

The Mouthpiece

Culham's Newsletter

October 2015



For your diary

October

<i>8th</i>	<i>Mobile Library</i>	<i>Culham Science Centre Nursery & Pre-school</i>	<i>3.30 to 3.50 pm</i>
<i>11th</i>	<i>Family Communion</i>	<i>St. Paul's Church</i>	<i>10.00 am</i>
<i>12th</i>	<i>Parish Council Meeting</i>	<i>The School</i>	<i>7.30 pm</i>
<i>22nd</i>	<i>Mobile Library</i>	<i>Culham Science Centre Nursery & Pre-school</i>	<i>3.30 to 3.50 pm</i>
<i>18th</i>	<i>Evening Prayer</i>	<i>St. Paul's Church</i>	<i>6.00 pm</i>

CHURCH SERVICES IN OCTOBER

DATE	TIME	PLACE	SERVICE
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SERVICES AT CULHAM

October

Sunday 11th	10 am	Culham	Family Communion
Sunday 18th	6 pm	Culham	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 between 8.15 and 9.00 am

SERVICES ELSEWHERE

October

Sunday 4th	8 am	Clifton Hampden	Holy Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Harvest Family Service
Sunday 11th	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Harvest Holy Communion
Sunday 18th	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion
Sunday 25th	8.30 am	Little Wittenham	Holy Communion
	10 am	Clifton Hampden	Family Communion
	10 am	Long Wittenham	Holy Communion

Talking Point by Reverend Caroline King

October is harvest festival time in many of our parishes and despite some wet weather of late it is good to see the harvest being gathered in, fields ploughed and hedgerows rich with berries. At the moment though we have to balance our thanksgiving for a good harvest alongside prayerful awareness of and concern for those for whom daily survival is a constant struggle.

At the moment and largely as a result of the crisis in Syria the whole of Europe is faced with a huge humanitarian crisis as tens of thousands of refugees flee a once prosperous homeland. Through media and over social networks we have seen many heart breaking images of those people forced to flee Syria and the Middle East. Just how desperate must you feel when an overcrowded boat on a stormy sea seems to offer more hope than your homeland?

What can we do to help? It is easy to feel powerless in the face of such desperation. This present crisis is complex and there are no easy answers or solutions. Christian faith is relevant to how we live our lives and we should allow it to inform and shape our society and its structures, lest those whose beliefs lead them towards less tolerant positions end up having the final word. There is a clear bias throughout the whole of scripture towards the weak and vulnerable, from the Book of Leviticus in chapter 19.34: "Treat them as you would a fellow-Israelite, and love them as you love yourselves. Remember that you were once foreigners in the land of Egypt. I am the LORD your God" (GNB), through the prophets and in the life of Jesus. Time and time again in the Gospels Jesus is moved by human need and reacts with love and compassion to heal and restore the broken.

We cannot be indifferent in the face of need; in following Jesus our calling is to be preparers of the way for God's reign, God's kingdom here on earth. Preparation is about making room and clearing space in anticipation of something new. So what can we do to help? As always the public has reacted magnificently to the crisis, there are many Christian charities such as Christian Aid and Tear Fund who are already doing fantastic work. Do support them if you can. There are also charities collecting practical gifts of food, clothing and toys, and taking them to refugees. Above everything else we can commit the current crisis into our prayers. The below prayer comes from the Church of England web site, I commend it to you for both private and public prayer.

Heavenly Father,
You are the source of all goodness, generosity and love.

We thank you for opening the hearts of many to those who are fleeing for their lives.

Help us now to open our arms in welcome, and reach out our hands in support.

That the desperate may find new hope, and lives torn apart be restored.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ Your Son,
Our Lord,
who fled persecution at His birth
and at His last triumphed over death.
Amen

With best wishes, Caroline

Church Finances – Andrew Churchill Stone

The PCC of St Paul's is responsible for the running of the church. We are fortunate that we have a thriving Friends' organisation which is responsible for the fabric of the building but the PCC remains responsible for the Insurance, Heating and for paying a contribution towards the Vicar's salary and housing costs. Our total annual expenditure is now £9,000. This is funded by collections and contributions at services and from events like the plant sale. We already have reduced costs as far as we can and our share of the central costs we pay is lower than it might be due to the generosity of other Parishes in the Bridge Group.

For many years the Church has been able to meet these costs from amounts given by current and former parishioners but as people have become older and moved away from Culham this income has fallen. We now face the prospect of losing all of our accumulated funds within the next 18 months.

This has been a good year for the activities of the church and four couples will have been married here this year. If we are to remain available to people who wish to be married here, and to conduct funerals and baptisms, as well as marking the seasons of Harvest, Remembrance, Easter and Christmas we need to remain financially viable. The PCC is now asking those with an interest in seeing the Church remain open and viable to consider a regular donation to its funds to enable its annual costs to be met.

More details will be available soon but if anyone would like to discuss this further, please get in touch.

Village News

The Village Web site is at: www.culhamvillage.org.uk

St Paul's Harvest Supper

A very successful Harvest Festival service and supper was held on Sunday 13th September 2015 and, to mark the forthcoming retirement of our Vicar Anne Ilsley, a presentation was made by Charles Reichardt on behalf of the community of Culham.

A delightful water colour painting of St Paul's had been kindly painted and donated by Brian Bracher.

A retirement collection paid for the picture to be framed, a bouquet of flowers and a substantial cheque also.

Thanks must go to the large team of helpers who decorated the church beautifully and who helped with the supper and refreshments after the service.

The biggest thanks go to the school children of Culham Primary School who were part of the service and who not only brought along donations of food to the service (which will this year be donated to a local foodbank) but also sang beautifully!

We all wish Anne a long and happy retirement when she leaves us in November.

Culham Christmas Carol Service - Andrew Churchill Stone

The Culham Christmas Carol Service will be on Sunday 20th December at 6.00pm. As in previous years, it would be nice to form a choir to help lead the singing and sing one or two 'choir only' carols. It is intended that there would be a rehearsal on Sunday 20th December before the service at 4.30pm. If anyone is interested in joining a choir please let me know on 01235 533011 or a.churchill.stone@mybroadbandmail.com

Christmas Party at The Railway Inn – Pauline Davidson

To be held on Saturday 12th **December** (not September as previously published!). Please see end pages for details and application form.

Culham Parochial School

Bob and I would like to extend our thanks to the children, parents, governors and staff of Culham School for the warm welcome we have received since taking up the temporary headship at the start of September. We are very much enjoying our time here and it is great to see how the school works with the community. Nothing epitomised this more than the recent Harvest Festival at the church - it was a lovely service and it seemed as if the bring and share supper was a success. We would also like to extend the school's thanks to Vicar Anne for all she has done over the past few years - from leading assemblies and services to being a Foundation Governor; she will be missed.

As a school we are always looking out for helping hands and volunteers; be it to hear children read, become a member of the PTA or help with maintenance of the school building or grounds. If you feel that you are able to help the school in any way we would love to hear from you.

Thank you

Ricky Emms - Associate Headteacher

Bob Pattenden - Executive Headteacher

Culham Parish Council (CPC) notes – September 2015

The CPC has been audited and all was well with the paperwork and accounts.

There was one burial in August in the cemetery.

Towards the end of September Councillor Gibbs will attend an OCC event to discuss opportunities to work with Town and Parish Councils across a range of public services.

CPC will chase Morrells for a response to our suggestions about the refurbishment of the Waggon and Horses pub.

The annual ROSPA report on the playing field has listed some medium risk areas which will be attended to.

Quotes will be obtained along with design guidance for the proposed second memorial stone to be placed on the Green.

Councillor Casey-Rerhaye will source the proposed oak tree and hazel tree to replace the trees on the north-west corner of the Green.

A discussion was held on the proposal to produce a Neighbourhood Plan as the next step on from a Community Plan. No final decision was made on this extensive but potentially valuable asset.

Next meeting

Monday 12th October 2015 at 19:30 at the school.

As ever all villagers are welcome to attend - please come along even if you have no specific items to present/discuss.

County Councillor Report - Cllr Lorraine Lindsay-Gale

Budget

The hard work of preparing a budget for 2016/17 will soon begin in earnest. The exact financial position will not be known until the end of November when the Comprehensive Spending Review is announced; this may mean that the final details of the Budget may not be decided until the January 2016 Cabinet meeting. It is currently expected that around another £60m of savings will have to be made; these will mean some difficult decisions will have to be taken in order to achieve a balanced budget on 16th February 2016. The County Council has already made savings of £204 million since 2010. Further savings of £88 million by 2018 have been planned, so the additional £60m takes the total savings to £352 million. The biggest single budget challenge is the ever-rising cost of Social Care.

Nearly half of the Council's budget goes on Social Care. By and large, the Council's responsibilities here are statutory, meaning that for the most part, budget cuts fall in other areas.

Household Waste Recycling Centres

A HWRC strategy will aim to create a sustainable network of sites across the county that are well located for areas of population. The network, together with district council kerbside collections, will aim to maximise the amount of waste reused and recycled in the county and minimise the amount of material sent for disposal. An agreed strategy will enable OCC to seek contributions from new development to maintain and improve the HWRC network. In order to achieve a financially sustainable network of sites, it is proposed that the strategy to be consulted on is based on the following key objectives:

- reduce number of sites;
- locate sites to limit as much as possible the drive times for residents;
- locate the sites as close as possible to the more populated centres.

A public consultation started on 10 August and will run until 5 October 2015. It can be found here: <https://consultations.oxfordshire.gov.uk/consult.ti/HWRCstrategy/consultationHome>

Recycling Road Sweepings

Road sweepings from across Oxfordshire are to be processed at a state-of-the-art new treatment and recovery facility in Ewelme – a move which is designed to boost recycling rates and help cut costs for Oxfordshire County commercial outsourcing, the expectation is that all partners (including OCC) will collaborate and work together for the good of the partnership. OCC will join the partnership through a joint working agreement, retaining influence on the partnership through an operational forum, which provides a basis for consultation and the exercise of influence in the management of the overall joint working arrangements.

Other News & Events



Earth Trust - Gardeners Required

Do you have green fingers? Do you have a little time to spare?

If the answer to these questions is “Yes!” then the Earth Trust would love to hear from you!

Around the Earth Trust Centre in Little Wittenham there are some gardens in need of attention. The area includes fruit bushes, five beds of shrubs and ground cover plants, low box hedges, two herb beds, and three climbing plants. There are also some less formal areas used by school groups: an orchard, wild play area, wildlife pond and living willow structures, plus native hedgerows.

“Whilst it’s great to leave some areas of your garden to grow wild, to benefit local wildlife, some plants require a bit more care, so we’re looking for green fingered volunteers to help us maintain and develop these gardens and other areas. We’ll provide support, tools, gloves and other safety equipment when necessary, as well as the all-important tea, coffee and biscuits. Ideas for new plantings and other improvements would be welcomed so there is a real opportunity for someone to put their own stamp on it,” said Jez Elkin, Volunteer Engagement Officer at the Earth Trust.

Much of the work is dependent on the time of year but the Trust could easily accommodate a couple of volunteer gardeners one or two days a week. If you are interested please contact Jez on 01865 409413 or volunteering@earthtrust.org.uk. For more information about the Earth Trust see www.earthtrust.org.uk

All the following events take place at the Earth Trust, Little Wittenham, OX14 4QZ unless otherwise stated.

Autumn Water Festival **Sunday 4th October, 11am-4pm**

A celebration of autumn, harvest and our use of water. Did you know that jellyfish and cucumbers are both 95% water? Lots more fun facts and watery activities for all the family. Don’t forget your wellies! Please see our website for all the latest details: www.earthtrust.org.uk/whatson. £5 adult, £2 child, £12 family.

Woodland Adventure **Wednesday 28th October, 10am-12pm**

An expedition for 5-8 year olds. Use your detective skills to discover the Earth Trust’s woodland, where we’ll explore, build and play. £4 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free. No need to book.

Discover and Play **Friday 30th October, 10am-12pm**

Forest School for pre-school children. Join the Earth Trust for a morning of play and discovery in our woodlands. Forest School offers hands on learning experiences in a natural environment. £4 suggested donation per child, accompanying adult(s) free. No need to book.

Spooky Dusk Discovery Walk **Friday 30th October, 5.30pm-7.30pm**

Do you dare come out to the woods tonight? Join us for a moonlit Halloween walk to experience the Earth Trust’s woodland at night. Torch and courage essential. £5 adult, £2 child; booking essential: 01865 407792 or admin@earthtrust.org.uk



Sobell Hospice Christmas Fair

Sat 21st November 2015,
10am to 5pm
at Radley College, Radley OX14 2HR

Refreshments will be available in the beautiful refectory at Radley College.

The cost of admission is £6.00 and £3.50 concessions.

All money raised will go to support Sobell House Hospice.

There will be over 60 stalls selling a variety of food, gifts, jewellery, home wares, accessories and much, much more.

Cornerstone, Didcot

01235 515144 www.cornerstone-arts.org



October's **Top Fun Sunday** shows include **Pitschi, The Kitten with Dreams**, on Sunday 11 October. This original production uses a rich mix of story-telling, physical theatre, music and song to tell the story of a kitten that learns to be happy by being exactly what she is. For families and children from 3 and up.

Perfect for families and children aged 6+ **Baccala Clown: Pss Pss** offers an evening of ace clowning, superb circus skills and a trapeze on Thursday 8 October. This Cirque du Soleil Prize-winning show features two highly skilled performers who find magic in the mundane, using a unique blend of juggling, acrobatics, clowning and apples.

An evening of fast-paced musical comedy for ages 10+ and families on Saturday 31 October in **Dickens Abridged**. An absurdly talented cast of four bring hundreds of the great author's best-loved characters to life in 70 minutes. This wonderful show is a singing, dancing love-letter to the life and works of the great man, and unlike any Dickens-based show you've ever seen before. More comedy for ages 12+ and families in **He Had Hairy Hands**, on Saturday 17 October. It's an hilarious spoof horror with brilliant effects, bizarre characters and a spectacular finale. This award-winning comedy is a 1970s detective werewolf mystery. Hilarity, mystery and mayhem guaranteed for ages 12 and up!

On Friday 9 October English musician and guitarist Martin Simpson and American guitar and banjo player Dom Flemons come to Cornerstone as **Simpson and Flemons**. Both artists have explored how folk songs travelled from England to North America, and vice versa, changing shape en route and will perform brand new collaborative material rooted in English and American folk traditions.

Laugh your socks off with **Patrick Kielty: Help** as he returns to his stand-up roots with a brand new show on Sunday 18 October. Join this TV household name as he attempts to write a modern rule book for love, life and happiness.

The Mouthpiece would like to thank FCC Environment (one of the UK's leading waste and resource management businesses) of Appleford Sidings, Sutton Courtenay for their continuing support in printing this newsletter.

CHRISTMAS PARTY AT THE RAILWAY INN - PAULINE DAVIDSON

I would like to invite senior citizens of Culham, aged 65+, to The Railway Inn on **Saturday 12th December 2015** for a Christmas Party, from **2 to 6 pm**. This offer is limited to 30 people who must be Culham residents. It will include:

- Free 4 Course Turkey Meal and refreshments.
- Entertainment, Bingo and Raffle

If you want to come, please fill in and return the tear-off reply slip below. Please note that we need to know if you have any special requirements, such as :-

*do you need to be picked up?
will you be in a wheelchair?
are you on a special diet?*



To Pauline Davidson, The Railway Inn, Culham, OX14 3BT (tel. 528046)

I would like to come to the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party at The Railway Inn on **Saturday 12th December 2015**.

Name

Address.....

.....

Telephone number

*Special needs – please **CROSS OUT** if **NOT** needed*

Please could someone give me a lift?

I will be in a wheelchair.

I am on a special diet – i.e.



THE MOUTHPIECE

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 November issue of The Mouthpiece by October 15th please, to:

generalmouthpiece@gmail.com

or

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If you would like to try editing an issue of the Mouthpiece, please let us know – it's not *that* difficult!

The Mouthpiece Team