

The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter No.273

Village Diary for March 2006

2nd Mobile Library, The Glebe, 12.05 - 12.20pm

5th Family Service, St Paul's Church, 10 am

6th Parish Council Meeting, The School, 7.30pm

15th Deadline for April's Mouthpiece

16th Mobile Library, The Glebe, 12.05 - 12.20 pm

19th Evening Prayer and Annual PCC Meeting, St. Paul's Church, 4pm.

25th Village lottery draw, The Lion

27th Bags2school take collection to school

28th Bags2school deadline for collections to be taken to the school

30th Mobile Library, The Globe, 1205 - 12.20pm

SERVICES OF WORSHIP IN THE BRIDGE GROUP MARCH 2006

DATE	TIME	PLACE	SERVICE
Sun 5	8.00 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	8.00 am	Dorchester Abbey	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Long Wittenham	Family Service
	10.00 am	Culham	Family Service
Sun 12	10.15 am	Dorchester Abbey	Morning Prayer
	8 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	8 am	Dorchester Abbey	Holy Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	10.15 am	Dorchester Abbey	Sung Eucharist
Sun 19	8 am	Dorchester Abbey	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10.15 am	Dorchester Abbey	Family Service
	4 pm	Culham	Evening Prayer & Annual PCC Meeting
Thurs 23	6 pm	Dorchester Abbey	Evensong
	2 pm	Long Wittenham	Pram Service
Sun 26	9 am	Little Wittenham	Family Service
	8 am	Dorchester Abbey	Holy Communion
	10 am	Culham	Mothering Sunday Service
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Family Service
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Family Communion
	10.15 am	Dorchester Abbey	Family Communion

FROM THE TEAM RECTOR REV. SUE BOOYS

As you receive your copy of the Mouthpiece this month it will be the beginning of Lent. Lent is well known as a time for giving things up. In fact I am often put to shame during this season by people who would not call themselves churchgoers but who ask 'What have you given up for Lent?' Often giving up something for Lent is associated with taking action to make oneself physically or mentally fitter by losing weight or gaining mental or muscle tone!

The original intention of Lent was to hone the spirit and draw closer to the God who is at the centre of all things. Traditionally, people went back to a very basic diet with all luxuries cut out partly so that they wouldn't be thinking about the excitements of the next meal. It's interesting, I think, that many of the food items we enjoy as luxuries are often things that are less good for us (chocolate, wine and items containing large quantities of fat and sugar) and to restrict or cut them out is what is fashionably called to 'detox'.

Spiritual detox might be a good way of looking at Lent. If our spiritual lives are so clogged up with self-indulgence then God doesn't get a look in. So perhaps the questions to ask in Lent are these: What's cutting me off from God and what can I do to reconnect? The answers will be entirely personal - simply making more time for God than usual is a good start. Reading something that will nourish the soul. Taking five minutes to gaze with attention at the wonder of new life springing up all around us. Spending five minutes in quiet reflection. Marcus Braybrooke has written some lovely books that contain short starting points for reflection in verse or wise sayings, from around the world and David Winter is well known for his excellent short reflections on bible passages - so whatever you choose to do can be very 'local'.

Elsewhere in the magazine you will also find details of the Lent courses for the parishes. The course is called 'Growing a healing ministry' and has been written by the Acorn Christian Healing Trust. It gives an opportunity to think about what health and healing is all about and how our local churches, places that are concerned with spiritual health are the links between spiritual and physical well-being so that we can carry out Jesus' commission to heal.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

BUS PASS AND TRAVEL TOKEN SCHEME:

From 1 April 2006, the Council will offer FREE bus passes to people aged 60 and over and the disabled and their necessary travel companions. Residents who have a current half fare pass which expires after 1 April 2006 should have received a letter from the Council asking them to re-apply.

From the same date, the Council's travel token scheme will change. AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE BUS PASS, the Council will continue to offer travel tokens to the value of £20 per person per year, but the ELIGIBILITY AGE HAS CHANGED FROM PEOPLE AGED 60 TO PEOPLE AGED 70 AND OVER, also the disabled (including children aged 15 years and below) and their necessary travel companions.

South Oxfordshire District Council's bus pass and travel tokens scheme applies throughout our district and does not affect any travel tokens that your own town or parish council may offer.

For further information, contact Vivienne Taylor on 01491 823413

JOIN THE GARDEN WASTE REVOLUTION

Most of our rubbish is buried in landfill which creates pollution and harms our environment, but by recycling garden waste residents can help avoid this.

As a result of the highly successful eco-sack trial, the Council will introduce a new, improved and more permanent garden waste collection scheme from April 2006. The service will provide residents with a fortnightly kerbside collection from wheeled bins. The service is more convenient than the current scheme as residents don't need to book a collection and it makes recycling green waste easier and more efficient. All green waste collected will be composted locally. The service is likely to replace eco-sacks and garden waste skips at the community waste sites. The proposed fortnightly collection of garden waste will help us increase our recycling rate. It will be an opt-in service with a charge of £29 per year.

Initially we want to gauge potential take-up, so if residents would like to take part in the scheme they need to register an interest by e-mailing their details (name, address, and postcode) to

publicamenities@southoxon.gov.uk by 6 March 2006.

For further information please contact LOWELLE BRYAN on 01491 823057 or e-mail lowelle.brivan@southoxon.gov.

Parish Council Notes February 2006

A £500 donation was voted for the school as a matching value to that won by the school in a recent competition. This will go towards the school's target to purchase various games equipment

Now that Sgt. Applegarth has moved on, our new area beat officer is PC Flint, contactable through the non - emergency number for Thames Valley Police, 0835 8 505 505.

There was a recent lifter pick up along the Burycroft and A415 and Tollgate Road by SODC in a very quick response to the Council's request.

A Thames Water representative will be asked to attend the March Council meeting with a view to explaining the development of the proposed reservoir and the local outfall on the west bank of the Thames in Thames Reach.

Flyers will be put on the notice boards explaining a proposed wheelie bin garden waste scheme starting in April 2006 run by SODC

John Howell

Over the next couple of weeks, items on the Highways Log of OCC will be prioritised. Hopefully then our requests for work to be done in the village will be moved forward. Currently these include (but not limited to) pot holes and kerbstones in The Glebe, noisy manhole covers in Tollgate Road and work at the Lock car park. Currently the other works under the Local Transport Capital Plan are being finished within the County before the end of the financial year.

The Cycle tracks between the Station and Berinsfield will be resurfaced under the terms of the original contract at no extra cost to the tax payer.

Work at Clifton Hampden traffic lights in the week beginning 13th February and for a further two weeks in March will mean restrictions to traffic flow and probably extra flow through Culham.

OCC is withdrawing from the South Oxfordshire Area Forums in a bid to reduce costs - the annual meetings will however continue. It is intended that there will be an improved method of communicating with Parish Councils after April.

The budget will be set on 14th February with an increase of 4.37% which is one of the lowest increases in County Council Spending. There will be no substantial cuts in services. There is likely to be some matched funding available over the next 3 years of £300K specifically for youth facilities and youth counselling. There are to be no cuts in old people's services.

Village website

With the help of John Storrs i.e. with John doing most of the work, the Council has agreed to the setting up of a village website, to be run on John's shared server. The intention is to set up a site with links to all the interested groups within the village, such as the Church, the School, the History Group and the Council. Information about each group (such as the Council's minutes) can then be accessed directly along with the other useful village/parish information. Further details will be available in the April Newsletter when the site will hopefully be live.

**Date of Next Meeting:
Monday 6th March 2006**

Village News

Christopher Burbige

Vanessa and Daniel Burbige would like to express sincere thanks to all the friends and neighbours in the village who sent cards and/or attended his funeral service at St. Paul's Church on 19th January. Your thoughts and support were much appreciated.

Speeding

It was reported at the last Parish Council meeting that Thames Valley Police now take a greater interest in 'speeding' motorists than they apparently have done in the past. They are now likely to take action against persistent speeding motorists if a number of people are complaining about the same offenders, but they need information. The information required is Time, Date, Location and description of vehicles (preferably with registration number). If you obtain such information, please pass it on to Paul Hancock (17, High Street) who has agreed to act as co-ordinator and who will pass it on to the police.

Culham Village Lottery

Lynn Hancock

Congratulations to Jeanette Day, winner of the January Draw. Lottery money is now due for 2006 and collectors will be calling in the next few weeks. If you would like to be included in the lottery for this year and a collector has not yet called, please contact me on 523778. Membership remains at £10 for the year with a monthly prize of £50.

Barefoot Books - World Book Day 2 March 2006

I am accepting WBD £1 tokens this year in part payment for a selection of Barefoot Books. Please call if you would like to see the books. Sarah Wilkinson, 5 High Street, Culham, 01235 550584

CULHAM PAROCHIAL SCHOOL

Sue Knox

The school now has its own website on line which can be reached at www.culham.oxon.sch.uk We hope that you take time to look at it, as it shows a glimpse of the children at work, as well as giving information about the school. The site has been set up by one of our parents. Judy Beck, with help and ideas from the children. We would like to thank Culham Parish Council for their kind donation of £500 which we shall be using to provide additional playground games and equipment. It is much appreciated. On Tuesday 28th March the school will be having another 'bag2school' collection. If you are clearing out your wardrobe ready for the spring and summer, please bring your unwanted items to the school on the day before or on the morning of the 28th. Many thanks. As part of their art lessons, the junior school have been looking at the work of Edvard Munch - in particular his painting entitled "The Scream" or "The Cry". They have been painting their own versions of this work and to accompany them they have written descriptions and stories.

Culham Pre - school News

Lea Allmond

This half term the children will be looking at the theme of growing. Animals, frees, plants and themselves. We shall be doing a lot of container growing, which we hope will be transplanted in our new playground. We shall of course be doing some Easter craft work as well. At the end of term we hope to be moving into the new building which is looking great. This is a very exciting time for all of us.

Out and About in March

Lambing weekends at Northmoor Trust Hill Farm, Little Wittenham. Dates:- Saturday 11 March. Sunday 12 March. Saturday 18 March and Sunday 19 March. Time: 10 am - 4 pm. Come and learn more about the sheep flock and perhaps be lucky enough to see a lamb being born. No dogs please! Pregnant women are advised not to come into contact with lambing ewes. For more information please contact Jenny Carter on 407792 or e-mail Jenny.Carter@Northmoortrust.co.uk. Website www.northmoortrust.co.uk

Wednesday 29 March - Saturday 1 April: 7-30pm. Abingdon Drama Club presents "Macbeth" by William Shakespeare. Unicorn Theatre, Medieval Abbey Buildings, Abingdon. Tickets £7, concessions £6, from Dawsons Music, High Street, Abingdon or from Ticketline on 01235 524539.

Lecture: Culham Science Centre, 7.30pm, Wednesday 22 March. Public Lecture on Energy Sustaining and the Potential Role of Fusion by Professor Sir Christ Llewellyn Smith FRS. He is the Director of the UKAEA's Culham Science Centre, the home of UK fusion research. Admission is free but by ticket only. Please ring Heather Clark on 01235 466363 or e-mail Heather.Clark@ukaea.org.uk to reserve a seat.

Saturday 11 March at 7.30 pm in Dorchester Abbey: Bach's Mass in B Minor. Tickets available on 01865 9470102 or by e-mail on tickets@readingbachchoir.org.

Saturday 4 March: Between 10 am - 5 pm. Model Railway Exhibition at White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre (note new venue). Presented by Abingdon District Model Railway Club. Details Trevor Slaughter on 01865 820120

Tuesday 7 March 7.30pm In Sutton Courtenay Village Hall: Under Milk Wood by Dylan Thomas presented by the Oxfordshire Touring Company. Tickets cost £6 (£4 concessions) from Christine Ellis on 01235 846605, Rita Atkinson on 01235 848694, Madge Bros Butchers or Burgrey Stores.

Oxfordshire Rural Community Council

Make a difference this March! Did you know that there are over 3,000 voluntary organizations in Oxfordshire? Each of them is run by a management committee of enthusiastic and committed volunteers.

Maybe you could make a difference as a management committee volunteer? It's a chance to put your time to good use, work as part of a team, learn new skills and try something new. If you're interested, come along to one of our 'volunteer recruitment evenings' - in Didcot on Thursday 18 March and Oxford on Thursday 23 March. For more information call Alan Foulkes at OCVA on 018865 251946.

SWOP your Stuff for free: The Oxfordshire Freecycle Networks are open to all who would prefer to 'freecycle' to others, rather than throw away unwanted items such as bicycles, pianos, fax machines etc.

Freecycle is an email based free swop-shop. Just "post" a message on your local Freecycle page, listing your free items or asking for something you want yourself. Charity organizations will be informed of this site so they too may be in touch to pick up your things. Please note that all items MUST be 100% free and no commercials. For more information visit www.freecycle.org

Newington Nurseries

Winter Structure in the Garden

Plants are the building blocks of a beautiful garden. Put great plants together to gain even more value from each, plus successful planting combinations can enhance the overall effect of the garden. Both garden Bonsai and ground covering conifers provide instant impact and offer a great way of smartening up a border for the winter months. Bonsai allows you to create a miniature forest, even if your space is limited. Combine with ground covering conifers such as *Juniperus Horizontalis* (Creeping Juniper) to set off colour and form, as well as to establish a truly low maintenance area. The most successful species in bonsai form are trees with naturally small leaves that are hardy to our climate. Larch, beech, spruce, hawthorn, and juniper are all good choices. Great results can be achieved by growing in pots (something that the Chinese and Japanese have been doing for many centuries) as bonsai trees grow best with small amounts of soil around their roots. Bring fabulous autumn colours to the smallest plot, even a balcony or tiny patio, by growing bonsai forms of Japanese Maple. Put them in unstated grey pots so that the brilliant leaves stand out. The conifer has excellent weed smothering effect as they form dense mats which exclude light from the ground and prevent weeds getting a foothold.

Look out for the following varieties of *Juniperus Horizontalis*, each of which is perfect for ground cover alongside bonsai: 'Wiltonii' which has bright blue leaves, 'Emerald Spreader' which is very flat and has emerald green leaves that turn to a purple-mauve in winter. Finally remember that this is a great time for planting and establishing new areas in the garden. Moisture levels are generally suitable (although avoid working heavy soil when wet). Relatively warm soils help new plants to settle in and their own growth rates are slowing, making this a less stressful time for them to be moved. Structure and form are essential for the winter garden when the seasonal stars from the rest of the year are enjoying a well-earned rest!

For more inspiration and advice, visit Newington Nurseries on the A329 just outside Stadhampton. Tel: 01865 400 533 www.newington-nurseries.co.uk

The Oxfordshire Branch of the RSPCA

Judith Garvey

The Oxfordshire Branch of the RSPCA (Charity No:205156) is legally and financially separate from the National Society and receives no financial assistance from them. Indeed the only assistance and money we receive is that provided and raised by our local Oxfordshire people! This does mean that what money raised in Oxfordshire goes to help Oxfordshire animals. We are currently looking for local people who want to help local animals by helping to re-form the Oxfordshire Branch. If you would like to help with fundraising - say organize an event; become the co-ordinator for static collecting boxes; produce a newsletter; assist with clerical work; help to form a committee; raise awareness of National RSPCA campaigns; or foster animals in your own home, then please contact Judith Garvey on 01865 340329 or e-mail judithgarvey@fsmail.net

Endpiece

Contributions for the April 2006 Mouthpiece by March 15 please to:

Brian Bracher, 25 High Street. 01235 525885 or e-mail brianh@bbracher.freeseve.co.uk

Sarah Wilkinson, 5 High Street. 01235 550584 or e-mail markandsarahwilkinson@telinco.co.uk

Rosemary (Jo) McNish, 2 The Willows, 07849 299515 or e-mail therisenpheonix@tesco.net

Advertisements

Jan Postlethwaite, 6 The Glebe. 01235 525888