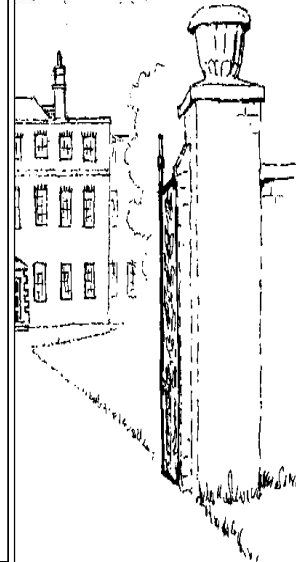
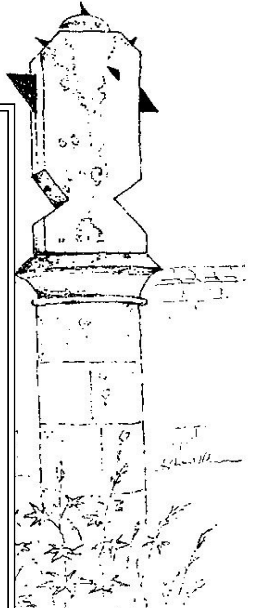
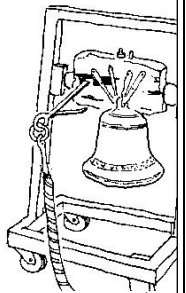
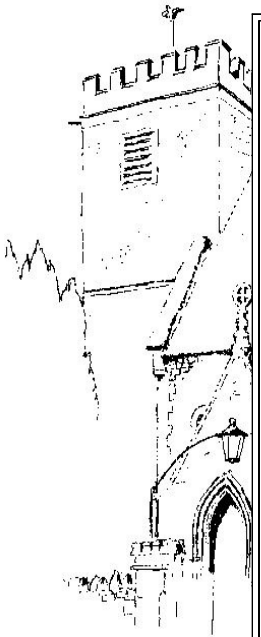


# The Mouthpiece

*Culham's Newsletter No 324*

*Village Diary for March 2011*

- 4<sup>th</sup> Mobile Library - The Glebe, 1.40 - 1.50 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> DEADLINE FOR APRIL'S MOUTHPIECE*
- 18<sup>th</sup> Mobile Library - The Glebe, 1.40 - 1.50 pm*
- 18<sup>th</sup> LoC Oxford Theatre Trip, dep. Culham 7 pm*
- 20<sup>th</sup> Evening Prayer - St. Paul's Church, 5.30 pm*



## Church Services in March

DATE	TIME	PLACE	SERVICE
<b>SERVICES AT CULHAM</b>			
Sunday 13th	10 am	Culham	Family Communion
Sunday 20th	5.30 pm *	...	Evening Prayer * <i>N.B. Earlier time!</i>
<p><i>Join us for coffee and a chat after Sunday morning services at Culham Church! All welcome.</i></p> <p><i>Come along for informal prayers with Revd Anne Ilsley at Culham Church on Thursday mornings, 8.15 - 9.00 am.</i></p>			
<b>SERVICES ELSEWHERE</b>			
Sunday 6th	8 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Family Service
Sunday 13th	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	6 pm	Long Wittenham	Evening Prayer
Sunday 20th	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
Sunday 27th	8.30 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Family Communion

## Dorchester Team Lent Lectures

These talks will take place on Sunday evenings in Dorchester Abbey. The theme is "Staying in the Bible". Refreshments will be available from 6.30 pm and each talk will start at 7 pm, with a short act of worship at 8.30 pm. All most welcome! ***Please note that evening Prayers at Culham will be at 5.30 pm not 6 pm in March & April.***

- 13th March: 'The Bible and Science' - Prof. Keith Ward, FBA  
 20th March: 'The Bible and Politics' - Tony Baldry, M.P.  
 27th March: 'The Bible and Development' - Dr Paula Clifford  
 3rd April: *no lecture*  
 10th April: 'The Bible and History' - Dr Sarah Apetrei  
 17th April: 'The Bible and Music' - The Revd Dr Jonathan Arnold

## The Future of Culham School – Andrew Churchill Stone

Oxfordshire County Council Cabinet met on 16 February and considered the results of the recent consultation on the closure of the school. Representatives of the governors, SCS group and the community spoke to cabinet, both about the work we have done so far to address the council's concerns and the place of the school in the community.

Cabinet members were sufficiently impressed with both what we had to say and the way we said it that they have given us an additional month, until 15 March, to work further on the areas of concern. Cabinet members also gave some indication of what they would like to see us achieve in this time if they are to agree that the school should remain open. Central to this

is the appointment of a head teacher and interviews will have taken place by the time you read this. Other options for leadership continue to be explored.

We are also going to have to convince cabinet about our commitment to funding the projected deficit that the school has in the immediate future. We remain confident that the school is financially viable with 40 pupils and we will be producing information for cabinet to support this, as well as giving them an update on the work we have done to increase pupil numbers from September.

On the 15 March cabinet members will have to decide whether to publish a statutory notice of closure. If they do this (and we obviously hope that they will not) there would be a further period of consultation in which we could still work to address the original concerns. A final decision would then be made before the end of May.

All those of us working on these issues are very conscious of the considerable support that is being shown to us by the community of Culham and for that we remain very grateful. Our efforts are given added impetus by the weight of the community behind us. There is much to do in the extra month we have been given and I very much hope that we can put this time to good use to achieve the result we all hope for.

## Village News

### **Kilimanjaro Climb - Rob Gibbs**

My name is Rob Gibbs and I live in the High Street in Culham. I am currently studying at the University of Leicester and this has given me an amazing opportunity to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro for underprivileged children in Tanzania. Not only will I be climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro but I will also be personally helping out at a Tanzanian school. The money which I raise will go towards community projects, helping Tanzanian children to get a better education and a brighter future. I will be climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro on 15th July 2011 and have set up a website where you can find out more information about my journey: [www.RobsKiliClimb.co.uk](http://www.RobsKiliClimb.co.uk). I will also use it to update everyone about my fundraising progress and to post my photos and videos after the journey. The amount I need to raise for this journey is understandably very high, so I would greatly appreciate any donation, however big or small, to help me get to Tanzania and help the children there. If you would like to make a donation then you can do so either from my website or by dropping it off at my home (32 High Street, Culham). I will be very grateful for any support which I receive.

### **Ladies of Culham – Mary Rickford**

One suggestion we received for future meetings was a trip to the theatre, so I'm pleased to announce our first LoC trip, to The Oxford Playhouse to see Canterbury Tales. The details are:

**Date:** Friday 18th March. **Time: 8pm** (leaving the village at **7pm**)

**Cost:** £10 per ticket (£8 for OAPs / Students / Under 18s)

It promises to be a great evening so if you would like to come along please call **Michelle Thresh** on **01235 534202** ASAP to reserve your ticket. If you need a lift it can be arranged, or if you are happy to drive and have spaces available for others (we're hoping to car share as much as possible to save on fuel/car parking costs etc) please let Michelle know. All ticket money to be given to Michelle, please (33 High Street).

### **Annual Plant Sale & Village Fete – Culham PCC**

This will take place on **Saturday 21st May** at the church from 1.30 pm to 4 pm. If you're about to sow seeds for your garden – please spare a few extras for the Plant Sale! More details in April's Mouthpiece.

### **Police News - Rebekah Kent**

The next "Have Your Say" meeting near Culham will be on **Tuesday, 22 March** from **3 pm to 3.45 pm** outside the primary school, High street, Clifton Hampden, when PCSO Rebekah Kent will be available to talk to members of the public.

### **New Advertisers – The Mouthpiece**

This month we have 3 new advertisers. **Kerry Holt** offers a comprehensive ironing service for all the family's clothes and household linen, at competitive and affordable prices. Ironing is carried out in a smoke-free environment. This friendly, efficient personal service includes free collection and delivery, with hangers and protective garments FREE of charge.

With **AESPV** you can generate your own electricity using their solar panels: their excellent web site **www.aespv.com** should answer all your questions. **FELTEC** is a family firm providing jet-washing services covering the whole county.

## **Parish Council Notes – Andrew Steele**

The OCC Councillor's report should be available soon on the Village Website.

The Parochial School Governors are progressing the future of the school with meetings arranged this week (14 February) prior to the Cabinet meeting on Wednesday which will decide the next stage in the process. Currently signs are good for the retention of the school and further appeals are available should the Wednesday meeting decide that closure is the course to take.

On 16 February a report will be presented to SODC Cabinet on the proposals for gravel extraction in Oxfordshire. The recommendation is that the original requirement of 2.6m tonnes per year is unrealistic and that only 1.26m tonnes is actually necessary. The area proposed for consideration is mainly in the Cholsey area.

Proposals about the closure of Berinsfield library will be heard on 15 Feb. Lorraine also reported that an extra £2.2m had been awarded to Oxfordshire recently from Central Government. It has not been decided where this will be distributed.

Currently, between 14-18 March, the traffic lights on Sutton Bridge will be 'upgraded' which will mean the closure of the bridge to motor traffic between 10 am and 3:30 pm each day. CPC is challenging the necessity of this work.

It was agreed that burial ground fees would be waived for children, i.e. those under the age of 18. Work on obtaining estimates for the work on the burial ground slope is ongoing.

A contractor for the work to replace the loose fill in the play area has been chosen subject to confirmation of the price for the work measured.

CPC will write in support of a pedestrian crossing to be installed at the lights at the Waggon and Horses. Several concerned parents are also continuing the campaign for a crossing to be installed.

A price has been agreed for the refurbishment of the village noticeboards.

Next meeting: **Monday 14 March 2011** at **7:30 pm** at the school.

## **Talking Point - Revd David Cleugh**

What we want is an apology. It is a phrase that often appears on the news, someone representing the victims of some sort of error, miscarriage of justice, atrocity or accident. It

seems that our taste for public penance is inexhaustible. Some have interpreted Tony Blair's donation of the profits from his autobiography to the Royal British Legion as penance for the Iraq war, though he himself has not said so.

What does it mean to say that I'm sorry? What happens to the victims when they hear those words, what happens to the perpetrators as they utter them? There is a scheme within our justice system called Restorative Justice, and one of the things which they do is bring criminals and their victims together. It enables both the victim to hear an apology, but also the offender to have a fuller understanding of the consequences of their actions. The scheme claims to cut reoffending by up to 14% and boasts a satisfaction rate among victims of 85%.

This points to the power of penance and forgiveness. When we feel hurt and angry at someone for the harm that they have done to us, it is hard for us to move on and continue in relationship, but that can be transformed by a simple act of contrition. The same also goes for those times when we know that we have hurt or upset someone else, we notice the difference in how they treat us, by offering an apology we are able to begin the healing process and move to a renewed relationship.

So why am I writing about penance? The season of Lent is upon us which has by tradition been a time of penance for those within the church. The penitential rite (or 'saying sorry' part) of our services is brought to the fore, the usual Gloria replaced by Kyries, so that instead of singing 'Glory to God in the Highest' we sing 'Lord have Mercy'. It is also a time when some members of the church seek the sacrament of reconciliation, or confession, the act of confessing sins to a priest and receiving in turn reassurance of God's forgiveness. This can be a powerful experience and well worth considering this Lent.

So in this season we have an opportunity to be penitent for those things we regret; and the ability to be graceful in forgiving those who have hurt us. By both we can hope that our relationships can be restored.

## **Culham Parochial School - Caroline Evans**

### ***KS1 – Dinosaurs***

The children have been studying non-fiction books to discover the different types of dinosaurs and how they grow from eggs. They also enjoyed a cooking session when they measured ingredients and made/decorated dinosaur biscuits: the staff were even treated as well!

### ***KS2 – Rainforests***

The KS2 children have been focusing on poetry, rhyme, rhythm and alliteration. They have also been using non-fiction texts to study and explore the various aspects of the rainforest. During art the children have been experimenting with natural food substances to dye fabrics which will help to create a fantastic display!

### ***The Peace Child***

The children have been working very hard practising the songs they will be singing during a performance of The Peace Child. This production is taking place as part of a local schools partnership collaboration for year 2-6 pupils, which will be held at Sutton Courtenay Primary School later in the month.

### ***Wild Waste Bus***

The whole school experienced a very exciting morning with our visitors from The Northmoor Trust. The Wild Waste Bus provided the children with many interesting activities including making paper, learning about recycling, singing and being entertained with a puppet show.

### ***Community Police***

Our local PCSO's dropped in recently to talk to our children about safety etc. The children also experienced sitting in a police van and operating the siren!

### ***Mrs Winchester***

We are pleased to welcome Mrs Nicola Winchester to the infant classroom. Mrs Winchester is familiar to the school and children as she has carried out supply work for us many times in

the past. She has already transformed the classroom into an exciting new learning area and has many activities to share with the children as the term progresses.

## **Heating Oil Supplies – ORCC**

ORCC (Oxfordshire Rural Community Council) is a charity that brings people together who care about village life. Last November it set up a scheme to help communities buy heating oil in bulk and therefore at reduced prices. Each village has a voluntary coordinator, and members pay £20 per household to join the scheme. The coordinator does not handle any money. Every month the coordinator asks each member if they want any oil and how much. ORCC then negotiates a price and your oil is delivered. Payment is made to ORCC's Trading Company. According to ORCC, you will do better as part of the ORCC buying scheme than you would do on your own – on average, saving about £50 on 1,000 litres. For further details see [www.oxonrcc.org.uk](http://www.oxonrcc.org.uk).

## **Newington Nurseries: 'Spring Clean'- Anne Hendry**

March and April are months in which to prune, plant and give the garden a good tidy up after the diverse weather conditions of winter.

Shrub roses can be pruned in March, cut down to between 10 and 15 centimetres above ground. Prune to just above outward-pointing buds. Climbing roses can also be pruned now, quite vigorously if the shoots have got too long. March is also a good time to get new roses in the ground; remember to add plenty of plant food to the planting hole as roses are hungry plants.

If you're thinking of having a new tree or trees for the garden, these can be planted in the spring if you ran out of time in the autumn. They're just about to put out new shoots and getting them in the ground in March will help them on their way. Remember to water well during the first year of planting. Acid-loving plants also have a need for water in March so ensure you start watering Azaleas, Rhododendrons, bilberries, etc.

If you didn't have time to plant a deciduous hedge in the autumn, again, this can be done in March but remember to water well throughout the summer and into the autumn months. Give hedging plants, trees and shrubs a good start by adding a generous handful of plant nutrients to each planting hole. Don't skimp if you're investing money in new plants.

Divide perennials; they age over time so grow less vigorously at the centre and produce less flowers. Dividing and separating every 3 to 4 years will help prevent this. If you plan to relocate the divided plants, enrich the soil to get them established more quickly. Also plant biennials now so that you get flowers the following year.

April is an excellent time for sowing a new lawn or restoring an existing lawn. Use a lawn restoration kit to give grass new life. Scarify the lawn to remove thatch if you didn't do this in the autumn. Also tackle moss in the lawn; any bare patches left after moss removal can be dealt with by reseeding. Grass will probably start growing more strongly now and you'll need to start regular mowing. Don't cut too low at first – a light trim once a week will be sufficient.

April is a good time to plant evergreen hedges including conifers and hollies. Specific tree and shrub composts are available so add some to the soil if the soil quality is poor. Also remember to add a good handful of plant nutrients to each planting hole. Water the new plants thoroughly and continue to water if the weather is dry – this is especially important with evergreens as they will not show signs of drought damage until it's too late to prevent dieback.

Tidy the pond and remove all dead plant residues. Divide pond plants and get rampant varieties back under control. Give the plants special water plant fertiliser granules via the roots in the soil. Marginal plants may need dividing or re-potting into bigger baskets.

Weeds are starting to grow in March and April. Remove as many as possible before the seeds can form. This happens more quickly than you think. Eradicate stubborn weeds thoroughly. Sort out plant pots and troughs ready for April/May planting of annuals. Clean thoroughly, ensure drainage holes are not blocked and fill with fresh compost. Pressure-clean all flagstones, patio slabs and garden decking that have become green and slippery during the winter.

Anne Hendry, Newington Nurseries, Newington, Wallingford, Oxon, OX10 7AW  
[www.newington-nurseries.co.uk](http://www.newington-nurseries.co.uk)

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### 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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**John Mason**, 20 High Street, 01235 527440 or email: [johnu.mason@gmail.com](mailto:johnu.mason@gmail.com)

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