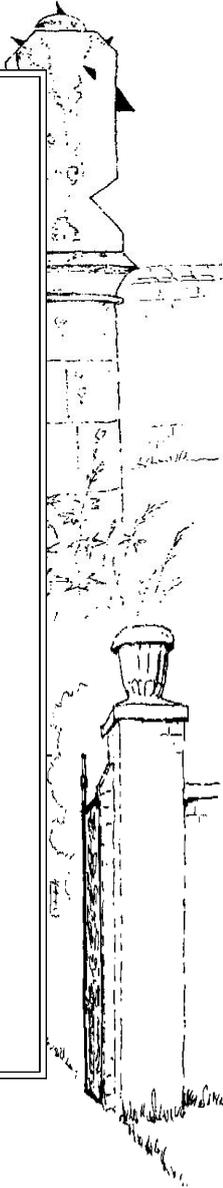
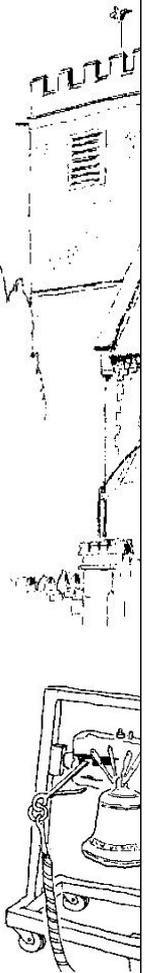


The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter No 336

Village Diary – May 2012

- 11th Mobile Library - The Glebe, 1.40 to 1.50 pm*
- 13th Family Communion - St. Paul's Church, 10 am*
- 14th Parish Council Meeting - The School, 7.30 pm*
- 15th DEADLINE FOR JUNE'S MOUTHPIECE*
- 19th Plant Sale & Church Fete - St. Paul's Church, 1.30 to 4 pm*
- 20th Songs of Praise - St Paul's Church, 6 pm*
- 25th Mobile Library - The Glebe, 1.40 to 1.50 pm*
- 25th SCS Race Night - The School*



Church Services in May

	TIME	PLACE	SERVICE
SERVICES AT CULHAM			
Sunday 13th	10 am	Culham	Family Communion
Sunday 20th	6 pm	Culham	Songs of Praise (see Village News)
<i>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 am.</i>			
SERVICES ELESWHERE			
Sunday 6th	8 am 10 am	Clifton Hampden Long Wittenham	Holy Communion Family Service
Tuesday 8th	10.30 am	Long Wittenham	Home Communion
Sunday 13th	8 am 10 am 10 am 6 pm	Long Wittenham Culham Clifton Hampden Long Wittenham	Holy Communion Family Communion Home Communion Evening Prayer
Thursday 17th	7 pm	Wittenham Clumps	Ascension Day Communion
Sunday 20th	10 am 6 pm	Long Wittenham Culham	Home Communion Evening Prayer
Sunday 27th	8.30 am	Little Wittenham	Home Communion
Pentecost	10 am 10 am	Long Wittenham Clifton Hampden	Home Communion Family Communion

Village News

Annual Plant Sale & Church Fete – Culham PCC

This will take place on **Saturday 19th 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, 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, bric-a-brac (*no clothes, please*), books and DVD's. These can be brought to the church from **6 to 8 pm** on **Friday 18th May** or on the **Saturday morning**. Please can you name your plants if you know what they are, and if collection is required please ring Jane Lay on 535188.

If you do donate some **cakes**, please could you label them and note down whether or not they contain nuts? We look forward to seeing you there!

Songs of Praise at St. Paul's Church, Culham on 20th May – Olivia Graham

We are repeating the ever-popular Songs of Praise service again on Sunday 20th May at 6 pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to put forward your favourite hymn, to have a good sing and to have those you are concerned about remembered in prayer.

This year we will be gathering your hymn suggestions beforehand in the village and at the **Plant Sale** (1.30 – 4 pm on 19th May), for a donation to Church funds. We will let you know if your hymn has been drawn and invite you to tell us why it is meaningful to you. If you would like to suggest a hymn and cannot be at the Plant Sale, please phone Revd. Olivia Graham 01865 407062 or email livigraham@gmail.com.

Three day Music Event at the RAILWAY INN in May

This is a charity event, all live bands. Times are: Friday 4th (8 pm-12 pm), Saturday 5th (12 noon – 12 midnight) and Sunday 6th (12 noon - 10.30 pm).

FOR YOUR DIARY: Friends of St Paul’s: BBQ Lunch and AGM – Philip Owen
Presentation of Stadhampton Church Village Hall Conversion

After the church service on **10th JUNE** starting at **11 am**, the Friends of St Paul’s Church will host, in the church building, a presentation on a community project in Stadhampton which is seeking to convert the parish church in Stadhampton into a multi-use village amenity. Ann Stead, the chairperson of the project in Stadhampton, will give a talk on all aspects of the project which she has overseen in partnership with the Parochial Church Council, the Parish Council and the village at large. This is particularly timely following the recent Culham village meeting which established a group to contribute to a parish plan, part of which may be to create a hall in the village. I hope that this will provide some useful insights and provoke thoughts about what may be achievable in our own village. At the end of the presentation the Friends’ AGM will be held.

After the meeting in the church, the Friends will host a BBQ close by, where we will seek to raise funds for the ongoing maintenance of the building - but just as importantly to provide an opportunity for some enjoyable food on what hopefully will be a lovely summer’s day, and perhaps some lively conversation about what we can as a community do about safeguarding the future of our church building. If you would like to attend the BBQ please would you make your wishes known by completing the attached form.

All are welcome to the presentation, the AGM and the BBQ, though only members of The Friends of St Paul’s Church may vote at the AGM. All are invited to join The Friends and there will be an opportunity to join on the day.

Friends’ BBQ Lunch, June 10th

12.30 pm on June 10th to be held at 6 The Green, Culham, opposite the rear of the Church
Adults £5, Children £3.50

All donations go to maintaining the fabric of the Church building in Culham. Please bring drinks.

Please pay in cash or make cheques payable to ‘Friends of the Church at Culham’ or pay through <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/friendsofstpaulsculham>. If making payment online please email pandj@btinternet.com once the payment has been made.

Please post completed tickets to The Treasurer, Friends of St Paul, 6 The Green, Culham or hand to any member of the Friends’ committee.

-I would like to attend the Friends BBQ lunch

We will be a party of adult(s) and child(ren)

I have enclosed cheque / enclosed cash / made payment online

I am a UK taxpayer, please treat my donation as being made under gift aid

Name of party and number in party:

Culham Pre-School - Lea Allmond

Hello All, we hope you have all enjoyed a lovely chocolaty Easter break. The children and parents had a lovely Easter picnic at the end of last term, and we also had an amazing array of fancy Easter Bonnets for our parade.

This term we shall be busy looking at our favourite stories connected to queens, princes and princesses. We shall also be growing sunflowers and growing caterpillars into butterflies. The butterflies will be released at an Insect themed picnic, for which we will be joining Key Stage 1 children from the main school. We shall be enjoying delightful, caterpillar sandwiches, butterfly cakes; spider biscuits etc.

Please remember if you have any old pots and pans we will be grateful to receive them - we plan on making a music bench with them for the children

Culham Parish Council (CPC) notes - May 2012

Annual meeting of the Parish Council - Monday 14 May 2012 at 19:30 at the school.

Talking Point - Rev David Haylet

It was good to see many families in Church on Easter morning, had I realised there were going to be quite so many children I would have catered for them specifically. I hope you will come again to share in our worship.

Some of you may recall, when we were suffering from a drought some years ago, the Government appointed a Minister of Drought and almost immediately the heavens opened and it never seemed to stop raining for weeks, if not months.

On Maundy Thursday Thames Water imposed a hose pipe ban following two exceptionally dry winters, I write this on Easter Monday, four days after the ban, it's not exactly pouring with rain but it has been drizzling on and off all day! It is not going to fill any reservoir but it will do the garden good.

Water is essential to life "as we know it", to use a phrase astronomers seem to use a lot as they search other planets for signs of life.

Water is one of the most basic materials on earth, it is the source of all growth, life cannot exist without it. Water is used to remove dirt and to make things clean. For this reason water has been used as a symbol of being made spiritually clean by many different religions for many centuries. Washing with water in this way is recorded in the Old Testament book of Leviticus dating from the time of Moses, possibly around 1350 BC. Around 600 BC Ezekiel was writing about sprinkling the people with water to make them clean.

When Jesus was baptised by John the Baptist, John used water from the River Jordan. When you attend a Baptism you will hear the priest thanking God for the "gift of water to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life" as the water in the font is blessed.

Water is an important sign of life. In the same way that our bodies need water to drink and to keep them clean, so our spiritual lives need the cleansing and refreshing love of God symbolised by the water in the font.

In the book of Genesis we are told, in the story of creation, that the Holy Spirit moved over the water which covered the earth. Then life was created. In the Book of Exodus we are told that the Israelites were led through the water of the Red Sea when they escaped from slavery in Egypt. The water of Baptism symbolises how we are led from the slavery of sin into the freedom of God's kingdom.

When I am Baptising I tend to be extravagant in my use of water, some clergy use a small bowl in the font, I don't, I use the entire font and I pour in several litres of water and have raised a gasp from some members of the congregation more than once.

Some thoughtful neighbours recently went on a holiday which included visiting the site of Jesus' Baptism in the River Jordan; they purchased a bottle of Jordan water and brought it back as a gift. There is not enough to cope with my filling of the font, but I can certainly add some Jordan water to that supplied by Thames Water in future. Thank you!

Culham Parochial School - Caroline Evans

What a fantastic time we recently had at our Easter Fair! Many thanks to all our helpers and supporters – together we raised over **£270**, well done all!

KS2 news

On Tuesday 27 March our KS2 children took part in a special concert celebrating the Titanic Centenary with other local primary and secondary pupils. The children sang a collection of songs and had speaking parts which we have been rehearsing and auditioning for 'Hollywood' style! We were very proud of our juniors who were superb in the performance and also very well-behaved (as usual!). It was a fantastic evening, which I am sure the junior parents and staff who attended will also agree. Our KS2 children are currently enjoying working on the next edition of their newspaper – details to follow!

KS1 news

Recently the children have been working very hard with their writing highlighting their topic of 'traditional tales'. They have been creating stories and acrostic poems. The pupils have also enjoyed making brochures featuring Culham and Hollywood.

Cinema

The children, staff and parents recently enjoyed a trip to Cineworld Didcot to watch 'Hoodwinked' – a good time was had by all! We are hoping to arrange further out-of-school visits during the summer term once our topics and plans are in place.

Diary Dates – please join us for the following events, all welcome!

Friday 25 May, evening: Race Night (SCS fund raising event)

Friday 6 July, 3.15 pm: Summer Fair

Further details can be provided from the school office (01235 521766)

The Future of Culham School - Anne and Andrew Churchill Stone

It is now nearly a year since Oxfordshire County Council decided not to close Culham Parochial School and the school has gone from strength to strength since then and there is continued interest from families who are looking to transfer their children into the school. This is testament to the quality of the education the school offers and the friendly environment in which it does so.

The other excellent piece of news is that preliminary figures for the financial year ended on 31 March 2012 predict that the school will carry forward a small surplus into 2012/13. This figure will be measured in hundreds of pounds (or maybe only tens of pounds) but the original predictions for this financial year which were made a year ago forecast a considerable deficit at this point.

This excellent result is in no small measure due to the fact that the community have, in the period up to 31 March, been able to contribute over £15,000 to the school. A number of you do this by regular donation and my thanks go to you all. My thanks also go to Dee and Jon Woodley-Shead and Joan Woodley who have worked hard to organise fundraising events and continue to do so.

In another year's time we should have a much clearer picture of how the school's financial future will look as pupil numbers for the future become more clear and my fellow governors and I much appreciate the efforts that the Culham community have made (and, we very much hope, will continue to make) to support our school.

Local Police – Rebekah Kent

Speeding

This month we have carried out speed checks using the Speed Indication Device (SID) on the A415 at Burcot, from 1 pm – 2 pm, when 16 vehicles were seen to be speeding towards Abingdon.

The owners of these vehicles will receive letters advising them of the speed limit and warning that their details may be passed to our Roads Policing Team.

If you want any advice or would like to contact the neighbourhood team you can call us on the police non-emergency number 101 or email

WallingfordAreaNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk. Please note this email address cannot be used to contact Thames Valley Police to report crimes or for any urgent matters. Alternatively please visit the force website at **www.thamesvalley.police.uk** to see information on your neighbourhood.

Newington Nurseries - Anne Hendry

A touch of the exotic

Think of bamboo and we think of Asia. Yet these exotic, evergreen plants are also to be found in South Africa and South America. All bamboos are technically grasses but some can reach the height and widths of trees.

As bamboos are evergreen, they are ideal candidates for screening. Although the bright green, delicate foliage is attractive in itself, it's the stems that provide most interest. Hues range from bright to golden yellow, olive to deep green, even purple-black or green with yellow stripes.

Bamboos either grow in clumps or produce 'runners' so care must be taken when choosing plants. Phyllostachys and Fargesia types are generally clump forming although the odd stem may pop up here and there, a metre or two away from the parent plant. Sasa and Sasalla varieties 'run' so are best planted in containers unless space is not an issue. In such cases, they can be planted to create low-growing hedges or used in land stabilization projects.

Bamboos are not fussy about soil type although they will perform better if planted in fairly fertile, moist soil (they respond well to an organic food such as fish, blood and bone). Once established, bamboos are fairly resilient to dry conditions. Site the plants in a sheltered position if possible, almost mimicking their natural habitat of sheltered valleys. Exposed sites are not ideal for bamboos although they will survive but look rather unkempt.

Generally speaking, bamboos are shallow-rooting plants and therefore don't pose a risk to underground drainage or other pipe work. Bamboos grow really quickly so results are evident fairly soon after planting. They are not prone to pests and diseases, are tolerant of pollution and are fully hardy.

In terms of growth habit, Phyllostachys varieties tend to be upright so make excellent screens and hedges. In the UK, they are described as clump-forming bamboos although they will run but only

in warmer climes. The yellow/green-caned *P. aurea* can reach a height of some 6+ metres whereas black-stemmed *P. nigra* grows to some 5+ metres. The lovely *P. bissettii* is rather more tolerant of exposed positions and attains a height of around 4 to 6 metres.

If the above are too tall, try one of the *Fargesia* varieties. They too are suitable for hedging and screening as they are pretty dense. *Fargesia murielae* has thin, elegant canes in graceful arches reminiscent of a fountain. A clump-former, it grows up to 1.5m in height. *Fargesia nitida* is another thin-caned bamboo, with a more vertical habit. Its height is around 3m with little spread.

The low-growing *Pleioblastus* species form very dense mats and spread over a wide area so take care when planting. *Pleioblastus variegatus* is a slow-spreading, dwarf bamboo. It has beautiful green and white striped leaves. *Sasa veitchii* comes from Japan, won't grow much taller than 1 metre but it is a spreader. It will grow in sun or semi-shade and is useful for land stabilization. *Sasaella masamuneana* is another spreading dwarf bamboo that is quick to establish. It appreciates some sun and doesn't grow taller than 1m.

Newington Nurseries, Newington, Nr Stadhampton (on the A329), OX10 7AW Tel 01865 400533 - www.newington-nurseries.co.uk

ORCC News

Oil scheme continues to expand

ORCC Trading Limited are pleased to report that there are now over 700 members of the bulk oil buying scheme which continues to attract new members every day! The monthly order is seeing the members make huge savings. New coordinators in villages have been signing up which is a great help – thank you to all those who responded to the advertisement for more co-ordinators in our last Bulletin. If you would like to find out more about the scheme, visit the Bulk Oil Buying pages of the ORCC website, send us an email on oil@oxonrcc.org.uk or telephone 01865 883488 and ask for Christine Bartle.

New Countywide Dial a Ride Service

Oxfordshire County Council will be operating a new Dial-a-Ride bus scheme for disabled and mobility-impaired people from 2 April.

The service is designed for those who are unable to use, or do not have access to other forms of public transport, and is free to use for bus pass holders. It will be available Monday to Friday from 9 am - 5 pm in all four Oxfordshire districts and Oxford City.

At least one bus from the county council's transport unit will be assigned to make journeys in each part of the county on each day, with services mainly available into the nearest local town from surrounding areas. Routes and journeys will be scheduled according to usage and customer feedback.

Existing Dial-a-Ride customers and new customers who may wish to use the service on or after 2 April are advised to call the county council's customer service team on 0845 310 11 11 for further information about the scheme and how to book journeys.

There is more information on the County Council website:

<http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/oxfordshire-dial-ride#routes>

Changes at The Mouthpiece: New Email Addresses

We are pleased to report that Jon Woodley Shead has offered to help with the Mouthpiece. He has reorganised the advertisements, some of which have been through several versions of Microsoft Windows, and were increasingly difficult to manipulate.

He has also set up new email addresses, so that your contributions don't just go to one or two people. One particular person finds this development very welcome!

From now on, please email your Mouthpiece contributions to:

generalmouthpiece@gmail.com

and advertising queries to

advertmouthpiece@gmail.com

Endpiece

Please note that any opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the editors. We accept information from advertisers in good faith and cannot be responsible for errors therein.

Contributions to the JUNE issue of The Mouthpiece by MAY 15th please, to:

Jon Woodley Shead, 18 The Glebe, Culham, Tel 01235 522448
John Mason, 20 High Street, Culham, Tel 01235 527440

or preferably **generalmouthpiece@gmail.com**

Advertisements to:

advertmouthpiece@gmail.com