

Upton News



Vol 5 No.24 July 2018

St. Mary's Church Services

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

Christian Aid

The total raised this year was slightly down on last year, the house to house collection raised £353.88, boosted by plant sales to a grand total of £459.00. Many thanks to all donors and collectors.

Elisabeth and Malcolm Wright

Lost

A parishioner lost two brass keys on an unmarked key ring somewhere between the Church and the Village Hall on Wednesday 27th June. If you find, or have already found, the keys please give me a call on 01235 850135 so that I can put you in touch with the owner of the keys.

Editor

Upton 50 Club

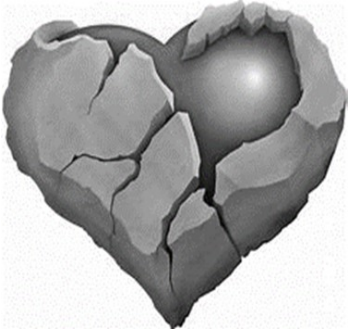
Prize winners in the June draw were:-

1st	£25	No 55	Duncan Reid
2nd	£20	No 106	Chris Davis
3rd	£15	No 115	Judy Mallett
4th	£10	No 80	Jane Strange

Congratulations to all of the winners

Lesley Shaw

Rector's Note



Righteous Anger

Do you ever experience a mood of righteous anger? Something has happened, or someone has done something to someone, and a deep feeling of anger wells up inside your heart. You feel that what has happened is not right, and you must tell the whole world that it's not right!

You might be surprised to learn that there were times when Jesus felt righteous anger. I say surprised, because Jesus is sometimes portrayed as someone who was always meek, mild, and gentle. Yes, Jesus was a gentle person; but he was also someone with a deep sense of right and wrong.

On one occasion, there was a man with a withered hand. The religious rules of the day said that the man shouldn't be healed on the sabbath. This attitude aroused Jesus's righteous anger. He looked around at the crowd and was "grieved at their hardness of heart". He asked the man to stretch out his hand, which he did, and the hand was restored to health.

Jesus was grieved at people's "hardness of heart". Usually this phrase is taken to mean that Jesus was grieved at people's lack of compassion. But the phrase could also mean that people were deliberately closing their minds to the reality of the situation. Of course, there is often an overlap between closing our hearts and closing our minds: we refuse to look at the reality of human suffering, and this allows us to be hard-hearted. Sometimes we are simply overwhelmed with the suffering in the world around us - it is too much to bear, and so we close our minds and our hearts.

So Jesus felt righteous anger over some people's "hardness of heart". I wonder where we might find "hardness of heart" in our own lives and in our own world? What might need to be done to soften our hearts and minds, so that we might respond with love to the suffering of others?

Sometimes we simply don't have the strength or energy to do what we know is right; sometimes we simply don't know what action to take.

In both cases, people often find prayer can be a big help. Prayer doesn't usually solve our problems overnight. But through it, God can begin to melt the hardness of our hearts, so that we may be men and women of compassion, in a demanding and challenging world.

Fr Jason

Theatre Group

I have just one ticket left at £19.25 for the very popular and successful “Wipers Times” at the Oxford Playhouse on Tuesday 4th September at 7.30pm. Do contact me if you are interested.

Malcolm Wright 850705

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 12.00 noon. Dates for July are the 5th and the 19th.

Blewbury W.I.

I hope you are enjoying the lovely summer weather and, maybe looking forward to happy holidays. Following is a list of our Blewbury WI events being held during July, we would love to welcome some new members to join us.

Tuesday, 3rd July at 9.15am. - Lyn’s Walk. Meet at Blewbury Village Hall before going on for a circular walk from Aston Recreation Ground. Some may have done part of this walk before, it is a little longer than previous walks but it is flat. Regretfully there is no coffee shop en-route. Hope to see you all whether you are WI members or not.

Tuesday, 3rd July at 7.30 pm. - Scrabble at Rosemary’s. Please ring first.

Friday, 6th July at 7.00pm. - Craft evening at Liz’s. Please ring first.

Monday, 9th July at 10.30am. - Coffee at Style Acre with Karen.

Wednesday, 25th July 2.00pm to 5.00pm. - Visit to Ashdown House, Lambourn. Car rota will be arranged.

Wednesday, 25th July at 7.30pm. - WI monthly meeting in the Village Hall. Speaker, Sue Drage. “Recycling with a Difference”

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.

Didcot U3A

This month’s meeting is on the 17th July in the Didcot Civic Hall commencing at 2.00pm (early arrival advised!). Our guest speaker will be Anita May - Fly Girl Adventures. Anita is a professional airline pilot with a colourful career and as Anita says, 'all of it is true!'.

Parish Council

The Parish Council held an extraordinary meeting on Wednesday 20th June. This was primarily to discuss three planning applications from within the village:-

P18/V1214/HH Winterbourne, Stream Road, Upton

P18/V1321/HH White Cottage, Fieldside, Upton

P18/V1354/HH Fernwood, High Street, Upton

All of these were passed with no objections.

The completion of the parish council's annual audit for 2017/18 was confirmed and agreed. The Chair, on behalf of the parish council, would like to extend his thanks to Ross Caffyn for her comprehensive internal audit work. Thanks were also extended to Simon Powell for his internal audit services to the council over the past five years, and to Brian Rippon for his help in posting the audit to the website.

The parish council are looking to top up the play area floor with cushionfall chippings, in July. This is quite a task to organise and volunteers will be sought with wheelbarrows and shovels to assist in the distribution of the chippings. Watch this space!

A recent problem with the rope ladder on the climbing frame in the play area was fixed as soon as it was highlighted. Please don't hesitate to let the parish council know of any problems with play equipment, either by speaking to your parish councillors or email the clerk on parish.clerk@uptonvillage.co.uk.

The parish council would also like to remind everyone that camping overnight on the recreation ground is not permitted. Disposable barbeques should also not be used on the ground as this damages the surface.

Please enjoy using the recreation ground, but always remember to take everything home, including rubbish.

Thank you on behalf of Upton Parish Council.

Next Parish Council Meeting:- Monday 16th July at 7.00pm 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 26.6.18

Wine Bottles

A grateful thank you to all villagers who kindly provided empty wine bottles and also a few unopened bottles for me to use at the Watlington Nursing Home's summer fete, now to be held on Saturday 14th July. My wife is a resident at the home. The target of 200 empty bottles was surpassed, the process of filling with water and wrapping in newspaper, by residents and visitors, is in progress.

Dermot Padden

Pimms, Pate & Pudding

Those with memories stretching back five or so years will recall the delightful PP&P parties held annually at the village hall. Well, by popular demand this event is being revived on Saturday 18th August!

It will run from 12.30pm until 3.30pm and the cost is £12.00 for adults and £6.00 for children over 5. This will get you a glass of Pimms (or a soft drink) and a buffet lunch including a fantastic array of home-made pates. All profits will go to the Friends of St Mary's.

We'd like bookings in advance so we can cater for the right numbers. Book now with Maggie (850126) or Celia (850684) to reserve your place.

We look forward to a jolly English summer afternoon!

Paul Batho

Village Produce Association

A couple of important dates for your diary.

Saturday 7th July - VPA Summer Show. Have you collected a copy of the schedule?? If you haven't entered before, have a look - there is a great variety of categories - fruit, vegetables, flowers, handicraft, cookery, photography. Why not give it a go - you could be a winner!! There are a few schedules left in the Blewbury post office or you can get it online by emailing Eileen on vpa.in.bl.up@gmail.com or by ringing Margaret in Upton on 01235 850126.

Saturday 11th August - Day trip to the Royal Horticultural Society Gardens at Wisley.

Wisley was founded by businessman and RHS member George Ferguson Wilson who purchased a 60 acre site in 1878. Wisley is now a large and diverse garden covering 240 acres. In addition to numerous formal and informal decorative gardens, several glasshouses and an extensive arboretum, it includes small scale "model gardens" which are intended to show visitors what they can achieve in their own gardens, and a trials field where new cultivars are assessed.

If you are interested, the cost is £20 per person (includes entry and transport!). Book at Blewbury Post Office or for Upton residents, contact Maggie Maytham on 850126, as soon as possible.

Did You Know? Oaks are among the slowest growing trees and usually don't produce acorns until they are about twenty years old. Mulberry trees have been known to live for up to 600 years. Syon House in Brentford holds the two known oldest Mulberry trees in Britain today, both planted in 1548. Built for survival, if they are blown over in a storm they soon grow back again by raising themselves up on their branches.

Happy Gardening Eileen

Theatre Group

Once again the Group greatly enjoyed a theatrical performance, this time of *Move Over Mrs Markham*, at The Mill At Sonning on Wednesday 30th May. The play is like a Brian Rix farce and was directed by Ray Cooney who co-wrote it with John Chapman in 1971. As usual at this theatre an informal dinner was included prior to the performance. The menu selection and the food were good which all added to the conviviality of the occasion.

Those visiting for the first time would find the environment extraordinary, the theatre/restaurant being a restored and surprisingly extensive 17th century flour mill. Many original mill artefacts have been retained, and a great mill wheel is on view still churning away, apparently supplying electric power to the building. Everywhere there are ancient wooden beams, and the sense of the historic is maintained in the horse-shoe shaped auditorium. There we looked down on to the stage-set of a sitting room and adjoining bedroom of a London flat decorated and furnished as for the 1970s, with a number of strategically placed doors which were to play an important part in the proceedings.

We were soon to learn that once the flat owners, the straight-laced Philip and Joanna Markham, have gone out for the evening, their Interior Designer plans to try out the new oval bed - with the au-pair girl. But, unknown to them, Philip Markham has reluctantly agreed to let his business partner borrow the flat for the evening to entertain his new girl-friend. Meanwhile Joanna Markham has also allowed the business partner's wife to borrow the apartment so that she can rendezvous with her lover.

Then the Markham's' evening out is cancelled - but too late to stop the convergence of the multiple lovers at the flat. So of course there ensue farcical compromising situations, desperate attempts at concealment along with bogus explanations which lead to further hilarious complications. To compound it all a highly principled middle-aged authoress arrives willing to sign a lucrative business contract so long as everything is prim and proper!

The story is fast-paced, the dialogue rife with saucy ambiguities, the acting brilliant, the casting and costumes totally believable. The whole performance was greeted with gales of laughter from the audience.

Well done Malcolm for organising another successful Theatre Group outing. It was a splendid evening.

John Grimshaw

Swop Shop

Mamas & Papas Pro-tec isofix car seat with removable cover - well used but reasonable condition - free. Jess Haworth: 07834 455602, jessicajhaworth@gmail.com



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Keep Fit Classes

Go Active Gold, a Vale of the White Horse District Council initiative for improving the fitness of the over 60s are running a Keep Fit Course—Gentle exercise to Music—at Upton Village Hall on Wednesdays 11am to 12.00 noon. Cost £5 per session.

The following is a note from a very satisfied attender.

After 3 Get Fit sessions I can say that they are an excellent way to get back into the habit of doing some exercise and finding those muscles that need a bit of attention.

Our instructor, Irene, bases the first 45 minutes on dance steps that gently use and stretch the body. These steps can be done with vigour that matches your general fitness level.

The last 15 minutes or so are slower stretching and twisting and Irene is excellent at modifying the exercise you do to match your ability.

The only one setting expectations is you and only Irene is watching as everyone else is trying to keep up or wiping the sweat from their eyes or both!

Seriously though this is a gentle workout for us over 60s and it works for everyone, so please come along and try it or we may lose it.

Peter McLaughlin

To book please contact: Annalie Thomasson on 07766991487 or annalie.thomasson@southandvale.gov.uk

Aston Online

Astons Online free-of-charge drop-in workshop is on Tuesday 17th July in Aston Tirrold and Aston Upton Village Hall (OX11 9DQ) from 10:00am to 12:00 noon with a 10 minute talk at 10:30 “Managing Digital Photographs”. See <http://www.astononline.uk>, email theastononline@gmail.com or phone 07780 958249 for further information.”

Bike Night Cancelled

Please note that due to unforeseen circumstances the British Bike Night that was to be held at the Recreation Ground on 10th July has been cancelled.

John Lightfoot

Submissions for *Upton News* should be sent to

kameki39@btinternet.com

Deadline for the August edition is

Thursday 26th July