

# **The Mouthpiece**

*Culham's Newsletter No 312*

## *Village Diary for December 2009*

- 10<sup>th</sup> School Carol Service - St Paul's, 6.30 pm*
- 11<sup>th</sup> Mobile Library - The Glebe, 1.40 - 1.50 pm*
- 11<sup>th</sup> Christmas Bazaar - The School, 3.15 pm*
- 13<sup>th</sup> Family Communion - St. Paul's Church, 10 am*
- 14<sup>th</sup> Parish Council Meeting - The School, 7.30 pm*
- 15<sup>th</sup> Tea & Carols - The School, 2.00 pm*
- 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Carol Service - St. Paul's Church, 6 pm*
- 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day Communion - Paul's Church, 10 am*

## *Village Diary for January 2010*

- 8<sup>th</sup> Mobile Library - The Glebe, 1.40 - 1.50 pm*
- 10<sup>th</sup> Family Communion - St. Paul's Church, 10 am*
- 11<sup>th</sup> Parish Council Meeting - The School, 7.30 pm*
- 15<sup>th</sup> Deadline for February's Mouthpiece*
- 17<sup>th</sup> Evening Prayer - St. Paul's Church, 6 pm*
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Mobile Library - The Glebe, 1.40 - 1.50 pm*

## Services of Worship

December 2009 &amp; January 2010

DATE	TIME	PLACE	SERVICE
<b>DECEMBER SERVICES AT CULHAM</b>			
<b>Sunday 13th</b>	<b>10 am</b>	<b>Culham</b>	<b>Family Communion</b>
<b>Sunday 20th</b>	<b>6 pm</b>	...	<b>Carol Service</b>
<b>Friday 25th</b>	<b>10 am</b>	...	<b>Christmas Day Communion</b>
<b>DECEMBER SERVICES ELSEWHERE</b>			
Sunday 6th	8 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	8 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
Sunday 13th	8.30 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	6 pm	Long Wittenham	Evening Prayer
Sunday 20th	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
	11.45 am	Little Wittenham	Baptism
	6 pm	Clifton Hampden	Carol Service
Thursday 24th (Christmas Eve)	2 pm	Clifton Hampden	Danish Carol Service
	4 pm	Clifton Hampden	Crib Service
	6 pm	Long Wittenham	Carol Service
	6 pm	Little Wittenham	Carol Service
	11.30 pm	Clifton Hampden	Midnight Communion
Friday 25th	10 am	Long Wittenham	Christmas Day Communion
<b>JANUARY SERVICES AT CULHAM</b>			
<b>Sunday 10th</b>	<b>10 am</b>	<b>Culham</b>	<b>Family Communion</b>
<b>Sunday 17th</b>	<b>6 pm</b>	...	<b>Evening Prayer</b>
<b>JANUARY SERVICES ELSEWHERE</b>			
Sunday 3rd	8.00 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Long Wittenham	Family Service
Sunday 10th	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	6 pm	Long Wittenham	Evening Prayer
Sunday 17th	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
Sunday 24th	8.30 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Clifton Hampden	Family Communion
Sunday 31st	10.30 am	Long Wittenham	Team Communion

*Join us for coffee and a chat after Sunday morning services at Culham Church! All welcome.*

*Come along for informal prayers with Revd Anne Ilsley at Culham Church on Thursday mornings, 8.15 - 9.00 am.*

## Letter from Revd Anne Ilsley

Good tidings of great joy! The announcement of the arrival of an infant - this time a child who is still having an impact for good in our world, 2000 years after his birth. Not a totally unique claim, I know, but the portentous events surrounding the life of Jesus convinced a band of Jewish men and women, joined by other non Jews, to preach the good news to the ends of the earth. His birth alone, of course is not enough. It was his death and then his resurrection that were the truly wonderful news, enabling our broken relationship with God to be restored.

We've heard so much about our broken society and perhaps we've been feeling that we're living through it at the moment, with the war in Afghanistan leading to so many deaths. Certainly as clergy we noticed a particular seriousness and commitment to our Remembrance Day services this year. It was good to have the Scouting groups with us at Clifton Hampden again and I enjoyed going into school at Long Wittenham to help head teacher, Carol Dunne, prepare the older children in the contribution that they made to our service at the war memorial.

That brokenness has continued to affect our economy, so that more of us feel the pinch, although the pain is so unevenly spread. It's a fallacy that 'The Church' is rich and so with the background of economic hardship, I'm especially grateful for the generous response to our Gift Day at St Michael's and I want to thank Jon Shepherd, our treasurer, who wrote to everyone in Clifton Hampden and Burcot.

Continuing on the theme of brokenness, my own year started badly, continued in difficulty but is now moving into better waters. I look forward to celebrating my sister Sally's wedding in Australia on Christmas Eve with my other sister and my daughter also there to share in the occasion. Before then we all have the joy of Christmas! I have to confess that I'm a fan and that includes the secular bits (in moderation of course!)

In the rush to buy presents some may feel that Christmas too is broken and they could have a point! It's all too easy, in the business of shopping and visiting and parties, to forget the reason for it all. Good tidings of great joy! David and I want to wish you a very blessed Christmas, full of its true meaning and we invite you to come and share the joy and wonder of His birth at a service in church.

## Village News

### Merry Christmas!

The editors would like to thank all those who have contributed to, and delivered, *The Mouthpiece* this year for their help. We wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

### St Paul's Church Cleaning & Flower Arranging

Ingrid Reichardt & Janet Bracher

Please come along to the Church at **2 pm on Saturday 5th December** if you are willing to help. Everyone welcome – the more the merrier!

### Christmas Services at St Paul's

Culham PCC

The annual Carol Service will be at **6 pm on Sunday 20th December**, followed by refreshments. Do come and join our celebrations! On Christmas Day there will be **Holy Communion at 10 am**.

### Arthur Pitt – 'Thank you'

June Pitt

June, Anna and Jane would like to thank all our friends and neighbours for their cards, flowers and donations when Arthur died and their help and offers of dog walking during his illness. We sent £1827.30 to Sobell House to help with their good work.

**Pottery Open****Charlotte Storrs**

Friday 4 and 11 December, 11am to 3 pm

Sunday 6 and 13 December, 11 am to 3 pm.

I will be working in the pottery. Just come along if you would like to see a pot being thrown or just browse. Plenty of new pots, old stock and some seconds. Prices from £2.

*Charlotte Storrs Stoneware, 8 The Green, Culham OX14 4LZ - tel/fax 01235 520395 - [www.charlottestorrs-stoneware.co.uk](http://www.charlottestorrs-stoneware.co.uk); [pots@charlottestorrs-stoneware.co.uk](mailto:pots@charlottestorrs-stoneware.co.uk)*

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

The children are looking at the way people around the world and from other cultures enjoy festivals and celebrations, and they are of course thinking about how they will enjoy their own Christmas.

We shall be making decorations and doing lots of glittery activities as well as some festive cooking and sweet making.

We will be having a Christmas party at the end of this term and the children will be writing to Father Christmas to ask if he would like to join us.

As the year comes to an end we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who help and support us - it is greatly appreciated. **May we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

**From the children in KS2 at Culham Parochial School**

This year we have had a couple of changes. Mrs Andrew left and Mrs Fawdry has taken over. She's made lots of good choices for the school such as allowing the School Council to meet in her office upstairs. Mrs Bown and Mrs Holiday left on maternity leave and have been replaced with Mrs Kynoch and Mrs Dearman.

Our first topic was Prehistoric Life and we visited the Natural History Museum in Oxford. Our second topic, called "Let's Celebrate!" is about festivals and our own achievements. The clubs after school are better too this year because they're at Clifton Hampden which has a bigger pitch. Also, the Infants can now join in guitar club with Madam Ward.

We hope you are able to come to our Christmas events and that you all have a lovely Christmas and peaceful New Year!

**For your diary**

**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, November 2009****Andrew Steele**

After some concern about the state of the oak tree recently planted on The Green, an assessment has shown it to be 'sound'.

A manhole cover for the soakaway on the road at The Green has been obtained. A date for installation has yet to be agreed.

After the fortnightly safety check of the play area, CPC is to investigate the repair of some of the wooden posts on the play equipment.

The new fence along the A415 outside the European School does not have planning

permission. CPC will write to SODC about this breach and loss of access to the footbridge.

The local PCSO's will assess the parking outside School House and will attend the next Parish Council meeting to report.

**From the District Councillor - No report**

**From the County Councillor.** The local minerals and waste plan will be published in 2011 for the period up to 2026. It is likely to have 4/5 strategic plans for the area between Culham and Clifton Hampden land. There will be a meeting of several parish groups at Warborough's Greet Hall village hall on Thame Road, on Saturday 28th November. All are welcome to attend.

**Next meetings – Mondays 14th December 2009 & 11th January 2010 at 7.30 pm at the school.**

<b>County Councillor's Report on Incinerators</b>
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<b>Lorraine Lindsay-Gale</b>
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On Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October the Planning and Regulation Committee considered incinerator applications from Viridor for the Ardley site, and from WRG for the Sutton Courtenay site. The meeting was attended by a large number of protestors from both areas. The Ardley site application was defeated by 9 votes to 5, and the Sutton Courtenay site by 7 votes to 6. The reasons for refusal were identical in both cases: the development would represent a large permanent building in the countryside which is contrary to policies in the Cherwell Local Plan, and the Vale of the White Horse Local Plan respectively. Both applicants are able to appeal against the decisions, and it is widely expected that Viridor will appeal, but it is uncertain as to how WRG will choose to proceed. The County Council continues to negotiate on the terms of a 25 year contract with Viridor, the preferred bidder.

If you have any problems or issues with County Council matters please get in touch with me: email [Lorraine.LindsayGale@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Lorraine.LindsayGale@oxfordshire.gov.uk) or ring 01865 858976.

<b>Beat the (credit) freeze this winter</b>
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<b>Gordon Glass</b>
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If you are getting poor returns on your investments, why not try energy saving? One of the biggest savers, cavity wall insulation, is very likely to cost nothing if you are 70 or over. The Energy Saving Trust estimates that simple changes could save most households £300 a year. To see if this applies to you, call **0800 512 012** or try the on-line home energy check at [www.est.org.uk/check](http://www.est.org.uk/check).

<b>Estimated yearly savings from energy saving improvements, in £</b>			
Loft insulation when none	150	Appliances taken off standby	33
Cavity wall insulation	115	Tumble drying stopped in summer	15
Thermostat turned down 1°C ★	55	A/A+ dishwasher	12
Loft insulation top up to 270mm	45	Clothes washed at 30°C	10
A/A+ fridge freezer	36	Hot water tank jacket	35
<b>★ Older people should keep their sitting room at 21°C</b>			

<b>Thames Valley Police Update</b>
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<b>Sarah Talbot</b>
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PCSO Rebekah Kent and I attended Culham School on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October to discuss Halloween and Fireworks. A big "thank you" to the teachers and children - we had a lovely time! No incidents were reported to us over Halloween and there are no further incidents to report.

The next Police Surgery for **Culham** will be on **Wednesday 2nd December at 6 – 7 pm at Culham Primary School** (and for Clifton Hampden and Burcot on Wednesday 2nd December at the Village Hall on High Street at 7.30 pm to 8.30 pm.

*PC 5578 Paul Webber & PSCO Sarah Talbot C9904.*  
*Telephone your Local Officers on 0845 8 505 505.*

<b>Newington Nurseries: Christmas and the Poinsettia</b>	<b>Anne Hendry</b>
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It's the time of year when Poinsettias grace our homes. They are usually given as presents or used to decorate a table or sideboard somewhere in the house. Its horticultural name is ***Euphorbia pulcherrima*** and it's native to the Pacific coast of Mexico. It's also found in some parts of central southern Mexico and a few localities in Guatemala.

The Poinsettia also has some other, rather interesting names. In Nahuatl, the language of the Aztecs, the plant was called *Cuetlaxochitl* meaning 'skin flower'. In Mexico and Guatemala, the Poinsettia is known as 'Noche Buena' ('Christmas' Eve'). In Spain, it's known as 'Flor de Pascua' ('Easter Flower') and in both Chile and Peru, the plant has become known as 'Crown of the Andes'.

Over 90% of Poinsettias grown are red although different colours are now creeping into shops and garden centres. Most well-known of the red varieties is *Euphorbia pulcherrima* 'Burgundy' You'll also find *E. p.* 'Electric Fire' as well as 'Chianti'. Pink varieties include *E. p.* 'Candy' and 'Marblestar'. The more unusual *E. P.* 'Sonora White Glitter' and 'Primero Glitter' have red bracts with glittery white specks. White varieties include *E. p.* 'Infinity White' and 'Spotlight White'. But one of the most beautiful white Poinsettias is *E. p.* 'Polar Bear'. For each cutting sold (by the American breeder to the grower), a donation is made to the charity Polar Bears International.

The majority of Poinsettias seen in English shops and supermarkets are grown in Holland and under quite different growing conditions to those grown in the UK. On these shores, Poinsettias are grown under cover, as in Holland, but with more space between each plant and with rather less heat, making them stronger plants. The few remaining, specialist UK growers get them going in September, sometimes with additional warmth if the month is cold, but then the heat is reduced during October. This cool spell brings out the red colour in the bracts.

Because of the different growing methods, English Poinsettias are more robust in nature and will last longer than the imported varieties. So if you want to hang on to your lovely plant, cut the stems back by half to two-thirds after leaf drop. Keep the compost dry and place the plant in a cool, shady position. Re-pot into a high fertility, loam-based mix in early summer and move the plant to a warm position in bright but indirect sunlight. There are some Do's and Don'ts when it comes to looking after a Poinsettia. Following these easy pointers will help ensure the longevity of the plant:

- **DO** place your plant in indirect sunlight for at least six hours per day. If direct sun can't be avoided, diffuse the light with a shade or sheer curtain.
- **DO** provide room temperatures between 68 - 70° F. Generally speaking, if you're comfortable, so is your poinsettia.
- **DO** water your plant when the soil feels dry to the touch.
- **DO** use a large, roomy shopping bag to protect your plant when transporting it.
- **DO** fertilize your plant **after the blooming season** with a balanced, all-purpose fertilizer.
- **DON'T** place plants near cold drafts or excessive heat. Avoid placing plants near appliances, fireplaces or ventilating ducts.
- **DON'T** expose plants to rooms or conservatories whose temperatures fall below 50° F.

Poinsettias are sensitive to cold and wet English winters so avoid placing them outside during this time.

- **DON'T** overwater your plant or allow it to sit in water. Always remove a plant from any decorative container before watering and allow the water to drain completely.
- **DON'T** expose your plant to chilling winds when transporting it.
- **DON'T** fertilize your plant when it is in bloom.

*Enjoy your Poinsettia over the Christmas period – and beyond!*

**Newington Nurseries, Newington, Nr Stadhampton, Oxon, OX10 7AW**  
**Tel 01865 400533    [www.newington-nurseries.co.uk](http://www.newington-nurseries.co.uk)**

### Out & About

Abingdon Drama Club presents “**Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves**” by **David Swan** at the **Unicorn Theatre, Abingdon.**

**Evening Shows:** Friday 15th, Saturday 16th, Thursday 21st, Friday 22nd, Saturday 23rd JANUARY at 7:30 pm

**Matinees:** Saturday 16th, Sunday 17th, Saturday 23rd JANUARY at 2:30 pm

Tickets: £7 (Concessions £6) from The Bookstore, Abingdon Precinct or from Ticketline on 01235 524538.

*Get ready for all the spectacle, colour, pizzazz, magic, music, song, dance, cross dressing, terrible puns, booing and hissing, heroic deeds and derring-do that we can possibly squeeze into a night at the theatre. The ADC pantomime only happens once every two years so don't miss out on this joyous extravaganza!*

### 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 FEBRUARY 2010 issue of The Mouthpiece by JANUARY 15th please, to:**

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### **Advertisements to:**

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

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