

The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter No 306

Village Diary for May 2009

- 1st Mobile Library, The Glebe, 1.40 pm – 1.50 pm*
- 10th Family Communion, St. Paul's Church, 10 am*
- 11th Parish Council Meeting, The School, 7.30 pm*
- 15th Deadline for June's Mouthpiece*
- 15th Mobile Library, The Glebe, 1.40 pm – 1.50 pm*
- 16th Plant Sale & Church Fete, St Paul's Church, 1.30 pm - 4 pm*
- 17th Evensong Service with Choir, St. Paul's Church, 6 pm*
- 29th Mobile Library, The Glebe, 1.40 pm – 1.50 pm*

Date	Time	Place	Service
SERVICES AT CULHAM			
Sunday 10 th	10 am	Culham	Family Communion
Sunday 17 th	6 pm	Culham	Evensong with Choir ★
★ Singers from Culham and other Bridge Group Churches will be joined by the choir of St Peter, Burnham, Berkshire and the regular evening service at 6 pm will be a full sung Evensong			
<i>Join us for coffee and a chat after Sunday morning services at Culham Church! All welcome.</i>			
OTHER SERVICES			
Sunday 3 rd	8 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	8 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
	All morning	Dorchester	Café Style Worship
	6 pm	Long Wittenham	Evening Prayer
Sunday 10 th	8.30 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
Sunday 17 th	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
Thursday 21 st	7 pm	Wittenham Clumps	Ascension Day Communion
Sunday 24 th	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Family Communion
	6 pm	Long Wittenham	Evening Prayer
Thursday 28 th	2.30 pm	Long Wittenham	Pram Service
Sunday 31 st (Pentecost)	11 am	Berinsfield	Team Communion
	7 pm	Dorchester	Pentecost Praise

A review after the event is just designed to torment you when you weren't there, but in this case I think that we can still gain something from the exercise. For many years there's been an afternoon service of meditation in Dorchester Abbey on Good Friday. This year's excellent meditations were conducted by Canon George Pattison. Engaging and at the same time serious and deep, the two hours were divided into six sections by the singing of hymns, the reading of passages from Luke and John's Gospels and talks about the solitude of Jesus and what aloneness means in its different forms.

The aloneness that we choose, like Greta Garbo, or like many of us when we seek solitude in the countryside. Aloneness that Jesus sought as he prayed in the garden, but which can so easily become loneliness when our friends are not with us or don't understand. There is a worse

stage, when, despite being surrounded by people, we still feel apart from them or even maligned and attacked by them. The loneliness of isolation.

For Jesus isolation became more terrifying and more testing as he was brought in to be interrogated by one who had the power to kill him. Pain with the power to embitter the most gracious generous and loving soul is exacerbated by the knowledge that the betrayal and denial of his friends (for he called his disciples friends) has just occurred. At each stage it is still possible to know God's guiding Spirit beside us and at each stage Jesus' connection to his Father was keeping him in the knowledge that he was fulfilling his purpose, his destiny.

Betrayal weakens and destroys basic human trust which enables us to live together. It is natural in the hour of mistrust in one's friends to doubt oneself. Even Jesus must have questioned whether he'd asked too much of Peter and the others; he must have questioned his own judgement. Had he led his friends down a blind alley towards danger or disillusionment? But then as Canon Pattison reminded us in order for the disciple to become a friend, the master must step down from the position of teacher. We are all responsible for our own choices.

'You cannot fall deeper than into the hands of God' Canon Pattison said, quoting the words of parents from Germany, who had just lost their child in the recent mass shooting there. Then we were reminded us that Jesus fell deeper than that. 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me'?

Anne Ilesley

Footnote:

As I guess many of you will have heard by now, Anne had a fall in Culham Church on Easter Day just as she was about to begin the Easter Communion. The fall resulted in a broken right leg, just above the ankle. When I visited her in hospital later that afternoon she said that she had written most of an article for the Parish Magazines. The above is essentially what she wrote; I have tidied it up and completed some of the missing details.

At the time of completing this article I do not know what arrangements will be made in detail, but Sue Booy's and I will be meeting soon and a number of people have offered to help out so I am sure it will be "business as usual" although we may well have to manage without Anne until she is out of plaster, is more mobile and can drive again.

On her behalf can I thank all those who heard the news for their expressions of concern, love and offers of help?

David Haylett

Village News

St Paul's Church – cleaning and flower arranging

Please come along to the church at **2 pm on Saturday, 9th May** if you are able to help: everyone welcome.

Culham Plant Sale & Church Fete

Brian Bracher

This will take place on **Saturday 16th May** from **1.30 pm to 4.00 pm** outside the church (stalls inside if wet!) As well as plants we shall be selling home-made cakes, bric-a-brac, books / videos / DVDs, etc. You will also be able to try your luck on the tombola and raffle as well as other stalls, such as welly-wanging!

We would be very grateful for donations of plants, cakes, bric-a-brac and books/videos/DVDs and these can be brought to the church between **2 pm and 8 pm** on **Friday 15th May** or on the **Saturday morning**. Please can you name your plants if you know what they are! We look forward to seeing you there.

The following extracts are from the Parish Council Minute books, several of which were recently taken to the Oxford County Records Office for long term storage.

February 1959: The Council accepted the nomination of Mr Lee and Mr Cox to the Council after the resignation of two existing Councillors. Mr Lee was requested to attend the meeting which had been temporarily suspended, and was welcomed by the Chairman. Mr Cox was not at home but would be seen the next day by the Chairman. *(50 years later in Feb 2009, well March actually, Mr Woodley-Shead and Mr Gibbs were co-opted to the CPC).*

The Chairman would contact MG about the cars from the plant driving at high speed through the village in convoy and whether it was necessary for them to come through the village at all.

A vote of the School Management Committee was in favour of the school becoming 'controlled'. The Diocese would be informed accordingly.

It was agreed that a new notice board would be erected on the corner of The Glebe.

April 1959: The water supply should reach the Vicarage within the next three months. CPC would ask the RDC to lay on a sewerage system for the Parish. All vacant allotments would be offered to Mr Woodley at the rate of 50/- per year. The Waggon corner was considered dangerous and CPC would write to the County Clerk drawing attention to this fact and suggesting improvements before the increase in traffic during the summer.

December 1959: The Naval Airfield was about to be developed by the AERE authorities and CPC would raise questions about Rights of Way at the site and the proposed entrance to the site.

January 1960: The second noticeboard had been blown down and the village was therefore without a noticeboard at all. The cost of £10 for the construction of a new one was thought too dear. The Chairman would ask if the Air Station at Culham had one for disposal. (Our latest replacement in 2004 cost £739). The erection of a 30 mph speed sign close to the school was not allowed as it was not a 'first class' road.

July 1960: The Green had been offered to the village by Col. Morrell for the price of £1 per annum for 30 years. By September the details of the area to be 'let' had still not materialised but several boys were granted permission to build a bonfire on the Green for Guy Fawkes' night. A sub-committee for The Green was set up. There was a problem with water on the road, possibly from upwelling, and it was not clear how to stop this.

February 1961: No reply from County Council about the request for a sewerage system (two years previously). Also the water supply had not been connected (April 1959). Rural District Council said they had intended to do this back in 1959 but an objection had been raised by Col. Morrell and no further action had been taken *(including presumably not telling the CPC).*

May 1961: Work on 'taking on' The Green was halted when newspaper reporters had asked the Chairman whether it was going to be made into a playing field. Along with this and the continuing water problem no further action was taken.

August 1961: A request to the GPO for a kiosk at the end of the Glebe was rejected. With regard to the Rights of Way issue, an objection had been raised as to the re-opening of Thame Lane by an owner adjacent to the airfield. CPC would write to the Minister of Transport to say the CPC thought it had never been closed in the first place.

April 1962: With an increase in the population of the village the CPC discussed having monthly meetings but it was decided that this was not yet warranted.

July 1962: Planning permission for a petrol station next to the Waggon and Horses had been applied for. Whilst it was agreed that it was desirable to have one in the village, a no more dangerous place could have been proposed. (Planning was later refused).

With regard to the increase in population in the village, CPC would write to RDC with a request for proper sanitation and main drainage.

(Plus cà change..!)

Thames Valley Police Update	Sarah Talbot
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Following our Police Surgery in February we have been busy carrying out SID (Speed Indication Device) along the identified speeding hotspots. Our main areas have been along Tollgate Road and the A415 Abingdon Road before the European School. I was disappointed by the large number of speeding cars past the school - some in excess of 50 mph! However our presence along Tollgate Road was enough for drivers to be alerted and slow down. Due to the results and input from residents we will definitely be carrying out more checks! All registered owners speeding through this device have been contacted and dealt with. There are no other incidents to report.

PC 5578 Paul Webber, PCSO C9790 Becky Long & PSCO Sarah Talbot C9904.
Tel: 08458 505505

Culham Pre-School	Lee Allmond
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Everyone at Culham Pre-school would like to say a huge thank you to all at The Waggon & Horses and the Culham Tandoori for their continued support during our latest fundraising event.

We hope you have all had a very enjoyable Easter. The children had a wonderful end-of-term Easter picnic along with face painting, egg hunts and a wonderful display of Easter bonnets. We are in full swing with our sunflower growing contest which looks as though it will be very competitive!!

We have said goodbye to Liam who is now joining the main school full-time and we wish him good luck. We are also welcoming Grace, Marcus and Octavia to the Pre-school and hope that they will have a good time with us.

Please note that Pre-school now has a landline telephone: the number is **01235 530010**.

Royal Holloway College Survey – Are you in pain?	Philippa Martin
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We are currently running a questionnaire study looking into the use of religious coping as a strategy for managing pain. We would like people both with and without faith to participate. This study is interested in you, and there are no right or wrong answers. If you think this applies to you or you are interested in taking part, please log onto:

[http://www.pc.rhul.ac.uk/sites/surveys/TakeSurvey.asp?](http://www.pc.rhul.ac.uk/sites/surveys/TakeSurvey.asp?PageNumber=1&SurveyID=81L963LJ3mIKG)

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Alternatively contact **Philippa Martin** (Royal Holloway College, University of London) at Philippa.Martin@rhul.ac.uk or telephone 01784 443703

Newington Nurseries – Orchid Care	Anne Hendry
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Orchids are not difficult to care for, despite having a reputation to the contrary. Actually, it's said that once you have an orchid, you have it for life. So just follow a few simple rules and you'll be successful. The basics are light, temperature and water.

The easiest orchid to look after is the Moth Orchid (*Phalaenopsis*). It enjoys bright conditions but not direct sun light though it's happy on a south-facing window sill during the winter months. Moth Orchids are best located in an east or west-facing window, preferably with double-glazed properties so as to avoid draughts. Kitchen and sitting room window sills are two favourite locations as they're usually warm and bright. Another ideal spot is the warm and humid bathroom. *Phalaenopsis* are happy too in conservatories but keep an eye on the intense summer light and heat between May and August.

Optimum temperatures are 60°F/15°C at night and 70° – 80°F/20° – 25°C during the day although lower day-time temperatures (spring and autumn) will help promote new flower spikes. However, it's important to keep the plant away from draughts and varying heat levels (too low or too high) as these will cause the buds to turn yellow then drop.

Moth Orchids do not like to be over-watered nor do they like standing in water. This is the most common cause of orchid death! *Phalaenopsis* seem to be at their happiest if they are slightly neglected in fact. This means watering once a fortnight or so during the winter months when light levels are low and indoor temperatures vary day and night. During the summer, water once a week when the days are longer and warmer.

There are two watering options; either use rain-water that has been brought into the house and allowed to acclimatize or run a sink tap until the water is only tepid, no warmer. Hold the pot over the sink and allow the water to drain through. Once the water has drained away, place the orchid pot back onto its saucer or into its plant pot.

Phalaenopsis should be fed periodically with a balanced liquid fertilizer such as a seaweed extract. If you use this, dilute the feed to at least 4 times that indicated on the bottle. Otherwise, use a specific orchid feed. Feed when the plant is in active growth – generally between March and September – and do this every third to fourth watering, allowing the fertilised water to drain away. Orchid leaves can be periodically misted but not the flowers. Also remember to keep the leaves clean, using a damp cloth or a natural leaf shine (such as almond oil).

Phalaenopsis like their aerial roots to be exposed to light hence the use of clear plastic pots. If you're going to repot your orchid – and it's good practice to replace the orchid bark every 3 years or so – use the same pot having thoroughly cleaned it first. Don't repot however until the orchid has finished flowering. Cut the spent flower spike back to the node below the last flower on the stem. Sometimes the stem will remain green and produce new side shoots. At other times, the stem will die back; this is normal and nothing to worry about. Simply cut the stem right down and eventually a new flower spike will emerge from amongst the leaves.

People worry about rainforest environments and humidity when it comes to caring for their Moth Orchids. Don't! You can create your own microclimate by simply placing the orchid pot onto a saucer containing small pebbles. Ensure the pebbles are kept moist and this will allow the plant to draw up moisture into its root system. *Phalaenopsis* are really more than happy in the home environment and quickly adapt. It's as easy as that!

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

Out & About

Dorchester Festival 1st May – 10th May 2009

This third Dorchester Festival has almost 40 brilliant events over 10 days with something for all tastes and ages. This year our profits will be split equally between Dorchester Abbey and Seesaw, a local charity which supports bereaved children. See our website www.dorchesterfestival.com for more details or ring 0300 030 3003

Monday 4th May- Dorchester Abbey May Morning

From the mists of antiquity (well, 1997 actually) 'TWO A PART' have welcomed May by singing from the top of the Abbey tower and then either in the cloister garden or the Abbey. Funds raised will go to the Noah's Ark project in Berinsfield, to continue their work for AIDS orphans in Kenya. Continental Breakfast from 8.30 am in the Abbey. 'Two A Part' sing from the Tower at 9.00 am, then in the Abbey. Breakfast tickets £5 **MUST BE BOUGHT IN ADVANCE** from Dorchester Post Office or at www.dorchesterfestival.com.

£5 keeps a child in food for a month; £10 provides a teacher for a month.

Tuesday 5th May at 7.30 pm, Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford:

The third annual Andrew Chamblin Memorial Concert will be given by the internationally renowned organist, Dr Jennifer Bate OBE FRCO. She will play an hour-long programme of organ works by *Bach, Buxtehude and Mendelssohn*. Admission is free and everyone is welcome. There are no tickets required and no reserved seating. Please contact hacmemorial@yahoo.co.uk with any queries.

Friday 8 May 2009 RAL "Talking Science" Lecture - 'Rock Guitar in 11 Dimensions' by Dr Mark Lenwey at **10.30 am, 1.30 pm & 7.00 pm.**

What causes the revolutionary, history-changing sound of rock guitar, and how does it help us to understand the nature of the stuff we're made of? 'Famelab' winner Mark Lewney explains the physics of rock using riffs from Vivaldi to AC/DC, introduces the biggest experiment ever built, and shows how string vibrations might lie at the heart of the Big Questions about the universe.

To reserve seats for any RAL Talking Science Lectures please either ring 01235 445959 or email stfctalkinciscience@rl.ac.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 June issue of The Mouthpiece by May 15th please, to:

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

Rosemary Waters, 2 The Willows 01235 559010 or email therisenpheonix2@btinternet.com

Brian Bracher, 25 High Street, 01235 525885 or email brian@thebrachers.com

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