

# **The Mouthpiece**

***Culham's Newsletter No 290***

***Village Diary for October 2007***

- 5<sup>th</sup> Mobile Library, - The Glebe, 2.15pm – 2.25pm***
- 8<sup>th</sup> Parish Council Meeting - The School, 7.30pm***
- 14<sup>th</sup> Family Communion - St. Paul's Church, 10am***
- 15<sup>th</sup> Deadline for November's Mouthpiece***
- 18<sup>th</sup> Culham School Open Afternoon and Evening***
- 19<sup>th</sup> Mobile Library, The Glebe, 2.15pm – 2.25pm***
- 21<sup>st</sup> Evening Prayer – St. Paul's Church, 6pm***

<b>Services of Worship</b>	<b>October 2007</b>
----------------------------	---------------------

DATE	TIME	PLACE	SERVICE
<b>SERVICES FOR CULHAM</b>			
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>	10 am	Culham	Family Communion
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>	6 pm	Culham	Evening Prayer
<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>			
<b>SERVICES AT CLIFTON HAMPDEN, THE WITTENHAMS &amp; DORCHESTER</b>			
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>	8 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	8 am	Dorchester	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Harvest Service
	10.15 am	Dorchester	Morning Prayer
	4.30 pm	Dorchester	Songs of Praise & Harvest Supper
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	8 pm	Dorchester	Licensing of Revd Ros Latham †
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup>	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 21 <sup>st</sup>	8 am	Dorchester	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10.15 am	Dorchester	Family Service
	6 pm	Dorchester	Evensong
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup>	2 pm	Long Wittenham	Pram Service
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup>	8 am	Dorchester	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Clifton Hampden	Family Communion
	10.15 am	Dorchester	Holy Communion

† The Revd Ros Latham is to join the Dorchester Team following the resignation of Revd Sandra Millar. Her ordination service will be in Dorchester Abbey at **8 pm** on **Wednesday 10th October** and will be followed by light refreshments there. Anyone from Culham is welcome to attend but if you do want to come, please inform

*Peter Barclay Watt, 'Dulnain', Marsh Baldon, OXFORD OX44 9LS  
Tel: 01965-343224 or email [barclaywatt@btinternet.com](mailto:barclaywatt@btinternet.com)*

<b>Village News</b>
---------------------

**Historic Churches Trust – Ride and Stride**

**Jean Diggins & the PCC**

The Historic Churches Trust again organised its sponsored "Ride and Stride" on Saturday 8th September. We would like to thank all those who stayed at the church to welcome walkers and cyclists with refreshments between 10 am & 6 pm.

Many thanks are due to Helen and Sarah Rockall, who cycled some 35 miles in 7 hours to visit 30 different churches, raising a total of £230. This will be divided equally between our own church, St Paul's, and the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust. In the past, the Trust has given us grants to help maintain our own village church.

### **Advertising**

**B Bracher**

This month we welcome a new advertiser – Backhaus, who are German bakers based in Richmond. They visit The Lion in **Culham every Tuesday from 12 noon until 5 pm.** Every day they bake about 40 different types of bread varying from 100% rye-bread, via gluten-free, yeast-free spelt breads to 100% wheat bread. They use no chemical improvers or GM products. They also sell rolls and cakes, German sausages, liver sausages, meat loaf, salamis & much more.

### **Mouthpiece Issue No 288**

**Brian Bracher**

The July/August issue of "The Mouthpiece" was number 287 and September's – somehow – became No 289. We apologise to anyone who saves copies of this newsletter for posterity.

### **For your Diary**

**Rob Kennedy**

Please note that the **Friends of St Paul's** will be holding their Annual General Meeting in the Church on Friday 26th November at 8 pm. The Friends were formed to help maintain and develop the church, and recently paid for installation of a new kitchen.

<b>Parish Council Notes</b>	<b>September's Meeting</b>
-----------------------------	----------------------------

The PC will obtain quotes for the safe removal of the fencing around the play area in the playing field, and will ask Oxfordshire Highways to trim back the undergrowth on the Burycroft footpath.

The meeting was attended by our PCSO who will forward to the PC the latest statistics on the local crime figures. Reported crime in the village area is remarkably low.

#### From the County Councillor

Despite objections from Clifton and Culham Parish Councils, the decision to allow Culham Number 4 site to be used for tyre recycling will not be called in by the Secretary of State. The downside of this proposal is the likely increase of road traffic through Clifton Hampden of 130 lorries a day.

A letter concerning the resurfacing of the footway between Abingdon Bridge and Colmoor farm has been received by the PC. Due to a timing error, the work is likely to be finished well before the date indicated in the letter.

From 8th October, Shillingford Bridge will be closed for a complete resurfacing of the roadway.

Despite the recent report on housing in the Grenoble Road area, both County and South Oxfordshire District Councils are still against the proposals.

#### From the District Councillor

A consultation on future recycling of waste is to be carried out by the District Council. Details can be found in the latest issue of 'Outlook' or on the council website, where a questionnaire form can be found. Alternatively please ring 01491 823416 for a postal form.

Date of next meeting: Monday 8th October 2007 at 7:30 pm.

<b>From our Rector</b>	<b>Revd Sue Booy</b>
------------------------	----------------------

At this time of year our thoughts tend to turn towards autumn and Harvest – although Harvest is a kind of closure for farmers this time of year also marks a new beginning. I spoke only yesterday to a Farmer's wife on the phone and she reported that work was going well with planting for early harvest next year. In other parts of our lives too we are seeing a new start – the school term has begun and somehow, as always at this time of the year, I feel a rhythm swing back into my life that is often missing (a welcome break) during the long and more relaxed Summer days.

This year, however, the summer days have really not been so long and relaxed because of the worst rainfall for years. In this village we were fortunate. Although the floods threatened they did not invade houses as they did in Oxford and Abingdon. However, flood and rainfall ruined crops in gardens and allotments everywhere. For the farming and smallholding community in this country the wet summer means that their livelihood is at risk because many of the vegetables they sell have been ruined. Apparently major supermarkets have reduced their standards for a 'perfect' shelf product. Frozen pea executives have been scouring the world for peas to keep our freezers stocked and will pay high prices but the farmers here whose crops were small will be paid a fixed price that was agreed before planting.

With the news of a renewed Foot and Mouth outbreak Farmers need our prayers this Harvest even more than ever. But as always prayer is nothing if it is not backed up by action!! One result of the summer rain will be increased prices in the shops and possibly poorer looking goods. Will you moan about paying more for something that seems worse? Will you buy cheaper foreign sourced alternatives? Will you remember that these goods represent other peoples' livelihoods? That probably means paying cheerfully whatever you buy!

Harvest is a good time to recall our interdependence and how much we need those who produce, transport and sell us the food we eat. For everyone in that chain it is a good time to remember that misfortune to, or action taken by, any group affects all the others. Recently there have been strong campaigns in this country to buy local produce. This is good; it reduces the carbon footprint and supports our farmers. BUT there is another story – Kenyan producers encouraged to grow beans for out of season sale in our supermarkets, plant less food for themselves in the expectation of profit from European consumers. If we stop buying their products those families may well be left hungry. Shareholders in supermarket chains who look for the best profit to be squeezed also share responsibility when this results in producers. It's more complicated than we think!!

We have a human and a spiritual responsibility to the earth and to our neighbours to treat it and them with respect – not just the parts we see and know but all those on whom we depend more than we usually notice for food and for the balance of creation. Others across the world depend on us to play our part with sensitivity and care. Let's do it!

### **And from Revd Anne Ilsley**

Dear All

This month we are full swing into 'GIVING THANKS'. Harvest is being celebrated, where we give thanks for God's provision for us in His creation and for all the work of those in the farming industry as well as associated industries which ensure our food supply. Harvest festival, especially in towns, is as much about bringing tins and packages to church these days as it is about fresh produce on display, although I love to see the churches decked out with fruit and vegetables. This is my first harvest with you all, marking the last stage of a busy first year with The Bridge Parishes.

October will continue with 'GIVING THANKS' through our plan to focus on stewardship. Ultimately we are called on to be good stewards of our world, which is why so many Christians are passionate about ecology. In being good stewards we need to pay attention to how we use all God's good gifts; including our time our money and our talents. I'm conscious of many examples in our villages of people who use these things, both through and independently of the church, to help others. I hope to be able to say thank you to as many of them as possible, through our focus on stewardship in the church. Perhaps if you are aware of an unsung hero or heroine, you too could find a way to say THANK YOU.

Anne

<b>Culham Parochial Church School</b>
---------------------------------------

<b>Sue Knox</b>
-----------------

This term the pupils in KS1 have 'Babies and Play' as their topic and those in KS2 are finding out about 'Our World, Our Environment'. In connection with the latter, we have chosen Water Aid as a focus for our fundraising for charity this year and we hope that the children will think of lots of fun ideas and activities to organise in support of this very worthwhile cause.

A small group of our older children are to take part in the Schools' Prom at the Royal Albert Hall in November. They are to sing a specially commissioned work, written by Richard Stilgoe, to draw attention to water shortages in the world and they will form part of an Oxfordshire massed choir of about 300 children.

It is still our intention to continue to support those events such as Jeans for Genes Day, Operation Christmas Child and Comic Relief in which we have traditionally taken part in previous years. The first of these, Jeans for Genes day will take place on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October.

The week beginning 1<sup>st</sup> October is Book Week. We are also holding an Open Afternoon and Evening on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October. All are welcome and details will be found on the notice boards outside the school and at the corner of Glebe Close. Refreshments will be available in the evening and we are combining the open evening with a workshop to show how science is taught in the school. Refreshments will be served in the evening, so please join us to have a look around and have a go at some of the activities or to see the children at work in the afternoon.

<b>Age Concern</b>
--------------------

In our last issue, we printed the following request from Age Concern. Unfortunately we gave an incorrect telephone number, and apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused.

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 that Age Concern has to offer; helping an older person with the odd errand; keeping in touch with an isolated older person, and 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**.

Age Concern also offer exercise classes and advertise Health walks. "**Gentle exercise to music**" sessions take place at Didcot Civic Hall (Fridays 10 am -12 noon & Tuesdays 10 am -12 noon) and The Pavilion, Crowmarsh (Mondays at 1.30 pm). Ring Hilary Manning on **07929 383573** for details. See "**OUT & ABOUT**" below for details of Health Walks, etc.

<b>Sutton Courtenay Women's Institute</b>
---

<b>F Hayden</b>
-----------------

Our October meeting on Tuesday 16th will be in the form of a Halloween Party, starting at 7.30 pm as usual. There will be a business time, a fun time and of course, without saying, good food.

I discovered a few weeks ago that the W.I. movement is 92 years young. The 15th September 1915 saw the first meetings in England and Wales. We are still going strong, lobbying the government on things that concern us.

Being mainly concerned with rural matters, 'farm gate' milk prices and post offices are some of the current affairs, together with climate change and carbon foot printing. You could join us to find out more!

<b>Proposed Reservoir</b>
---------------------------

<b>Eleanor Taylor (Thames Water)</b>
--------------------------------------

As you may have heard, recent changes to government legislation have resulted in a further period of consultation on the proposed reservoir near Abingdon. All water companies must now undertake full public consultations to create draft Water Resources Management Plans (WRMPs),

which are submitted to the Government. The proposed reservoir near Abingdon, as a major part of our water resources plan will become part of this broader consultation period.

The move means that the period available for public consultation will be extended by two years, allowing more people to have their say on the proposals. It also means that any applications for work to begin will not be lodged until 2009 at the earliest. Public consultation is highly important to us and we will ensure that the comments you made during the first two stages of the consultation will be fed directly into the new consultation. As agreed in February, a local panel will be established to ensure an ongoing dialogue with the community is maintained. The membership of the panel is being decided independently, to ensure a balanced representation of the local area and interests.

Please visit our website [www.thameswater.co.uk/utmrtd](http://www.thameswater.co.uk/utmrtd) for further information or call us on 0845 9200 800. More information can be found on the Environment Agency's website: [www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)

## Newington Nurseries

## Top Fruit for All Gardens

Fresh fruit from the garden - what could be better for you and your family? Beat food miles and packaging for a few weeks at least by growing your own apples and pears. Designate a space in your garden and buy a tree or two - it really is that easy. Get them in the ground and watch them blossom!

Planting trees is also great fun, a brilliant way to mark a special occasion and brings so much extra value to the garden. Fruit trees are especially effective at connecting you with the seasons because spring, summer or autumn they offer something wonderful to appreciate.

Apple (*Malus*) is a vast family with edible and ornamental varieties to choose from. All offer blossoms in spring; many are attractive simply as garden trees. Nothing gives quite such a powerful sense of homeliness as branches laden with quietly ripening fruit. Pear (*Pyrus*) offers similar benefits as well as being a more individual choice. In both cases, there are varieties which, owing to their growth habit or compact size, are ideally suited to smaller gardens. The great opportunity with home-grown is to produce fruit that really suits your own palette. 'Sunset' and 'Fiesta', for example are great eaters that you probably won't find on the shelves but if you want to go for Cox's, Braeburn's or Bramley's, they'll work in the garden too.

If you are not interested in actually eating the fruit, then choose an ornamental variety. *Malus* 'Evereste' is an outstanding small tree, ideally suited to garden applications. Its wide pyramidal crown, blossom that ranges from light purple to pinkish-white and orange/red ornamental fruits all have major appeal. 'Golden Hornet' is another winner, with light purple / white flowers and yellow fruits.

For pears, the range is more limited but again, there are small trees suitable for the garden which will produce either edible or ornamental fruit.

Now is a great time for planting fruit trees because growth is slowing but the soil is still warm. This keeps stress on the plant to a minimum and helps to ensure strong establishment, (although container grown trees can be planted at any time other than drought or frost if properly fed and watered after planting). Plant fruit trees in fertile soil in the case of pear and moderately fertile soil in the case of apple. A full sun position is preferable although apple will tolerate some shade. Plant away from underground features like pipes, drains and prune to remove untidy or excess shoots in late winter or early spring.

So grab your spade and get into home grown top fruits this autumn!

*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 & About

### Health Walks

These are organised in various places throughout the week. Brief details are as follows:

Didcot	Tuesday & Thursday at 10 am:	ring Anne Lister on 01491 823135.
Wallingford	Monday, 10 am, Market Square:	ring Anne Lister on 01491 823135.
Benson	Ring Margaret Wiggall on 01491 838286	

### Driving Classes

Although Culham is full of superb drivers, recent articles in the National Press may prompt some interest in “**Older & Wiser Driver Awareness Classes**”, now being conducted by Oxfordshire County Council Road Safety Team. They are designed for people who have held a licence for more than 20 years and may like some revision. Contact *Rachel Newbold* on 01865 815858 or *Liam Hillis* on 07748 333402.

### Abingdon Concert Band

13th October at 7:30 pm, Guildhall, Abingdon: joint concert with Abingdon Town Band.  
*The Abingdon Concert Band rehearses on Thursdays 8 pm at Dunmore Junior School, Northcourt Road, Abingdon. New players welcome: for more details, visit our web site [www.abingdonconcertband.org.uk](http://www.abingdonconcertband.org.uk), write to: PO Box 672 Oxford OX1 9BY or tel 01235 520145*

### Northmoor Trust Talk: “Badgers, otters, mink and water voles”

Wednesday 24th October 2007 at 8 pm (refreshments from 7.30pm), Hill Farm, Little Wittenham.  
 Cost: £2 (pay on the door), members and under 16's FREE.

*Dr Riordan will give an overview of the status of British Mammals, highlighting in particular recent research on the interaction between mink, otters and water voles, and the controversy surrounding badgers and bovine TB. Places are restricted. To reserve a place, please ring Jenny Carter on 01865 407792 or email [jenny.carter@northmoortrust.co.uk](mailto:jenny.carter@northmoortrust.co.uk) to book your place.*

### For your diary - Model Railway Exhibition

Saturday 3rd November in Wantage Civic Hall from 10 am to 5 pm. Organised by RNLI (Wantage Branch) and Abingdon & District Model Railway Club.

## 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 November Mouthpiece by October 15th please, to:

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

Brian Bracher, 25 High Street, 01235 525885 or email [brian@thebrachers.com](mailto:brian@thebrachers.com)

Michelle Thresh, 37 Lady Place, High Street, Sutton Courtenay OX14 4FB

01235 847698 or email: [michelle.thresh@btconnect.com](mailto:michelle.thresh@btconnect.com)

### Advertisements to:

Brian Bracher, 25 High Street, 01235 525885 or email [brian@thebrachers.com](mailto:brian@thebrachers.com)