

Upton News



November 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!

6th November

9.15am

13th November

10.15am

27th November

9.15am

6.00pm

Third Sunday before Advent

Lay-led prayer service

Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance Sunday Service

First Sunday of Advent

Parish Eucharist

BENEFICE ADVENT CAROL SERVICE at St Michael's Blewbury

All welcome to this joyful service!

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.

Calling singers from across the Benefice!

The combined choir of singers within the Churn Benefice will be singing in the upcoming Benefice Advent Carol Service. We will also start to work on music for Christmas. We rehearse in St Michael's Church, Blewbury on Mondays at 6.45pm for one hour. More singers always welcome!



Four Words for Remembrance

Do you know Douai Abbey? It's only about half an hour's drive from here, and it's well worth a visit. The abbey church is open during the day, and visitors are welcome to come in and have a look around. It's a very peaceful space, I would heartily recommend a visit.



I popped into the abbey the other week, and spent some time in one of the chapels. The chapel has a stone altar, and around the top of the altar in an inscription in Latin. The inscription consists of four words: "Christus Rex Princeps Pacis". If you don't know Latin, the words can be translated into English as "Christ the King, the Prince of Peace". On the front of the altar is carved a crown of thorns, and in the centre of the crown of thorns is the Latin word "Pax". Pax is, of course, the Latin word for "peace". Douai Abbey belongs to the Benedictine religious order, and the search for spiritual peace is at the heart of the Benedictine life.

This month will see Acts of Remembrance in villages and towns across the country. As the names of the fallen are read out, we are reminded once again of the pain and suffering brought about by war. How are we respond? We can respond in practical ways, by supporting the work of charities who help members of the armed forces, and their dependents. But we can also respond by once again committing ourselves to the cause of peace.

Which brings us back to those four words on the altar at Douai Abbey. For Christians, Christ is our true king, and he demands our complete obedience. Christ works to bring peace to our world: inner peace, and peace in our relationships with one another and with God. Christ is indeed "Christus Rex Princeps Pacis" – "Christ the King and Prince of Peace". In the Beatitudes, Christ pronounces a blessing on those who seek out peace: "Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God". Notice that Christ does not promise that peacemakers will have an easy life, but he does promise that they will be blessed by God.

I wonder how we might be peacemakers in our own families and communities?

- Father Jason



On behalf of **St Ambrose**, the Patron Saint of
Beekeepers,



the whole Benefice is invited to a special service at
All Saints' North Moreton on 20th November at 4pm.

Representatives from all of our 7 churches will be making Advent Candles for us to use this year.

Do let Elaine know if you would also like to be one of the people making candles for Advent.

Everyone welcome – refreshments afterwards!

The Drop-In Coffee Morning

Every Wednesday 10.30am to 12noon, Benefice Centre Blewbury. All

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.

Parish Council News

Chilton Road Cycleway

Work commenced in on 30th September on the A417 and Hagbourne Hill crossings and the Chilton Road Cycleway works and traffic lights have been installed as requested by villagers. These have inevitably increased traffic build up on London Road but this is a small price to pay for the increased safety.

Frog Alley

After requests from several villagers, the make-over of Frog Alley has now been completed on behalf of the Parish Council. It took three months to complete and the only cost to the community has been expenses incurred for the work. We would like to express our sincere thanks to Mr Graham De Wilde for this work on behalf of the village; we are indebted to him.

Nature Garden

On 2nd October Upton Nature Garden's Big Green First Birthday party was held and Oxford Botanic garden's Kate Pritchard gave a walk and a talk.

Kieron Humphrey was speaking for all when he said that the event was a real treat; engaging, educational and inspirational. Hearing questions and ideas was exactly the right thing to mark the nature garden's first birthday and get us fired up for the future. Thanks to Kate, and everyone who came for making it a great success.



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 23rd November 2022 at 7:00 pm. in the meeting room of the village hall. Villagers are always encouraged to attend.

Astons Online

Computer users - free and friendly advice on Tuesday 15 November 10:00 to 12:00 in Astons Village Hall (OX119EQ). Astons Online helps you be a confident, safe and effective user of the internet, email, social media etc. Please tell us, if you can, that you're going to join us so we can have helpers available. Also please bring a mask so we all stay Covid safe.

Contact by email theastonsonline@gmail.com or 07780958249 if you can't email. Website is www.astonsonline.uk.

This month's Zoom meeting is on Tuesday 8 November 10:30 to 11:15 to talk about 2 factor authentication, the benefits and how to set it up. Book your place using email above.

Free and friendly help for computer users will continue to be available every Tuesday morning from 10:00 to 12:00 remotely using telephone, Facetime, Skype, Zoom, Teams, WhatsApp or whatever is best for you. **Book** a 30 minute appointment using email above.

Bruno Brunskill (On behalf of Astons Online)

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

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



DIDCOT ECO FAIR

SATURDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2022

11AM - 3PM

CORNERSTONE ARTS CENTRE - OX11 7NE

FAMILY-FRIENDLY AND FREE TO ATTEND



Didcot Garden Town



[SVBS.CO.UK/ECO-FAIR-DIDCOT](https://svbs.co.uk/eco-fair-didcot)

Changes to your waste collections over the Christmas and New Year period

Christmas and New Year 2022/23

Normal collection day		Revised collection day	
Monday	26 December 2022	Wednesday	28 December 2022
Tuesday	27 December 2022	Thursday	29 December 2022
Wednesday	28 December 2022	Friday	30 December 2022
Thursday	29 December 2022	Saturday	31 December 2022
Friday	30 December 2022	Tuesday	3 January 2023
Monday	2 January 2023	Wednesday	4 January 2023
Tuesday	3 January 2023	Thursday	5 January 2023
Wednesday	4 January 2023	Friday	6 January 2023
Thursday	5 January 2023	Saturday	7 January 2023
Friday	6 January 2023	Monday	9 January 2023
Monday	9 January 2023	Tuesday	10 January 2023
Tuesday	10 January 2023	Wednesday	11 January 2023
Wednesday	11 January 2023	Thursday	12 January 2023
Thursday	12 January 2023	Friday	13 January 2023
Friday	13 January 2023	Saturday	14 January 2023

Please remember that we suspend garden waste collections over the holiday period to concentrate on Christmas waste collections. Collections resume in January 2023. For more information, please see our garden waste page on our website.

Find out more about recycling tips and waste collections over Christmas and New Year on our website www.more recycling.co.uk

We will post information about any disruption to waste collection services on our websites and social media sites.

Our call centre is open for queries from 9am – 3.30pm on 23 December, 9am - 5pm on 28, 29 and 30 December on 03000 610610.

Upton Wine Club October meeting

– French wines from Grape Minds

There was a good number of regular and - equally pleasing - new members at the October Wine Club meeting. All had come to see Michael Jelley from this specialist wine merchant in Summertown and Wallingford talk about some of his favourite wines from across France.

Armed with a little bit of knowledge, you can make some wonderful selections on wines for very good prices. Our first wine was a great example of this. If you like Sancerre wines but don't enjoy paying a premium, then try the Bellevue Touraine, also from the Loire Valley, but not far from the Sancerre region. The same Sauvignon Blanc grape but at a fraction of the price!

Next, we went to North Burgundy, where we tried Domaine Besson Chablis. This was a wonderful wine from a small vineyard that produced a Chardonnay wine with very crisp non-oaked tones. Perfect if you like the grape but don't enjoy the creamy buttery taste offered by some wines from this grape.

In contrast then, for our next white, we went to the South of France, where we tried a Champ des Nummus Chardonnay from Limoux. This wine had been exposed to some ageing in oak barrels, that allowed it to react with oxygen to create some wonderful buttery notes, synonymous with some wines made with Chardonnay grapes.

Our final white for the evening was a Chateau Lapuyade Jurancon. A really unusual wine, made from grapes harvested late in the year. This has given each grape the maximum amount of sun, turning the wine a wonderful deep yellow colour that you would normally expect from a sweet wine. If you like dessert wines but find them a little too sweet then try this, with some wonderful butterscotch and honeysuckle flavours coming through.

Our first red of the evening was a real crowd pleaser. A Julienas Cuvee Six Beaujolais Villages. Made from the Gamay grape, this is a very affordable, good quality wine that has soft tannins and a very refreshing red berry taste. Perfect if you have a large number of guests over and are likely to get through a few bottles!

Our next wine was not something many had tried often, if at all. A red wine from the Sancerre region. Reds from this region are typically Pinot Noir and the Berthier Sancerre was a really good example of a light red wine from that region. If you are a fan of Pinot Noir and want to give your guests something a little different then try this.

The next wine we tried came from Bordeaux, a Château des Gravières Bordeaux Superieur. A typical Cabernet Sauvignon/Merlot blend that provides you with that classic black cherry, Oak taste that you would expect from this region. A good price and one definitely to try if you like wines from this region.

For our last wine of the evening we tasted a wonderful GSM (Grenache,

Syrah, Mourvedre) blend from the Côtes du Rhône region. The Domaine Dionysos 'La Devèze' was wonderfully smooth with deep red fruit flavours and a touch of spice. Great for Christmas!

The Upton Wine Club is there for residents from our village who enjoy wine and simply want to find out a little more information, try something perhaps a little new and socialise with some of your neighbours! If you are interested in coming along then you can find out all about us at: contact@uptonwineclub.com.

Blewbury Post Office news

Royal Mail have announced industrial action for much of November, a different department is on strike over 3 days of the week, network, processing or delivery, so there will be delays and the guaranteed delivery times will be suspended, but you can still check where your items are in the system. Post extra early to allow time. We are suggesting that your overseas Christmas post should go sooner rather than later too. Christmas stamps are on sale at the beginning of November, and we have non-religious alternatives.

The Bell Ringers' Christmas post boxes are being prepared, and will be at the churches, Savages, George & Dragon, and the post office towards the end of November, 30p a card, for Blewbury and Upton only, all money raised goes to St Michael's or St Mary's.

Please remember that all letters and parcels that contain anything other than paper, and going outside of the UK, must have a customs label on it. Please check the destination country for prohibited or restricted goods before trying to send them.

We can process the £66 vouchers sent by the energy companies, which get put onto your top up cards. We also hold the forms for anyone who may be struggling financially, so they can get some help with bills or food etc., just pop in.

We have a small stock of environmentally friendly cards, gift wrap and tags etc., and we will have a few 'elf on the shelf' waiting to be adopted. They'll be causing mayhem in the cupboards so new homes will be appreciated!

Don't forget to come and take cash out ready for your Christmas shopping, and you can pay in cash or cheques too!

Karen, Maggie & Andrew

Now the clocks have gone back, please can bike / horse/ scooter riders and pedestrians wear something reflective and have proper lights? It's really difficult to see you in the mornings or evenings.

Blewbury C of E Endowed School

Blewbury School Harvest Festival Service at St Michaels Church

On Thursday 29th September, the Blewbury School pupils, staff, and parents enjoyed a lively and highly participative annual Harvest Festival Service at St Michael's Church. The service, which included songs, poems and prayers, was a great success and was much appreciated by the many participants. Thank you to all those who took part. All the harvest festival donations of food were given to the Didcot Foodbank.



This was a great event once again bringing together the School and the wider local community in an event that also produced significant support for a vital local charity.

There are more photos of this event, and lots more news and information, on the Blewbury School website <https://blewbury.oxon.sch.uk/happy-harvest/>.

Blewbury School Early Years/Admissions Open Mornings and Evenings

Is your child due to start school in September 2023? The staff and pupils of Blewbury School would love for you to come along to see your local School and hear about our Early Years provision. We can also accommodate pupils wanting to join our flourishing school in other year group as well. Before you make your school applications, we would be delighted to show you around our brilliantly resourced school to help you in your decision making. Please get in touch with the school office on office.3248@blewbury.oxon.sch.uk or 01235850411, to book a space for any of the following events:

Wednesday 2nd November, 9:30 - 10:30 am

Tuesday 8th November, 5.00 pm - 6.00 pm

Thursday 10th November, 9.30-10.30 am

These especially arranged open events will include a tour of the school, seeing a class in action (9:30 am sessions only) and an opportunity to ask our school leaders questions about the school vision and curriculum. The open evening will also include an opportunity for your child to experience activities in the classroom and the chance for you to speak to the staff members, who are responsible for that class.



HELP WITH RISING COST OF LIVING

With the current rise in the cost of living and energy, you may find yourself struggling financially. We are a local charity which supports people of all ages living in Blewbury, Aston Upthorpe and Upton, and have the funding to give a helping hand during these difficult times.

From the weekly food shop, clothing and equipment for the new school year, to energy bills and other living costs, we can provide one off payments to help you, or someone you know in need.

There is a short application form to complete which can be picked up from the Post Office or requested by email to unitedcharities@outlook.com.

We can help you fill in the form. Please don't be reluctant to ask for help, all applications are dealt with confidentially.

United Charities of the Ancient Parish of Blewbury

Registered Charity No: 203538

Upton Christmas Play Reading

Upton Village Hall, Saturday 26th November, 18:00-20:00

The Adventure of the Christmas Pudding: a Hercule Poirot Mystery

In the week before Christmas, world-famous Belgian detective Hercule Poirot is summoned to Whitehall for an urgent request to assist with a challenging mystery. A priceless ruby has been stolen from an Egyptian Prince in scandalous circumstances and a reluctant Poirot is enlisted to help. Join the Upton Christmas Readers for murder, mayhem and Christmas pudding as Hercule Poirot's little grey cells are pitted against a dastardly criminal mastermind over a traditional English country Christmas holiday.

After a two-year hiatus, the Upton Christmas Readers are back with a lively adaptation of a festive story by the Queen of Crime and Wallingford local, Agatha Christie.

Tickets £6 (£5 concessions) available on the door or in advance from Karibu, High Street, or Finches, Stream Road. Refreshments are included. Raffle tickets will be available on the night.

All profits will go to the St Mary's Church Building Fund.

Didcot & District u3a

‘Almost through Autumn and going into Winter for all retired or semi-retired individuals looking to keep themselves active, then they need look no further than the **Didcot & District u3a** that provide numerous Interest Groups and activities that will keep them both mentally and physically active during the cold winter months and beyond!

Members can choose from learning a language, walking, gardening, natural history, ukulele, philosophy, Latin, Science and Technology, family history, and many more! To find out what and when these groups take place why not come to the monthly meeting held every **third Tuesday of the month at the Didcot Civic Hall** starting at **2:30**, where you will meet with likeminded individuals, enjoy a cuppa and listen to an interesting speaker, with the following scheduled over the coming months;

15 November: Birth of Hoaxes in the 18th Century by Ian Keable into a hitherto hidden world of history, mystery and hoaxes!

20 December: A Christmas Event featuring the Didcot Divas in aid of the Helen and Douglas Hospice charity

2023

17 January: 10th Birthday Tea Party - afternoon tea with homemade cakes and featuring our very own Ukulele Group! (This is a ticketed event - £5 per ticket)

21 February: Where do novelists get their ideas from? - Bobbie Derbyshire

21 March: Cheltenham Racing Heroes - Peter Gill talks about famous jockeys living in and around Cheltenham.

All newcomers welcome, just **arrive early to ensure you get a seat!!**

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

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