



## We Wish You all a Happy New Year!

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### St. Mary's Church Services

Sun 7th Jan 9.00am	Sung Eucharist*
Sun 14th Jan 9.00am	Sung Eucharist
Sun 21st Jan 9.00am	Sung Eucharist
Sun 28th Jan 10.30am	Christingle – All Age Service*

\*refreshments served after these events

Please see porch notice for weekday services

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### Bake Up

Our first year of baking and sharing has been great fun - thanks to a keen and growing band of bakers (also of waists).

Each meet-up has a theme so in 2017 we baked our way around the world, experimented with tarts, bread and cake, and picnicked and fêted. (Whoever hosts then picks the theme for the following meet-up.)

As well as the pleasure of tasting the entire banquet, there's the chance to compare techniques and get ideas. Congrats, bakers, on your verve and versatility! And thanks to everyone who did hosting duty - the warm welcomes have been a really lovely aspect of the enterprise.

As a New Year special we're meeting on a Wednesday so anyone not available on Fridays can attend. If that's you, don't hang back - all you need is to prepare some FINGER FOOD (Yvonne's chosen theme) and come to Somerset House on Chilton Road - 11am on Wednesday 17 January. Thanks for hosting this one, Mary.

And don't forget tupperware for the all-important divvy! - Kieron

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### 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 January are the 4th and the 18th.

## Rectors Note



### The Good Wine

Basements can be fascinating places. What may lie hidden in those dark, mysterious vaults?

The other day I was in Abingdon, and popped into the café in the old County Hall. The café is located in the basement, which is a wonderful, vaulted space. In the basement is a large piece of mechanical equipment, which at one time was used to pump water for the town. It makes a

splendid exhibit.

This got me thinking about water, and water-supplies. At this time of year, there is a tradition of reading a story from the Bible called The Wedding at Cana. Jesus attends a wedding at the village of Cana. During the course of the wedding feast, the wine runs out. Jesus works a miracle - his first recorded miracle - and turns over 100 gallons of water into wine. The steward then comments: "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now".

Christians have been reflecting on the deeper significance of this story ever since John first included it in his gospel, some nineteen hundred years ago.

In part, the meaning of the story is something about the richness of the life which Jesus offers to those who trust in him and follow his teaching. The life which Jesus offers is as rich and profound as the finest vintage wine.

But the story is also about challenging our expectations. As human beings, we can often assume that things were better in the past, and that the present and the future hold out the prospect of nothing much at all. We often think like this when we consider the process of human ageing. We mourn that we are not as young as we once were. The happiness and goodness in our life seem to lie in the land of past memory, while the present and the future seem characterised by sadness, disappointment and fear.

Perhaps the steward at the Wedding Feast was used to thinking like this. But then Jesus worked his miracle, and the steward burst out with those words of hope and surprise: "But you have kept the good wine until now!".

I wonder what 2018 might have in store for us? I pray that the words of the steward may be on our lips too: "But you have kept the good wine until now!"

Fr Jason

## **Theatre Group**

### **War Horse**

Following eight record breaking years in London's West End the National Theatre acclaimed play War Horse came on tour to the New Theatre Oxford and on December 13th, ten members of the Upton Theatre Group had the opportunity to enjoy this fabulous production.

The Theatre production is based on Michael Morpurgo's Novel about the friendship between a Devon Farm boy Albert and a young horse called Joey. At the outbreak of WW1 Albert's father sells Joey to the Cavalry and the horse is shipped to France. Joey is caught up in all the horrors of the War, eventually serving on both sides of enemy lines. Albert cannot forget Joey and although underage enlists in the British Army in an effort to find his beloved horse and bring him home.

At the heart of this production are astonishing life-sized horses by South Africa's remarkable Handspring Puppet Company. The puppetry is so mesmerising that you forget while watching that you are not looking at real horses.

War Horse was an unforgettable theatrical event and for me ranks as probably the very best theatre production I have seen for the extraordinary production, special effects, casting and ingenuity in bringing the story to the stage.

Feedback from other members of the Upton Theatre Group suggests I was not alone in feeling enraptured by the whole experience that tugged at heartstrings and laid bare the best and worst of humanity. If you haven't seen it and can get tickets do go .....you really will not be disappointed!

Lesley Shaw

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## **Blewbury Post Office**

So sorry about the unexpected closures recently, I have been quite poorly, and have only managed to open in the mornings, too exhausted to manage the afternoons as well, hope I get better soon, as I am quite fed up with it! We will definitely be open in the mornings, but afternoons cannot be guaranteed. All Parcelforce items must be in by 11.00am, and any Special Deliveries must be in by 11.30am, in time for the postman to collect.

We have also had a big problem with our land phone line, its in the process of being fixed, but its Post Office ltd, so who knows how long it will take? This also means we have no Paystation at the moment either! (pre paid gas and electric keys)

We have been told by Royal Mail that we may not get any collections/ deliveries if the weather turns bad again. (elf and safety again!)

We wish you all a happy, prosperous and healthy new year!

Karen and Maggie

## **Parish Council**

The Parish Council have considered the following planning applications during December.

P17/S3518/FUL - Office extension at Little Acorns, Main Street, West Hagbourne.

The P.C. have 'No Strong Views' on this application, but noted that it appeared that paddock land to the side of the building would be used to accommodate the new parking area but no change of use for this part of the land is mentioned in the planning application.

P17/V3062/HH - Alden Farmhouse, Aldens Lane, Upton. Extensions and alterations to existing farmhouse including rendering over brickwork. New three-bay garage with ancillary accommodation above.

The P.C. have 'No Objections' to this application.

P17/S4097/FUL - Retention of public house and largest building, demolition of outbuildings and reconfigure parking at the Horse and Harrow Public House. Construction of three dwellings with access and parking.

The P.C. have 'No Strong Views' on this application, but expressed concerns over parking, turning space and general access for the dwellings. Concern was also expressed regarding disruption during demolition and construction and the connection to drainage and other utilities in the area. Disappointment was registered that the opportunity to build affordable housing at this site had been overlooked.

P17/V3081/FUL - Development work at Alden Farmhouse, Aldens Lane, Upton.

This application was not discussed as the relevant paperwork had not been received.

The next full meeting of the Parish Council is on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January at 6.00pm in the village hall meeting room.

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## **Motorway Closure**

After successfully lifting into position all six central reservation beams along the M4 between junctions 12 and 13, the weekend closures scheduled for 12th - 15th and 19th- 22nd January have been cancelled.

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## **Swop Shop**

### **Items**

- 15) Upright Piano - Excellent tone and touch, complete with stool and sheet music - Free - Brenda Arnold, 850354
- 16) A Victorian Wardrobe - Free - Malcolm Wright, 850705.
- 17) A home-made set of (book) shelves - Free - Malcolm Wright, 850705.
- 18) Two glass-fronted display cabinets, ex MFI? - Free - Malcolm Wright, 850705.

## **Blewbury W.I.**

I would like to wish everyone a happy, healthy 2018. All members are invited to join us at our events in January

Friday, 5th January at 7.00pm-Craft Evening at Liz's. Please phone first.

Tuesday, 9th January at 10.30am-Coffee at Style Acre.

Tuesday, 9th January at 7.30pm-Scrabble at Rosemary's. Please phone first.

Wednesday, 24th January at 7.30pm-WI monthly meeting in the Vale Room. Speaker Neil Stewart - Beating about the Bush in Africa.

Friday, 26th January at 1.30pm-Talking Science lecture at RAL Harwell. Last Day of the Dinosaurs. Professor Phil Manning.

Every Monday (except January 1st) at 2.30pm-MahJong

A reminder that there will not be a "Lyn's Walk " in January because of the New Year's Day walk to Aldworth.

For more details of any of our events, or if you wish to join us, please ring Karen on 850219 or visit our web page, <http://blewburywi.wordpress.com> where you will find more information.

*Cilla*

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## **Rural Crime**

Reports of rural crime in the Thames Valley have increased by five percent between October 2016 and September 2017.

You can reduce the risk of becoming a victim of rural crime by taking a few simple steps including:

Keeping the boundaries of your land and property well-maintained and secure

Fitting strong locks to sheds, garages and outbuildings

Checking security equipment regularly to ensure it is working properly

Locking equipment away in a secure building when it's not in use

Security marking your tools and equipment

For more crime prevention advice, and to see details of your local Rural Crime Officers, visit the Rural Crime page on the Thames Valley Police website at: <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/advice/protecting-your-business/rural-crime/>

If you become a victim of rural crime or suspect that a crime has taken place, you should report it to police by calling the non-emergency number, 101. If an incident is in progress, or there is an immediate threat to life, you should call 999.

You can receive the latest rural crime news from Thames Valley Police and their partners directly to your phone or inbox by signing up to CountryWatch at: <http://www.thamesvalleycountrywatch.co.uk/>

## **Wine Club**

It was actually a bitterly cold, squalling night in Upton, the sort of night where you really don't want to venture out to a (great) party....a night where the TV remote control and cosy fireside and/or slippers feel much more tempting. However, in the warm glow of the village hall, a large friendly Upton crowd arrived for the annual Upton Wine Club Christmas Meeting.

If you haven't been before, this is a highlight of the Wine Club Calendar. For a little more than the average sub (still top value at £10), we walked through a re-enactment of Christmas Day with a delicious mini version of our Christmas festive food with some fantastic accompanying wines but no argumentative relties!!

Overall the wines were carefully chosen to complement the food, splashing out a little but still all being excellent value. Everything from sparkling wine with brunch, to both white and red choices for Christmas lunch and some great dessert and cheese wines.

I felt it was a very good opportunity to work out exactly what wines went with what and to make a note of some very good wines if you fancy a treat at Christmas. The Committee speakers gave us some vital statistics and an insight into the pairing, enough to be both interesting and help guide us through.

Of course, if you're not "doing Christmas" this year, it didn't matter as it was a very lively, fun evening with everyone chatting as we wandered around the room taking in the atmosphere. When the full hall lights came on at clearing up time, there was a distinctive groan from the crowd.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 17th January where our guest speaker will be Tim North presenting "Joie de Vin" - a look at wines the French usually keep for themselves - artisan wines from small producers.

By then, I know it may well be even colder and more squalling and the fireside may look even more appealing but remember there will be a group of friendly Uptonites in the warm village hall ready to sample another 8 fab wines (with delicious nibbles) and a lot of fun company, all in for the bargain price of £5 AND no need to drive home! If you haven't been before, please get in touch with us.....we're a very welcoming and friendly bunch and we would love to see you!

Ros

Book a place for January by dropping off the fee with the (soon to be emailed) slip to any of the Committee or by emailing Frankie at [Frankie.Jacklin@TfL.gov.uk](mailto:Frankie.Jacklin@TfL.gov.uk) and transferring the fee by online transfer.

For more wine and meeting details please see Twitter @UptonWine

### **Feet First**

A Mobile Foot Clinic for  
Upton  
Treatment provided in your own home for  
Routine Foot and Nail Care  
Toenail Trimming  
Corn and Callous Removal  
Diabetic Foot Care  
Contact Jill Allen DipFh MCFHP MAFHP  
Foot Health Practitioner  
07767763441 or 01235 815917



### **Gary Cuddon**

9 Harwood Road  
East Hagbourne  
Painter and Decorator  
Providing a High Quality Service  
Free Quotations  
Fully Insured  
Tel. 01235 510680 or 07827752904



### **Scotlands Ash Garage**

Main Street West Hagbourne  
Oxford's award winning local  
Independent Garage  
MOTs from 6.00am by appointment  
Vehicle Servicing and Repairs  
Tyres, Clutches and Exhausts  
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Terraclean Service  
Free Courtesy Car  
Tel. 01235 850707  
[enquiries@scotlandsashgarage.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@scotlandsashgarage.co.uk)



Family Farm Shop, Florist,  
Nursery and Giftware

Come along to Savages this January to  
discover our range of  
flowers, plants, foodstuffs  
and giftware.

### **LJD Bell Plumbing & Heating Services**

All Domestic Plumbing and Heating Work  
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A1 High Efficiency Boilers Fitted  
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### **N Drum**

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and Maintenance  
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### **J Roxborough Services**

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Full property renovations  
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Flat roof renewal and roof repairs  
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This space is available  
for your advert  
Cost £2.50 per edition  
or  
£25 for a full year.

## Upton 50 Club

The UVHAT Trustees are pleased to announce that there are 3 additional prizes for the Christmas Draw. Prize Winners were as follows:

1st	£35	No 106	Chris Davis
2nd	£30	No 131	Mr Lownds
3rd	£25	No 189	Mike Collins G and D Blewbury
4th	£25	No 24	John Scarborough
5th	£20	No 95	Lucy Mason
6th	£15	No 6	Adrian Coles
7th	£10	No 139	Mr Butlin

Thank you all for your support during 2017—*Lesley Shaw*

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## National Trail Meeting Volunteer

As our present secretary is retiring at the end of March, 2018, we need to find a volunteer to attend our meetings and produce minutes for our three groups (Board, Delivery and Development). We hold 9 meetings a year on dates agreed in advance so we hope someone with minute-taking experience can find time to help us.

Full details are available at <https://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/ridgeway/news/volunteer-opportunity>

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## January Events at Earth Trust

Hedgelaying - Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th January, 9.30am-4.00pm each day

A very practical, hands-on two days learning to lay a Midland style hedge with expert Clive Leeke. All specialist tools and equipment will be provided. Cost £75, booking essential.

Winter Wetland Birds - Sunday 28th January, 9.30am-11.00am

Local expert Ben Carpenter will take you on a guided walk around beautiful Thrupp Lake, near Abingdon, where you'll learn more about the birds and their habitats. Cost £8 adult, £4 child, booking essential.

More information can be found on the website at [www.earthtrust.org.uk](http://www.earthtrust.org.uk).

There are lots of exciting events coming up in 2018, including some that are exclusively for Earth Trust Friends - find out more about becoming a Friend at [www.earthtrust.org.uk/joinus](http://www.earthtrust.org.uk/joinus)

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Submissions for *Upton News* should be sent to  
[news@uptonvillage.co.uk](mailto:news@uptonvillage.co.uk).

Deadline for the February edition is  
**Saturday 27th January**