

The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter No 281

Village Diary for December 2006

- 1st Mobile Library, The Glebe, 1.50 pm-2.10 pm**
- 1st School Christmas Bazaar, 3.15pm**
- 3rd Family Service at St. Paul's, 10 am**
- 4th Parish Council Meeting, The School, 7.30 pm**
- 12th School Nativity & Carol Service Rehearsal at St Paul's 9.30am**
- 13th School Nativity & Carol Service at St Paul's 6.30pm**
- 17th Carol Service at St. Paul's, 6.30pm**
- 15th Mobile Library, The Glebe, 1.50 pm-2.10 pm**
- 24th Nativity at St. Paul's, 10 am**
- 25th Holy Communion Service at St Paul's, 10am**
- 29th Mobile Library, The Glebe, 1.50 pm-2.10 pm**
- 30th Village Lottery Draw, The Lion, Culham**

Village Diary for January 2007

- 7th Family Service at St. Paul's, 10 am**
- 12th Mobile Library, The Glebe, 1.50 pm-2.10 pm**
- 15th Deadline for February's Mouthpiece**
- 21st Evening Prayer Service at St. Paul's, 4 pm**
- 26th Mobile Library, The Glebe, 1.50 pm-2.10 pm**
- 27th Village Lottery Draw, The Lion, Culham**

SERVICES OF WORSHIP

December 2006 - January 2007

DATE	TIME	PLACE	SERVICE
DECEMBER			
Sunday 3rd	8 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Family Service
	10 am	Culham	Family Service
Sunday 10th	8 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
Sunday 17th	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
	6.30 pm	Culham	Carols
	6 pm	Clifton Hampden	Carols
Thursday 21st	2 pm	Long Wittenham	Pram/Crib Service
Sunday 24th	10 am	Culham	Nativity
	4 pm	Clifton Hampden	Crib Service
	6 pm	Little Wittenham	Carols
	6 pm	Long Wittenham	Carols
	11.30 pm	Clifton Hampden	Midnight
Christmas Day	10 am	Culham	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
Sunday 31st	10.30 am	Marsh Baldon	Team Communion
JANUARY			
Sunday 7th	8 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Family Service
	10 am	Culham	Family Service
Sunday 14th	8 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
Sunday 21st	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
	4 pm	Culham	Evening Prayer
Thursday 25th	2 pm	Long Wittenham	Pram Service
Sunday 28th	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Family Service

FROM OUR VICAR

Anne Ilsley

When I lived in New Zealand, I was amazed by my friends. When they called at my house, they would join in with whatever I was doing. If I was washing up, they'd pick up a dishcloth. It wasn't the done thing to abandon the household chores. As a visitor, you simply helped. When I started working in Harefield I was bothered by people's habit of coming to the door to wave you goodbye. Bothered, because I usually needed to look up where I was going next! – but I liked the sense of time to care that it implied!

I love Catherine Tate's 'Am I Bovered' routine, but of course she protests too much. To say that we care makes us vulnerable. Christians believe that God himself was so bothered about the state of human beings that he became vulnerable as a baby in the coming of Jesus Christ into the world. Christmas should be a time to remember what God has done for us in this miraculous birth and yet so many of us are instead becoming hot and bothered about the practicalities of shopping and preparing for the coming season.

Being bothered about how our festival of Christmas can become hijacked by consumerism and materialism, I wrote a poem in 2004 reflecting on Christmas as a chore or a bore or simply wanting more, rather than as a joy in praise of a saving God.

Must it be perfect
A choir of angels sing to men in a field
the kings were late
messy
homeless
a bed of straw
the birth we celebrate
supposedly?

Do we in fact denigrate
forgetful of where it all started
wrapped up in desire
hopes
dashed
of salvation
concentration on the
here and now?

A risky matter to send a Son
To humbly face humiliation
Let's take no risk with God
Instead pressurise
Ourselves
Our loved ones
To make it perfect
Christmas - Whatever that means?

Anne Ilesley 1/12/04

God did not abandon us to the mess we had made by our sinfulness. Instead he was and is bothered. He sent his Son so that we might be reconnected with Himself. Let us find the joy and wonder at the miracle birth and I look forward to sharing that sense of wonder at one of our Christmas services in the Bridge Group of parishes. Slowly I am finding my way around and getting to know some of you all. Thank you so much for your warm welcomes!

VILLAGE NEWS

From the editors

Those of us who produce the Mouthpiece wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We thank all our regular contributors and advertisers for their support, also Lynn Hancock and those who deliver the Mouthpiece: Lee Allmond, Norman Evans, Maggie Graham, Stella Hambleton, April Jones, Jane Lay, Ingrid Reichardt, Mo Sackett and Alf Waters.

We are very pleased to welcome Michelle Thresh as a new editor: she produced this issue. Please also note that Brian Bracher's new email address is: brian@thebrachers.com

Christmas cards for sale in support of Cancer Research UK

Cathy Gray

Now Christmas is fast approaching a reminder that you can buy your Christmas cards sold in support of **Cancer Research UK** from 6 High Street, Culham. Also beautiful advent calendars, greeting cards, gift-wrap, "thank you" notes and perfect present ideas. A wide range is always in stock, all at reasonable prices. Just call in or phone Cathy Gray on **01235 533370** (An independent Phoenix trader).

Culham Parochial School Christmas Bazaar

Sarah Wilkinson

You are invited to join us at our annual Christmas bazaar which this year will take place on Friday 1st December from 3.15 pm. We have lots of stalls and games for everyone, a raffle with wonderful prizes and cakes and refreshments to revive you once you have finished your shopping. We are hoping for a visit from Father Christmas too. If you have not yet seen inside the new Foundation Unit building now is your chance!

Christmas Services at St. Paul's

Parochial Church Council

The annual Carol Service (followed by refreshments) will be held at 6.30pm on Sunday 17th December, and Holy Communion will be celebrated at 10 am on Christmas Day.

The Nativity Service at 10 am on Christmas Eve is an opportunity for the young and young at heart to recreate the Christmas story and sing some carols. Youngsters can come along to be in the story or to look on. Bring your own dress up or use ours; Angels, Shepherds and Kings all wanted!

Associate Team Vicar - Contact Details

Anne Ilsley

My contact details are as follows:

Revd Anne Ilsley, The Vicarage, High Street, Long Wittenham OX14 4QQ.

Telephone 01865 407605 (this telephone can send & receive text messages).

Email: annefi36@aol.com

As a rule my working days will be: Sunday, Tuesday afternoon & evening, Wednesday morning & evening, and Thursday. I also intend to say Morning Prayer in the four Bridge churches regularly, between 8.15 am and 9.00 am. You are welcome to join me then, or to come & find me. My routine will be:

Mondays (excluding Bank holidays) - St Peter, Little Wittenham

Tuesdays - St Mary the Virgin, Long Wittenham

Wednesdays - St Michael & All Angels, Clifton Hampden

Thursdays - St Paul's, Culham

Culham Village Lottery

Lynn Hancock

Congratulations to Pat Cragg, winner of the October draw.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Notes from the November meeting

Tenders for the village grass cutting contract are to be requested for the new contract due in March 2007.

Council is to ask OCC if the barrier outside the school can be extended to provide further safety for those coming out of the gate. A barrier three times the current length is being requested.

The 'free' tree scheme, available through SODC, is being looked at in connection with the costs involved.

The 30mph repeater signs in the village will be removed as, when asked about providing further signs along the High Street, OCC said there should not be any at all.

The VOWH council have said that the traffic lights on Abingdon Bridge adjacent to Rye Farm car park, are there for a trial period. (John Howell also said that the recent changes to the Abingdon traffic scheme are awaiting delivery of an overall control device which, he said, will make the whole system operate much more efficiently by controlling the phasing of the lights).

The Parish Council would very much like to thank the 3/4 volunteers who attended the meeting with a view to organising the upkeep of the playing field, in particular the grass cutting aspects. This will hopefully maintain this useful asset for use by the village. More volunteers are of course welcome and in the first instance should contact Toby Price for details. A recent request from a local football club to use the playing field has so far not born fruit.

John Stimson (SODC)

The problem of the lighting at the station being too bright and possibly misdirected will be pursued with First Great Western.

John is now chairman of the Jet Site Stakeholders group.

Several outstanding planning applications relating to Number 1 site have now been finalised.

John Howell (OCC)

A new single point access for all social care in Oxfordshire has been set up. The telephone number is 0845 050 7666 or email access@oxfordshire.gov.uk The Social services achieved a 3 star rating this year.

The Regional Transport Board is likely to offer a payment of up to £62m to Oxfordshire in 2011. It will depend on how the money is offered, i.e. as a grant or a loan, as to whether it will be accepted.

The OCC has challenged the proposal for the Thames Water reservoir at Marcham.

The potential unitary authority created from the merging of Vale of White Horse and SODC is probably now at a dead end and therefore is unlikely to go ahead.

Next meeting: 7:30pm Monday 4th December.

CULHAM PAROCHIAL SCHOOL NEWS

Cathy Gray

KS2 children recently enjoyed visits to the Natural History Museum in Oxford where they learned about skeletons. They had the chance to examine and identify the bones of all sorts of animals and to look at the external skeletons of three live cockroaches!

We have recently taken delivery of some new sports equipment including hockey sticks, croquet mallets and tennis rackets and would like to thank all those who donated the vouchers that we used to order them. The school recently entered two teams to run in a Cross Country Event at Tilsley Park with other Abingdon schools and, although they did not win, all those taking part enjoyed the experience.

This term KS1 children have visited the Baptist Church in Abingdon where they found out about the Baptistery and their 'wonderful singing' was greatly admired by the Minister, David Fleming. He will be forwarding the 'shoebox gifts' that the children and parents have donated to children throughout the world as part of 'Operation Christmas Child'. We have also sent off £43.00 donated on 'Jeans for Genes Day' and were pleased to support the Bartley family whose sale, held at school, raised £175.00 for the Oxford Children's Hospital.

The visit by 'Red Watch' from Abingdon Fire Station was for a serious purpose, to make the infant children aware of the dangers of fire, but was also an enjoyable experience as they kindly stayed on during play-time to allow all of the children to see their fire engine. The infants then made cakes following the same recipe said to have been used by the baker responsible for starting the Great Fire of London. Luckily none of theirs were burnt but they very quickly disappeared!

With Christmas fast approaching, we hope that we will see as many of you as possible in Culham Church on Wednesday 13th December at 6.30p.m. for our Nativity and Carol Service. If you are unable to come then, we shall be having a final practice, on Tuesday 12th December at 9.30a.m. which you are welcome to attend.

Finally, the children have begun to write a half-termly newsletter which can be found on our website, <http://culham.oxon.digitalbrain.com>. In it you can find out more about what is happening in school.

CULHAM PRE-SCHOOL NEWS

Lea Allmond

We have had a very exciting time at Pre-School recently. Our garden is near completion and we have spent a day with the whole school, parents and friends, digging and bedding a huge variety of plants and shrubs. Please do come and have a look – it looks beautiful!!!

The children will now be looking at the theme of Christmas – as well as our celebrations, we shall look at the way children in other countries will celebrate. The children will be making decorations, mince pies and a variety of festive items.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported us throughout the year with a special mention to Jan Postlethwaite who keeps us supplied with a variety of items from her garden throughout the year, and for the lovely gift she has given the children. May I also take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of us at Culham Pre-School.

NEWS FROM NEWINGTON NURSERIES

All Year Appeal

Meet a garden celebrity of the green and growing kind! Members of the *Elaeagnus* family are real eye-catchers.

For year round colour and interest in your garden look out for the evergreen members of the clan. *Elaeagnus x ebbingei* cultivars are dense rounded, evergreen shrubs with elegant oval leaves. These plants have suitably glitzy names - 'Gilt Edge' reaches a height and spread of 4m and produces attractive dark green leaves edged with gorgeous golden yellow margins. 'Limelight', with a height and spread of 3m, is a little smaller but no less striking. Its leaves are silvery when young and then become marked with yellow and green in the centres.

For star quality try *Elaeagnus pungens* 'Maculata'. Put this plant centre stage in your garden. With its spreading upward growth, 'Maculata' is ideal as a specimen shrub. The glossy dark green leaves have rich yellow centers making this plant really stand out from the crowd.

When it comes to where they can live, *Elaeagnus* are much less picky than your average celeb! They will grow well in any fertile, well drained soil. They do best in a sunny position although the evergreen varieties can cope with some shade. Along with stellar quality, elegance and style these plants are a practical choice too. Evergreen *Elaeagnus* bring year-round appeal and structure. They are suitable in a number of garden situations including as a specimen plant, in a shrub border. Some of the evergreen varieties are even suitable to grow as a hedge.

Plus there's more to *Elaeagnus* than stunning foliage. Many produce exquisite little star-shaped flowers which can be fragrant, (depending on variety). 'Maculata' produces pendent silvery white flowers in autumn. 'Quicksilver', a deciduous variety, puts on a pretty show of yellow flowers produced from silver buds which look great against its lance-shaped silvery leaves. Sounds gorgeous! It's easier than you might think to have a celebrity in your garden!

*Newington Nurseries Ltd, Newington, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 7AW Tel: 01865 890283
email: anne@newington-nurseries.co.uk Website: www.newington-nurseries.co.uk*

OUT AND ABOUT IN DECEMBER & JANUARY

Saturday 2 & Sunday 3 December: University of Oxford Botanic Garden Winter Festival Weekend. Winter's thrill is the sight of stunning berries and a rare glimpse of a migratory visitor from far away lands. For more information please contact Emma Williams, Education Officer, emma.williams@obg.ox.ac.uk, 01865 286690, www.botanic-garden.ox.ac.uk

Sunday 3 December & Friday 12 January

The Sutton Courtenay All Saints' Singers and Orchestra present their Mozart 250th Birthday Concert. We very much hope you will join us for an evening of music by this great composer, at 7.30pm in Sutton Courtenay Parish Church. Tickets available at the door or phone 01235 848205/848997. Ticket prices £10, Concessions £8, and Family tickets £20.

New singers from Sutton Courtenay and the surrounding area will also be welcome at the first rehearsal for the Spring Concert on 12th January 2007 at 7.45pm in Sutton Courtenay Parish Church. If you're interested please call Christiane Hutchins on 01235 848997 or visit our website: www.allsaintssingers.org

Friday 8 December at 7pm

Rutherford Laboratory Lecture

"Cartoon Science" by Helen Lloyd

The laws of cartoon science state that nothing falls faster than an anvil! Is this true? How does gravity really affect things with different weights? Join your favourite cartoon characters on a journey to discover the difference between cartoon science and real science. What are forces and how do they work? Can objects change shape and then return to their original shape? Find out what happens to things when they combust or explode! The show features animated clips, audience interaction and lots of demonstrations of 'real-world' science. Recommended age for children 8+.

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.

Friday 12 January 2007 at 7pm

Rutherford Laboratory Lecture

"The science of Harry Potter" by Roger Highfield

Who is the real Dumbledore? Can owls really deliver the post? Roger Highfield, Science Editor of the Daily Telegraph, has interviewed the world's best Muggle scientists to identify the explanations behind everything from broomstick flight to the Invisibility Cloak. Join him for a fascinating account of the mysteries of the world of Harry Potter. Recommended age for children 8+.

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.

Weekends of 13 & 17 December and 20 & 21 January

The Northmoor Trust

Hedge Laying Courses. A two-day, hands-on course suitable for anyone who would like to learn these traditional skills; covering facing up, cleaning out, laying over, staking up, heathering stakes and cutting back. All specialist tools and equipment will be supplied. £20 for two days. Introductory offer: Become a 'Friend' of the Northmoor Trust and attend this course for FREE!

Throughout December & January

Oxford Touring Theatre Company

THE FIREBIRD by Jane Buckler:

December

Fri 1	Pegasus Theatre, Oxford	6.00pm	01865 722851
Sat 2	Pegasus Theatre, Oxford	2.00pm	01865 722851
Sat 2	Pegasus Theatre, Oxford	6.00pm	01865 722851
Thu 7	Chilton Village Hall, Oxon	7.30pm	01235 834285
Tue 19	St Peter's Church, Didcot	7.30pm	01235 815856
Sat 23	Harwell Village Hall, Oxon	4.00pm	01235 832802

January

Thu 4	Sutton Courtenay Village Hall	7.30pm	01235 848605
Tue 30	Lains Barn, Wantage	7.00pm	01865 249444
Wed 31	Lains Barn, Wantage	7.00pm	01865 249444

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 February Mouthpiece by January 15th please to;

°Brian Bracher, 25 High Street, 01235 525885 or email brian@thebrachers.com (*new address*)

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

Michelle Thresh, 33 High Street, 01235 534202 or email: michelle.thresh@btconnect.com

Advertisements to:° Jan Postlethwaite, email jan.postlethwaite@btinternet.com

Who's Who in Culham?

Culham Parish Council

Chairman: Robert Griffiths	26 High Street, Culham	01235 528246
Glenn Bartley	14 High Street, Culham	01235 526027
Toby Price	Station House, Culham Station	01235 522889
Andrew Steele	27 High Street, Culham	01235 534910
John Thomas	40 High Street, Culham	01235 521678

Clerk to Parish Council:

Bernadette Cannings 40 Brasenose Road, Didcot, Oxon OX11 7BJ 01235 511898

District Councillor:

John Stimson 19 Westfield Road, Long Wittenham. OX14 4RF 01865 407132

County Councillor:

John Howell (Conservative) 3 Green Lane, Warborough, OX10 7DY
07889 646845 E-mail: drjohnhowell@hotmail.com

St Paul's Church

Associate Team Vicar: Revd Anne Ilsley, The Vicarage, High Street, Long Wittenham OX14 4QQ
Tel 01865 407605, E-mail: annefi36@aol.com

Churchwardens:	Charles Reichardt	Fair Green, Henley Road, Culham	01235 520534
	Brian Bracher	25 High Street, Culham	01235 525885
Hon. Treasurer	Andrew Churchill Stone	18 High Street, Culham	01235 533011

Hon. Secretary	Jean Diggins	2 Tollgate Road, Culham	01235 520540
----------------	--------------	-------------------------	--------------

The Friends of St Paul's Church

Secretary:	John Storrs	8 The Green, Culham	01235 520395
------------	-------------	---------------------	--------------

Culham Parochial School

Head Teacher:	Mrs Knox	High Street, Culham	01235 521766
School Governor (Parish Council nominee):	Lea Allmond	3 The Glebe, Culham	01235 529236

Culham Poor Allotments Trust

Secretary:	Jenny Hayden	16 High Street, Culham	01235 523074
------------	--------------	------------------------	--------------

Culham Community and Recreation Committee (CCRC)

Treasurer: *Vacancy*

Culham Village Lottery

Organiser:	Lynn Hancock	17 High Street, Culham	01235 523778
------------	--------------	------------------------	--------------

Culham Pre-School

Supervisor: Lea Allmond, Parochial School, Culham 07790 992856 (9-12 noon, Mon-Fri)

Police

Area Beat Officer : PC Jess Rowling. Ring 07800 702683 or 01235 516816 quoting badge no. 819

The Mouthpiece

**Editors: Brian Bracher 25 High Street, 01235 525885 email: brian@thebrachers.com
Rosemary McNish 2 The Willows, 07933 134026 email: therisenpheonix@tesco.net
Michelle Thresh 33 High Street, 01235 534202 email: michelle.thresh@btconnect.com**

Advertising: Jan Postlethwaite email: jan.postlethwaite@btinternet.com

Distribution: Lynn Hancock 17 High Street, 01235 523778

Village Web Site: www.culhamvillage.org.uk