

The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter No. 311

Village Diary for November 2009

*8th Family Communion Service for Remembrance Sunday
St. Paul's Church - 10 am*

9th Parish Council Meeting, The School - 7.30 pm

12th Christmas Shopping at the School, 7.00 pm

13th Mobile Library, The Glebe, 1.40 pm - 1.50 pm

15th Deadline for the December/January Mouthpiece

15th Evening Prayers, St. Paul's Church - 6.00 pm

27th Mobile Library, The Glebe, 1.40 pm - 1.50 pm

Services of Worship November 2009
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Date	Time	Place	Service
SERVICES AT CULHAM			
Sunday 8th (Remembrance)	10 am	Culham	Family Communion
Sunday 15th	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 Illsley at Culham Church on Thursday mornings, 8.15 - 9.00 am.</i>			
OTHER SERVICES			
Sunday 1 st	8 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Family Service
Sunday 8 th	8,30am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	(Remembrance) 10 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
Wednesday 11 th	10.55 am	Long Wittenham	Remembrance Service
Sunday 15 th	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
Sunday 22 nd	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Family Communion
	6 pm	Long Wittenham	Evening Prayer
Thursday 26 th	2.30 pm	Long Wittenham	Pram Service
Sunday 29 th	10.30 am	Long Wittenham	Cluster Family Communion
	6 pm	Warborough	Team Service

Talking Point

Rev. Anne Illsley

I wonder what your view is of the recent visit of the bones of St Thérèse of Lisieux to Oxford and the accompanying furore? While the action of queuing and passing by the relics with just a moment to touch the outer casket may seem strange to many of us, it has a long history for the faithful: the idea that being close to holiness has a power to heal. Personally I think that the New Testament gives a witness to Jesus' very presence setting the world to rights and one woman believed that if she could touch the edge of his garment, then she would be healed. In the story, Jesus notices her touch, even though the crowd at this point is pressing from all sides and he knows that she is healed, which has occurred at the moment of her reaching out to him.

In the book of Acts we find the story of the church's early days. The apostle Peter, who has proved such an impetuous disciple, is brought so that his shadow will fall on them in the expectation of their healing. In the story of the apostle Paul, handkerchiefs or aprons that he's touched are given to the sick.

In my own ministry I continue to pray for people to be healed and encourage all Christian people to do the same. We pray for people by name regularly in our churches on Sundays and we also join in the prayers of those who put prayer requests on the boards in church for that purpose. With the exception of a headache which disappeared on the speaking of a prayer, I cannot claim sudden miraculous answers to my prayers. I have, however, been encouraged by the comfort and peace that is the result of prayer and although our bodies have great powers of recovery and our medical services bring healing to many, I believe healing has been hastened and helped through prayer and there are stories of miracles even today.

I do still long to see something to trumpet! But then perhaps St Thérèse can encourage us. Her life was short and now she is known for her 'Little Way', an approach that concentrates on taking small steps and doing small acts of kindness. She said this:-

"Love proves itself by deeds, so how am I to show my love? Great deeds are forbidden me. The only way I can prove my love is by scattering flowers and these flowers are every little sacrifice, every glance and word, and the doing of the least actions for love."

I will continue to pray for people to be healed and Revd David Haylett and I welcome requests to pray for you in church. We are also happy to be asked to pray for you at home and to anoint you with oil for healing - oil which is specially set aside for this purpose and blessed by our bishop.

Village News

The Railway Inn

Pauline Davidson

Pauline has recently become the landlady of the Railway Inn at Culham Station. She is interested in Culham village as she used to live in The Glebe, and was very involved in fundraising when she worked at the Lion.

The Railway Inn has a Marquee available for fundraising events, and Pauline will be forming pool teams, cribbage, Aunt Sally and darts teams if anyone is interested. She has a new menu for people to try and would welcome anyone into her pub! If you are interested, please contact Pauline and Roy Davidson 01235 528046.

The Mouthpiece - a request

Andrew Steele

In recent weeks I have been scanning and digitising numerous copies of The Mouthpiece from Issue 1 onwards. I inherited the hard copies from Jan Postlethwaite as part of the Culham History Group and would like to make them available as an archive. Jan's collection was not complete however, and my request is to any of you who might have copies of the missing numbers (see below). If so could you please let me know? I would of course return any copies lent to me for scanning. Many thanks in anticipation - Andrew Steele (27 High Street, Tel 534910)

Year	Numbers	Year	Numbers
1980	1 & 6	1989	101-110
1986	72	1990	111-113, 118
1987	83-88	1992	136-143
1988	89-96, 98-99	1996	180

Ride and Stride'**Jean Diggins & Culham PCC**

The annual "Ride & Stride" event took place on 12th September. Each sponsored cyclist or walker tried to visit as many churches as possible in a day, their sponsorship money being shared between the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust and a church of their choice.

In Culham, Helen and Sarah Rockall, together with Julie Lever, managed to cycle around 30 churches in 8¼ hours, raising some £300 between them. We would like to thank them for this splendid effort – half of that money will go to St Paul's Church here in Culham. We would also like to thank the small band of volunteers who stayed at St Paul's all day to give out refreshments and sign sponsorship forms, as well as all those who sponsored Helen, Sarah and Julie.

News from the village Pre-School**Lea Allmond**

This term the children have been looking at the theme of Autumn and creating wonderful scarecrows, using finger and hand painting techniques. We have also been collecting conkers.

This term we shall be looking at the way people around the world celebrate different festivals, there will be lots of cooking and food tasting going on as well.

On 12th November, at 7.00pm we will once again have a Christmas Shopping Evening. If you would like to book a table (£10) or want any other information please contact Nikki 01235 848 301 or Lea 01235 529 236. Please help to make this event as successful as last year.

Culham Parochial School**Steph Fawdry**

Hello, firstly may I introduce myself. I am Mrs Steph Fawdry and I am the Lead Practitioner Headteacher for Culham Primary School for this year and I am really looking forward to working with all the children, staff and community.

We have started a different and more creative approach to the curriculum this year and our topic for term 1 is Dinosaurs. We are trying to link in as much as possible to our topic and learn in a much more creative and interesting way. After speaking with the School Council I know they are enjoying this approach very much.

I will endeavour to inform you of events that are taking place in the school as I feel it is really important that the community takes a large part in the lives of our children. After driving through the village I have noticed that the Church and the school are the only two places where the community can get together so I feel this lovely little school has a vital place in the village of Culham.

Our recent Harvest Festival was a real success and the children did a magnificent job performing to the congregation by either reading or singing. Thank you to all who donated gifts which were shared among the local community.

The Value for October in school was 'Responsibility' and we linked our daily stories and reflection around this theme. Thank you for your support for the school and I look forward to seeing you at future events.

Culham School - dates for your diary

Christmas Shopping Evening: at school, Thursday 12 November, 7-9 pm: Come and join us for a relaxing shopping evening with a wide range of gorgeous gifts and refreshments.

Bag2School, Tuesday 24 November, 9 am: Clothing, curtains, bedding, shoes, accessories, no bric-a-brac.

Carol Service at Culham Church: Thursday 10 December 6.30 pm

Christmas Bazaar: Friday 11 December, 3.15 pm: Lots of lovely stalls including raffle, tombola, fun children's games, cakes and refreshments. We look forward to seeing you.

Community Carols - relatives, friends of Culham, at school, Tuesday 15 December, 2.00 pm

Parish Council Notes October 2009	Andrew Steele
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New Parish Council Clerk

Culham PCC

Please note that from 1st October 2009 the new clerk to the Parish Council is Mrs Lucy Dalby of 76 Evenlode Drive, Didcot, OX11 7XQ (Tel 01235 817464).

Chairman welcomed Lucy Dalby to the post of Parish Clerk.

CPC is still awaiting two further quotes for work to improve access to the burial ground.

The local PCSOs are to be asked, again, to look at indiscriminate parking in the area of the school.

The external audit of the CPC finances has been completed and found to be in order.

From the District Councillor

The government's SE plan has been adopted, except for the area around Grenoble Road, at least for now.

From the County Councillor

After some complaints about the bikers at the Dorchester/Berinsfield roundabout, some success in reducing anti-social behaviour has been achieved by the introduction of training and safety awareness initiatives.

The issue of the proposed speed limit increase along the A415 in the village has been resolved as the proposal has been dropped.

There is an on-going review of the need for a pedestrian road crossing at the Waggon and Horses.

There will be a planning committee meeting on Monday 23rd October to consider applications for incinerators in Oxfordshire. Both the applicants, Viridor and WRG, are still expected to put forward proposals.

Next meeting: Monday 9th November 2009 at 7.30pm at the school.

Thames Valley Police Update	Paul Webber & Sarah Talbot
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Culham & Clifton Hampden & Burcot: No incidents of note

Local Neighbourhood officers will be working to cover these busy times in your area, so please call in with any incidents of anti-social behaviour for us to tackle. Please visit your local halls, shops or local Police Station to pick up 'No trick or treat' posters.

**The next Police Surgery for Culham will be for November/December.
PC 5578 Paul Webber + PSCO Sarah Talbot C9904**

Newington Nurseries: Natural boundaries	Anne Hendry
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Planting a hedge is an investment that will bring years of benefit and autumn is one of the best times for planting shrubs and trees. Even though containers offer convenience and the possibility of year-round gardening, autumn is still nature's time. The soil conditions tend to be right for establishing new plants and the slowed growth rates of most plants results in them being in optimum condition for being moved. It's also a great time for starting a new project such as establishing a hedge. The glories of the summer garden are now past and you can move about without disturbing beautiful displays. Hedges offer all the benefits of hard boundaries with a few more thrown in for good measure. Not only do they demarcate your property and provide privacy, choose the right plants and they will become prickly, intruder-proof barriers that might even result in a reduced home insurance premium! Added to this, an established hedge is a better windbreak than a solid fence as it filters and slows wind (fences can cause turbulence and even accelerate wind). Hedges also intercept dust, litter and the microscopic particulates in the air that you can't see but which can cause a range of respiratory illnesses.

Our new ideas for hedging this autumn include using *Berberis Thunbergii* and *Ilex Aquifolium* (holly) to create beautiful, interesting and effective boundaries. Both offer the prickly benefits that intruders hate and insurers love. Both provide flowers in spring/summer and are berry-bearing, offering additional visual interest.

The *Berberis* is deciduous, and will respond well to pruning into tidy shapes if that's the kind of hedge you want. The leaves of *Berberis Thunbergii* come in a range of colours including bronze, red-purple and yellow depending on the variety. It will do well in almost any situation or soil and its dense habit and compact growth (it will only reach a little over 1m in height) make it ideal for hedging. *Ilex Aquifolium* is evergreen which brings the benefits of year-round foliage. It's very hardy and great for winter interest. Holly grows well in coastal situations, areas with atmospheric pollution and in deep shade. Again, it's perfect for growing into a hedge of up to approximately 1.5m and can be cut back hard when needed as new growth comes from old wood.

It's easy and fun to establish a new hedge and the rewards come quickly. Buy sufficient to place a plant every 40–60cm (depending on species/variety and size when planting) along the line of the hedge. Mark out the desired line of the hedge and cultivate the soil, improving it with organic matter as you do so. Water-in new plants as necessary (and protect from rabbits).

SEASONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Birds are on the move at all times of the year but action in the autumn is particularly visible with many of our winter visitors arriving from colder climes. The swans and geese are especially conspicuous, winging their way down from Iceland, Greenland and Scandinavia.
- Go and see them at wetlands near your home, at wildfowl reserves and keep your eyes and ears open when you're out and about. Even the most ordinary day is transformed by the sight of wildfowl on the wing.
- Make your garden a fast-food destination for smaller birds. The UK's gardens are now an important part of the conservation estate. Putting out food and water regularly will help birds through the harder times as winter approaches and give you the enjoyment of them visiting every day. Put up an identification chart so that the whole family can improve their knowledge.

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

Out & About

Dance Classes

Get involved with "Two Left Feet", Oxfordshire's new dancing experience! For 10 weeks you can try out any of the following dance classes for only £2! Have fun, make friends, get fit. Anyone attending will have the chance to win tickets for the Strictly Live Tour in 2010. Local sessions include the following.

Didcot: Didcot Leisure Centre, Mereland Road, Didcot, OX11 8AY

Waltz, Cha-cha, Foxtrot and Jive on Mondays, 12 October - 2 November, 10.30am - 11.30am

Wallingford: Castle Leisure Centre, St George Road, Wallingford, OX10 8LP

Jazz Jive, Cha-cha and Waltz on Fridays, 9 October - 13 November, 8pm - 9pm

For a full list of dance classes around the county see www.getoxfordshireactive.org

Local History Talk

7.30 pm, Monday 16th November in Sutton Courtenay Village Hall: "A History of Oxfordshire Maps" by John Leighfield CBE, organised by the Sutton Courtenay Local History Society

Everyone is welcome (cost £2) and this illustrated talk will be accompanied by a large display of maps. John Leighfield has had a distinguished career in IT and Education and is Chairman of Council and Pro-Chancellor of Warwick University. He is also Chairman of Research Machines in Milton Park. He is an enthusiastic collector of maps and regularly lectures on the topic. Further details from mary.thompson2@virgin.net

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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