

Upton News



Vol 5 No. 7 February 2017

St. Mary's Church Services

Church Services

Sun 5th Feb - 09.00am - Sung Eucharist*

Sun 12th Feb - 09.00am - Sung Eucharist

Sun 19th Feb - 09.00am - Sung Eucharist

Sun 26th Feb - 10.30am - Tea and Toast* with Fr Jason - suitable for all ages.

Sun 5th March - 09.00am - Sung Eucharist*

Please see the porch notice for weekday services.

* Refreshments follow these services.

St Mary's is open from 10.00am - 4.00pm throughout the year for quiet reflection or private prayer.

Drop In

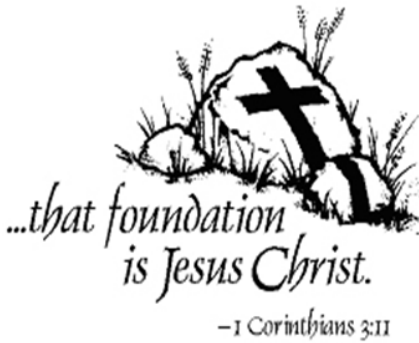
The Drop-In is an informal gathering to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a pleasant chat. Meetings take place in the Village Hall on Thursdays from 10.30am to 12.00pm. Dates for February are the 2nd and the 16th.

Bake Up!

Unfortunately the date for the first Upton Bake Up has had to be changed to Friday 10th February at 11.00am at Old Stream Cottage. Bake Up is a new meet-up for baking enthusiasts in Upton. The idea is one morning every month we get together to try out each other's bread, biscuits, cakes, pies, etc and share recipes and tips. Maybe later we can think about demos or the dreaded technical!

The first meeting's theme (very loose) will be Scottish baking as it's just after Burns Night. Hope you can make it. Drop Kieron Humphrey an email if you have any questions: kieronhumph@gmail.com

Rector's Note



A Different Type of Resolution

I wonder: do you enjoy looking at buildings? For me, buildings are fascinating. How is the space arranged? How does the design fit in with the local context? How does the engineering work? I look at a wall and think to myself: what's stopping this wall from falling over? Where are the buttresses? Where are the foundations?

Of course, foundations are usually hidden underground and you have to just assume that they are there! I often

enjoy looking at a building and trying to guess what lies hidden from sight, hidden but playing such a vital role in ensuring that everything you see doesn't just collapse from the inherent stresses and strains of the structure. Good foundations are, of course, vital for a building. They are also vital for our lives as individuals and as communities.

The Bible has some challenging things to say about the role of foundations in our lives. To start with, we often assume that what matters is what we build upon our foundations, not the foundations themselves. But perhaps we have got this the wrong way around, the foundations are what endure, and the stuff we build upon them is temporary and impermanent. A time of crisis will come, and the superstructure of lives will collapse, leaving only the foundations. Perhaps this has been an experience in your own life. Everything has collapsed around you, and the only thing that is left are the foundations, which in the past we always simply took for granted.

The Bible also challenges us on the material we use for the foundations of our lives. As human beings, we tend to build our lives upon the foundations of money, success, status, health and good looks. But what if these things are actually no good as foundations? What if they can never carry the weight we place upon them? An early Christian called Paul wrote that the only foundation for our lives is Jesus Christ. What an arrogant claim - and yet what if Paul is actually right about this?

My hope for us all is that during the month ahead we will be able to give ourselves some time and space to reflect on the foundations upon which we build our lives, as individuals and as communities. I wonder what we will discover?

Fr Jason

Village Produce Association

The VPA is organising two outings this year. We also have events throughout 2017 which are listed below.

Full details of the outings will be issued in the Upton News prior to the event. If you would like to go on the outing you will need to register four weeks in advance at the Blewbury Post Office or contact Margaret Maytham on 01235 850126 or Eileen Bracken on 01235 510095 or contact us on vpa.in.bl.up@gmail.com

Saturday 17th June - Visit to Gardener's World live at the NEC Birmingham Watch expert gardeners in action. Enjoy Show Gardens, Floral Marquee and much more.

Saturday 12th August - Visit to Kew Gardens

Kew Gardens houses the "largest and most diverse botanical and mycological collections in the world". Founded in 1840, from the exotic garden at Kew Park, its living collections include more than 30,000 different kinds of plants.

Events

Tuesday 2nd March at 7.30pm in Blewbury Manor Barn - Three short talks by committee members on: Chickens on the allotment. How to make great compost. Growing and propagating snowdrops .

Saturday 8th July at 2.30pm-4.00pm - Annual Summer Show in Blewbury Village Hall.

Sunday 22nd October at 1.00pm-3.00pm - Plant and Cake sale with Sustainable Blewbury's Apple Day at The Red Lion.

Wednesday 1st November at 7.00pm - Annual General Meeting in The Vale Room, Blewbury Village Hall.

Saturday 2nd December at 7.00pm - Annual Social Evening in Upton Village Hall.

We look forward to seeing you on our trips and at our events in the forthcoming months.

Did you know? In the late 1700s Napoleon offered a prize of 12,000 francs to anyone who could come up with a method of preserving food. Healthy daily rations were essential to feed a huge army on the march. It was over 10 years before Nicolas Appert, a confectioner known as the 'father of canning', scooped the award for his method of preserving food in airtight glass bottles.

Happy Gardening, *Eileen*

Annual Litter Pick

Although the council have recently cleared the litter from Chilton Road there are lots of other areas that are in need of attention. The date for your diary is Saturday 25th March. This is an annual event that keeps the village looking tidy. Volunteers are needed on the day. More details to follow.

Rob Traynor

Upton Wine Appreciation Club

Having pushed the boat out for the December tasting, at which members enjoyed wines ranging from Premier Cru Chablis to Twenty-year-old Tawny Port, January saw members of Upton's Wine Club tighten their collective belts (and mix their metaphors) as we turned to research the more modestly priced wines of local budget supermarkets.

Eight wines were tasted, all priced at less than £10 a bottle and all selected from what was available on the day of my visit to our nearest Aldi and Lidl supermarkets. Both supermarkets are actively promoting their wines, a fair proportion of which have won awards. Indeed, a recent (wotwine?) survey concluded that Lidl and Aldi were the best supermarkets to buy wines that represented value for money. Would our members agree?

Lidl's Franciacorta, essentially Brescia's answer to Champagne, showed well but members thought it would face stiff competition from the many Spanish Cava available at a similar price. Aldi's Clare Valley Riesling was broadly true to the expectations of the variety, with a hint of the lime that typifies Rieslings from this hilly district to the north of Adelaide, but lacked the extract of higher quality examples. Lidl's Godello impressed, perhaps for the novelty of this lesser known grape, while Aldi's Gavi won broad approval as a reliable staple. Three reds were shown, of which Aldi's Barolo made an impression for being a tried and tested (DOCG) wood-aged wine typically associated with much higher prices. Lidl's Monbazillac provided a sweet treat to round off the evening, perhaps lacking the admired botrytis character of the fine sweet wines of the region but enjoyable none-the-less and a fraction of the price of Sauternes.

We now look forward to February's meeting, at which Derek Whitmell will lead us on an exploration of France's Loire valley. If you've wondered about joining us, please do contact an existing member or anyone from the committee - you're very welcome to try your first meeting as a guest, and the more the merrier. Or follow us online @UptonWine.

Cheers! *William Betts, Chair*

Ridgeway Art Prize

You may well be interested to hear about a new initiative by The Friends of The Ridgeway, who are this year launching the Swire Ridgeway Arts Prize, to encourage more people to experience the creative inspiration offered by the Ridgeway and its environment. Prizes are being offered for works of painting, sculpture, photography and writing (poetry or prose), with separate prizes in each category and an overall winner. The prizes will be awarded at the Ridgeway Friends Day on Sunday 23rd April, and worthy entries will be exhibited during that weekend, at the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall, Uffington. Full details are available on www.ridgewayfriends.org.uk.

Notes from the Allotments

Not much happening up at the allotment at the moment! It's a bit wild and windy during winter, and the very wet heavy soil is not conducive to digging. The supply of Brussels sprouts and leeks is diminishing and there is precious little else up there to make me want to visit. I have some perpetual spinach seedlings but they are keeping low to the ground and there are not many leaves worth picking. I expect they will perk up when the weather does. The fruit patch is looking very bedraggled, with so far unpruned autumn raspberries looking skeletal and forlorn, the little pear tree completely leafless (but still alive!) and the tayberry extending its long fingers everywhere, escaping its restraints despite my best efforts. The rhubarb is making a few tentative peeks above ground, but it's not in a hurry to leave the safety of the soil yet.

I decided not to plant any broad beans over winter at the Allotment, but instead sowed a packet of good old Aquadulce in a large growbag in my little cold greenhouse at home. They all germinated and, being protected from marauding mice, have been growing strongly for the last few weeks, so to avoid them getting too leggy in the relative warmth of the greenhouse, I turfed them all out into my raised beds in the vegetable patch. I initially protected them with some fleece, but recent strong winds caused the fleece to fall on the beans, which bent the 6 inch long stems, so I've removed it and they will have to fend for themselves.

I've also sown onions and garlic at home and am hoping for an early crop. I have to say, I do like the convenience of just popping down the garden for fresh vegetables, rather than cycling up to the allotment!

Last season's leek seedlings, the 30 or so which did not make it up to the allotment, have been planted out in the garden as well as I didn't want to throw them into the compost; maybe they will also provide me with an early crop, they are looking healthy but spindly at the moment.

Angela Hoy (angela.hoy@sky.com)

Theatre Group

All the subsidised seats for "Improbable Fiction" have now been purchased, but I would like to dispose of 2 at the full price (£54 each) if at all possible. At the Mill at Sonning the all-in price includes an evening meal, the show and a programme, still pretty good value. It's on Thursday 23 March.

I still have 4 tickets not yet claimed (i.e. paid for) for "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time". That's on Tuesday 23 May at 7.30 pm. and costs £25 - without a meal!

I was asked if I would book for this year's Christmas Show at the New Theatre, "War Horse". Unless there are 10 more people to commit so far ahead (I have 6 already) I'm not happy to go ahead.

Malcolm Wright

Council News

Parish Council

Draft minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 16th January 2017 are now available on the village website

Planning

P16/V1903/FUL, P14/V2550/FUL - for development work at the The Gate House Reading Road. - Approved.

P16/V2788/HH - for two storey rear extension at 3 Beeching Close, Approved

P16/V2876/FULL - erection of stable block etc at the former pumping station near the Horse and Harrow. - Approved

P17/V0107/FUL Proposed outbuilding to provide for a home office/gym together with a covered car port at the former pumping station site near the Horse and Harrow. To be discussed by PC on 30th January at 6.30pm, The date of the next scheduled PC meeting is Monday 20th March 2017 at 8pm in the village hall meeting room.

District Council

Waste Recycling: South Oxfordshire District Council is once again named as the best recycler in DEFRA's annual recycling table for 2015/16 with the Vale in 4th place. South Oxfordshire's recycling rate was 66.6 per cent and the Vale's 64.8 per cent. Following recent changes with our green bins we are aiming for a higher figure for the current year and encourage residents to provide their strongest support.

Please don't forget you can recycle your old small electrical items, old clothes and used domestic batteries with your other waste. Small electrical items need to go in a small carrier bag next to your grey bin, clothes that aren't good enough for charity and other textiles need to be tied in a carrier bag next to your green bin and used domestic batteries need to be put in a small clear bag which you can then place on top of your green bin.

If bad weather means we can't empty your bin, please leave it out for three days. If we haven't managed to empty it by then, bring it back in and we'll empty it next time it's due. We'll keep the Vale's website and Twitter page updated with any disruptions.

Planning pre-application advice: Both the Vale and South Oxfordshire District Councils offer pre-application planning advice to individuals and companies on a commercial basis. From this month we are putting a new process in place whereby the advice on new cases will be available publicly on our website once the full application is submitted.

A competition for new businesses: South and Vale are sponsors of a new competition for businesses which are less than two years old. Applications must be in February 28th. Judges will be looking for the brightest rising stars in local business, whatever their trade or industry.

The winner will receive a serviced office rent-free for a year, plus a host of other great prizes to help boost their businesses including expert branding

and website advice, social media coaching, IT consultancy and support, accountancy services and a full programme of business mentoring. For more information and to download an application form go to www.sonbc.co.uk

Grants available to help get residents active: New funding from Sports England will be available to councils, community groups and sports clubs from this month. The funding is aimed at projects which reduce inactivity, increase volunteering and improve facilities.

Grants of £5,000 to £150,000 will be available from the Community Asset Fund for capital projects to provide new or enhanced facilities, or new facilities in fields or unused buildings. Types of projects that could be eligible include renovating a sports pavilion, installing floodlighting or creating a new sports pitch.

Grants will be available from the Inactive Fund for projects that increase activity levels in people aged 55 and over such as walking football or care home activities.

Grants from Volunteer Funding will particularly target under-represented groups and young people aged 10-20 years working to promote volunteering opportunities for example matching volunteers to sports club volunteering roles.

For further information contact Cath Dale, Participation Officer on 07801 203 551 or 01235 422222.

Local Plan: The Local Plan 2031 (Part 1) was adopted at the Vale's full council meeting on Wednesday, 14 December. More information about the Local Plan (Part 1) can be found on the Vale website.

Business Breakfast 2017: The South and Vale District Councils' annual Business Breakfast will be held at the De Vere Oxford Thames hotel from 07.30 to 10.30 am on February 21st. A programme is being put together including key speakers to address issues affecting south Oxfordshire and beyond. To register go to www.slido.com using the code #SVBB17 and post your questions and topics that you would like to see answered and discussed at the event.

County Council

Library Service: In September OCC launched a county-wide campaign for Home Library Service volunteers. This successful campaign has led to 150 volunteer applications so far. Home Library Service volunteers choose and deliver books to those who are unable to get to a library. More information about the scheme, including details of what volunteering involves and interviews with those who benefit from the service, can be found at: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/homelibrary

The Library Service has also recently launched a bi-monthly newsletter sent to 6000 library service users. It contains the latest libraries news, events, book recommendations, volunteering opportunities and more, including information about Zinio (free electronic magazines), eBooks, People's Network (free public access to computers) and Wi-Fi in Libraries. To sign up go to www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/librariesnewsletter

Thank You from St Mary's

Thanks to your generosity, I am pleased to be able to report that the following amounts have been raised during the last year for our chosen charities.

The annual Pet Service held in November raised £100 for Hillside Animal Sanctuary, a charity that not only cares for many breeds of animals in need but are also active in helping to monitor and prevent cruelty in farming.

The Friends of St Mary's annual Carol Service held in December raised £117 for The Gatehouse Charity in Oxford, a drop-in centre for the city's homeless.

The All Age Service this January was our Christingle Service which was very well attended. A collection was taken for The Children's Society and £110 was raised which was wonderful!

In addition, the Ride and Stride event raised the magnificent sum of £251.50, half of which is for the Oxford Historic Churches Trust and half is returned to us. A particular thank you to Paul Batho and Karen Fenn and family for their magnificent efforts.

Just a note that we will be providing tea and toast at our All Age Service in February. It would be lovely to see you there. These services are good fun, as Father Jason usually comes up with a task or two and, as an added bonus, the popular hymns are accompanied by Father Jason playing the church organ.

Gloria Smith
Upton PCC

Jumble Sale

A Jumble Sale to fundraise in aid of Upton Village Hall and associated amenities will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 18th March. Doors will open to early buyers at 10.30am, entrance fee £2 and then to all-comers from 11am, entrance fee 50P. The sale will finish at 2pm Teas/coffee/cake will also be available on the day, all cake donations gratefully received.

A chance to sort out your cupboards, wardrobes, garage and shed! We are looking for clothing, shoes/boots, children's toys, soft toys, bric-a-brac, kitchenalia, ornaments, accessories such as scarves, bags, jewellery, make-up and toiletries, small pieces of furniture, paintings, pictures, etc. Basically anything you think is saleable at a jumble/pre-loved sale!

All items should be in reasonably good condition, great condition or new!! □

Setting up will be on Friday, 17th March from 10am until 8pm so please drop off any donations during that time or if you need items collected please contact Giulia Rippon on 01235 850158 or 07789 777381 or email giulia@rippon.net or Sarah Carter at sahanben55@gmail.com

It's time to bin your bra!

Blewbury Tennis Club's annual tournament will be held on May 17th in aid of Against Breast Cancer, the Abingdon based charity. The charity's ultimate goal is to prevent secondary spread which is the main cause of breast cancer related deaths, their bra recycling scheme takes your unwanted or unloved bras through their network to help raise vital funds for pioneering breast cancer research.

If anyone wishes to donate their bras via me, I can add them to the collection bin on the day, so come on ladies, treat yourselves to a new bra and donate the old one.

If you want to know more about Blewbury Tennis Club and their famous Bucks Fizz Tournament, please go to <http://www.blewburytennis.co.uk/>

Many thanks for your support (no pun intended)

Rosemary de Wilde 01235 850345

Film Club

Thank you to the 40+ people who turned out to watch the first film shown by the newly formed Upton Village Film Club (The Nice Guys). The large screen, enhanced sound system, drinks and nibbles all contributed to a pleasurable, social evening and one that we are going to repeat. The next movie is planned for the end of March and details will be available through the next issue of Upton News. Thank you to all the willing helpers, the messages of support and the positive encouragement for it to continue.

Rob Traynor

Didcot U3A

Didcot U3A meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 2:00 pm in the Didcot Civic Hall. Please arrive 15 minutes before the start time to ensure you are all seated for the 2pm start.

On Tuesday 21st February Phil Judkins will give a talk entitled 'Enigma, Bletchley and the Hunt for Hitler's secret weapons'

Upton 50 Club Prize Winners

January 2017

£25	No. 125	Mr Irson
£20	No. 66	Joan Durbin
£15	No. 147	Neil Hubbard
£10	No. 100	Sue Ryan

Lesley Shaw

Items Swap Shop

Please send in a brief description of the item that you no longer require together with details of what you would like to swap it for. It is not a problem if you want to swap it for cash. Please also send in your name and preferred method of contact (Tel. No. or email) to news@uptonvillage.co.uk.

Available	Exchange	Name	Tel No or Email.
Set of 4 Bar Stools	£15	I Ross	851344
Girls Bike Age 10 ?	£10	I Ross	851344
Sony 17" inch colour TV	£25	H. Saysall	Hsaysel1@its.jnj.com
Electric Panel Heater	Free	H. Saysell	Hsaysel1@its.jnj.com
Horse Manure	Free	H. Powell	850268

Job Swap Shop

Please send in details as for the items swap shop giving the jobs that you are prepared to undertake and what jobs you would like undertaken in return.

Please consider such things as accident insurance and what happens if the job you are offering takes much longer than the job you are requesting.

Job Offered	Job Required	Name	Tel No.
Help with primary core sub-	Heavy work in the	M. Wright	850705

Post Office News;

Building work will hopefully start soon on the Blewbury village hall, please take extra care in the car park, there will be less space and more traffic, but we have exciting plans for the extra space in our lovely new Post Office! We have heard a rumour that some banks are changing the way they take cash deposits, they will now use your card so it should be a much faster transaction. Most bank customers can make cash and cheque deposits, and can take money out with us, for no charge.

Did you know you can pay your tax bill, council tax, electricity, gas & telephone bill, housing association rent etc at the Post Office? You can, so save a stamp, or going into town, pay by cash or card or by cheque to Post Office Ltd.

We will be closed on Thursday 16th February, I have tickets for a matinee show in London, and Angela is unavailable!

Karen

Village Hall

The village hall is managed by the committee and trustees of the Upton Village Hall Amenities Trust (UVHAT), who look after the day to day maintenance of the hall, bookings, finances and enhancements.

The current trustees are:

Graham de Wilde, John Haworth, Kieron Humphrey, Lucy Mason, Jacqui Reid, Brian Rippon, Lesley Shaw, Rob Traynor, Jessie West

Please do not hesitate to contact any of the trustees if you have any questions or suggestions regarding the hall, and we're always grateful for offers of assistance! We can be contacted by email using the generic address info@uptonvillagehall.co.uk.

We're still considering the next major phase of refurbishment to the hall, but meanwhile the trustees would like to thank Derek Whitmell, who drew our attention to a potential grant from Magnox (Magnox work for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority at sites including Harwell). This funding was available for projects intended to promote education or skills, and seemed appropriate for an item which has been on the wish list for a while, the acquisition of a portable stage. Such a stage could be stored compactly when not in use, but quickly assembled to create a flexible platform up to 11 sq.m in size, and the suggestion attracted support from existing hall users and villagers involved in the performing arts. We're delighted to report that our application for 50% funding of the stage was successful, and we hope to acquire it within the next couple of months.

We're also pleased that the audio-visual equipment (projector, screen and PA system), similarly acquired using funding from the VoWH and Uptonogood, was put to good use at the inaugural meeting of the Film Club, and we hope this continues to be a success.

Finally, see elsewhere in this edition for details of the Jumble Sale in March, which will raise funds for the hall development. Please support us with items of jumble, help on the day, or offers of cakes! We're very proud of our hall, which attracts considerable praise - we just want to make it an even better village amenity.

Brian Rippon, Chair

Submissions for *Upton News* should be sent to
news@uptonvillage.co.uk.

Deadline for the March edition is
Friday 24th February

