

The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter No 304

Village Diary for March 2009

- 6th Mobile Library, The Glebe 1.40pm - 1.50pm*
- 8th Family Communion, St. Paul's Church, 10 am*
- 9th Parish Council Meeting, The School, 7.30 pm*
- 15th Deadline for April's Mouthpiece*
- 15th Evening Prayer, St. Paul's Church, 6 pm*
- 20th Mobile Library, The Glebe, 1.40 pm - 1.50 pm*

Services of Worship	March 2009
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Date	Time	Place	Service
SERVICES AT CULHAM			
Sunday 8 th	10 am	Culham	Family Communion
Sunday 15 th	6 pm	Culham	Evening Prayer
<i>Join us for coffee and a chat after Sunday 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 - 9.00 am.</i>			
SERVICES AT CLIFTON HAMPDEN & THE WITTENHAMS			
Sunday 1 st	8 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Family Service
Sunday 8 th	8.30 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
Sunday 15 th	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
Sunday 22 nd	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Family Communion
**	10 am	Long Wittenham	Family Service
Thursday 26 th	2.30 pm	Long Wittenham	Pram Service
**	<i>Mothers' Sunday: The usual Evening Prayer at Long Wittenham will be replaced by a Family Service at 10 am</i>		

Letter from our Vicar	Anne Ilsley
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Dear All,

My apologies if some of you have read my February letter for 'The Bridge' but I missed your deadline last month! On a personal front, the newness of this New Year has been somewhat more unwelcome than I could have ever imagined. My husband Charles leaving me, just before Christmas after 36 years of marriage, was totally unexpected and suddenly the future is thrown up into the air and I need time to discover how it will fall. I know that having a priestly ministry does not shield me from the vicissitudes of life any more than being a Christian protects any of us from hardship. Jesus himself experienced and even accepted misunderstanding, rejection, the betrayal by his friends, injury and an agonising death. I am also acutely aware that economic hardship and personal pains of all kinds are being experienced within our own communities and in the wider world all the time. Part of my role and privilege, is to share with

you in these, when that is what people want. Another part is to pray and to lead others in prayer; to seek to understand where God is at work among us.

In clergy circles we refer to this process of making sense of our world under God, as theological reflection. It's a way of making sense of our lives as Christians. I have had many cards and kind words of comfort. One of the first, from my sister Sally, contained these words:- **"All shall be well. And all shall be well. And all manner of things will be well."** It is a quote from the 14th century mystic Julian of Norwich. Julian suffered a painful illness during which time she had a vision of God's love and goodness that changed her life. These words, which Julian received from Jesus as part of one of her mystical experiences, were familiar to me. They made me cry, but were also strangely comforting. They reminded me that however I feel currently, I am within God's care and keeping.

It's always a difficult thing to find just the right words to say to someone when they are going through hard times and so I'm especially grateful to those who risked getting it wrong! Not that anyone did get it wrong! We are all aware of the possibility of giving ill timed and poorly chosen quotations. I do hope that the TV examples are not typical of real life. The bible continues to be a rich source of comfort, inspiration and correction for me.

By the time you are reading this Lent will have begun. In the Dorchester Team we have been thinking about how we use the bible, especially since we come from quite different traditions within the church in this regard. If this is a topic of interest to you, as a Christian or otherwise, you may find one or more of our series of Lent talks 'Ways into the Bible' of interest to you. They take place at Dorchester Abbey, Sunday evenings 1st March – 5th April (excluding 29th March). There will be a short act of worship at 6.00pm, followed by coffee, before the talk begins at 7.00pm. All are welcome to join the evening when they can.

With my prayers.

Yours in Jesus Christ, Anne

Dorchester Team Lent Talks

Does the Bible really have anything useful to say today?

During Lent there will be a series of Sunday evening talks in Dorchester Abbey demonstrating different ways in which Christians use the Bible to inform their faith. The evenings will begin with a short evensong at 6 pm, followed by refreshments with the talks beginning at 7 pm.

Sunday March 1st: "Ways into the Bible"

A dialogue between an evangelical and a liberal - Revd Canon David Winter (Journalist and Religious Broadcaster) and Revd Canon Giles Goddard (Chair of Inclusive Church)

Sunday March 8th: "Using the Bible in our personal discipleship" - The Bishop of Oxford, The Rt Revd John Pritchard

Sunday March 15th: "Using the Bible in Medical Ethics" - Miracle Cures from ancient scriptures to stem cells and super doctors. Revd Dr Margaret Whipp, Dean of Studies at Ripon College, Cuddesdon (practised medicine until 2004)

Sunday March 22nd: "Using the Bible to consider the environmental crisis of the 21st century" - Dr Martin Hodson, Visiting lecturer at Oxford Brookes, Founder of Sage, Oxford's Christian Environmental Group

Sunday April 5th: "The Bible and Salvation" - Revd Canon Prof. Martyn Percy, Principal of Ripon College, Cuddesdon, Canon Theologian of Sheffield Cathedral, Chair in Theological Education, King's College, London

Village News

Culham Plant Sale & Church Fete

Brian & Janet Bracher

This will take place as usual in May (date and details to be announced in April's *Mouthpiece*). If you are starting to grow annuals, vegetables, etc, now, and find that you have an excess, please keep them and donate them to the Plant Sale in May.

Email Address Changes

The Mouthpiece

Please note that two of us have changed our email addresses as follows:

Rosemary Waters - therisenpheonix2@btinternet.com

Lynn Hancock - lynn.dh@hotmail.co.uk

Since changes like these are inevitable from time to time, the editors would like the Mouthpiece to have its own internet domain name purely for email. If the name is available, perhaps we could have "**culhamnews.org.uk**", so an email to **editor@culhamnews.org.uk** would automatically go to all three editors, and advertisers could contact: **adverts@culhamnews.org.uk**

At the moment, John Storrs kindly puts each edition of the Mouthpiece onto the Village Web site, together with our contact details. This is very useful and we don't want to change it. However, having our own email address would help when there are changes like those above. If anyone can help by setting up a simple system, please contact Brian at **brian@thebrachers.com**

Culham Parish Council Notes

Meeting February 2009

There has been no call for an election regarding the recently posted vacancy for Parish Councillor. The Vacancy Notice will now remain on the notice boards for two weeks. CPC can then co-opt into the post.

CPC is looking into various ground reinforcement methods for the slope on the burial ground rather than installing a concrete slope. This would retain the natural grass bank but also allow access under most conditions.

An oak tree on the recreation ground needs pruning. Permissions have been received and CPC is awaiting information from the selected contractors.

The Council Standing Orders requirements were reviewed.

News from SODC

The Didcot Arts Centre, Cornerstone, opened on 26 January.

A new recycling scheme starts in SODC area in June. A weekly food waste collection will run in conjunction with fortnightly, alternating, collections of recyclable and 'landfill' materials. Glass will be collected for recycling in SODC for the first time. A separate garden waste scheme is also available to householders.

There are plans to switch off certain street lights within the district although this will not affect

residential areas (none of the areas mentioned at the CPC meeting affected the Culham area). The switch off would be in the early hours on some of the main roads although roundabouts etc. would continue to have some lighting.

More details of these items can be found on the SODC website

Date of next meeting: Monday 9th March 2009, 19:30 at the school.

Thames Valley Police

Sarah Talbot

PCSO Sarah Talbot, PCSO Becky Long and PC Paul Webber have sent their report about the crime in Culham: they are pleased to say nothing has been brought to their attention in Culham. They will, in the near future, be carrying out speed checks with their speed indication device.

The Berinsfield and Benson Team can be contacted on 0845 8 505 505.

Culham Parochial School

Anne Andrew

Owing to the ill health of the headmistress, there will not be any news about the Parochial School this month. (Rosemary Waters, editor)

Culham Pre-School

Lee Allmond

The children at pre-school have had a wonderful time in all the snowy weather: painting snowmen and snowflakes for a fantastic winter wall display.

They have also enjoyed a great day out at Snakes and Ladders in Abingdon.

This month they will be looking at 'opposites' and also the many celebrations we have such as St. David's Day and St. Patrick's Day and of course they will be very busy making and creating gifts for Mother's Day

Newington Nurseries

Anne Hendry

Shrubs for Screening

Do you need to screen an unsightly building or other structure such as a wall or fence? Would you like more privacy in your garden? Or do you just want a natural and living fence? Broad leaf evergreens can provide the answer. They can be used to great effect in concealing an eyesore from view or creating private areas in a garden that is overlooked.

Some evergreen shrubs can offer the perfect solution particularly if you don't want to end up with a screen that will shade either your, or your neighbour's, garden or grow to immense proportions. They'll also provide year-round interest - colour, flowers and berries - as well as give sanctuary to wildlife. Natural screens are fairly maintenance-free so will save you time and money.

Photinia x fraseri 'Red Robin' is one such example. This easy and highly attractive shrub is good as either an informal or formal hedge, growing quite quickly and reaching the desired height within three to five years. Its maximum height is around 4 to 5 metres but regular clipping (only a couple of times a year) will keep the height in check if you want a screen of just 3 metres or so. In fact, light pruning just two or three times annually will encourage production of the beautiful red shoots which provide much needed colour during dreary winter months.

Clusters of tiny white flowers will appear during the spring and these are followed by small red, maturing to black, berries. *Photinia x fraseri* 'Red Robin' suits most soils and tolerates sun or light shade. It enjoys a little shelter from the wind so planting against an unattractive building or other structure that you would like to hide is ideal.

Another excellent screening plant is *Elaeagnus x ebbingei*. This lovely evergreen plant is tolerant of exposed and windy areas. It's a tough shrub, will quickly grow to its maximum height of around 3 to 4 metres and can be planted to create either a boundary hedge or a screen against an unsightly object. The foliage is a glossy, deep green colour but if you want a plant that provides an overall lighter effect, then try *E. x ebbingei* 'Limelight'. It's as fast growing as the species but the green foliage is splashed with bright yellow and green. Both shrubs produce gorgeous white, highly fragrant, trumpet-shaped flowers in autumn and these are followed by edible berries. You can enjoy the wonderful aroma of the flowers if the shrub is planted against a wall or fence that you have to walk past on a regular basis.

Or why not think of using *Viburnum tinus*? This plant is fairly fast growing, reaching its maximum height of around 3 metres within three to five years. *Viburnum tinus* is highly valued for its many clusters of white flowers produced in late autumn and lasting throughout the winter months. Come the spring, the flowers will have turned into metallic-blue berries. *Viburnum tinus* makes a good informal hedge or screen and tolerates most soils as well as deep shade although light shade or sun are the ideal growing conditions. *Viburnum tinus* 'Eve Price' is similar to the species but has a slightly smaller habit, smaller glossy green leaves and produces very pale pink flower buds which open to small white blooms.

So you can very easily hide unattractive 'blots on the landscape' by planting some broad leaf evergreens. If you like, you can plant the above shrubs in groups of three or five to ensure that you have flowers and berries for the best part of the year. Plant care is easy; light clipping to maintain shape is all that is required during spring and summer. Water well during the first year of planting, apply some organic feed and the plants will romp away, giving you both privacy and a beautiful outlook in no time at all.

Newington Nurseries, Newington, Nr Stadhampton, Oxon, OX10 7AW
Tel 01865 400533
www.newington-nurseries.co.uk

Out & About

Haydn bicentennial: All Saints Singers In Sutton Courtenay are performing two of Haydn's most popular chorale compositions on **March 8th at 7.30 pm** at All Saints Church, Sutton Courtenay, to celebrate the bicentennial of Haydn's death. The first half will have The Jugendmasse with the Little Organ Mass to follow. After the interval Oxfordshire's leading solo violinist Sue Lynn will perform the Vivaldi Double Violin Concerto with promising young violinist Olivia Knowles, followed by two of The Four Seasons. Tickets are £10 at 01235 848205 or 847489.

Dorchester Fairtrade and Local Producers' Market

On **15th March 2009** Dorchester will be holding a Fairtrade and Local Market for Lent. It will run between **2 pm & 4 pm** and Freetrade refreshments will be supplied. The Market will be made up of local farmers, meat, vegetables and fruit (some Organic). Fairtrade clothes, toys and foods will be available and there will be cake stands and stalls of chutney and jams. Some local jewellers will also have a collection of their wares.

For more information please email **info@dorchestercarbonproject.org.uk** or phone 01865 340286

Rutherford Appleton Laboratory "Talking Science" Lecture Series:

Friday 6th March 2009: 10:30 am, 1:30 pm & 7:00 pm: 'Exploring Mars and other planets', by Dr Helen Walker - STFC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory

The European Space Agency (ESA) satellite Mars Express, together with the American NASA satellites around Mars and on the surface, have made many exciting discoveries about the planet and its past. There is strong evidence that Mars did have a lot of water at first, but where did it go? ESA and NASA also have satellites in orbit around Venus and Saturn, as well as visiting comets and asteroids. I will describe some of the recent results for Mars and the other planets, and some of the exciting projects for future exploration.

To reserve seats for any Talking Science - Rutherford Appleton Laboratory Lectures please either email stftalkinciscience@rl.ac.uk or telephone the talking science booking line 01235 445959.

For your diary: ABINGDON DRAMA CLUB presents 'Lies on their Lips': The Abingdon Murders by Joel Kaye and Gwilim Scourfield (based on the Abingdon Turnpike Murder by Mark Davies), at the UNICORN THEATRE, Medieval Abbey Buildings, Abingdon. **Wed 1st to Sat 4th of April** at 7.30 pm. Tickets: £7 (concessions £6.00) from The Bookstore, Abingdon Precinct or from Ticketline on 01235 524538.

End piece

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 issue of The Mouthpiece by March 15th please, to:

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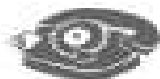
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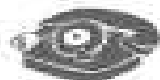
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