

# **The Mouthpiece**

*Culham's Newsletter No 315*

*Village Diary for April 2010*

- 4<sup>th</sup> Easter Day Communion - St. Paul's Church, 10 am*
- 11<sup>th</sup> Family Communion - St. Paul's Church, 10 am  
Annual Parochial Church Meeting, St Paul's, 11.15 am*
- 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Parish Meeting - The School, 7.30 pm*
- 15<sup>th</sup> Deadline for May's Mouthpiece*
- 16<sup>th</sup> Mobile Library - The Glebe, 1.40 - 1.50 pm*
- 18<sup>th</sup> Evening Prayer - St. Paul's Church, 6 pm*
- 20<sup>th</sup> Police 'Have your Say' Meeting - The School, 6 - 7 pm*
- 30<sup>th</sup> Mobile Library - The Glebe, 1.40 - 1.50 pm*

DATE	TIME	PLACE	SERVICE
<b>SERVICES AT CULHAM</b>			
Easter Sunday, 4th	10 am	Culham	Holy Communion
Sunday 11th	10 am 11.15 am	Culham	Family Communion & Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 18th	11.45 am 6 pm	Culham Culham	Baptism Evening Prayer
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.			
<b>SERVICES ELSEWHERE</b>			
Good Friday, 2nd	10 am	Long Wittenham	Family Service
	11 am	Clifton Hampden	Meditation
Easter Sunday, 4th	8.30 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
Sunday 11th	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	6 pm	Long Wittenham	Evening Prayer
Sunday 18th	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
Sunday 25th (Vocations Sunday)	8.30 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Family Communion

Do you (or did you always) know what you want to do?

Reading David's Talking Point last month, following the Lent Book 'The things he carried' and writing something for the 'News' about a special sermon on 25th April has brought the word vocation to my mind.

I'd guess that if you were to play a game like Family Fortunes with the word 'vocation' that the top result would be nun or monk slightly lower down the list might be doctor, nurse and teacher. Vocation comes from the Latin verb to call and has always been used to indicate a person's powerful calling to undertake a particular kind of work.

A vocation is more than an ambition, and in a sense, more even than a strong sense of desire to do something. It is perhaps better described as discovering one's purpose in life – the path which you must follow. It's true that not everyone has an overwhelming sense of vocation and it's also true that some people find themselves unexpectedly surprised by their passion when faced by a particular situation.

One might, in fact, fight hard against a vocation. In the series of events that lead to the trial, death and execution of Jesus Christ more than two thousand years ago the people who wrote his story continually record a sense of vocation in Jesus words – a sense that “it has to be like this”. Yet, at the same time his doubts and struggles are recorded – “take this cup from me” he is reported as saying. If you could sum up his feelings it might be to say – I have at the same time an overwhelming conviction that I was made to live this particular week in this particular way and yet I have an overwhelming desire to avoid this confrontation at all costs.

Jesus did not avoid the confrontation and the cost was great – ridiculed by those who had cheered him and condemned to one of the cruellest deaths that men have ever inflicted on one another. He simply had to do it – he didn't know why – his friends understood even less. Three days later they were even more puzzled – his body gone; strange and disturbing accounts from those who had visited the tomb early – that they had seen him!

It didn't make much more sense to them that first morning than it does to us.

And yet as they saw, walked, talked, shared bread and fish these men and women became convinced that Jesus – whom they had loved, let down and seen die was somehow alive again – and, surprisingly perhaps, instead of feeling guilty they felt renewed and ready to find out for themselves just what was their purpose in life.

Christians have come to call this event in the lives of Jesus and his friends the Resurrection. When we see such changes in people's lives we call it renewal or transformation or finding a new way. Wherever this happens I believe I see the hand of God at work acknowledged or not. This work of transformation is at the heart of what Easter has meant since it began – and we need it today as much as humanity ever has.

## Village News

### Chris Reichardt

Charles and Ingrid Reichardt would like to express their sincere thanks and appreciation to everyone who supported their son Chris with their encouragement and prayers during his illness, and who attended his funeral service in St. Paul's Church, Culham.

The flowers, cards and telephone calls were greatly appreciated.

We would especially like to thank Revd. David Haylett and Revd. Anne Ilsley for all their considerable support.

### Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting

### Culham PCC

This will be held in St Paul's Church at **11.15 am** on **Sunday 11th April**, after the morning communion service. If you want to keep your village church open and available for services, then you will be very welcome at this meeting. Our one & only churchwarden retires this year and volunteers to fill this gap are badly needed: someone has to open the church for services, turn on the heating, light the candles and count the collection!

Without a little more help, then one day the church may no longer be available for those special occasions like weddings and baptisms.

### Calling all women of Culham!

### Mary Rickford

Are you interested in meeting with other women in the village to learn new skills, discuss and hear about various interesting topics and socialise in an informal setting? We are considering starting a women's group to meet regularly throughout the year, and at this early stage would like to know the levels of interest in the village. If this appeals to you, please contact Mary Rickford (contact details below), by the middle of April. Looking forward to hearing from you!

Clock House, High Street, [mike@sdcresource.co.uk](mailto:mike@sdcresource.co.uk) Tel 528052 or mobile 07939 221846

### The Railway Inn

Pauline and Roy Davidson are now running the Railway Inn at Station Road, Culham. They offer home cooked food, including steaks, real ales and Sunday roasts. Listen to jazz on the last Sunday of the month – see advertisement on page A4 or ring 01235 528046.

Coming soon to the Railway Inn on **28th – 31st May: Wittstock 2010** presents the 'Festival that date not speak its name'. Great rock music, food and beer: free entry but all money collected goes to the Churchill Partners Cancer Research UK & Young Women's Music Project. Camping available. Contact: 07746 061199, [www.myspace.com/wittstockrock](http://www.myspace.com/wittstockrock), or [phil.spiritprod@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:phil.spiritprod@tiscali.co.uk)

<b>Culham Plant Sale &amp; Church Fete</b>	<b>Culham PCC</b>
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This will take place on **Saturday 15th May** from **1.30 pm to 4.00 pm** outside the church (stalls inside if wet!) As well as plants we will 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 (no clothes, please) and books / videos / DVD's. These can be brought to the church between **2 pm and 8 pm** on **Friday 14th May** or on the **Saturday morning**. Please can you name your plants if you know what they are!

We'd also be pleased to receive cakes, but please could you label them and note down whether or not they contain nuts? We look forward to seeing you there.

<b>Culham Parochial Primary School</b>	<b>Steph Fawdry</b>
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Since half-term the children have been very busy with lessons and activities based around the creative curriculum. The Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 children are studying the topic of 'Time' and started the term with an exciting visit to The Museum of the History of Science in Oxford. The Key Stage 2 pupils are studying the 'Greeks' and have enjoyed making (and eating!) Greek food and also dressing up as Greek Gods.

An enjoyable Mothering Service was held at the church in Culham where the children shared wonderful poems, songs and prayers with family and friends. The sun shone and the mums were all thrilled with the daffodil posies the children presented to them.

We have had some very interesting visitors in school recently - we held a Science Day, with plenty of experiments, bangs and surprises as well! The Key Stage 2 children made their own characters and mini-clip films all based on Theseus and the Minotaur during an Animation Day. Do have a look at the film clips on Facebook to see how talented the children are! Another interesting person visited us which resulted in the children being very creative writing poems and verse under the talented eye of James Carter our visiting poet.

Busy but very exciting - the children are all enjoying this term's topic work and are practising their Easter celebration songs. Do come and join us for our Sharing Assembly on **Monday 29 March at 9.15 am** - all are very welcome!

<b>PACT – Parents and Children Together</b>	<b>Philip Cook</b>
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Have YOU ever thought about FOSTERING?

There is a recognised shortage of 10,000 Foster Carers in the UK. PACT, founded in 1911, is also known as the Oxford Diocesan Council for Social Work inc. We are a registered charity working to improve life chances for children. The focus of our work is within Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire and aims to build and strengthen families.

We are an approved Adoption and Fostering Agency. We have a history of finding safe, loving families for children in care. Here are a few facts about Fostering:

- Did you know you don't have to be married to become a Foster Carer?
- You don't have to have children already although you do need to have experience of caring for children.
- Did you know you get paid a Fostering Allowance of £335.70 a week to be a Foster Carer which is tax free and won't affect any other benefits?
- Most of the children who need fostering are known as 'hard to place' children, they will usually be 8+ years of age.

Fostering is a hard but very rewarding job. If you think you might have what it takes to become a Permanent Foster Carer or you want to find out more then contact PACT now on **0800 731 1845** e-mail [fostering@pactcharity.org](mailto:fostering@pactcharity.org) or visit [www.pactcharity.org](http://www.pactcharity.org)

<b>Parish Council Notes: March 2010 Meeting</b>	<b>Andrew Steele</b>
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**From SODC:** No report

**From OCC:** No report

#### **Clerk's report**

We are still trying to find contractors who will give alternative quotes for the replacement to the slope in the burial ground.

Soakaway on The Green - awaiting more clement weather before installing.

Some of the play equipment has been assessed for repair and it appears to be untenable. Other quotes are being sought before proceeding with installation of replacement units. We are also awaiting quotes for the repair / replacement of some of the membrane and loose fill around the play equipment.

A willow tree on The Green, close to the burial ground has fallen. (Councillor Woodley-Shead agreed to arrange its removal).

The Affordable Housing Survey carried out by the Oxfordshire Rural Housing Partnership will go ahead. Each household will receive a questionnaire.

Quotes are required for repairs to the shed on the playing field.

The County Minerals and Waste Development strategy meeting will be attended next week by CPC representatives.

The CCRC is still registered as a charity with the Charity Commissioners, despite being wound up. This requires the paperwork to be completed before it can be de-registered.

The accumulating rubbish along the Burycroft has been reported again but has still not been cleared. This will be followed up.

**Next meeting:** The **Annual Parish Meeting** will be held on **Monday 12 April 2010 at 19:30**

at the school. It will be followed by a brief Parish Council meeting.

<b>Thames Valley Police Update</b>	<b>Sarah Talbot</b>
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Thames Valley Police have published a document on community safety. It deals with anti-burglary measures and warns of several 'scams': these include the sale of puppy dogs over the internet and unsolicited phone calls offering Council Tax rebates. The Police have received reports from concerned home owners about possible cold calls relating to crime prevention, alarms, and police. They would like remind everybody not to give out any personal details over the phone, and if in doubt to ring them. For further details, please email [sarah.talbot@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:sarah.talbot@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk).

This year, Thames Valley Police is giving more opportunities for the public to meet their Neighbourhood Teams by holding monthly "**Have Your Say**" meetings, so that the public can influence Police priorities. For more information, see the Thames Valley Police web site [www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk) - just under the "Neighbourhood Action Group" section.

"Have your say" meetings will take place in Culham Primary School on **20<sup>th</sup> April** from **6 pm to 7 pm** (and also on 18<sup>th</sup> May from 6.30 to 7.30 pm).

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

<b>Newington Nurseries: Magnolias herald the arrival of spring</b>	<b>Anne Hendry</b>
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The Magnolia, a signature plant of this time of year, is one of the most primitive of flowering plants. It's named after Pierre Magnol (1638 - 1715), Professor of Botany at Montpellier University and also Director of the Royal Botanic Garden in Montpellier. Magnolias are native to North America, East and South-East Asia including the Himalayas where the plants are valued for their fragrant blooms and handsome foliage. It's rather difficult to believe that this beautiful shrub evolved before bees. The showy flowers originally developed to encourage pollination by beetles. The result is that Magnolia flowers are tough so as to avoid damage by crawling and eating insects.

Most species of Magnolia produce flowers in spring, often before the leaves appear, and are usually followed by attractive cone-shaped and colourful fruits. *Magnolia stellata* (Star Magnolia) is the perfect choice for container growing, bearing abundant white or delicate pink blooms depending on variety. *M. stellata* 'Rubra' has large dark pink flowers and *M. stellata* 'Waterlily' white flowers up to 12cm across. Magnolia 'Susan' produces glorious purple-red flowers with the added bonus of fragrance and is another great option if space is limited. Take the time to choose an attractive pot that will be big enough to accommodate the shrub as it grows. With more space in the garden, you might consider planting directly into the ground.

*Magnolia x loebneri* is a wonderful shrub or small tree for the garden, producing masses of star-shaped blossoms, 8-13cm across. Look out especially for 'Leonard Messel', which produces pale, lilac pink flower heads or 'Merrill' which bears white flowers. For large goblet-shaped blooms that come in mid to late spring, look to *Magnolia x soulangeana* (Saucer Magnolia). 'Rustica Rubra' is a beauty, its purplish red flowers being reminiscent of red wine. Alternatively, go for 'Lennei Alba' with its pure white flowers. *Magnolia campbellii*, a fairly large tree, would be great if space allows because it bears those intriguing 'cup-and-saucer' shaped flowers. 'Darjeeling' or 'Charles Raffill' are also really lovely, producing dark pink and purple-pink blossoms respectively.

*Magnolia grandiflora* (Bull Bay) is worth mentioning despite the fact that it flowers in autumn. This species is a stunning evergreen tree whose leaves are a beautiful glossy green. Large, creamy coloured and very fragrant flowers appear late summer to early autumn and these are

followed by fascinating, rose-coloured and candle-shaped fruits.

Magnolias really can be the showpieces of the garden. Put the big ones in prominent positions or with other trees in woodland garden situations. Most prefer soil tending towards acidic although some, including *Magnolia stellata* and *Magnolia x loebneri*, are happy in alkaline soils. They are very light on maintenance, needing nothing more than a trim in late winter to remove any untidy shoots that spoil the framework. Mulch in spring with manure or leaf mould particularly if the soil is dry.

### SEASONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Animals and birds are waking up now. Birds are getting ready to lay and mammals that are soon to give birth will be on the look out for any extra food they can get – help them out if you can.

March/early April is the ideal time for pruning. Prune shrub and climbing roses, heathers and mahonias. This time of year is also perfect for planting and replanting. Pick out which perennials flowered less last season – these can be divided and separated to give them a new lease of life. Nutrients are also very important for a healthy garden so definitely don't forget to fertilise now.

**Newington Nurseries, Newington, Nr Stadhampton, Oxon, OX10 7AW**  
**Tel 01865 400533    [www.newington-nurseries.co.uk](http://www.newington-nurseries.co.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 MAY issue of The Mouthpiece by APRIL 15th please, to:**

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