

Upton News



July 2022

Church Services

The online services will continue on Sundays at 10.30am. Login after 10.00 to chat before if wished. Access the Churn Churches website for login details on how to join:

<https://www.churnchurches.co.uk/services-this-week/sunday-service.php>

The link for the service is published in the weekly Churn, which can be downloaded from this page: <https://www.churnchurches.co.uk/resources/> Weekday evenings Compline at 8.00pm for 10 minutes. Access via Churn Churches website above.

If you would like to be added to our weekly mailing list to receive the Churn, please contact Elaine on 01235 850267 office@churnchurches.co.uk

Services at St. Mary the Virgin

Please note the slightly earlier time of **9.15am**. You are always welcome to enter the church even if the service has commenced!

3rd July

10.30am

10th July

9.15am

24th July

9.15am

31st July

3.00pm

7th August

9.15am

14th August

9.15am

28th August

9.15am

3rd Sunday after Trinity – Thomas the Apostle

Family Eucharist and baptism – please note the 10.30am start!

4th Sunday after Trinity

Parish Eucharist

6th Sunday after Trinity

Parish Eucharist

7th Sunday after Trinity

8th Sunday after Trinity

Lay-led Parish Service

9th Sunday after Trinity

Parish Eucharist

11th Sunday after Trinity

Parish Eucharist

The Gift of Holidays

As I am writing this, I'm thinking of holidays. I was chatting with someone this morning, and I asked them whether they had any holiday plans for the Summer. They replied that they were looking forward to a few days in a caravan on the Gower peninsula. There was a fine beach nearby, and it was clear that it was ideal spot for their family holiday. In case you are wondering whether I am working for the Welsh Tourist Board, there are of course so many other wonderful places to go on holiday, in this country and abroad. (Although having said this, I must admit I do enjoy visiting Wales!)

It does us a world of good to get away. We all need some rest and a change of scene.

However, I am well aware that it is not always possible for people to get away. Some people are struggling to get by on a very limited income, and there's simply nothing left over to pay for a holiday. Sometimes the requirements of work make it difficult to get away. And sometimes, people are faced with significant caring responsibilities, and these make it hard to go away. It might be technically possible for them to arrange a holiday but it can be so complicated that at the end of the day the hassle and stress simply isn't worth it.

I wonder we might be able to give someone the gift of a holiday? We might be able to help someone to get away, who simply might not otherwise have the opportunity to do so. The gift of a holiday can be something on a very small scale - for example, inviting someone to come with us on a day out. It can be a wonderful opportunity to get to know someone better, and it's so much more fun visiting somewhere as part of a small group. And if you've travelling by car, it doesn't add much to the cost.

As human beings, we are not created to live solitary existences. We need each other- for friendship, for support, and for fun as well. There is much loneliness in our society, and holidays can be an excellent opportunity to connect and re-connect with one other.

I wonder who we might take with us on our next holiday? Or our next day out?

- *Father Jason*

The Drop-In Coffee Morning

Every Wednesday 10.30am to 12noon, Benefice Centre Blewbury

All welcome to drop in for coffee & a chat. Run by the Churn Branch of the Mother's Union

The Churn Mothers' Union

Annual Teddy Bears Picnic

3 August at 12noon

in the garden of Penny Brassell, Lynchets, Bessels Way, Blewbury.

Please bring a rug/chair and a picnic plus teddy bear. We welcome all children and any mums, dads, friends, grandparents and carers. Soft drinks and ice-creams will be provided.

Home Communion is available to anyone who is unable to get to church through sickness or frailty, either for a short time or on a long term basis. If you, or anyone you know, would like to receive Holy Communion at home, please contact The Revd Louise Butler on [07837 009730](tel:07837009730).

Full COVID precautions will be followed.

Churn Climate Change Action Group

The purpose of the Churn Climate Change Action Group is to encourage conversation and action within the communities served by the Churn Benefice to reduce the impact of Climate Change. If you would like to get involved with the CCCA, please contact Elaine in the Office and she will put you in touch with the group. New members always welcome!

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2022 - an update

An update on the money raised this year. With some late envelopes and further plant sales, the final total was £650 - the highest ever.

Our helpers have agreed the Tea Party will be repeated next year.

Elisabeth and Malcolm Wright

District & County Council News

More help for people to pay food and energy bills

More help is on the way for people who are struggling to pay their food, energy and other related bills.

Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire district councils have opened a voucher scheme to support households who can't afford to pay for life's essentials.

The scheme is part of the Government's Household Support Fund (HSF) which was extended by the chancellor in the recent budget. A portion of funds allocated to Oxfordshire County Council have been allocated to Vale of White Horse and South Oxfordshire district councils as part of a wider support package across the county, which includes help for children eligible for free school meals through the holidays.

Funding is limited and the scheme is open initially to people who have not had support from it before. However, the councils will open it to second applications if funds remain.

Cllr Helen Pighills, Cabinet Member for Healthy Communities at Vale of White Horse District Council said: "Whether it's a change in circumstances or the rise in the cost of living that's causing pressure - we urge people in financial difficulty who have not already received assistance from this fund to apply for the help that's now available."

Cllr Maggie Filipova-Rivers, Cabinet Member for Community Wellbeing at South Oxfordshire District Council said: "Financial issues can affect us at very different times in life. Struggling to afford to pay the bills is a reality for many, and we want residents to access this help for that very reason."

The funds are not restricted to people in receipt of benefits and there is no requirement that residents must be employed or must be unemployed. In contrast to previous schemes, a portion of the funds will be allocated specifically to support pensioner households.

To find out about the scheme and to complete an application form please visit the councils' webpages:

whitehorsedc.gov.uk/household-support-fund
southoxon.gov.uk/household-support-fund

The scheme will end in September 2022, unless funds are spent sooner.

Monthly VOWHDC Update

Vale of White Horse District Councillor Hayleigh Gascoigne is now the new chair of the council's Climate Emergency Advisory Committee. Hayleigh has been a member of the committee since its inception in 2019, and she is passionate about doing all we can as a council and as individuals to tackle the climate emergency. We are also very pleased that Cllr Sally Povolotsky is the new cabinet member for Climate Emergency & Environment at the council. Sally works as a sustainability engineer and many of us knew her as a community climate activist long before she became involved in local politics. We are really looking forward to all the new ideas and energy we know she will bring to this role.

The next full council meeting is Wednesday 13th July. Should you wish to speak at this (or any) meeting, please email democratic services democratic.services@southandvale.gov.uk by 12noon on the working day before the meeting. You can also attend meetings in person or watch the stream on YouTube - search the Vale of White Horse District Council for more information.

We post regularly on our councillor Facebook Page: [Cllrs Hayleigh Gascoigne & Sarah Medley](#) Please do not hesitate to get in touch with any issues or concerns, either via Facebook message or email: hayleigh.gascoigne@whitehorsedc.gov.uk and sarah.medley@whitehorsedc.gov.uk.
Cllr Hayleigh Gascoigne and Cllr Sarah Medley

Parish Council News

The Pump Track

Hopefully people are making good use of the newly refurbished pump track. The nettles around the track have been cleared by Cllr McLaughlin & the Council & Volunteers will endeavour to keep an eye on the blighters.

Speed Watch

We now have the speed guns, associated kit and signs and are ready to go.

Before we can start speed watching, we must put the signs up on the white gates when entering Upton Village. This is a necessary obligation. Also agree with the Speed Watch Team the dates, times and locations where we will be monitoring and reporting vehicles going through the village.

If you want to join the group please email the Parish Clerk, parish.clerk@uptonvillage.co.uk

Pot Holes

After a successful reporting, chasing and filling in of pot holes on Hollow Way and the A417 can you let the parish clerk know where you have pot holes so we can try to get them filled in promptly.

Dates for your diary:

Next year's Annual Parish Meeting for Upton has been arranged for Wednesday 26th April 2023.

The next ordinary Parish Council Meeting will be on 19th July at 7:00 pm. in the meeting room of the village hall. Villagers are always encouraged to attend.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Street Party June 2022

We had well over 100 people from the village attending the event, the sun shone and we enjoyed an amazing spread of food with everyone contributing and with some eye catching red white and blue cup cakes.

The tables were decorated with flowers from the garden, the bunting was up and it was an excellent occasion to re-acquaint and to meet new residents from the village.

We sang God Save the Queen and had a toast both to Her Majesty and to Upton village with a glass of bubbles and a celebratory cake beautifully made and decorated by Ros Caffyn.

There were games for the children and a "Best Prince & Princess" competition. A huge thanks from us all to the Committee who organised the event - Chris Traynor, Fiona Betts, Ros Caffyn, Guilia Rippon, Brian Rippon and Kieron Humphrey.

Thanks to Rob Traynor for being the official photographer and to all the many helpers on the day. Photos can be seen on the village Facebook pages.

Welcome to Upton

Welcome to John & Pascale Dequen and their three young children who have recently moved into the Gate House on Reading Road, having previously lived in Drayton. I am sure you will join me in welcoming them to the village.

Sarah Sayers

Babysitting, pet sitting or dog walking service

I'm a 16 year old student living in the village looking for casual work to earn some income this summer. I'm available to work from the 20th July weekdays and weekends.

Please contact Daisy Tibbetts on 01235 851474.



Foot Care



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



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enquiries@scotlandsashgarage.co.uk



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Tel. 01235 859229 or 07922701634
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Drop In

The village Drop In is up and running again on alternate Thursdays at 3.00pm
It is open to all villagers so please come along if you want to have a nice
friendly chat over a cup of tea or coffee.

Please email me at richmondbinov@gmail.com if you're interested and to
find out the venue for the meetings. *Richard Burrow*

Blewbury post office news

Not a lot of news in Post Office land at the moment, but we have been invited to the south of France for a couple of weeks during August; Maggie may or may not be able cover this, so there could be some closures for a few days.

I'll keep you informed via the village 'Stop Press' email service and on our Facebook page, and of course, the poster on the door!

Andrew is now 'flying solo' so please be patient with him, there's such a lot to learn.

Have a wonderful summer break, even if you just sit in your garden!

Karen, Maggie & Andrew

UNITED CHARITIES OF THE ANCIENT PARISH OF BLEWBURY

£ £ Financial Support Applications Invited £ £

Are you struggling to pay for your energy or the weekly shop?

Are you worried about additional costs during the school holidays and being able to afford clothing and equipment for the new school year?

If so, please read on..

United Charities are a local charity that supports people living in Blewbury, Aston Upton and Upton and we have funding to provide 'one off' payments to people who could benefit from some financial help.

If you, or someone you know, are struggling financially then please consider applying. We welcome applications from anyone, whatever their situation.

There is a short application form which has to be completed which can either be picked up from Blewbury Post Office or requested by email to unitedcharities@outlook.com. Help can be provided to complete the form if necessary and all applications will be dealt with confidentially.

UNITED CHARITIES OF THE ANCIENT PARISH OF BLEWBURY

Registered Charity No: 203538

Blewbury School News

The Big Jubilee Afternoon

It was a joy to see so many people from the community come together for the Jubilee event here in school. It was a pleasure to be able to open up our school again to celebrate such an important event. In true British style, we did not let the weather deter us!

Here is what Saskia in Year 6 said about the event:

“The Jubilee afternoon was a wonderful way for the whole village and beyond to celebrate. There were all kinds of stalls filling the field and playground, including glitter tattoos, archery, croquet, plants, refreshments, and paintings.”



All in all, the afternoon was fun, exciting and a perfect way for family and friends to congratulate the Queen on her amazing achievement whilst enjoying themselves too.”

I would like to again thank Pat Mattimore, the PTA and everyone involved, in organising such a joyous day. I feel the school is very much at the heart of this community and I am proud to be part of it.

We have a few pupil spaces in our Reception class for September - please do call the office on 01235850411 if you would like to book a tour.

Miss Reeder -
Headteacher



Didcot & District u3a - Spring Update

As the Summer finally gets underway and holidays are very much 'ON' in 2022 and so is your local branch of the u3a! The Didcot & District branch is now celebrating its 10th Anniversary and can now boast over **30 Interest Groups** that include, Poetry, Philosophy, Science Maths & Technology, to name but a few, all aimed at retired or semi-retired individuals who wish to continue to 'Learn, Laugh, Live'!

Meeting on the **third Tuesday of every month at the Didcot Civic Hall starting at 2:30pm** and every meeting gives a warm welcome to newcomers and current members alike with updates, a Guest Speaker and tea and biscuits! Speakers for the coming months are;

19 July: '*From Page to Stage*' - Jennifer Cowling

16 August: '*Wilts and Bucks Canals . . . continued*' - Martin Buckland

20 September: '*Violet Jessop's Escape from the Titanic!*' - Jane Glennie

For much more information on your local u3a just use Google or the search engine of your choice for 'Didcot & District u3a' and you can see the Interest Groups, News, Events, etc, alternatively you can contact the following;

Chair - chairman@didcotu3a.org

Secretary - Secretary@didcotu3a.org

Astons Online

Astons Online's July Zoom online meeting will be 10:30 - 11:15 on Tuesday 19 July. "*What's going to happen when passwords are no longer necessary? We'll talk about the consequences of Apple, Google and Microsoft's decision to phase out the use of passwords?*" Book your place at theastonsonline@gmail.com and see www.astonsonline.uk.

Free and friendly help for computer users every Tuesday morning from 10:00 to 12:00. We provide help remotely using telephone, Quick Assist, Facetime, Skype, Zoom, Teams, WhatsApp or whatever is best for you. Book a 30-minute appointment by emailing theastonsonline@gmail.com or, if this is not possible, by phoning 07780 958249.

Upton Photo Competition

For all residents of Upton a free to enter photography competition.

Rules -

- Residents of Upton Parish only
- Two age groups: under 16 and over 16
- All photographs submitted should be in JPG format
- Photographs should be emailed to upton.photo@outlook.com

There are two themes:

1. Upton and surrounding area - landscapes, wildlife, people, events, buildings etc. etc.
2. Holiday - coasts, mountains, cities people and places in the UK or some far flung destination.

Entries should be emailed in between September 1st and October 1st 2022 - please include a description of the picture

Winning three photographs will be enlarged and go on display in the village hall.

So it is time to get snapping with your phone or your lovely digital SLR that has been gathering dust. Hang on to your best pictures (do not delete!)

Rob Traynor

Contributions for Upton News

For those submitting news items, will you please send them to me at neilthorp@btinternet.com.

A few days beforehand I will send a reminder of the deadline day to all regular contributors but early submission will always be welcome. Anything received past the deadline (usually 28th of the month) may NOT be included - if this causes a problem please contact me.

Neil Thorp
Editor