

The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter No 308

Village Diary for July & August 2009

July:

- 8th Parish Council Meeting, The School, 7.30 pm*
- 10th Mobile Library, The Glebe, 1.40 pm – 1.50 pm*
Family Communion, St. Paul's Church, 10
- 12th am*
- 13th Parish Council Meeting, The School 7.30pm*
- 19th Evening Prayer, St. Paul's Church, 6 pm*
- 24th Mobile Library, The Glebe, 1.40 pm – 1.50 pm*

August

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- 7th Mobile Library, The Glebe, 1.40 pm – 1.50 pm*
- 9th Family Communion, St. Paul's Church, 10*
am
- 15th Deadline for September Mouthpiece*
- 16th Evening Prayer, St. Paul's Church, 6 pm*
- 21st Mobile Library, The Glebe, 1.40 pm – 1.50 pm*

Date	Time	Place	Service
SERVICES AT CULHAM - JULY			
Sunday 12th	10 am	Culham	Family Communion
Sunday 19th	6 pm	Culham	Evening Prayer
OTHER SERVICES – JULY			
Sunday 5 th	8 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Family Service
Sunday 12 th	8.30 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
Sunday 19 th	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
Thursday 23 rd	2.30 pm	Long Wittenham	Pram Service
Sunday 26 th	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Family Communion
	6 pm	Long Wittenham	Evening Prayer
SERVICES AT CULHAM - AUGUST			
Sunday 9th	10 am	Culham	Family Communion
Sunday 16th	6 pm	Culham	Evening Prayer
OTHER SERVICES - AUGUST			
Sunday 2 nd	8 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Family Service
Sunday 9 th	8.30 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion & Baptism
Sunday 16 th	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
Sunday 23 rd	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Family Communion
	6 pm	Long Wittenham	Evening Prayer
Thursday 27 th	2.30 pm	Long Wittenham	Pram Service
Sunday 30 th	10.30 am	Clifton Hampden	Team Communion

From our Vicar

Following on from Easter Sunday, the church continues in the season of Easter up to the feast of Pentecost when we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit, who is, with The Father and The Son, one of the three persons of God. While we believe in a personal God it is easy to slip into referring to the Spirit as 'it' and how anyway do we experience this spirit? For one thing the work of the Spirit is not to scare us (which is one reason that the term 'The Holy Ghost' has gone out of fashion), but rather to help us to become the best person that God created us to be.

Since God created us in such variety, this work of the Spirit is not meant to produce Christian clones, which is a great relief to me! One of the biblical strands of teaching about the Spirit's work relates to the giving of different gifts to individuals, but I feel that the most fundamental teaching about the Spirit's work relates to what St Paul terms 'The fruit of the Spirit'. **Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control** (*Galatians 5:22-23*). Such characteristics do not come easy and I believe that some of life's trials and frustrations are opportunities to grow in them, making us more patient, less demanding and more appreciative of others.

Of course Christians may not be the best exemplars of the fruit of the Spirit, but I hope at least that we are seeking to co-operate with this work within us. Through the consequences of my recent injury, I have certainly seen much evidence of this fruit of God's Spirit in my friends and neighbours, both near and far, from cards and flowers, to visits, gifts of food and being taken on outings, I have been so well and so kindly looked after. I have been tidied up after; my garden has been watered and very occasionally I have needed to ask for help! which has been so readily given.

As I go on a brief holiday to Prague, I simply want to say a big **THANKYOU**, but while I shall be easing back into some working on my return, I don't yet know when I shall be able to get back to driving and I know that my stamina is not yet back to full throttle! So I shall continue to appreciate the fruit of God's Spirit in you and in particular to rely on my colleagues, especially Revd David Haylett, who has taken on so much extra work while I've been laid up. God bless us all for being more the people he created us to be! and to have the rest and recuperation that we need over the summer.

Anne

Village News

Culham Plant Sale & Church Fete

Culham PCC

We are very pleased to say that the amount raised at the Plant Sale and Fete this year was **£1,013.99** which includes £90.00 from the Friends' Tombola stall and a late donation of £10.00. We were lucky with the weather which was better than forecast, but luckier still to have so much support. This event would not be possible without the Friends of St Paul's and all those who helped in so many ways. Thank you, one and all!

Friends of St Paul's AGM & Barbecue

Brian Bracher

Early in June the Friends of St Paul's held their AGM in the church, followed by a very successful barbecue at Jude & Philip Owen's house. Lots of members and friends came along and helped to make it a really enjoyable evening. The PCC would like to thank Jude & Philip, together with Rob & Nicole Kennedy and the committee for organising this event – and also all those who supported it!

The Friends of St Paul's continue to raise essential funds for church repairs and development without which our village church could not survive. **Even if you are not a regular churchgoer you would be welcome to join the Friends.** For further information please contact Rob Kennedy, the Chairman, on 01235 536079.

For your diary – Ride & Stride, 12th Sept

Jean Diggins

The annual "Ride & Stride" event, which raises money for the Oxfordshire churches, takes place on 12th September this year. Each bicycle rider or walker aims to visit as many churches as possible in a day, and their sponsorship money is shared between the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust and the church of their choice. We have received help from the Trust in the past and this year they have promised us a generous £2,000 towards the repairs needed for St Paul's Church.

So please think about getting on to your bicycles or donning your walking boots and visiting as many churches as possible on the 12th September. Help in manning St Paul's on the day, to greet visiting cyclists and walkers, would be much appreciated. For information please contact Jean Diggins on 01235 520540.

Moonlight Stroll for Sobell House

Amanda Bell

The Sobell House Hospice Charity works hard to raise funds to support the work of the Sobell House Hospice. On the 11th July 2009 at 10.30 pm, the Moonlight Stroll will again take place round the streets of Oxford, when over 1100 people will walk more than 8 miles to help raise funds. I will be taking part again this year, and would really appreciate your sponsorship I'd like to raise more money than I did last year! If you'd like to give a donation please see my web site, www.justgiving.com/amandabell5. You can find out more about Sobell House and the Moonlight Stroll at www.sobellhospiceoxford.org. Alternatively, please contact me on 01235 520057 or at 41 High Street, Culham.

Songs of Praise PCC

St Paul's

Following a very successful event last year St Paul's will be holding a 'Songs of Praise' service on Sunday, 6 September at 6pm. Sadly, we can't promise Aled Jones but this will be an opportunity to sing some favourite hymns. If there is any hymn you would particularly like included please contact Andrew Churchill Stone at 18 High Street, Culham.

Advertising

The Mouthpiece

This month we introduce a new advertiser, Oxford Lighting and Electrical Services, who have a showroom in unit D117 on Culham No 1 Site (second turn on the right). They sell a very wide range of internal and external lighting and electrical accessories and are well worth a visit. Their advertisement is on page A1 below.

Another of our advertisers, **Newington Nurseries**, had an exhibit at this year's Chelsea Flower Show and Anne Hendry (our regular contributor) wrote, "I am delighted to report that we won a Gold Medal AND the President's Award for the Most Creative Design (this award is not handed out annually; the exhibit has to be rather unique and I think ours was!)". We send them our congratulations and best wishes.

Culham Parish Council Notes

April/May 2009

Discussions on improving access to the burial ground are continuing. It is likely that a set of steps will be installed on the left hand side inside the gate whilst the slope in front of the gate will be reinforced for use in all conditions.

It was agreed to fill in the old soakaway on the road outside the houses facing the village green.

The possible purchase and setting up of a set of rugby posts in the playing field is ongoing.

On 28th July there will be a police 'surgery' in the school between 6-7pm.

Following the recent County Council elections, Lorraine Lindsay-Gale is now our County Councillor having taken over from John Howell (MP).

Information about information available to the public under the freedom of information act will appear shortly (notice boards and website).

From the District Councillor (Pamela Tomlinson) - the new chairman of the cabinet is Malcolm Leonard and the vice chairman Mike Welply.

The latest waste collection scheme started in the district on Monday 8th June. It was generally agreed at the meeting that a few weeks was needed before assessing the scheme.

Next meeting - Monday 13th July 2009 at 19:30 at the school.

Thames Valley Police Update

Paul Webber & Sarah Talbot

There have been a number of incidents regarding stolen car number plates across South Oxfordshire recently. If you are a victim of this please report it to the Police immediately. Your number plates may be used in crime so such incidents must be reported. Any further information regarding this, please contact us.

PC 5578 Paul Webber & PSCO Sarah Talbot C9904. Tel: 08458 505505

Culham Parochial School

Anne Andrew - Head Teacher (acting)
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The summer is fast approaching and the staff and children are making the most of any warm sunny days that we get. By the time you read this the children in Y 5/6 will have been to Yenworthy on their residential visit. This is a huge challenge to some of the children as many have never spent this much time away from their families before. It is good that we have a dedicated staff who are prepared to give these children their time and energies.

We will be holding our Leavers' Assembly in Church on the last day of term, Friday 17th July at 11:00 a.m. This is a time when we reflect on the time that the Y6 children have had at school and look forward to their new lives ahead of them. We would like to invite any members of our community to attend this final event of the school year.

I shall be leaving Culham School at the end of this term. I would like to thank everyone who made my year here enjoyable and wish everyone all the best for the future. I shall look forward to hearing your news as I return to St Joseph's in Oxford.

Hardy Hibiscus

If we're lucky, July should be the month for even the less dedicated sun worshippers among us to get out and catch some rays. There aren't many better places to do this than your own garden, patio or balcony. Private, economical and when you fancy something to eat or drink, just pop inside to the fridge. So much better than fighting it out with the holiday-making hordes!

If July brings out the human sun worshippers, it's also the time to see and enjoy the plants that are happiest when the rays are beating down on them. Hibiscus syriacus is one such shrub that performs best when the sun is out and the mercury's rising. If you've got a sunny place in your garden with neutral or slightly acidic soil, then Hibiscus syriacus could be just the plant to deliver bags of colour and fun.

Given a bit of heat, this shrub really does flower well, and what flowers they are! 'Diana' bears big, white flowers, up to 12cm across. The blooms of 'Woodbridge' are a rich pink, with beautiful dark centres up to 10cm in diameter and the flowers of 'Oiseau Bleu' are a gorgeous bright blue. Hibiscus syriacus 'Red Heart' is another lovely plant that produces flowers with delicate white petals and rich, dark red centres.

A medium to large deciduous shrub, Hibiscus syriacus can reach a height of up to 3m and a width of about 2m. They are perfect for shrub or mixed borders and are great for combining with agapanthus, penstemons and asters. The purple foliage of berberis or smoke bush is also an attractive accompaniment to the various pastel shades of Hibiscus flowers. Once fully established, the larger varieties of Hibiscus can be draped with late flowering climbers which can help to maximise the plant value you can derive from small spaces.

July is when most of them come out to salute the sun, and this performance can carry on into early autumn, but do make sure you keep this shrub well watered through the growing season. Syriacus varieties are mainly frost-hardy but ask when you buy if the variety you have chosen needs any special attention in cold weather.

Hibiscus syriacus is not a demanding plant to maintain, making it an ideal choice for people with a busy lifestyle or newcomers to gardening. Tip-prune in late winter and early spring to maintain a healthy framework of branches in the shape that you want.

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

Out & About

RAL "Talking Science" Lecture

Friday 10 July 2009

'Forensic Anthropology: gone, but not departed' by Angelique Corthas (Audience: 11+)

The study of ancient civilizations has fascinated archeologists and the public for centuries. The focus of the majority of studies to date has been on material and cultural records, rather than on the historical ecology and biology. Forensic anthropology is a fairly new discipline which attempts to extract key information from ancient remains by using historical, medical, anthropological, and genetic techniques. Specifically, tissues are screened for either pathogen DNA (such as tuberculosis, malaria) or human DNA to determine loci of infection or lineages. By combining multiple sources of evidence, often confined to separate disciplines, forensic anthropology advances our understanding of ancient civilizations in a time of widespread environmental change, including climate fluctuations.

To reserve seats for any RAL Talking Science Lectures please either ring 01235 445959 or email stfctalkinciscience@rl.ac.uk

Oxfordshire Theatre Company**Friday 10 July 1.30pm & 7.30pm**

Rehearsals are under way for our musical play **Dancing in my Dreams** by Neil Duffield, telling the story of Kathleen, a World War II evacuee who loves to dance. Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire provide the inspiration which enables her to dance her way through her separation from much-loved home and family. Music for the show comes from the 1930s with lots of familiar tunes like "Dancing Cheek to Cheek" and the wartime favourite "Run Rabbit Run".

Community groups are involved in the production and it's touring market towns across Oxfordshire including Bicester, Witney, Faringdon, Wantage and Didcot plus performances in Oxford city. A cast of five from the world of musical theatre, a fabulous set and glamorous costumes make **Dancing in my Dreams** a show not to be missed.

Take a look at our website www.oxfordshiretheatrecompany.co.uk and look out for it in Oxford and around the villages. If you need to get in touch with us please contact:

Louise: manager@oxfordshiretheatrecompany.co.uk

Karen: director@oxfordshiretheatrecompany.co.uk

Amy: admin@oxfordshiretheatrecompany.co.uk

Heather : info@oxfordshiretheatrecompany.co.uk

Endpiece

Please note that any opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the editors.

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