's Resurrection, back in around 30AD. But it doesn't have an end. Ever since Jesus has been raised from the dead, he has remained alive. Down the centuries, Christians have felt that Jesus is with them in the present. This sense of the presence of the living Jesus varies in its intensity and frequency, but it has always been there. And so for many Christians, every day is Easter Day, because every day is a day on which we can say "Jesus is alive!"

Why does the celebration of Easter matter? It matters because it reminds us that God is bigger than our fears and worries and limitations. Even death is not a problem for God. Happy Easter!

Fr Jason

Pate, Pimms and Pudding Event

The Pate, Pimms and Pudding event will be back by popular demand on Saturday 18th August in/outside the village hall. More details soon, but keep the date free! All proceeds will be for Friends of St Mary's.

Blewbury W.I.

Cilla is away, so you have me this month! As I write the daffs are looking hopeful, there are buds on the lilacs, my hyacinths and bluebells are popping up in the garden, and the Blewbury WI are about to have their annual meeting, we say goodbye and thank you to Joanna, Liz and Marilyn who are retiring from the committee this time, we will hopefully have some new committee members for the coming year, to help steer us towards trying new and exciting experiences! I know we have calligraphy, weaving and mosaic workshops planned for later this year, along with our usual walks, coffee, craft, scrabble, films, science lectures, lunch and theatre outings! Someone recently told me that the WI was for “old” ladies, I just told her we had great fun at our Bollywood dance workshop, and we are hoping to go to the Bombay Sapphire Gin distillery later this year!

We also say goodbye to Lyn Page, a former President, who is moving away, we shall all miss her very much, but send her our best wishes in her new home!

Tuesday 3rd April at 9.30am - meet at Blewbury Village Hall for Lyn’s walk, (everyone welcome) bring some money for coffee/lunch.

Wednesday 11th April at 10.30am - coffee at Style Acre Tearooms.

Wednesday 18th April - Lunch out at The Blueberry.

Thursday 19th at 7.30pm - Singing in the Rain at Abingdon.

Wednesday 25th April at 7.30pm - Main meeting in the Vale Room with wine or soft drinks.

For more details of any of our events, the date of the next Coffee morning, Scrabble or Mah Jong session, or if you wish to join us, please ring Karen on 850219 or visit our webpage, <http://blewburywi.wordpress.com> where you will find more information.

Karen

Wine Bottles

Dermot Paddon (Minister House on Church Street) is looking to collect up to 200 empty wine bottles complete with screwcaps for use on a stall at the Watlington nursing home, where his wife is a resident, at their annual fete in June. The monies raised at the fete all go into the activity fund for residents. Whilst asking for empty bottles, if anyone would like to donate an unopened bottle that too would be much appreciated for use as a prize.

If you can help, Dermot will be happy to come and pick up bottles from time to time, otherwise feel free to leave your bottles in Minister House porch, in one of the boxes provided. Dermot's number is 07837857618.

Parish Council

The Parish Council held a regular meeting on Monday 19th March, the minutes of which will be available on the village web site in due course. The following comments of note were made during the meeting:-

PCSO - in 2018 there is no crime of note to report. However, villagers are reminded to remain vigilant and report anything suspicious or out of place by either calling 101 or 999.

The use of Footpath 21 has been improved by the installation of new fences on both sides.

Two new toddler swings will be installed shortly in the toddler playground.

The **Annual Parish Meeting** will be held on Monday 15th April, in the village hall, 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. All villagers are welcome to come along, for a chat, drinks and nibbles.

The Parish Council would like to offer its sincerest thanks and best wishes to Duncan Reid and Carl Pettman who have stepped down from the Parish Council. Thank you both for all your work and support during your time on the PC.

This leaves two vacancies on the Parish Council which need filling as a matter of urgency. If you or anyone you know is interested, please make contact with any of the Councillors, who will be happy to discuss the role with you or contact the parish clerk at: parish.clerk@uptonvillage.co.uk.

Your Parish Council Needs YOU!

The Parish Council remains committed to encouraging villagers to join the Parish Council and look after all that is good about your village and the surrounding area. The Parish Council serves the community of Upton and the role is interesting, varied and an important one in maintaining village integrity. Activities include:

Ensuring the Recreation grounds are well tended for all to enjoy.

Ensuring the Recreation Ground play areas are fully equipped and safe for the children to enjoy.

Coordination of volunteer efforts to keep the village looking beautiful.

Working with village societies such as the Film Club.

Liaising with the Upton Village Hall trustees on events, for example Bike Night.

Applying for grants to support village amenities and maintenance.

Reviewing planning applications.

Attending regular meetings to ensure that all of this happens.

In terms of time commitment, the council meets every two months with ad hoc planning meetings as required. The current situation is that if we don't have a quorum of councillors, parish responsibilities will default to the Vale

of White Horse District Council and the village will lose the very local representation Upton Parish Council provides. Please do get involved and consider representing your community. If you are interested, please contact the parish clerk at: parish.clerk@uptonvillage.co.uk.

Next Parish Council Meetings:-

Annual Parish Meeting, Monday 16th April 2018, 7.15 for 7.30pm pm in the village hall.

Annual General Meeting, date TBC in May 2018 in the village hall meeting room.

Regular Parish Council meeting, Monday 16th July 2018 in the village hall meeting room.

Please see the village noticeboard and village web site for agendas of upcoming meetings and for minutes of previous meetings when they are approved for publication.

Parish Clerk 23.3.18

Post Office News

Royal Mail stamp prices went up on Monday 26th March, 2p on a standard size 1st or 2nd class stamp, 3p on a large size, 5p increase for a small parcel. Any stamp that says 1st or 2nd on them will just revalue themselves, but any for Europe or the rest of the world will need extra pennies put on them.

Post Office Ltd have warned us of scammers pretending to be from TalkTalk or similar companies, who try to gain access to your computer and/or your bank accounts, and scam people out of large sums of money, please do not ever give out your bank details or pin number to anyone on the phone, and please do not give anyone permission to “remotely access” your computer (unless they are your family or a professional who you know!) If you get one of these calls, please ring 101 to report it.

We can accept cash withdrawals and deposits and cheque deposits for almost all banks now, just a few are lagging behind on the depositing side, no need to battle the potholes and car parks in town.

We have a few Duck Race tickets left, £1.25 each, you don't need to be in the village on Easter Sunday, just leave your contact number, and Gill and Richard will keep your prize money safe until you return.

We will be closed on Good Friday 30th, Saturday 31st March, (my niece is 18!), Easter Sunday 1st and Monday 2nd of April, I will be around, so for emergency top up for gas and electric, please ring my mobile 07825154842! We will also be closed on Friday afternoon 20th and Saturday 21st April, unless I can arrange for Maggie to cover, I have a “Girly Guide” activity weekend. I shall be whizzing down a zip line etc. hoping not to break anything.

Karen and Maggie

Wine Appreciation Club

The theme of March's Wine Club meeting was the ever-popular Wine and Cheese (via the Pangbourne Cheese Shop) pairing.

We had 4 Uptonites each sharing a couple of their favourite wine+cheese pairings, and a very delicious evening it was! Pairings included:

a blushing pink New Zealand fizz with a lovely (and fat-free, if you don't count the cream, double cream and crème fraiche ingredients) Delice de Cremiere from Burgundy.

a Sauvignon Blanc from Bordeaux matched with a, in the words of the presenter, "not at all dungy" Crottin goats cheese (judging by the reaction in the room, a definite Marmite item - I loved it)

a different, but nonetheless delicious Greek white against, what else, a rich Feta

a very drinkable Italian red from Verona married up with a rich Grana Padano cheese from the "heel" of Italy

a full-bodied Argentinian Malbec and a no-nonsense aged cheddar

a second succulent Italian red, this time from the south of the peninsula and complemented by a very well received, tomato leaf wrapped Pecorino cheese

a silky and absolutely mouth-watering Royal Tokaji (a personal fave, can you tell?) offset against a Montagnolo (a deceptively named, but gorgeous German blue cheese)

a lovely organic port paired with a powerful, but smooth and creamy Spanish blue cheese.

All-in-all a gastronomic night had by all !

You can find more info on these wines on our Twitter page, @UptonWine, as well as on our *brand-new web site*: uptonwineclub.com

Also, as a group of confirmed wine-ophiles (as opposed to wino-philes) we are really keen to spread the word as far and wide as physically possible (within Upton) and want to know what interests YOU. To this end we've created an online survey to find out your positive and not-so-positive feedback. If you have any opinion at all on the subject please do let us know here: uptonwineclub.com/wine-club-feedback and (unlike many politicians) we will listen.

Next outing is on 18th April at 8.00pm when Majestic will be inundating us with a fab selection of great Spring wines. Give it a go, you know you want to!

If you decide to come along please do let us know so we can be sure we have enough to go around. You can contact us here:

@UptonWine / uptonwineclub.com / ian.langley@yahoo.co.uk

Nick

Road News

Will all residents of Stream Road, Prospect Road, Church Street ,and Fieldside please ensure that they do not leave their cars unattended on the roads for the 3 days starting April 1st as the County Council will be re-surfacing those roads using tarmac, similar to that used on High Street, sprinkled with white chippings.



Feet First



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Email: uptondogdays@hotmail.com

Facebook: Upton Dog Days



Village Produce Association

What can I say? We're two thirds through March as I write this and has the weather improved since February? No!! Then it was raining stair rods, blowing a gale and the weather gauge was showing 3.9 degrees centigrade!! Now we've had the Beast from the East - Twice!! and Storm Emma from the West, with temperatures down to minus 6 degrees centigrade!! At least in February I could sit and watch the winter Olympics!! Now I'm just watching my broad beans and pea plants growing all spindly in the greenhouse as it's too dodgy to try and put them in the freezing ground!! The only consolation is that at least the potatoes are still chitting nicely in the cool of the spare bedroom!! !!! Have you ever seen so many explanation marks !!!

Good News!! The Summer Show Schedule is now available from the Blewbury post office or you can receive it online by emailing Eileen on vpa.in.bl.up@gmail.com or ring Margaret in Upton on 01235 850126.

More Good News!! Full details of our trip to West Green House Gardens at Hartley Witney in Hampshire will be available in next months Upton News - the date is Saturday 16th June - so please put it in your diary.

DID YOU KNOW ? Gertrude Jekyll said "Some of the most delightful of all gardens are the little strips in front of roadside cottages. They have a simple and tender charm that one may look for in vain in gardens of greater pretension." AND: Vita Sackville-West said "The more one gardens, the more one learns; and the more one learns, the more one realizes how little one knows. I suppose the whole of life is like that."

Happy Gardening - weather permitting!!!

Eileen

Theatre Group

Encouraged by a positive reaction from a number of you, I have today ordered 16 tickets for the play at the Mill at Sonning for the evening of Wednesday 30th May. I had to pay a non-returnable deposit, so please do rush to get your tickets, at the Group price of £49.50 each. This, you will recollect, includes a buffet meal with coffee, half a programme (one between two), and seats for the show in an amphitheatre. I've booked seats near the back, on the level of the restaurant, for those who don't like descending steps with no rails. The show is being directed by its co-author, Ray Cooney, and is billed as "hilarious" and "a wonderful farce".

It is obviously pretty popular, because we couldn't get seats in a block, even towards the end of its run.

When you pay, please say also whether you wouldn't mind driving to Sonning.

Malcolm

Submissions for *Upton News* should be sent to

kameki39@btinternet.com

Deadline for the May edition is

Thursday 26th April