

# Upton News



Vol 5 No.35 June 2019

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## St. Mary's Church Services

Sun. 2nd June 9.00am	Sung Eucharist*.
Sun. 9th June 9.00am	Sung Eucharist.
Sun. 16th June 9.00am	Sung Eucharist.
Sun. 23rd June 10.30am	All Age Service*.
Sun. 30th June 9.00am	Morning Prayer.

\*Refreshments served after these events.

Please see porch notice for weekday services.

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## Upton 50 Club

Prize Winners in the May draw were as follows:-

1st £25	Ben Mallet
2nd £20	Ros Caffyn
3rd £15	Jane Smith
4th £10	Jessie West

*Lucinda Mason*

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## Theatre Group

At the time of writing there are still 3 places left for Cole Porter's marvellous "Kiss Me Kate" at the Watermill Theatre on the evening of Wednesday 4th September. The group discounted price is £26.20 for seats in the front two rows of the stalls. I have to pay in full very shortly, so may need to let the seats go.

*Malcolm Wright Tel 850705*

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## Congratulations

Hearty congratulations to Muriel Wright (better known to most of us as Auntie) who celebrated her 105th birthday on May 27th. Auntie, who I believe is Upton's first centenarian, has lived in the village for over 50 years. We wish her many more birthdays and look forward to seeing her again at the village fete.

## **Parish Council**

We are delighted to welcome a new member of the Parish Council - Peter McLaughlin

There is to be no permanent chair for the time being: the councillors will take turns to chair meetings.

All enquiries should be sent to the parish clerk, Liz Cooper - her email address is [parish.clerk@uptonvillage.co.uk](mailto:parish.clerk@uptonvillage.co.uk).

The annual playground inspection is due to take place in July, and we will wait to see if any play equipment fails before deciding what to keep in the new merged playground for both age groups. Villagers who attended the Annual Parish Meeting expressed a desire to keep only the toddler swings from the smaller play area, and to make the large slide suitable for younger children. If you feel strongly that other toddler equipment should be kept, please tell the parish clerk.

Would you be interested in becoming our parish footpath warden? Both Mike Brown and Graham De Wilde who have shared the role are stepping down after many years service, and we are hoping someone will volunteer to take over. Details available from Mike (850135) or Liz.

*Jo Fidgen*

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## **Get Ready, Set, Bake for Uptonogood**

It is great news Uptonogood is back this year and we need your help! The wonderful homemade cakes sold at Uptonogood are always a huge hit with the hundreds of people that visit our village for the event and welcome sustenance to all those who take part in the bike ride.

We need your help to make this year even better, we need everything from flapjacks, muffins and scones to cakes and tray bakes.

Please bring them to the hall before 10am on Saturday, 15th June. If you won't be around then and need to drop them off somewhere earlier in the week please email [jacqui.reid@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jacqui.reid@hotmail.co.uk) or [lucinda.mason@btinternet.com](mailto:lucinda.mason@btinternet.com).

Proceeds go towards the Upton Village Hall and this year will help us make some vital repairs to the floor and refurbishment of the main hall. The trustees of the Village Hall thank you in advance for all your baking!

*Jacqui and Lucy*

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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 June are the 6th and the 20th.

## District Council



Hello! We are Hayleigh Gascoigne and Sarah Medley, your newly elected councillors on the Vale of White Horse District Council. We represent the residents of the Blewbury and Harwell ward, which includes the beautiful historic villages of Blewbury, Harwell, Chilton and Upton, and a large

section of the vibrant new Great Western Park housing development.

We would like to thank the former district councillors Reg Waite and Janet Shelley for their many years of service for the ward. We are currently working hard to get up to speed with our new role as councillors - so far it has been a pleasure to attend the meetings of the four Parish Councils and the Great Western Park Residents' Association, to meet the residents volunteering their time to support their local communities.

If you have any queries or issues you'd like to raise with us, please do not hesitate to get in touch - our email addresses are

[hayleigh.gascoigne@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:hayleigh.gascoigne@whitehorsedc.gov.uk) and  
[sarah.medley@whitehorsedc.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.medley@whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

We are delighted to have been elected as your district councillors, and we are looking forward to working closely with residents to represent your views

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## Church Improvement Project

For some time the Church Council, with the support of the Friends of St Mary's, has been developing a scheme to provide toilet and improved kitchen facilities in the church. The hope is with such amenities in place the building will be more suitable for use by the wider community. All the required authorisations are now in place to allow the scheme to go forward.

A launch event will be held at the church on Saturday 6th July at 7.30pm to go public on the improvement plans and start the fundraising process. There will be refreshments and entertainment.

Much more detailed information will be circulated in the village later in June, but please put this date in your diary to hear and see what is proposed and enjoy some modest hospitality.

Jessie West and Paul Batho (Church Wardens)

## **The Wine Club— The Return of Picnic in the Park**

Wednesday 15th May saw the last of this seasons’ “usual” monthly wine club meetings, with a number of wines presented by club members. For the first time, we teamed up with the Upton Baking Club, who made some superb food to go with the wine. Too many people to mention but a massive thank you to everyone who spoke and produced some amazing food. Yet another reminder of just how sociable and friendly we are in this village! For details on all the wines, please go to our website.

Voting was also held for a club logo, a bit of fun and with lots of options to choose from. The winner will be revealed at the opening meeting for next season!

It was our pleasure to celebrate a special birthday of one of our founder members, Mike Collins, who, even after 8 glasses of wine, was able to deliver an off the cuff thank you speech with a level of detail, humour and coherence we have come to expect from his many talks for the club.

We are delighted to say that following the success of last year, we will be inviting everyone from the village and their friends to join us for another Picnic in the Park on Saturday 29th June. Starting at 5pm, the Wine Club invites you all to come along and enjoy a few games, some drink (not just wine!) and a bit of food!

We will get the party started, providing some food and drink as part of entry fee (£10 adults, £5 children - Under 5’s free). As per last year, you are invited to bring your own picnic to continue the party!

For anyone who did not come last year (and there were only a few!), Picnic in the Park is an opportunity to enjoy an afternoon/evening with some of your friends from the village. A chance to catch up with the person you nod to as you walk your dog but never seem to have the time to talk, or if you are new to the village get introduced to some of the characters who have become your neighbours (and there are many!)

Back by popular demand will be another chance to see how far you can whang your welly (audiences are advised to stand well back!), throw your egg to a friend (see previous advice to the audience!), bring a sample of your home brew (for the “best homebrew” in the village trophy!) and many more fun things to do!

All the details will be available on the Upton Wine Club website (<https://uptonwineclub.com/>). For more information or to book your tickets, please mail Ian, our Chairman at [ian.langley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ian.langley@yahoo.co.uk)

Keep an eye out for “Welly”, who has returned and is situated somewhere in the village with more details on how to be part of Picnic in the Park. We hope to see you there!

*Ian*

*(Chairman)*

## Rectors Note



### How are things going?

Perhaps for most of us, most of the time, our life ticks along in a fairly predictable manner. But then there are the times when everything falls apart. A diagnosis of serious illness, an unexpected bereavement, serious financial difficulties - whatever the cause, our life seems to fall apart. How can we cope in situations such as these?

For some Christians, a major and painful crisis sends a shockwave through their faith in God. They have read and been told that God loves them, and yet this loving, caring God has somehow allowed a disaster to happen. How can this be? Is talk about God's love no more than pious words?

For other Christians, the pain and suffering we experience in this life somehow deepens their faith in God and draws them closer to God. These Christians accept that the world as we know it is far from perfect. The Bible talks about this imperfection, and expresses our human yearning for a better world, a transformed world. In the New Testament, Christians are urged to work for the Kingdom of God, that is the transformation of the world so that it better reflects the love, mercy, peace and justice of God.

Other Christians ponder the mystery that Jesus, the fullest revelation of God's nature and life, was tortured and put to death on a Cross. In other words, God himself, in Jesus Christ, has known human suffering in all its terror and agony. When we face up to the reality of pain and suffering in our own lives and in the lives of others, we are also facing up to a reality which God himself experienced. Pain and suffering do not separate us from God, but rather brings us closer to him.

And for some Christians, the reality of pain and suffering leads to an intensification of their life of prayer, and their desire to help fellow human beings in their own suffering. There is a sense in which the pain and suffering in our own lives leads us to deepen our relationships with God and with one another. God does not make our lives a bed of roses. But he does send us his strength, so that in our distress we may have the strength to comfort others.

We are all different and all our situations are unique. But God loves each one of us, and I believe that He is able to bring good out of the most painful of experiences. This has been my experience in my own life; and I hope and pray that it will be your experience, also.

*Fr Jason*

## Computer Advice

Free IT advice for Upton computer users is available on Tuesday 18th June from 10:00am to 12:00noon in Aston Tirrold and Aston Upthorpe Village Hall (OX11 9EQ). At about 10:30 there will be a short presentation on "Managing Digital Photographs".

Astons Online helps people be confident, effective and safe users of email and the Internet. Our free-of-charge events cater for all types of computer and user issues in a friendly and informal atmosphere, see [www.astonsonline.uk](http://www.astonsonline.uk) for more information.

Tell us that you're coming if you can, especially if you want one-to-one help. ([theastonsonline@gmail.com](mailto:theastonsonline@gmail.com) or phone 07780 958249)

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## Wine Bottles

A similar request to last year from Dermot Paddon (Minster House on Church Street. 07837857618 incl via Whatsapp). He is seeking empty 75cl bottles (with screw caps), either wine bottles or bottles of similar shape to wine bottles. These are for a bottle stall at the annual fete at the Watlington nursing home, where Dermot's wife is a resident. Most of the bottles are filled with water with about 10% the real thing. A lot of newspaper is also needed!"

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## Local Services

**Experienced nanny** (Blewbury resident) available from September. Approximately three days per week (live out). Ofsted registered, DBS checked, excellent references. Please call Jane on 07972 717981.

Malcolm Wright (850705) has some Tomato Plants (various varieties) for sale, 50p each, proceeds to go to Christian Aid.

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## Didcot U3A

The University of the Third Age (U3A) offers the opportunity to share your knowledge, experience and talents with other like-minded individuals with over 35 Interest Groups to choose from! Membership is £25 per year, visitors are welcome to attend one meeting as a taster before joining. Each month they have an interesting Guest Speaker followed by tea/coffee and biscuits where everyone is encouraged to stay and chat, make new friends and see what there is on offer both within the local U3A and the Thames Valley Network.

Meetings take place on the third Tuesday of each month with the June meeting being on the 18th. Start time is 2.00pm, early arrival is recommended.



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### Upton Dog Days



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Facebook: Upton Dog Days



## Village Produce Association

Don't forget our day trip on Saturday 8th June to The Vyne at Sherborne St John RG 24 9HL. The Vyne is a National Trust 16<sup>th</sup> century country house and estate. Full details of the time and transport arrangements will be available from Karen at Blewbury Post Office or from Maggie Maytham in Upton (01235 850126)

There has been a slight delay in producing the Summer Show Schedule - it should now be available either in the Blewbury Post Office or online by emailing Eileen on [vpa.in.bl.up@gmail.com](mailto:vpa.in.bl.up@gmail.com) or by ringing Margaret in Upton on 01235 850126. You don't have to be an expert and it's great fun taking part. Don't forget the Childrens' Section - hopefully we will have a few more junior exhibitors taking part this year.

*DID YOU KNOW ? "The sunflower is a native plant of the Americas, where the Indians used its seed as an important source of food. The Incas of Peru were sun worshippers and used it in religious ceremonies. The sunflower leans towards the sun in a process known as heliotropism."*

Happy Gardening—

*Eileen*

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## Footpath

Unfortunately I have not yet received an offer for taking over the maintenance of the footpath next the George and Dragon. It is a very well used path which makes it important that we keep it well maintained. Depending on the weather, probably another 3 cuts is all that will be needed this year. You can use your own mower and be reimbursed by the Parish Council for your petrol or you can arrange to use the P.C. mower. If you are prepared to take over, even if it is just for the rest of this year, please give me a call on 850135.

*Mike Brown*

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Submissions for *Upton News* should be sent to  
[kameki39@btinternet.com](mailto:kameki39@btinternet.com)  
Deadline for the July edition is  
**Wednesday 26th June**