

# The Mouthpiece

*Culham's Newsletter No 283*

*Village Diary for March 2007*

*1<sup>st</sup> Culham Parochial School Open Day*

*4<sup>th</sup> Family Service, St. Paul's 10 am*

*5<sup>th</sup> Parish Council Meeting, The School 7.30 pm*

*9<sup>th</sup> Mobile Library, The Glebe 2.15 pm – 2.25 pm*

*15<sup>th</sup> Deadline for March's Mouthpiece*

*18<sup>th</sup> Mothering Sunday Service, St. Paul's 4pm*

*23<sup>rd</sup> Mobile Library, The Glebe 2.15 pm – 2.25 pm*

*31<sup>st</sup> Village Lottery Draw, The Lion*

DATE	TIME	PLACE	SERVICE
<b>SERVICES FOR CULHAM</b>			
Sunday 4th	10 am	Culham	Family Service
Mothering Sunday 18th	4 pm	Culham	Special Service with School
<i>Join us for coffee and a chat after morning services at Culham Church! All welcome.</i>			
<b>SERVICES AT CLIFTON HAMPDEN, THE WITTENHAMS &amp; DORCHESTER</b>			
Sunday 4th	8 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	8 am	Dorchester	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Family Service
	10.15 am	Dorchester	Morning Prayer
Sunday 11th	8 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	8 am	Dorchester	Holy Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	10.15 am	Dorchester	Sung Eucharist
Mothering Sunday 18th	8 am	Dorchester	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	10.15 am	Dorchester	Family Service
	6 pm	Dorchester	Evensong
Thursday 22nd	2 pm	Long Wittenham	Pram Service
Sunday 25th	8 am	Dorchester	Holy Communion
	8 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10am	Long Wittenham	Family Communion
	10.15 am	Dorchester	Sung Eucharist
<b>APRIL</b>			
Sunday 1st April	10 am	Long Wittenham	Palm Sunday Service with donkey, Culham congregation welcome.

As I write we are moving into the season of Lent. As you read this we will be well into it. Did you plan to give something up for Lent? Are you still maintaining your resolve or not? Or perhaps Lent hasn't impinged on your consciousness. Lent has its roots as a period of preparation leading up to the celebration of Easter. In particular it was a time for adults coming

into the faith looking forward to their baptism, which traditionally took place at Easter. They would enter into a period of study, fasting and prayer in order to be ready to make their commitment to follow Christ.

Meanwhile mature Christians saw the benefit of rededicating themselves, through their own period of self-denial. "God's Springtime", as Joyce Huggett called Lent in a book of that name, is a period *when Christians tuned into God's love and made a fresh response to it*. Spring is a time of stirrings into life, when the hidden growth below is increasingly seen above ground. It 'just happens' when the conditions are right.

In Lent we seek to make the conditions right for spiritual growth, but while fasting – giving things up, has always been an aspect of this, I would like to emphasise the idea of taking things up! I know for myself that the things I'm inclined to give up are more for my physical well being than my spiritual health. Chocolate & alcohol being the main candidates! I **can** give them up, given the excuse and the resolve, but I'm not convinced that they bring me closer to God.

So what to do? What sin of materialism, greed or sloth conflicts with the things that tend the growth of my spiritual walk? Chocolate & alcohol may be implicated, but I doubt that giving these up gets to the root of the problem. There are more subtle attitudes and behaviour patterns that need to change. I think that for those things to truly change (rather than to simply suppress them), I need to tune into God's love more often and more effectively. This brings me to taking things up for Lent.

What are the things that fuel my soul? What gives me a sense of something greater than myself? To feel small, watched over and cared for, rather than small and running scared. To have a sense of wonder which leads to worship. So spend more time with the people you love, take up walking, appreciate our beautiful countryside, do something creative.

In our churches and in the Dorchester team our Lenten studies and activities are inspired by St Paul's letter to the Ephesians. Take up something that will allow you to become more tuned into God's love. When Easter comes do drop me a line and let me know the things that have worked for you. Let's all spend a little more time smelling the roses!

Anne

## VILLAGE NEWS

### Culham Village Lottery

Congratulations to Faye Patterson, winner of the January Draw.

Lynn Hancock

### Annual Plant Sale

The Annual Plant Sale in aid of Church Funds will take place on **Saturday 19th May**. Anyone interested in helping is invited to telephone Ingrid or Charles on 520534.

Ingrid Reichardt

### Parish Council Elections

This year sees the election of Parish Councillors for Culham. We currently have 5 Councillors and are allowed a maximum of 6. All but one are intending to stand for re-election but, of course, if you are interested in applying please contact any current Councillor or the Clerk for details and an application form. Elections will take place in May.

Andrew Steele

### Victoria's Catering

Competitive prices - friendly experienced service. All functions catered for with varied menus to meet your needs. Call Vicky on 01235 550461 or Lea on 01235 529236.

### WANTED – Churchwarden

This year Charles Reichardt is retiring after some 20 years' service. His dedication has helped to keep St Paul's Church alive, despite the threat of closure some 6 years ago. His dedication has helped towards a **14% rise** in church attendance last year, and also ensured that **your local church** is still available for weddings, baptisms and funerals as well as regular church services.

Brian Bracher

The main duties of a Churchwarden are to look after the church itself, and its contents. He/she also helps the vicar to organise services and usually serves for 3 to 6 years. Ideally there should be two churchwardens in each parish. Although unpaid, it is interesting and varied, working with a group of very pleasant people.

If you would like to be a churchwarden, or want to find out more, please ring me on 01235 525885 or email [brian@thebrachers.com](mailto:brian@thebrachers.com).

We would also welcome anyone willing to help sometimes when we have church services (eg. opening up the church, switching on lights and heaters, light cleaning, flower arranging, etc).

### **St Paul's Church - Electoral Roll**

### **Parochial Church Council**

Every seven years the Church renews its Electoral Roll by tearing up the old one and starting again - and this is one such year. If you attend services, please join this roll by filling in a simple form, obtainable from the Churchwardens or at a service. You will then be able to vote at the PCC's Annual General Meeting and have a say in **how you want your church to develop**.

## **PARISH COUNCIL NOTES**

**February 2007**

The village grass cutting contract has been awarded to Berinsfield Community Business (BCB) for one year.

If anyone has any ideas for a village 'get together', a village 'party', 'gathering' or 'shindig' later in the year, can they please prepare ideas for presentaion at the Annual Parish Meeting in April. The Parish Coucil is considering making a donation towards such an event and would welcome ideas from the village.

The Council would also welcome volunteers to take on the role of Village Lottery Co-ordinator(s), a post recently vacated by Lynn Hancock after many years of excellent work.

**Date of next meeting - Monday 5th March 2007 (7:30 pm at the school.)**

## **LENT STUDIES**

### **'Growing in God's Grace'**

Evening sessions at Berinsfield Church Hall, 7.45-9.30 pm: Thursdays 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th March. Mid-day sessions at Dorchester Abbey Guest House, 1.30-2.45 pm: Tuesdays 27th February, 6th, 13th, 20th & 27th March.

### **Active Lent!**

Sunday Afternoons in Lent in Dorchester Abbey, 2.30 - 4.30 pm: an active approach for all the family! 11th March & 25th March 2.30pm – 4.30pm. Workshops, worship and tea for all the family. These will include

11 March: ART AND CRAFT – Drawing; Clay; Collage.

25 March: STORY AND DRAMA – Godly Play\*; Drama; Storytelling.

Cost is £5 family, £2 adult, £1 child (\* extra charge for materials) plus plate or packet to share at teatime. Under 14s must be accompanied & children under 8 need to be accompanied in workshops. Further details may be obtained from your parish church.

## **SPURGEONS CHILD CARE** **Melody Reed**

If you can regularly give approximately 2 hours a fortnight, you could be the one we want. Children and young people looked after by the local authority want people outside the system

as long-term befrienders. You would meet regularly and enjoy doing positive activities together. We will train you as necessary and support you throughout. All out of pocket expenses will be reimbursed. If this might be for you, please contact us:

Melissa Walton  
 Advocacy Worker Oxon IV & Advocates  
 Spurgeon's Child Care  
 The Courtyard Youth Arts Centre  
 Launton Road, BICESTER, OX26 6DJ



Tel/Fax 01869 602 570  
 Free Phone 0800 587 1004 (for young persons use only)  
 Mobile 0787 5680 672 (for the use of young people any time and emergency only)  
 Email: [oxoniv@courtyd.com](mailto:oxoniv@courtyd.com)

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<b>CULHAM PAROCHIAL SCHOOL</b>	<b>Cathy Gray</b>
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**Our Open Day and Evening this year will be on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March** – we hope you will be able to find time to visit us then. The school will be open in the morning, afternoon and, for the first time, between 6.30 pm and 8.00 pm during the evening to allow those unable to come during the day to have the opportunity of sharing what goes on in our school.

At the beginning of March the children in KS2 will be going to the New Theatre, Oxford to see 'Johnny Spacehopper and his Vital Statistics', a maths show based on the National Curriculum, which demonstrates just how much fun maths can be! KS1 will be learning how to program 'Turtles' in ICT and later in the month we are holding a Literacy Workshop for parents and carers.

To end the term the whole school will be taking part in a 'Skipathon' in aid of the British Heart Foundation. This will take place during the afternoon of Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> March and we are hoping that some parents as well as the children will take part. If you would like to join in, please telephone the school for details of how take part on the day or to become a sponsor. Finally – don't forget the Victorian Music Hall on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April in Sutton Courtenay village hall – details of how to obtain tickets will be in the next issue of The Mouthpiece.

<b>CULHAM PRE-SCHOOL NEWS</b> Allmond	<b>Lea</b>
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The children will be following the theme of growing this term, with lots of outdoor activities exploring our new garden. We have purchased some wonderful ladybird houses, bug-collectors and magnifying glasses to enable us to investigate the insects that are around us!!

We hope to grow some lovely flowers and vegetables and look at the changes that happen.

<b>FRIENDS OF ST. PAUL'S CULHAM</b>	<b>Rob Kennedy</b>
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On behalf of the Friends of St Paul's Church we are writing to invite you to

- Either become a member of the Friends of St Paul's,
- Or to renew your annual subscription which is now due.

The aim of the Friends is to raise sufficient funds to maintain the fabric of the Church, and to ensure proper maintenance. It is a registered charity run by the Trustees united in their common aim of preserving the village church. St Paul's is a beautiful and historic structure: it is important as a building to Culham and deserves our support.

The Friends have been very pleased to support the PCC with funds for repairs since 2000. £3950 was required for remedial work that year and a further £4790 was required in 2004 and 2005 following the Quinquennial Review. As well as repairs to the roof and internal plaster, in 2006 the Friends financed an improvement project, installing mains water and providing a small fitted kitchen. Our funds now stand at a little over £2000 and the next Quinquennial Review this year will result in further repair needs.

*John Storrs, secretary to the Friends, has decided to resign and we offer our warmest gratitude for the work and support he has given over the last few years. His position has not been filled and we are seeking a volunteer for this important role.*

**The Church and The Friends need your support now if we are to keep our Church open and in good repair.** We would like to encourage anyone from the village and the surrounding community to consider becoming a Trustee or a Friend. If you are interested, please ring me on 536079 or email [krobert107@aol.com](mailto:krobert107@aol.com)

*Rob Kennedy*

*Chairman of the Committee, Friends of St Paul's Culham*

## NEWS FROM NEWINGTON NURSERIES

## Early Spring Flowers

Make February fun this year! Make it your mission to choose some fabulous flowering shrubs that will look wonderful from winter into spring and really drive away the blues. Late winter flowering daphne species and varieties should be top of your list.

Daphne mezereum won't let you down when it comes to fragrant flowers. Their purplish-pink hues contrasting with their bare branches will really tell you that spring is coming. For white flowers, choose Daphne mezereum alba. Another great option is Daphne odora, an evergreen shrub (only hardy to -5°C) which produces deep purple-pink and white flowers from the middle of winter into early spring. As the name suggests, they have an instantly recognisable scent. Daphne odora 'Aureomarginata' has leaves with creamy-yellow edges, bears red-purple flowers and is slightly hardier.

Daphnes aren't too difficult to please in terms of site and soil requirements, but soils should neither dry out nor become waterlogged nor be extremely acidic. Sun or partial shade are suitable which means that they can be grown near trees. Other possibilities would include a rock garden or shrub border. A wonderful fact of nature is that early flowers tend to be particularly fragrant because of their need to attract the few pollinators that are about at this time of year. If you can site your daphne in a sheltered position you'll get more value from the richly scented flowers.

Shrubs of this size are perfect for most gardens because they don't take up too much space. Daphne mezereum has an upright habit of growth and will normally reach no more than 1.2m in height and a spread of 1m. And as with the best garden plants, it isn't just early spring flowers that they deliver. Flowers are followed by attractive fleshy red fruit (inedible), yellow in the case of Daphne mezereum alba. Maintenance is simplicity itself: just trim back any untidy shoots after flowering. Otherwise they will look after themselves very happily.

*For further inspiration and advice, visit us at Newington Nurseries on the A329 near Stadhampton. Newington Nurseries Ltd, Newington, Wallingford, Oxon. OX10 7AW. Tel: 01865 890283. [www.newington-nurseries.co.uk](http://www.newington-nurseries.co.uk)*

## OUT AND ABOUT IN MARCH

### Abingdon Model Railway Show

**Saturday 3 March, 10am – 5pm**

Over 50 layouts and stands. Free parking. The White Horse Leisure Centre, Audlett Drive, Abingdon. Entry £5, Concessions £4, Children £3, Families (2+2 or more) £14.

**Rutherford Laboratory Lecture  
Enigma Project**

**Wednesday 7 March, 7pm**  
(NB. change from the usual day)

An interactive presentation introduces students to the science and mathematics of codes and code breaking. Presentations involve audience participation and all students see a genuine World War 2 Enigma machine in action, and discover why it is one of the most famous cipher machines of all time. Recommended age for children 11+.

Booking information - Admission is free but booking is essential as places are limited. Booking opens four weeks prior to the lecture. To reserve places please either email [talkingscience@rl.ac.uk](mailto:talkingscience@rl.ac.uk) or phone 01235 445959 (24hr answerphone) and leave a message. Please include the following information: The title & time of the lecture, the number of places you require, your name, postal address and a contact telephone number. For the comfort and enjoyment of the audience, a recommended age is given for each lecture. Children under 16 must be accompanied by, and sit with, a responsible adult.

**Abingdon Drama Club**

**Wednesday 14 – Saturday 17 March, 7.30pm**

Abingdon Drama Club presents 'Blinded by the Sun' by Stephen Poliakoff, a play which is set in the science labs of a major university in England. Unicorn Theatre, Medieval Abbey Buildings, Abingdon. Tickets: £7 (concessions £6) from Dawsons Music, High Street or from Ticketline 01235 524538.

**Spring Concert - Sunday 25 March at 7.30 pm, Sutton Courtenay Parish Church**

The All Saints' Singers and Orchestra will follow up the success of their recent Bach and Mozart concerts with the performance of much-loved music by more recent composers. The programme includes *John Rutter's 1985 Requiem*, that reflects on life, death and redemption in eternal peace, and also such favourites as *Faure's Cantique de Jean Racine* and *Caesar Franck's Panis Angelicus*. Another feature will be two motets composed especially for the All Saints' Singers and Orchestra by its Conductor and Music Director, Patrick Salisbury. *The Lark Ascending* by *Vaughan Williams* will complete the programme, with the solo part played by Sue Lynn, a well-known professional violinist who trained at the Menuhin School and toured with Yehudi Menuhin. She is also the Leader of the orchestra.

Tickets (£10, or £8 concessions, or £20 family ticket) are on sale from members, by phone (01235 848205, 848719 or 848997), or at the door. For more information see our web site [www.allsaintssingers.org](http://www.allsaintssingers.org).

**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 April Mouthpiece by March 15th please to;**

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Rosemary McNish, 2, The Willows, 07933134026 or email [therisenpheonix@tesco.net](mailto:therisenpheonix@tesco.net)

Michelle Thresh, 33 High Street, 01235 534202 or email: [michelle.thresh@btconnect.com](mailto:michelle.thresh@btconnect.com)

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