

Upton News



September 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

You are always welcome to enter the church even if the service has commenced!

4th September

9.15am

11th September

9.15am

25st September

9.15am

12th Sunday after Trinity

Lay-led service

13th Sunday after Trinity

Parish Eucharist

15th Sunday after Trinity

Parish Eucharist

Bookings for Weddings, Baptisms etc. may be made by contacting the office via email.

You can contact the clergy & staff on: -

Revd Jason St. John Nicolle 01235 850267 office@churnchurches.co.uk

Revd Louise Butler 07837 009730 revlouiseb@aol.co

Elaine de Ridder 01235 850267 office@churnchurches.co.uk

The Benefice Operations Manager, Elaine de Ridder, is in the office from 9.00am - 2.30pm Monday to Friday.

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

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!

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.

6th SEPTEMBER - BACK TO SCHOOL / STARTING SCHOOL

Parents: come and "Rest a-while"

The Vale Room, Blewbury Village Hall, will be open from school drop off time until 10am. Come and restore yourselves with supportive chat and complimentary refreshments. A particular invitation to parents of new children starting in Reception or in classes further up Blewbury School, but all are welcome. Space and toys for babies and toddlers too.

Organised by the local branch of Mothers' Union.

COFFEE & KIDS!

Lovely to see a good number of families at the Teddy Bears Picnic last month. This month Coffee & Kids! will meet on MONDAY 12th September, usual time 9.30am - 11am in the Vale Room, Blewbury Village Hall. Meet up with other parents & grandparents and enjoy some refreshments. The little ones safely play and we finish with action songs and rhymes. A donation of up to £2 per family is appreciated. This session is bit of an experiment to find out if families find Mondays more convenient, so please give feedback to Louise on 07837 009730

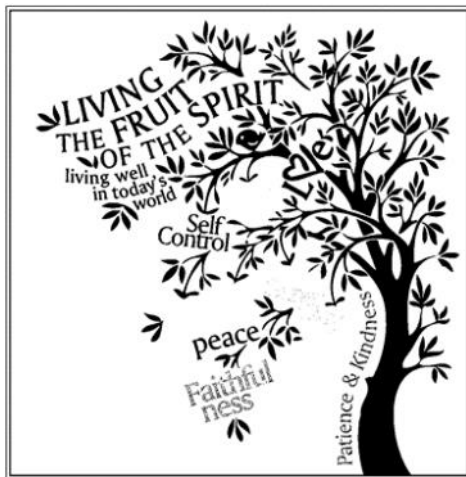
Louise Butler

A Different Sort of Harvest

Welcome to September! I wonder what you think about when you think of September? Perhaps you think about children starting new terms at school, or the leaves on the trees beginning to take on their autumn colours.

For many people, September is the month for a Harvest Festival - an opportunity for the community to come together to celebrate our farmers, and all their hard work in ensuring that we have food to eat.

When we think of Harvest, we tend to think of harvest in a literal sense: we celebrate the crops, fruit and vegetables grown in our fields, gardens and allotments. But we can also think of Harvest in spiritual terms. God has given each one of us various gifts and skills. We can picture these gifts and skills as seeds, which God has planted. God expects us to care for these seeds, and to nurture their growth. In due course, God will expect a harvest.



In Paul's First Letter to Christians in the Greek city of Corinth, he refers to the Christian community in that city as "God's field". It's an interesting and challenging image. I wonder what is growing in the field of our own lives? Are we producing a crop of love and joy and peace? Are we giving the fields of our lives the water of prayer? Are we doing our best to eradicate the weeds of selfishness?

Paul adds a further image. He writes that farming is sometimes a matter of teamwork: one person may be responsible for sowing a crop, but someone else is responsible for watering it. Neither role is more important than the other: both are needed, if the seed is to produce a crop for harvest. It can be like that in our spiritual lives: one person can be responsible for sowing the seed of faith, but someone else can be responsible for helping the seed to grow.

So I think Harvest Festival is a time to think of Harvest in both its literal and its spiritual sense. We thank God for our food, and for all who are involved in its production, processing and transportation. But we also thank God for the spiritual seeds which he has planted in our lives. May God bless our lives with a rich harvest of love, peace and joy.

- Father Jason

Parish Council News

Chilton Road Cycleway

As reported in August, work is due to commence in September on the A417 and Hagbourne Hill crossings and the Chilton Road Cycleway works. The final resurfacing of the A417 is booked for October 2022.

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 20th September 2022 at 7:00 pm. in the meeting room of the village hall. Villagers are always encouraged to attend.

***** Upton Village Fête – Saturday, 3rd September *****

A reminder for the fête! As usual, this will be held on the village recreation ground on the first Saturday of September between 1:00 and 4:00 pm.

The fête is in aid of Upton Village Hall and St Mary's Church, and there'll be plenty of opportunities to spend your money! Amongst the many stalls will be a tombola, books, garden plants, preserves and ice cream, and to keep you going there will be the usual magnificent teas, cakes and a barbeque.

Full details in the August issue of the Upton News

Paul Batho

Blewbury Post Office news

Opening hours for September are as follows:

Open as usual except Thursday 8th and Friday when we are 9th closed

Old paper £20 notes will be withdrawn at the end of September.

We have been told by other postmasters of problems at some Royal Mail sorting offices, the old style stamps are being rejected even though they are still valid. We suggest you use the new ones and send your old ones back to Royal Mail as special delivery, they will compensate you for the postage.

Don't forget that we can accept most bank cards for cash withdrawals and deposits, and take cheque deposits too, coins must be bagged up in the correct amounts, but we are happy to take them too.

N.B. If there are Royal Mail strikes, we will not be able to accept parcels as we don't have any room to store them.

Karen, Maggie & Andrew

Astons Online

Online next Zoom online meeting will be 10:30 – 11:15 on Tuesday 27 September.

What's going to happen when passwords are no longer necessary?

We were going to talk about this in July but had to postpone. We'll discuss 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 is available 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.

Bruno Brunskill (On behalf of Astons Online)

theastonsonline@gmail.com 07780 958249
www.astonsonline.uk

Didcot & District u3a

Monthly meetings are held on the **3rd Tuesday of every month** in the Didcot Civic Hall, meetings start at 2:30 with Interest Group updates followed by a Guest Speaker presenting a variety of interesting talks; Speakers in the Autumn months are;

20 September: 'Violet Jessop's Escape from the Titanic' speaker Jane Glennie

18 October: '66 Men of Grandpoint 1914-1918' speaker Liz Woolley looking at the lives of some of the men named on the Grandpoint War Memorial, Oxford.

15 November: 'Birth of Hoaxes in the 18th Century' speaker Ian Keable.

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

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*

Contributions for Upton News

With many people and organisations on holiday in August this issue of the Upton news is a bit light. Hopefully there will be more to report next time.

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