

The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter No 280

Village Diary for November 2006

3rd Mobile Library, The Glebe, 1.50 pm – 2.10 pm

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

6th Parish Council Meeting, The School 7.30pm

15th Deadline for December/January Mouthpiece

***17th Deadline for filled boxes for 'Operation
Christmas Child'***

17th Mobile Library, The Glebe, 1.50pm – 2.10pm

19th Evening Prayer, St. Paul's Church 4pm

25th Lottery Draw, The Lion, Culham

SERVICES OF WORSHIP**November 2006**

DATE	TIME	PLACE	SERVICE
Sunday 5th	8 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	8 am	Dorchester	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Family Service
	10 am	Culham	Family Service *
Saturday 11 th	10.55 am	Long Wittenham	Remembrance Service
		War Memorial	
Sunday 12 th	8 AM	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	8 am	Dorchester	Holy Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	10.15 am	Dorchester	Remembrance Service
Sunday 19th	8 am	Dorchester	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10.15 am	Dorchester	Family Service
	4 pm	Culham	Evening Prayer
Thursday 23 rd	2 pm	Long Wittenham	Pram Service
Sunday 26 th	8 am	Dorchester	Holy Communion
	10 am	Little Wittenham	Family Service
	10.15 am	Dorchesster	Sung Eucharist and Baptism

FROM OUR TEAM RECTOR**Revd Sue Booy**

The other day I found an old folder. Not, I suppose, a really earth shattering experience – but it pulled me up short and set me thinking. I re-use folders – and I label them and this folder had quite a history! In its first age it had been used for an Upper Sixth group's twentieth century history papers, for newspaper cuttings Iraq War (this was the first one), spare file paper and form tutor referrals. Then I had decided it could be passed over to the children so it bore signs of having been used for sorting pretend Post Office post (addressed to 3, Landing way, Tiny Town in a child's handwriting) and later graduated to being used for 'Guides' and spare file paper! Most recently (presumably I rescued it when my daughter threw it away!) it had been labelled up for Abbey campaign and General Synod July 2005!!

In an instant there was a summary of various aspects of the last twenty years of my life. I had almost forgotten the mornings when we all had 'post' delivered to our bedroom doors and suddenly one member of the twentieth century group who I haven't thought about for 15 years appeared quite clearly in my mind's eye. Perhaps most of all it made me reflect that all these past experiences – mother, teacher and form tutor equip me for the life I follow now and remain part of me even though I don't notice them. I've had three lives as an adult – as a mother, as teacher and as priest and been privileged to enjoy them all. Each has fed the other as my experiences leading up to adulthood also formed and equipped me to take on those roles.

I'm aware that with each change in my life I have been sorry to let go the old but ready and looking forward to the way the old will help me adjust to and face the new. Last month we enjoyed welcoming the Reverend Anne Ilsley as a member of the Dorchester Team. This will be a change for Anne, for the members of the ministerial Team as we reform with a new colleague, and to parishioners in the Team. It will mean a big change for the parishes of the Bridge Group who are

welcoming a Team Vicar on a house-for-duty basis and living in a different parish. Anne with David Haylett – whose ordination at the Abbey was shared and enjoyed by many Bridge Group parishioners – and I will work together to serve the Bridge Group and Dorchester in the very best way we can. I am looking forward to working in partnership with Anne and David – but also in increased partnership with all the people in Dorchester and the Bridge group of Parishes as we make a new start together.

VILLAGE NEWS

Culham Village Lottery

Lynn Hancock

Congratulations to Harry Buckle, winner of the September Draw.

New Beat Officer

At the September Parish Council meeting, the new area beat officer, Jess Rowling, reiterated the importance of informing the police about 'minor' incidents in order to help maintain an accurate record for the village. Non-emergency calls to Thames Valley Police should be made on 08458 505 505.

“Ride & Stride” Event, 9th September

Jean Diggins

Well done, Sarah and Helen (Rockall) for taking part in this year's sponsored Ride and collecting £164. Half of this goes to the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust which last year gave £152,000 to various churches in Oxfordshire to support maintenance and repairs. The other half goes to our own village church. Thanks are also due to those who manned the church on 9th September to welcome visiting cyclists from 10 am to 6 pm.

Rachel Evans

The Editors

We were sad to learn of the sudden death of Rachel Evans on 29th September – her 87th Birthday. Her funeral took place at Oxford Crematorium on Friday 13th October. Rachel had lived at Kiln Cottage for about 40 years and had been involved in a number of village activities, one of which was to look after the advertisements in *The Mouthpiece*. We extend our sympathy to her husband Norman and her family and friends.

Children's Information Service

Karen Walker

The Oxfordshire Children's Information Service has sent *The Mouthpiece* a comprehensive guide to schools, playgroups, and many other organizations for children living in South Oxfordshire. We have passed it on to Culham School, who will be happy to let parents see it. For further information please ring Karen Walker on 08452 262636.

Church Water Supply

The Churchwardens

At long last, we have a mains water supply to the sink in the rear vestry in the church. We would like to thank the Friends of St Paul's who paid for this work and Mary Saunders, our Diocesan Advisor, for her constant help.

Adding a water supply to a Grade 2 listed church in a Preservation Area is much more complicated than a similar project in a private house. We had to fill in a twenty-page form and provide some 15 documents to obtain the approval of the Diocese of Oxford, who - quite rightly - want to preserve the character of their buildings. We must use specialised architects and builders and deal with English Heritage. We must also inform an archaeologist when digging in graveyards in case we find items of historic value or (heaven forbid) pre-Victorian bone dumps.

There were several reasons for delays. The Church's own procedures have built-in delays of up to two months. Some of our contacts took weeks to reply and our contractors met unforeseen delays for various reasons. In all, we had to contact some sixteen or more organizations and individuals. Despite its complex planning procedures, the Church itself was possibly the most efficient large organisation that we encountered!

Culham Churchyard and Rubbish

We are delighted to see so many well-tended graves with fresh flowers around St Paul's Church. Together with regular grass cutting by the District Council, our churchyard now looks as if we all care about it.

There is, however, one problem. Despite requests for help, no one (including the District Council) wants to remove rubbish that is left in the churchyard. Please, therefore, take away your discarded flowers, plastic wrappings, 'Oasis', plastic bottles, etc.

We have an agreement with the recycling centre at Drayton: we won't accept rubbish, and they won't hold Church Services.

Fight the flu bug this winter

The NHS

It's that time of year again. Autumn has begun, the cold weather's coming - and so, unfortunately, is the flu.

Flu can be a major health concern. If you, or your children, are in group 1 (see below) you are more susceptible to the flu and the virus is more likely to lead on to an even more serious illness such as bronchitis or pneumonia, and can lead to hospitalisation or in some cases, death.

The flu jab is currently the only way to protect you. The good news is that if you are '**at risk**' you are entitled to a flu vaccination free of charge from your GP practice. To avoid the misery book your Flu jab today and don't let Flu get the better of you or your children this winter.

Flu Fact Box:

1. The Flu is particularly dangerous to people (including children) with respiratory disease Like asthma, diabetes, serious heart, chest, kidney complaints, chronic liver disease, lowered immunity and those aged 65 or over.
2. The flu jab is **free** and available at your GP Practice if you are aged 6 months or more and in one of the '**at risk**' described above.
3. At your GP's discretion if you are in receipt of carer's allowance or the main carer of an elderly or disabled person you may be entitled to a free flu jab.
4. Flu is highly infectious: 100,000 flu particles can be projected into the air with just one sneeze.
5. It only takes a minute to the flu jab, but this will protect you for 12 months.
6. In just 12 hours, the flu virus can invade 1 million of your nose and throat cells.
7. The World Health Organization (WHO) maps flu viruses and the vaccine is altered each year to ensure that it gives the best protection against the latest strains.
8. The flu jab contains no live virus, so it cannot give you the flu.

Tips to avoid catching the flu

1. If you are 65 or over, or you suffer from certain chronic illnesses, you are especially at risk. Contact your GP this autumn for this year's free flu jab.
- 2.
3. Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing.
4. Cover your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze, using a tissue whenever possible.
5. Throw used tissues away promptly in the nearest bin.
6. Where possible, avoid crowded areas at times when many people are catching flu
7. Avoid sharing drinks and cutlery.
8. In public spaces and schools, disinfect commonly used surfaces.
9. In the workplace, keep phones and desktops clean as they can harbour more germs than a toilet seat.

Parish Council News

Notes from the October meeting

The ROSPA report on the Play Area Safety Inspection was tabled. Discussion was deferred to the November meeting. There are no 'high risk' items in the report.

Since there is a 'free tree scheme' available through SODC, the council will ask about replacement trees for the grassy area on the corner of The Glebe and High Street where several have recently been lost.

As part of the Culham School Travel Plan, funded by SODC, the pavement from the Lock Car Park to The High Street will be improved for pedestrians. Hopefully this will encourage parents etc. to park in the car park and walk their children to the school instead of parking in High Street. The footpath will be widened, and as part of the improvements, the hedge at the north end of Tollgate Road will be cut back. Work should be started within the month.

A Request

Volunteers are needed to cut the grass on the playing field. Four young people attended the meeting with a direct request to the Council for the area to be kept trimmed for, in particular football. There was even a volunteer among them to do the cutting. Unfortunately the requirements of insurance/health and safety will almost certainly preclude that without at least adult supervision - this is being investigated. In the meantime a small group of say 4 volunteers would mean that the area could be kept cut weekly with one person only having to do the work once a month. Please contact any Parish Councillor or the Parish Clerk if you are willing to help the youngsters and the village in this task.

Date of next meeting Monday November 6th 2006

CULHAM PAROCHIAL SCHOOL NEWS

Cathy Gray

Work has at last begun on the Foundation Stage outside area and we are looking forward to using it quite soon after the October break. We will be holding a 'Planting Day' when children and parents will help plant the plants. The date of this has yet to be arranged, but if you see us outside and would like to join in please come and lend a hand.

The children in Years 5 and 6 recently enjoyed a visit to the Natural History Museum in Oxford to learn about skeletons and on the same day the infants visited Abingdon Baptist Church to find out

more about the ways in which people can be baptised. They enjoyed walking through the baptistery and looking around the rest of the church.

Two teams, six boys and six girls, took part in the Abingdon Primary Schools Cross Country event at Tilsley Park on 12th October. They enjoyed taking part very much and we hope the event will be repeated next year.

Operation Christmas Child

Last year the children took part in this campaign to give a Christmas gift of a filled shoebox to children around the world who are victims of war, poverty, famine and disease. We will be filling shoeboxes again this year and taking them to the collecting point in Abingdon on **Friday 17th November** (last day for donations).

If you would like to join us and fill a shoebox yourself please call at the school to collect a leaflet giving details of what to do. Filled boxes can be left at the school at any time and we will take them with ours to the collection point. A poster has also been put on the village notice board.

Diary Dates

Tuesday 12th December - 2.00p.m. - Carols and Mince pies - Culham School

Wednesday 13th December - 6.30p.m. - Carol service and Nativity – St. Paul's Church All Welcome.

CULHAM PRE-SCHOOL NEWS

Lea Allmond

We have had a very busy term with the children gathering all sorts of wonderful Autumn items, such as acorns, conkers and fir cones - we have a beautiful nature table for the children to investigate.

As you have probably seen our new play area is under construction and we hope to be spending a lot of next term enjoying outside play! If anyone would like to come and have a look, please pop in and see us we would enjoy showing you around.

NEWS FROM NEWINGTON NURSERIES

Fresh Fruit and Berries

Everyone knows the value of eating plenty of fresh fruit and what could be better than getting some of it from your own garden! The boom in growing edible plants is set to continue and it's easy to see why. Good for body and soul, fresh fruit packed with vitamins will feed your sense of well being and reinforce your connection with nature in a way that shop-bought never could.

Children love home-grown fruit so it's a great way of making the 'five a day' rule part of everyone's lives at home. Planting, feeding and picking are also great activities to get youngsters involved in. Even a handful of bushes or a couple of small trees will soon yield good crops with the right care. Before you know it you'll be making jams and crumbles as well as enjoying fruit fresh from the garden.

So where do you start if you want to bring this rewarding element into your garden? To begin with, you don't need acres of space. Even a balcony or patio can be home to a blackcurrant, gooseberry or redcurrant in an attractive pot. With a little more space to spare, raspberries and blackberries will thrive in most garden situations and can work very well along fences or against existing hedging plants.

Modern varieties of fruit trees don't take up a lot of space and can be very attractive too (think of the wonderful blossom). Pears, apples or damsons (often referred to as 'top fruit') are all possibilities. Some apples and pears can be trained up walls and are therefore very space efficient. Remember both need a sunny position, ideally with some protection from frost.

When you go to buy your fruit trees and bushes, as well as checking soil and situation needs, look at

the range and what each offers in the way of fruiting time, weight of crop and flavour characteristics. Plant breeding is such that you can enjoy many fruits for more than a few short weeks in autumn, though that's when most top fruit will crop. For effective pollination of apples and pears, (essential for a crop) make sure that you buy two different varieties that flower at the same time.

For further inspiration and advice, visit us at Newington Nurseries on the A329 near Stadhampton.
Tel: 01865 400533 ~ www.newington-nurseries.co.uk

OUT AND ABOUT IN NOVEMBER

OTTTC - THE FIREBIRD by Jane Buckler

Oxford Touring Theatre Company

From: info@otttc.oxfordshire.co.uk

November

Tue 14	Alvescot Village Hall, Oxon	7.30pm	01993 842832
Wed 15	Shrivenham Memorial Hall, Oxon	7.30pm	01793 782925
Thu 16	Arlington Arts Centre, Newbury	7.00pm	01635 244231
Fri 17	Steeple Aston Village Hall, Oxon	7.00pm	01869 340485
Sat 18	Upton Village Hall, Oxon	7.00pm	01235 851206
Tue 21	Leafield Village Hall, Oxon	7.30pm	01993 878564
Wed 22	Larkmead School, Abingdon	tbc	01235 544858
Thu 23	Begbroke Village Hall, Oxon	7.00pm	01865 841018
Fri 24	Stanton Harcourt VH, Oxon	7.30pm	01865 880540
Sat 25	Little Milton Village Hall, Oxon	7.00pm	01844 279092
Tue 28	Chale Primary School, Isle Of Wight	6.30pm	01983 730328
Wed 29	St John Baptist Church, Isle Of Wight	7.00pm	01983 611913
Thu 30	Northwood WI Hall, Isle Of Wight	7.00pm	01983 241095

Rutherford Laboratory Lecture

Friday 10 November Rosetta on the road Sim Barber Open University

Did life on earth start with micro-organisms brought by a comet? This is one of the questions which Rosetta may help answer. Rosetta is the first mission ever to land on a comet. After its lander reaches the comet, the main spacecraft will follow the comet for many months as it heads towards the Sun. Rosetta's task is to study comets, which are considered the primitive building blocks of the solar system.

Rutherford Appleton Laboratory and the Open University collaborated to produce the Ptolemy instrument that will fly on the Rosetta lander. It will analyse samples from the surface of the comet to establish what the cometary nucleus is made from, thus providing valuable information about these most primitive objects in the Solar System.

Admission is free but booking is essential as places are limited. To reserve places please either email talkingscience@rl.ac.uk or ring 01235 445959 (24hr answerphone) and leave a message

Abingdon Drama Club presents – Tennessee Williams 'The Glass Menagerie'

Unicorn Theatre, Medieval Abbey Buildings, Abingdon.

Wed 15^h – Sat 18th Nov. Tickets £7, concessions £6, from Dawsons Music, High St. Abingdon, or from **Ticketline 01235 524438**

ENDPIECE

Please note that any opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the editors.

Contributions to the December/January Mouthpiece by November 15th please to;

°Brian Bracher, 25 High Street, 01235 525885 or email brianh@bbracher.freereserve.co.uk

Rosemary McNish, 2, The Willows, 07933134026 or email therisenpheonix@tesco.net

Advertisements to:° Jan Postlethwaite, 6 The Glebe, 01235 525888 or email jan.postlethwaite@btinternet.com