

The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter No 289

Village Diary for September 2007

- 7th Mobile Library, - The Glebe, 2.15pm – 2.25pm**
- 8th 'Ride and Stride' - St. Paul's Church, 10am – 6pm**
- 9th Family Communion - St. Paul's Church, 10am**
- 10th Parish Council Meeting - The School, 7.30pm**
- 15th Deadline for the October issue of The Mouthpiece**
- 16th Evening Prayer – St. Paul's Church, 6pm**
- 21st Mobile Library, The Glebe, 2.15pm – 2.25pm**
- 29th Concert – St. Paul's Church, 7.30pm**
- 30th Harvest Festival - St. Paul's Church, 4pm**

SERVICES OF WORSHIP**SEPTEMBER 2007**

DATE	TIME	PLACE	SERVICE
SERVICES FOR CULHAM			
Sunday 9th	10 am	Culham	Family Communion
Sunday 16th	6 pm	Culham	Evening Prayer
Sunday 30th	4 pm	Culham	Harvest Festival
<i>Join us for coffee and a chat after morning services at Culham Church! All welcome.</i>			
<i>Come along for informal prayers with Revd Anne Ilsley at Culham Church on Thursday mornings, 8.15 - 9.00am.</i>			
SERVICES AT CLIFTON HAMPDEN, THE WITTENHAMS & DORCHESTER			
Sunday 2 nd	8 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	8 am	Dorchester	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Family Service
	10.15 am	Dorchester	Morning Prayer
Sunday 9 th	8.30 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	8 am	Dorchester	Holy Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	10.15 am	Dorchester	Sung Eucharist
Sunday 16 th	8 am	Dorchester	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10.15 am	Dorchester	Family Service
Sunday 23 rd	8 am	Dorchester	Holy Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	10.15 am	Dorchester	Sung Eucharist
	6 pm	Little Wittenham	Harvest Festival
Thursday 28 th	2pm	Long Wittenham	Pram Service
Sunday 30 th	8 am	Dorchester	Holy Communion
	10.30 am	Clifton Hampden	Team Communion

A Letter From Anne Ilsley

I felt somewhat guilty as I went off for a week's holiday, just as the floods hit Oxfordshire and so I was very relieved that the worst case scenario didn't happen. The Environment Agency's web site had the church surrounded by water. I think that most Culham residents were far from expecting that to happen, though some precautions did seem wise. Sometimes 'just being there' is all that we can do and all that is needed in troubled times which is why being away at the time of crisis was difficult (until I was well away and forgetting all but my much needed rest!).

The clergy may be the point of contact and focus of the provision of Pastoral Care, but they can't do it all, and for myself, I'm not always the best person for a particular situation. This

month I'm including with this very brief letter a report on the Prayer & Share day that The Dorchester Team organised and led in July. I know that there were numbers of those who were interested to come to this, but were unable to. We certainly hope that there will be developments from the day that will help to support us and improve our provision of care for our neighbours. On September 9th a second Prayer & Share Day will be on the subject of children and young people.

Prayer & Share: Pastoral Care

Sunday 8th July 2007

Around 20 people got together to consider 'Pastoral Care'. The first question to answer is- what's Pastoral Care? We defined it as caring for others; putting love for our neighbour into practice. Not something that is simply done within the church, but within the community in general. For us it included certain elements, such as, visiting the sick, bereaved, elderly and lonely. As well as giving spiritual care, for example praying for others and giving encouragement. Within our villages we need to network, listen to people and be aware in order to be in a position to care for others. If we are to do it effectively we need to know our limitations - and we can't leave it all to the clergy!

When we thought about what already goes on in our villages, much of what we talked about came under the vital heading of 'Fostering Networks'. There's a lot going on - but do we always notice when those who have been carers in our communities need care themselves, because of overload, a crisis, or a new season in life? Another challenge is welcoming and integrating those who move into our communities. Carlisle Diocese has produced a 'welcomers' pack, which we plan to have a look at. We asked ourselves if we do as much for younger families as we could? I trust that this will be part of what is talked about at The Prayer & Share Day planned for September 9th on the subject of children and young people.

With all that goes on already, we still thought that there were ideas to develop and cross fertilise, such as welcome events for newcomers, increasing our efforts to pray for others and to invite people to church services such as our family services. We began to think about how to provide some kind of organisation for the giving of pastoral care, which will help to spread the load, while supporting those who do the caring and maintaining our skills and sensitivities. We already have pastoral committees responsible to their PCC's in some villages. As a team our aim is to resource and support the churches in each community.

I shall be inviting people to a follow up meeting to discuss a proposal for a Pastoral Care Network which would be a support system, facilitate any training initiatives requested by group members and ensure that no-one who needs supervision or support in what they are doing by way of giving pastoral care in the name of the church, is without that supervision or support. Meanwhile I would welcome your input and interest. Revd Anne Ilsley 01865 40760

Talking Point	Revd Dr. Marcus Braybrooke
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It is difficult to imagine the leader of the September 11th hijacking padding round his flat in Hamburg in blue flip flops. We picture the terrorists as monsters, but they are 'ordinary people.' The uncle of one of the London bombers said of him, 'I thought his only interest was cricket.'

Most of the guards at Nazi concentration camps were also 'ordinary people.' Rescuers also said of themselves, 'We didn't do anything extraordinary.' We all have the potential for great goodness and for evil.

Why is it that some people will gladly kill and maim innocent people whom they do not know and others will risk their lives to save an unknown fugitive?

'Someone taught them', writes my friend Eboo Patel, who studied in Oxford for a time, in a new book about growing up as a Muslim in America. At school, he experienced constant bullying because he was a Muslim. At college, he says, 'my skin colour, my ethnic name, the food my mother cooked' barred him from the smart white set. His parents taught him enough about Islam to make him different, but not enough to give him a belief in God. His father was in a constant fury at the killing of Muslims during the First Gulf War and then in Bosnia. Ed Husan, born in Mile End, who joined radical Islam but then left it, also speaks of being bullied and says 'At sixteen, I had no white friends. My world was entirely Asian, fully Muslim.'

Looking back, Eboo Patel recognises in his own life the ingredients that prepared others for a suicide mission. What saved him? A week at a YMCA summer camp where he experienced 'a genuine love for young people.' As a result, Eboo has committed himself to work for inter-faith and inter-racial harmony. In Syria, Ed Husain was changed by the influence of Muslim Sufi mystics, one of the greatest of whom said 'My religion is the religion of love'.

Studies of childhood memories of SS guards and of Rescuers show that most of the members of the SS were brought up in violent and abusive homes, where corporal punishment was common place. Rescuers remember loving homes where at least one close relation was a model of ethical and self-sacrificing behaviour.

I do not think we can over-estimate the importance of how we relate to young people and the example that we set. In a haunting sentence, Leon Bloy said, 'There is only one sadness, the sadness of not being a saint'. Can we recover a sense of the 'beauty of holiness and of our calling to reflect the compassion of Jesus?'

Mairead Maguire, a winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, grew up in an area of Belfast where she herself experienced the injustice which Roman Catholics then suffered and where young men who joined the IRA were admired as heroes. Wondering whether to join the IRA herself, she asked a local priest, 'is it right to take up a gun to stand for justice and oppose state violence?' He told me to pray about it and she went into a church. 'I looked up at the crucifix. Quite clearly there came to me the message of Jesus, Love one another. Love your enemy. Thou shalt not kill. Do good, to those who hate you.'

We shall only feel secure when we allow the power of love so to change us that the divisions in our world are healed and people of all ages find meaning for their lives.

VILLAGE NEWS

Concert for St. Paul's

St. Paul's PCC and the Friends are jointly hosting a concert in aid of both organisations on Saturday 29th September in the church at 7.30pm. Local singers Charity Opera will be singing a concert of Opera Highlights and Songs from the Shows. It is hoped that a buffet supper will also be available. Details of ticket prices will be announced shortly. If you would like details or to reserve tickets in advance, contact Andrew Churchill Stone on 533 011. This concert is not just for people of the village so if you have friends elsewhere who you think would be interested, please tell them too.

Historic Churches Trust – Ride and Stride – Saturday September 8th

It is that time of year again when The Historic Churches Trust organises its sponsored Ride and Stride - an invitation to walkers and cyclists to get out and raise funds for this worthy cause. Participants visit as many churches as they can between 10am and 6pm. The money raised is divided equally between the church of your choice and the trust to help with the maintenance of our churches.

We in Culham have been grateful for the grants from this trust in the ongoing struggle to maintain and keep in good repair our much loved village church.

More information and sponsorship forms are available from Jean Diggins tel. 01235 520540 Offers of help on this day to welcome walkers and cyclists and to offer refreshments in the morning would be much appreciated.

Wedding

Congratulations to our editor Rosemary McNish who married Adrian Waters on 26th May and is now known as Rosemary Waters.

Sutton Courtney W.I.

We meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm. Mostly but not always meetings consist of a bit of business concerning ourselves and Oxfordshire Federation, some discussion and an interesting talk or demonstration, depending on the content of the

F. Hayden

programme. We then have tea and a social time, finishing about 9.30pm. Some meetings of our members tell us of their exploits or their hobbies and crafts. (Don't be put off, this is not obligatory!) Sometimes we have a mainly social evening, but always with some business, from the County or our own local group or village meeting.

As with all villages we interact with other clubs and I have been asked to remind you that the Sutton Produce Show will be on Saturday 22nd September in the Village Hall. Schedules can be found at the Madge's Butchers or Burgrey Stores.

Back to the W.I., our next monthly meeting will be on Tuesday 18th September at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, when our speakers will take us on a trip down the Mississippi River. We love to see visitors, so why not come along and give us a try.

Age Concern

Age concern has asked 'The Mouthpiece' to print the following request.

Could you make a difference to older people in your area as a Local Link volunteer? We would greatly value any time you have to give to help with any of the following:

- Distributing publicity about the services and opportunities that Age Concern has to offer.
- Helping an older person with the odd errand.
- Keeping in touch with and isolated older person.
- Letting Age Concern know of older people's suggestions, concerns or requests.

For more information please telephone our Abingdon office and speak to Amy: the number is 01235 849 400.

For Sale: Artist's prints by Stephen Gray, Oxford Art Society

'Swan Upping, River Thames', painted by Culham Lock using a combination of gouache and artists' water colour. A limited edition, of high quality digital Giclée print on conservation paper to the Fine Art Trade Guild standard. Prints would make a perfect birthday or Christmas gift. Size: A/2 including card mount (image size: 410 x 275mm). Cost per print £45.00. To view the prints please contact me:

Tel 01235 533370 or e-mail: stephengray@splashofcolour.plus.com

The ceremony of Swan Upping dates from the twelfth century and takes place during the third week of July every year on the River Thames, starting at Sunbury-on-Thames and finishing at Abingdon. It has always been the duty of the Sovereign's Swan Marker to count the number of young cygnets each year and ensure that the swan population is maintained.

To our advertisers

Brian Bracher

We have now finished revising the four advertising pages that appear at the end of each issue, and would like to thank all those who are continuing to support us. Our 'advertising year' corresponds to the financial year, and advertising rates are closely related to advert size. The Mouthpiece is delivered to every house in Culham (188 copies) ten times a year: it is non-profit making and run entirely by volunteers.

This month we welcome Burgrey Stores in Sutton Courtenay High Street. If you want any newspapers or magazines delivered to your door in Culham, then Burgrey Stores provide a very efficient delivery service.

Thank You

Charles Reichardt

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the presentation following my retirement as Churchwarden. The cheque and garden vouchers are greatly appreciated.

Photos of 'The Lion'

Kerry Ann Law

Mrs Kerry Ann Law is looking for old photographs of The Lion: her family used to own it and she is compiling a collection of memorabilia for her father who was born there in 1947. If anyone can help please contact her on **01235 835798** or email **kerry.law1@tesco.net**

PARISH COUNCIL NOTES

The first part of the meeting was taken up by a presentation from the company Green Issues about a proposed tyre recycling (chipping) plant proposed for one of the existing buildings at the Culham Number 1 site. The main objection to this from the Parish Council's point of view is the likely extra movement of lorries, potentially through the village. As yet the planned route for the lorries has not been discussed and awaits the approval of the planning authority after discussions with the company.

The work on the installation of the ABITS scheme is now complete but is causing a detriment to Culham village due to the extra traffic movements. It is proposed that the lights on the south of Abingdon Bridge are moved to the north side to be combined with the pedestrian crossing outside the Broad Face pub. The work on the High Street to reduce the width to one lane has been shelved after the initial trial of a single lane.

The Parish Council is to write to OCC to complain about the noise from loose or rattling manhole covers in Tollgate Road when large vehicles drive over them. We will also write to Abingdon Town Council concerning the extra traffic and delays generated in Culham since introduction of the ABITS.

The District Council has received a Planning Department Grant £44,000 to improve on the efficiencies attained so far in improvements to planning enforcement.

A circular letter is to be sent to several local companies and organisations to try and raise funds for the refurbishment of the play area equipment in the playing field at the top of The Glebe.

Council is to write to highways concerning the state of the footpaths in the Glebe and the large number of potholes.

Finally after the recent resignation of the Parish Clerk the Council is to begin looking for a replacement. Please see the advertisement below.

Date of next meeting Monday 10th September 2007, 19.30pm. (There is no meeting in August)

VACANCY - Parish Council Clerk

After the recent resignation of the Clerk, the Parish Council is looking to fill this post. The work includes preparation of minutes and agenda for the meetings, dealing with correspondence, cheques, accounts etc. The current salary is around £128 per month and entails about 16 hours' work per month. If anyone would like more details or to apply for the post of Clerk to Culham Parish Council, please contact the present Clerk with your details. She is

Bernadette Cannings, 51 Edwin Road, Didcot, OX11 8LQ, Tel 01235 511898

CULHAM PRE-SCHOOL

LEA ALLMOND

As we begin a new school year we welcome Thomas and Luke to our Pre-School and hope that they enjoy their time with us.

We said goodbye to a number of children in July with a great end of term picnic: we were extremely lucky to have had such a beautiful sunny day, before the torrential rain!!

We wish all the children well as they continue their school days in various places, some as far afield as Spain.

As you may have seen, we have an addition to the garden: this is a shade which will help to protect the children from the sun, so very important with the climate changes we are experiencing with global warming.

Newington Nurseries

Summer Chic

Outdoor living is definitely the way to go. Bar-b-ques, drinks parties, children's parties, paddling pools, sunbathing, snoozing under the trees – the lot. Plus why not enjoy some summers chic from stylish plants while you're out there?

Flowering grasses (the flowers are the highly decorative seedheads) are adaptable and can grow successfully even in poor soils. They are extremely versatile and perfect for centrepiece positions. As they move in the breeze they bring sound and motion to the garden giving it a wide open space feel. Grasses are a soft and sympathetic element in the garden and don't need a lot of water or care.

Look out for the members of the Pennisetum family. Pennisetum Alopecuroides 'Hamlin' is compact, with bottle-brush flowerheads and dark green leaves that turn golden-yellow in autumn. The leaves of Pennisetum Villiosum can reach up to 60cm in length and take on a purple hue when fully grown. Pennisetum Orientale is a mound forming grass with dark green leaves and bears beautiful flower heads up to 14cm long. These are hardy to between -50°C and -10°C and would benefit from a covering of dry mulch in winter in frost prone areas. Other suggestions of great grasses are: Zebra Grass (Miscanthus) or Reed Grass (Calamagostis) both of which have loads to offer.

The perfect partner for flowering grasses is Echinacea or Coneflower. As the name suggests, the flower resemble upward pointing cones. These add glorious colour through the summer months and are great in borders or even in open woodland settings. Echinacea purpurea is an absolute winner flowering from August through to October, depending on location. Colour options include purple-red in the case of 'Bright Star', the deep purple of 'Magnus' and the pure white of 'White Lustre' and 'White Swan'. Echinacea purpurea reaches 1.5 m in height and a spread of 50cm. They are fully hardy and thrive on well drained chalk, loam or sand. Once established, grasses will look after themselves to a large extent. Perennials like Echinacea are also easy to care for. Cut back stems after flowering which will encourage more flower production. In autumn, it is good to cut stems down to the base and in spring the new shoots will come back strongly. All of which means that to have summer chic doesn't have to be hard work, leaving plenty of time for the serious business of outdoor enjoyment.

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

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 October Mouthpiece by September 15th please to:

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