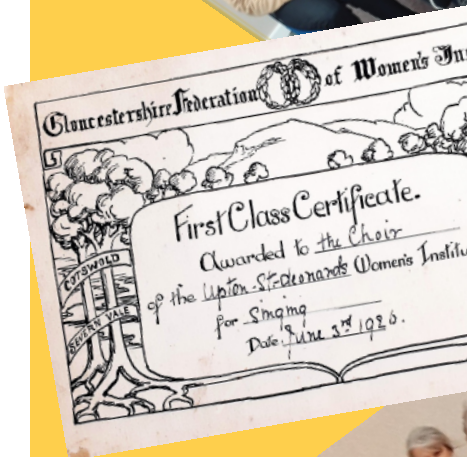
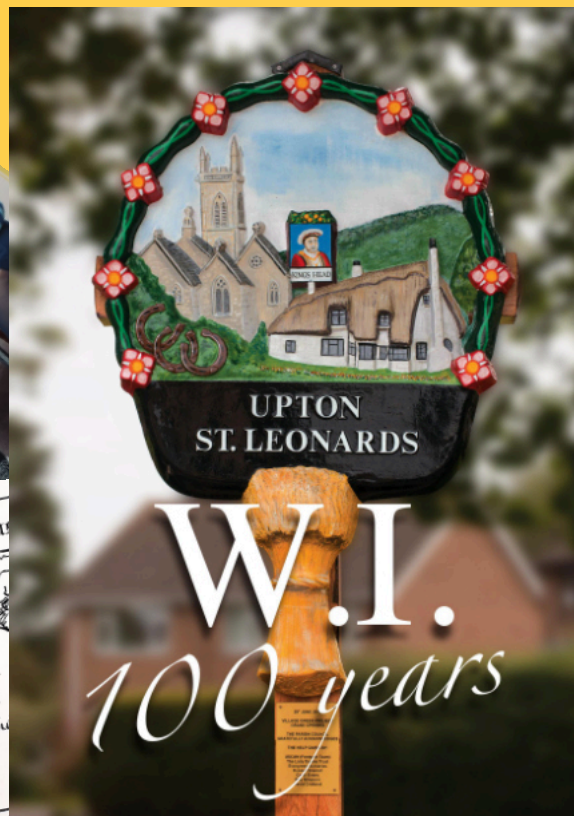


Upton St Leonards Life

incorporating Church News

Issue 104

April 2023



Upton St Leonards WI Centenary 1923 - 2023

This issue celebrates 100 years of the Upton St Leonards WI.

Members of the WI joined the editorial team as guest editors

In this issue:

More pictures and stories from the WI's 100 years: pages 2-4 & back

Farewell to Revd Philippa p9

Route 66 - the new bus service from the Village to Cheltenham, Painswick and Stroud p6

Editorial



I believe that the National WI motto “**Inspiring Women**” is deliberately ambiguous. It means both that the WI hopes to inspire women through its activities, and also that many WI members in the past and present are, of themselves, inspiring

women. We should all try in our own ways to be an inspiration to others, and be ready to learn from inspirational people we meet.

Our Main Feature – the Upton St Leonards WI Centenary

Congratulations, 100 years old!

Here, first, is how it all started in 1923.

There was a general get-together of women interested in forming a WI in the Village. More than 80 arrived to hear from the Gloucester Federation of WIs what would be expected.

At the call for nominations to form a committee, 27 names were put forward (this alone may cause a smile among today’s members)! This was whittled down to 12 by ballot. Most appropriately for the times, Mrs Adela Birchall from Bowden Hall, the wife of the village “squire”, John Dearman Birchall (Junior), was elected as President, and over 50 ladies remained to hear from the Gloucester Federation Chair Person.

At the first recorded meeting of 1923 The President was ill, so could not attend. The secretary resigned, being unable to come to future meetings - so the treasurer became Secretary and a new committee member took over as Treasurer. A resolution was carried that any member being more than 5 minutes late for the meeting would be fined 2d (pennies) – maybe today £2 equivalent.

A programme was sorted for the year. A choir was formed. There was a knitting competition: all were given a ball of the same wool. The winner was the one who knitted the longest piece of a sock at a fixed width and tension, in 10 minutes. The prize was – another ball of wool to make another pair of socks! But all the 10 minute “socks” were then completed at home ready for collection at the next meeting.

Vegetable competitions were entered at shows in the county - certificates were also gained in singing, knitting

The WI was founded in Canada in 1897, based on a British model of women’s guilds. The first WI meeting in Britain was held in 1915, led by a Canadian WI member, and the National organisation was set up in Britain in 1917. This was wartime, of course, and the first aims of the organisation were both to revitalise rural communities depleted by the war effort, and to encourage women to become more involved in producing food, given the labour shortage.

This issue of Upton St Leonards Life celebrates the foundation of the Upton St Leonards branch of the WI one hundred years ago, in 1923. I hope you enjoy the stories and pictures of our first 100 years.

Angela Harris, Upton WI President

and cake making.

The rest of this piece features pictures and items from the early years, and celebrations at 40th, 50th, 60th, 75th and 100th anniversary events, plus a few other photographs of interest.

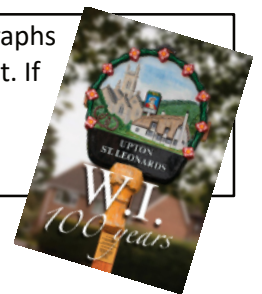
I hope memories will come back to be enjoyed, and some will be well remembered, so we are able to look forward to the years ahead... Congratulations and best wishes for the years to come.

The last few years have been very difficult for Upton St Leonards WI, as with clubs of all kinds. Keeping going, that long Covid break in 2020, when not even committees could meet. Technology helped, but the face to face meetings were out - Zoom, telephone and computer took over. So it was a great relief when meetings restarted in August 2020.

Angela Harris, President

Angela spent long hours in the Gloucestershire archives to assemble this report and the photos on the next pages, and she also had access to items from past and present WI members and the Village History Group.

This report and even more photographs have been put together in a booklet. If you’d like a copy, it costs £3, please contact Angela (phone 616755).



Of course there are two WIs in Upton St Leonards, the other being the Twyver WI, which was set up in the late 1960’s. The second catered for a large number of women moving into the Village, as the houses in Six Acres, Perry Orchard, Woodland Green etc. were being built, a time when the Upton St Leonards WI was already full to bursting.

Cakes, Jams, Speeches and Birthdays



At the 50th anniversary, Mrs A Caswell, a founder member, was present to cut the cake. Mrs E Stanbury is with her.



At the 60th Anniversary, the WI planted a fir tree on the newly created Village Green. See the tree now - it's the huge one near the road. Names from left are Mrs B Rainbow, Mrs B Jenkins, Mrs D Gardiner, Mrs A Hunt, Mrs E Stanbury, Mrs P Tredgett, Mrs Y Stayte, Miss Thomas, Mrs P Lloyd and Mrs E Rumsey.



At the 50th Anniversary Eva Sims was absent but sent a telegram.



Christmas Bazaar 1969. Mrs R Tredgett, Mrs V Caswell, Mrs D Bishop, Mrs P Lloyd and Evelyn Rumsey.





The rounders team 1990

Upton WI Outings, Fun, Sports



The Upton WI Pantomime (1993) "Red Hot Cinders"



Outing to the Garter ceremony at Windsor Castle, 2001



Evelyn Rumsey meets HRH Camilla (who was then Duchess of Cornwall, of course)



PANCAKE RACES. The snowmen (1996) are Meg James, Diane White, Margaret Weeks and Pam Johnson. The highwaymen (1995) are Pam Johnson, Sheila Stapleton, Evelyn Kendal and Margaret Weeks



1990 – A cricket match – Upton WI v Twyver WI. Doris Sutton and Edie Howell are the cheerleaders

Reports from the March meetings of our two WIs

TWYVER WI

Our speakers were June Little and Margaret Threadgold of THE COTSWOLD LISTENER, local 'talking' newspaper



Free weekly news recording for
visually impaired people

for the visually impaired. What a wonderful idea and very welcome in the area they serve. We heard how the volunteers give their time to recording items of interest from local newspapers and snippets of world newsworthy interest, along with information on the entertainment industry and magazines. Items are recorded on memory sticks and sent via the post to people requesting their services free of charge and they are given a small device on which to play them at no cost to themselves. They record plays, poetry and monologues by local actors and directors and approximately 80 – 100 minutes are recorded each week. There are about 60 volunteers in total who give up their time for this amazing cause. Approximately 20 to 25 articles are selected each week from the previous 7 days and the recipients are so grateful for this link into their communities. Three of their members are over 100 and most are in the 70 plus group so it keeps them in touch. For special occasions such as Christmas, recordings are done well in advance as these can cover 5 hours, enough for listeners to enjoy over a longer period.

Margaret gave us a reading as she would have recorded it for listeners, it was like listening to Angela Rippon - so clear and calming you can understand why this is of great

Upton St Leonards Ladies Probus Club

A quick change of plan for the February meeting led to Mike Stratford giving a talk about the History of the Victoria Cross.

March's meeting has Alan Parker as our speaker. He will be telling us all about 'A Day in the Life of a Durham Miner'.

The April meeting will see a return of Upton's own Mike Stratford whose talk is intriguingly entitled 'Secret No Longer'. So please come along and join us on Wednesday 19 April at 10.15am in BMI.

Janet Carr

Again this year, plenty of people dressed up appropriately to have lunch, drinks and spend an afternoon at 'Cheltenham Races at the BMI'. An enjoyable time was had by all!

benefit to the community. If any of you know of someone who would benefit from this service don't hesitate to contact them:

Phone 01242 252072

Email admin@cotswoldlistener.co.uk

Web www.cotswoldlistener.co.uk

There is no Twyver meeting for April and our next meeting will be 22 May.

Linda Munnoch

You may recall that we opened up the February meeting for the talk on big cats in Gloucestershire. This proved to be most popular. The talk at the 22 May meeting is on Gloucestershire butterflies which may be of interest to other villagers, so the meeting will similarly be open to visitors.

UPTON WI

Quite a few more ladies than usual were present at the March meeting - very encouraging! We were hugely entertained and inspired by a demonstration of flower arranging by Sue Teesdale. She gave us valuable tips on shape, colour and texture. She started with a multi-coloured display in a plain mug. Next was a large triangular shape edged in greenery with tall stemmed roses in the centre, graduating down to smaller flowers at the base. The final display was based around a few large tropical flowers set amid many colours and varieties of foliage.

The next meeting includes a talk and film show on birds of Gloucestershire, presented by David Cramp, 2pm on Monday 3 April in the Pavilion. All are welcome.

Kathy Quant

Events at the BMI

On Saturday 25 February, "Over the Hill" entertained over 80 BMI members to a great night of music. One of the members of this band is Steve Mew from Perry Orchard. Everyone had a wonderful evening and we look forward to welcoming them back again before too long.

The Sunday jazz lunches prove to be a continued success with the JG Trio playing once again on March 5. The next jazz lunch will be on Sunday 21st May, a date for your diary.

Paula Quinn

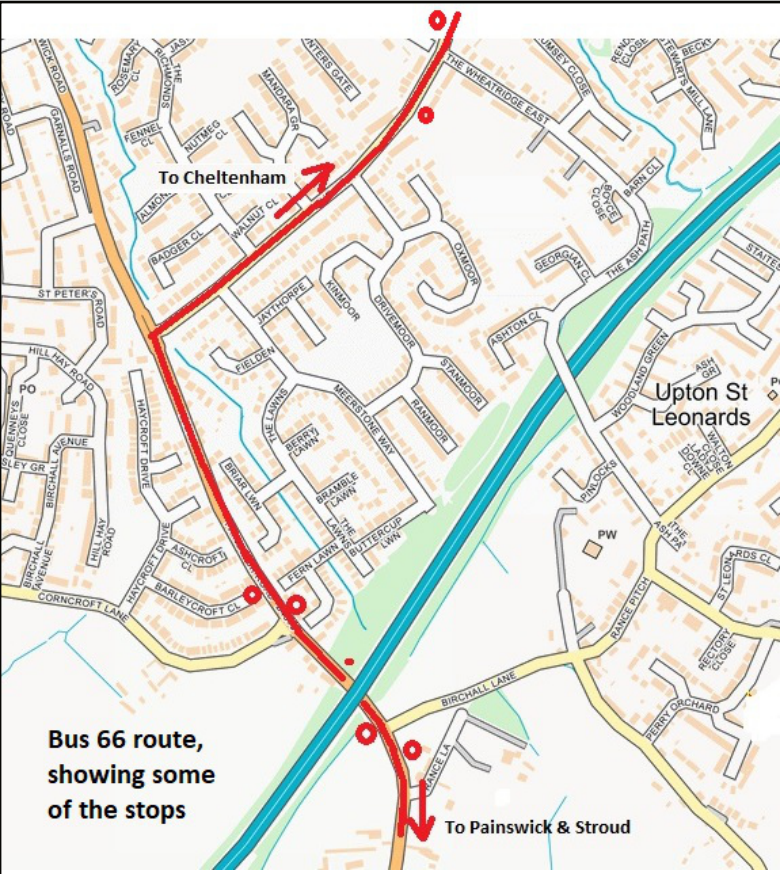
The 66 Bus

This is a really good news item! The Village now has an hourly bus to Cheltenham, Painswick and Stroud.

The 66 from Cheltenham to Stroud used to go along the A46 past Prinknash. The route has been changed so that at the Brockworth Fruit Farm roundabout it diverts along the A417 and then comes through the Gloucester Business Park, Lobleys Drive and Abbeymead Avenue, down the Wheatway and onto Painswick Road past the Kings Head and up Upton Hill to Painswick. New bus stops have been put in place, and some of the stops are shown on the map here.

This is an hourly bus Monday to Saturday. It is 25 minutes to Stroud and 31 minutes to Cheltenham, according to the timetable. No 66 bus on Sundays (Note, however, that the 166 takes the former route past Prinknash on Sundays only.)

Please check details and times. The nearest stops for those in the centre of the Village are at the Kings Head. Or you can walk along the Ash Path and catch the bus near Christchurch Abbeydale.



Villagers in the Prinknash and Pincott area, of course, lose their bus service as a consequence, so it's not good for all. Older Village residents will remember that there was a service many years ago from Gloucester to Painswick that stopped at the Kings Head. It was apparently well used at one time, but then we all acquired our own cars and the route was axed like so many rural routes.

Could you give a Ukrainian family a safe home?

This article comes from Stroud Ukrainian Refugee Community Support (SURCS)

Despite the war in Ukraine lasting over a year, many families are still in desperate need of a place of safety. Could you offer a room, or better still an annexe or holiday home?

There are several organisations set up to help host families, including SURCS, a local network of volunteers helping Ukrainian guests and their hosts, so you won't feel alone!

Refugee guests are able to live and work in the UK for up to three years. Six to twelve months is the initial expected stay. Host families receive

help towards costs. Many Stroud district families have already opened their doors and have found the hosting experience an overwhelmingly positive one. They have enjoyed making new friends, having more people around the house and sharing each others food and cultures.

Sadly, SURCS has a long list of people needing either follow-on housing or still trying to get out of Ukraine. They say: "We are trying our best to forge connections where we can. As a volunteer group we are not professionals so cannot do official matching and checks and all that, but

we can point people in the right direction and help HFU* get people placed."

If you have a spare room or annexe and think you might be interested in hosting and would like to find out more, please contact:

- > SURCS on stroudurcs@gmail.com
- or Homes for Ukraine on
- > HFUTeam@gloucestershire.gov.uk

SURCS is a volunteer community group that works to connect people, distribute information and create social events.

***HFU – Homes for Ukraine** (Gloucestershire County Council) takes care of the official business of matching sponsors with guests and carrying out the checks required to do so.

USL Life Company AGM

The AGM of the company that publishes this magazine is on Monday 17 April at 7.30pm in the Old School Room. Anyone can attend, but only members may vote. The newsletter and the company belong to the members. If you are interested in becoming a member, so you can have a say in how the magazine is produced, see our website usllife.org.uk and click on "Become a member")

BMI Spring Quiz

Saturday 8th April @ 8pm

Once again quiz-master Andy will bring his unique and quirky blend of questions ranging from easy-peasy to genius level

£1.50 per person for teams up to 6 persons
Minimum £6 for teams up to 4 persons

All profit on the night to be donated to the BMI charity for 2022/23 which is The CT Scanner @ Cheltenham Hospital

Please add your name to the booking sheet by Thursday 6th April to ensure that there are sufficient quiz sheets and tables available.

For members and signed in guests

BMI Entertainment Night

Saturday 22nd April

featuring

IAN OLIVER

Singer and guitar player

From 8.00pm

Open to members and signed in guests

Upton Show

This year's Upton Show will take place on Saturday 9th September and it will now be time for you to start planning for your exhibits. This is always one of the most popular events of the year in the village, and a chance to catch up with friends that you may not have seen for a while.

The schedule for this year will be available in due course, however you can also log in to the website and see a previous schedule, which may give you some idea of the classes*. There

are sections on vegetables, fruit and flowers together with handicrafts, photography, flower arranging and home-made produce. Something for everyone! There are also sections for children from under 5's to 16 years, a great way to introduce them to the wonders of gardening.

Don't worry if you have never entered a competition of this nature before, there are novice classes included, and don't be put off by all the rules and regulations. The show is just for your entertainment and enjoyment.

*www.uptonstleonardsshow.com



The Coronation

This is a bit of a non-article, because we haven't heard of any Village plans to publicise. There must be some street parties organised, we would have thought. Coronation mugs, anyone? Maybe there will be some last minute announcements in the May newsletter.



VILLAGE HALL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM of the Village Hall Trust will take place on Tuesday 9th May at 7.45pm in the Annex of the Village Hall. All user groups are invited to send along a representative, but all are welcome

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St Leonard's Church

EASTER

Please come to worship with us at this most important part of the Church's Year

Services for April

- Sunday April 2 PALM SUNDAY**
8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Holy Communion with procession of palms (weather permitting)
- Thursday April 6 MAUNDY THURSDAY**
6.00pm Maundy Thursday meal and Holy Communion
- Friday April 7 GOOD FRIDAY**
9.00am Walk from church to Prinknash Abbey café, with Easter readings along the way. Coffee and hot cross buns at the café
- Sunday April 9 EASTER SUNDAY**
10.00am Holy Communion.
This is Rev Philippa's last service with us, so please do come if you can, as we say thank you and goodbye to her.
- Sunday April 16** 10.00am Holy Communion.
We welcome Rev Dan Button to lead our service.
- Sunday April 23** 10.00am Holy Communion.
We welcome Rev Richard Inglesby to lead our service.
- Sunday April 30** 10.00am Morning Worship
The Flourish Team lead the worship and we welcome Rev Ali Mephram to this service; he will lead a short said Holy Communion service afterwards

Farewell to Philippa

Easter Day is Reverend Philippa Donald's last day with us as she has come to the end of her 18 month appointment here.



In those 18 months Philippa has helped to build up the church membership and its confidence in the future, and she has become a friend to all of us. She will be very much missed, but we thank her with all our hearts and she goes with our best wishes to whatever she plans for the future.

We must also say thank you to Ian Donald, who has brought his talents and enthusiasm to our worship: in music and singing and in taking part in the services, sharing his experiences, for example, in his work as a doctor at GRH.

FAREWELL to you both

Philippa's last letter to us is on page 11

CHURCH CONTACTS

NOTE: After 9 April the post of Minister will be vacant until another appointment is made. In the vacancy, your first point of contact is either Gill Howell or Jenny Cunningham (below)

Churchwarden: Gill Howell

**Church Administrator:
Jenny Cunningham
(Wedding & Baptism Enquiries)**

If you are unable to come to church and you would like to receive Holy Communion at home at any time, please contact Gill Howell



Tower light dedications

Please note the deadline for the Church pages is the 8th of the preceding month

In an effort to conserve resources the church lights will only be lit between the hours of 5pm and 9 pm during the winter

On the 6th March, the Church Tower was lit for John Baker in remembrance of the anniversary of his passing and on the 12th March for his birthday. With love from Carol and family

The Church Tower will be lit on the 2nd April, in loving memory of James Bruntnell Williams. Forever in our hearts Yvonne and family

The Tower Lights will be lit on the 18th April in remembrance of Dr Frank Hakim being the sixth anniversary of his death, a dear husband, father and grandfather. Kindly sponsored by his wife Margaret and the family.

On the 27th April, the Tower Lights are lit in remembrance of Norma Brinkley, whose birthday it would have been on this day. Kindly sponsored by her Son, Alan

The Church Tower will be lit on the 28th April in memory of my daughter Tracy on her birthday. With love and happy memories from all the family.

If you or your family wish to have the lights sponsored in celebration of a birthday, an anniversary, for a loved one's life or any other reason, please contact Jenny Cunningham for more details.

St. Leonard's Church

Annual Parish Church Meeting

The meeting will take place on

Sunday 23rd April

after the 10.00 am Holy Communion Service

In the Old School Room

As has been stated before, the church is handicapped by a shortage of people willing to take responsibility for its running. We really need two churchwardens (we have only one at the moment), a treasurer and a secretary. You?

March 500 Club Winners

1st Prize £30.00 No 63
(Kindly donated to the roof fund)
2nd Prize £20.00 No 57



Lent Lunches

Lent Lunches held on every Thursday during Lent were a great success and (at time of printing) £550.00 had been raised to go towards the roof fund.



A big Thank you to everyone who has helped and contributed to make this event such a success. Especially the soup makers, the 'waitresses' the washer uppers, organisers and of course our guest speakers



Rev. Philippa

Dear friends in Upton St Leonard's,

Welcome to my last letter to you for the USL magazine! I have so much enjoyed writing monthly thoughts about life and our journey of faith together with you during my time here, and sharing them with you, and I hope you have enjoyed reading them. I first acquired a love of letter-writing whilst at boarding school as a teenager. I wrote to all sorts of friends (as well as the compulsory letter home that had to be written after breakfast and before church every week on a Sunday morning) and it was a great way to stay in touch and share thoughts and views.

Outside my study window this morning, the girls from Denmark Road School are all queuing up excitedly to get on coaches to go off on trips, so there's quite a lot of noise! I love living opposite the school: I can hear the girls out at break, and lunch, and they play sports on the pitches next to our home. They sit on our wall outside the house as they wait to go home each day and I have an arrangement with the lady who owns a local ice-cream van -at the end of their school day the girls queue up to buy ice-creams – in all weathers – and we've agreed that the van can park across our drive unless I want to go out! All very satisfactory and friendly.

There are one or two challenges with the school, of course. Their burglar alarm goes off in the middle of the night at times, and sometimes the girls return from a trip in the early hours, chattering excitedly about all they have seen and done, and wake us up! Sometimes when there is a school event the street is packed with cars and we can't get ours out (mind you that happens when there's a rugby match as well) And during the summer term I collect tennis balls, which coming sailing across the fence from their courts into our garden!

But on the whole it works well, each of us respecting the other and allowing for our differences. Surely this is a model for us here in our parish and community, each of respecting the other and allowing for our differences.

Here is what the Bible says about this:

Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Make allowance for each other's faults and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body, you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful. Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

Colossians 3 v 12 - 17

This was one of the readings we had at our wedding, but it's just as appropriate for people in a church family as it is for a couple getting married. It's about clothing ourselves with all those good things that come from the Holy Spirit living in us and helping us to be more like Jesus. It's about allowing for differences and faults and forgiving each other. It's about LOVE being the basis of how we live. It's about letting peace be the ruling factor in our relationships. It's about the word of God filling our lives and influencing all we do. It's about helping each other to grow in faith and about singing praise to God! It's about being thankful to God and about everything we do and say being for God.

So after a brilliant eighteen months with you all, I pray that in the continuing months of the vacancy you will take these verses into your hearts and let them influence your life together. God has a plan for you all, and as you wait for that to become clear, may these words inspire and guide you.

I pray God's blessing on you all, and all good wishes for a Happy Easter!

With my love and prayers

Rev Philippa x



Mothers' Union



At the February meeting we welcomed Margaret Edwards, a past Diocesan President of Mothers' Union as our speaker. She is a member of St Phillip & St James Church in Hucclecote which supports theological students and a school in the Diocese of Western Tanganyika in Tanzania, and with a small group from the congregation and the Archdeacon they visited to see the progress being made. Her slides were most interesting showing visits to local Mothers' Union branches, the school and at church services. The toilet facilities at the school were very inadequate so on their return fund raising began and they have been able to pay for a much-improved toilet block.

On the last Friday in February three members attended the monthly MU Midday Prayers in the Cathedral. Deaneries take it in turn to prepare and lead the worship and it was the turn of Gloucester City, our Deanery. It is usually held in the Lady Chapel but due to the Art installation members met in the Thomas Chapel. Members also took the opportunity to see the Knife Angel.

At our next meeting on Thursday 20th April, we will be learning about the work of the Gloucester Street Pastors with Diana Godden. All are welcome to come along and join us at St Oswald's Church Hall, Coney Hill at 2.30pm.
Kate Gale - Branch Leader



Craft Day

Thursday 13th April 2023 11am-3pm

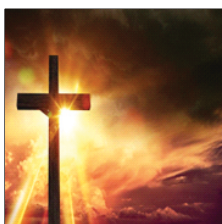
The Old School Room, Bond End Road, Upton St Leonards

refreshments tea / coffee & biscuits

(If you are staying over the lunchtime period, bring some food along, or go to the BMI club, which is just next door, where rolls, toasties etc. are available.

We will be packing craft packs and wrapping shoeboxes ready for later on in the year. In preparation for this get together we would appreciate it if you could save shoeboxes, wrapping paper, as well as items for craft packs that we can put together and bring them along on the day.

It would be useful to know numbers, therefore please email Sheila at whitakersheila7@gmail.com and let us know you are able to attend!



Stations of the Cross

Exhibition of drawings by

Jonathon Brown

In St Mary de Crypt church

Following Jesus' journey to the cross, crucifixion and the resurrection

There is an accompanying booklet, describing each picture, with a Bible verse and reflection for the viewer.

The exhibition will run during Lent until Sunday April 16th from Wednesdays to Sundays 11.00 am - 3.00pm.

The exhibition is free – but donations gratefully received

Diana Way is stepping down as our Deanery Synod rep. We thank Diana for her commitment to this job over the last years. Now we need a new Rep. But what does being a Deanery Synod rep involve?

- Attending three or four Deanery Synod evening meetings a year.
- Being able to speak on behalf of your own worshipping community at Synod meetings.
- Feeding back to your worshipping community and PCC the stories, decisions and inspiration from the Synod (as a Deanery Synod Rep you will also automatically have a place on your own PCC).

Could you help ? Our church needs to be represented in the Deanery.

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FEATURE ARTICLE

Written by Jane Reed

Village Recollections

I recently had the pleasure of meeting and talking with Ivor (Vincent) Middlecote who was born in Winnycroft Cottages in the late 1920s. Not long after his birth his family moved to Bondend Road, as Winnycroft was his grandparents' home. Back then Bondend Road was more of a lane than a road and consisted of a few cottages close to the route onto Nuthill.

At six months old Ivor needed an appendectomy which meant getting to Over Hospital on Vineyard Hill. Thankfully, people in Upton St. Leonards have always helped each other and Mr Gosling, a nearby farmer, hooked up his horse and cart to drive the eight miles. Ivor was incredibly lucky as The Vineyard had one of the few surgeons skilled and brave enough to perform the operation that saved his life.

Ivor had four older siblings: a sister, Doris, and three brothers James (Jim), Leslie (Les), and Ronald (Ron). The brothers were all conscripted into the armed forces with Les managing to sign up at sixteen! After serving for twenty two years Ivor planned to move back to the village with his family but sadly housing was too expensive. However strong links kept, and keep, him visiting almost weekly, even finding time to enjoy the occasional coffee at the BMI.

Attending school, in the building which is now Chipmunks Nursery, was not Ivor's favourite way to spend his time; he would rather have been outside than sat

at a desk. The favourite parts of his school life were sport, gardening, and woodwork. The school garden was across the road, where the boys grew vegetables in the middle section and the girls grew flowers in the more visible



outer sections. The skills Ivor gained in the school garden as well as in the woodwork shed, housed in the recently refurbished school room, have proved very valuable throughout his life. When Ivor was the youngest pupil at school and his Aunt Daisy, the oldest, they each planted a tree at the recreation ground though Ivor can't remember what occasion was being celebrated*; in the photograph Ivor is the one highlighted. Ivor remembers attending school with Joyce Moore, Aves Jeffcutt, the Freckletons, Curly Barnard, Derek Avery as well as his best friend Digger Read who lived 'next door' though the cottages were actually back to back. I wonder whether any of their families have stayed local?

Upton was a lot smaller then but still boasted football and cricket teams and at the start/end of the respective seasons they encroached on each other's pitches on the recreation ground causing a little friction. The Middlecotes were very much a football family with Ivor's Dad marking the pitch out every Saturday morning and at one time four members of the team were Middlecotes.

Plus Ivor's parents ran a weekly sweepstake on the rugby scores to help subsidise the football team. Not only did the residents of Upton play football and cricket they also played tennis on a court behind the Village Hall and badminton in the Hall.

It surprised to me to hear that Upton had five pubs, though before Ivor's time. According to his Grandma, his Grandad got fined one shilling for being drunk in charge of a horse. Apparently he couldn't pass a pub without stopping for a pint. More modestly, Ivor remembers collecting his Dad's two pints of beer for the weekend from the side door of the BMI.

I was fascinated to learn that Upton had both a village policeman and a village nurse, and that the shop, Norris's, was on the corner of Churchfield Road and The Ash Path. Luckily Ivor and his brothers could run faster than the policeman so they only got caught scrumping once; they were caught in an orchard at Rooksmoor when they were told "don't knock 'em all off, if you want to eat one, take one".

Part two will include some wartime memories

**The picture at the top is the said tree planting at the Recreation Ground (possibly to mark the Silver Jubilee of King George V's reign, in 1935?)*

On the left is the 1920/21 football team, and on the back of the picture is the legend:

Goalkeeper: Jim Middlecote (Jnr)

Captain: Jack Middlecote

Front right cross-legged: Bill Middlecote

Second from left, seated, with cap: Harry Barnard.



COLD FRONT – THE UPSTAGERS

In early March the UpStagers presented the play “Cold Front” written by Alan Robertson. Andrea Dawson went to the Saturday performance and she reported:

The UpStagers’ performance was nothing short of hilarious from start to finish. The performance, ably directed by Davyd Hunt and Sam Perkins was meant to take place in a remote cottage in the Scottish Highlands; the venue, chosen for the perfect birthday surprise. However, as the curtains opened it was evident from the set, that the brochure’s description had been somewhat misleading and instead of looking at a cosy, idyllic living room, the audience viewed a dilapidated, somewhat sparsely furnished tin shack, which undoubtedly contributed to the doomed weekend.

Enter Mike, (Martin Smith) the hapless husband doing his utmost to persuade his wife Karen (Ros Faers) that the weekend ahead would be an exciting fun time with some of her favourite friends. Karen however was less than impressed with the ‘party arrangements’ and from the outset was constantly kvetching about the cottage, the friends invited, the weather; in fact, just about everything.

The first guests to arrive, Malcolm (Graham Chisholm) and Miriam (Jane Rogers) made their entrance, just as Karen was in full flow about how boring they were and being totally unaware that they were listening to her character assassination of them both. Last to arrive was an old friend of Mike’s, James (Andrew Penman) but with a new younger girlfriend, Christina (Charlotte Sysum), previously unknown to

the group of friends. It wasn’t long before Miriam and Christina started trading insults with one another and within 15 minutes of the play starting, everyone appeared to be at loggerheads with one another! Some birthday party!!

As tempers simmered, adding further to the forced ‘bonhomie’ of the group, suddenly, the radio crackled into life advising of a weather warning, courtesy of the Radio Presenter (Ava Freshney) who informed the listeners of heavy snow falling; possibly into the next week. Timely, special meteorological sound effects all helped to create the desired atmosphere; for Karen, one of despair, resignation for Mike and a whole host of emotions for the rest of the cast.

Mistaken identities (all involving a balaclava), innuendos aplenty and excellent casting and acting, all ensured that this comedy was delightfully entertaining. All the performers stayed in character throughout the play, with the occasional ad-libbing going on, which was much appreciated by the audience. By Saturday evening, the actors were well into their stride and it was evident that they were enjoying themselves as much as we were.

Attendance was good at the Thursday performance whilst Friday and Saturday evenings were both close to being sold out, and deservedly so. All the cast put on a thoroughly engaging performance; thank you to each and every one of you for all your hard work in order to provide us with some wonderfully humorous entertainment.



Kathy Quant adds:
“Congratulations again to all the wonderful cast and unseen helpers. The comedy flowed like fine wine, but twists and turns kept the audience guessing.
Thank you.”

Jim Brown’s photo shows the cast hunkered down for a cold and stormy night!

News from the Stanley Allotments

Many plot holders have hibernated for the winter, it appears, but they are gradually emerging to carry on the good work of producing food. We will soon see rhubarb, peas, beans, cabbages and salad crops as well as blossom on the fruit trees and bushes.

Naturally, we are hoping for a good summer, with just enough rain, plenty of sun and LOADS of tomatoes!

See the panel on the right, for some bad news from the Stanley allotments.

Peter Macey, Site Manager

Garden machinery theft

Sad to say, the Stanley Allotments were raided at the end of February by thieves. They searched most of the sheds and tool boxes, and took some garden machinery. They must have had a van or trailer. CCTV has now been installed, but if you see anyone behaving suspiciously on the site, please contact the police.



Spring is known to be a peak time for thefts from gardens and allotments. Please check the security of your sheds and garden tools.

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View from the french windows

APRIL

2	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning.....	Tennis Courts.....	10.00am
3	Mon	Coffee Club.....	BMI.....	10.00am
3	Mon	Upton WI - Talk: Birds of Gloucestershire.....	Pavilion.....	2.00pm
3	Mon	Parish Council Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30pm
4	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45am
4	Tue	Tuesday Probus.....	BMI.....	10.00am
4	Tue	Rubbish and food waste week. Garden waste for those with brown bins		
4	Tue	Tennis Club Members Evening.....	Tennis Courts.....	6.00pm
4	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.00-10.00pm
5	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice.....	Church.....	7.30pm
5	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30pm
5	Wed	Bingo.....	BMI.....	8.00pm
8	Sat	Spring Quiz.....	BMI.....	8.00pm
9	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning.....	Tennis Courts.....	10.00am
10	Mon	Coffee Club.....	BMI.....	10.00am
10	Mon	Copy date for May issue of USL Life		
11	Tue	Recycle and food waste week		
11	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45am
11	Tue	Tennis Club Members Evening.....	Tennis Courts.....	6.00pm
11	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.00-10.00pm
12	Wed	Wednesday Probus.....	BMI.....	10.00am
12	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30pm
12	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice.....	Church.....	7.30pm
12	Wed	Bingo.....	BMI.....	8.00pm
16	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning.....	Tennis Courts.....	10.00am
17	Mon	Coffee Club.....	BMI.....	10.00am
17	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30pm
17	Mon	USL Life Company Annual General Meeting.....	Old School Room.....	7.30pm
18	Tue	Rubbish and food waste week. Garden waste for those with brown bins		
18	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45am
18	Tue	Tuesday Probus.....	BMI.....	10.00am
18	Tue	Tennis Club Members Evening.....	Tennis Courts.....	6.00pm
18	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.00-10.00pm
19	Wed	Ladies Probus.....	BMI.....	10.00am
19	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30pm
19	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice.....	Church.....	7.30pm
19	Wed	Bingo.....	BMI.....	8.00pm
20	Thu	Craft Club.....	Old School Room.....	10.00-12.00pm
22	Sat	Entertainment Night.....	BMI.....	8.00pm
23	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning.....	Tennis Courts.....	10.00am
24	Mon	Coffee Club.....	BMI.....	10.00am
25	Tue	Recycling and food waste week		
25	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45am
25	Tue	Tennis Club Members Evening.....	Tennis Courts.....	6.00pm
25	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.00-10.00pm
26	Wed	Wednesday Probus.....	BMI.....	10.00am
26	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30pm
26	Wed	Bingo.....	BMI.....	8.00pm
26	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice.....	Church.....	7.30pm
30	Sun	Tennis Club Members Morning.....	Tennis Courts.....	10.00am

MAY

1	Mon	Upton WI.....	Pavilion.....	2.00pm
6	Sat	King Charles III Coronation		
9	Tue	Village Hall AGM – see page.....	Village Hall Annex.....	7.45pm
10	Wed	Copy dates for June issue of USL Life		
15	Mon	Parish Council Annual Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30pm
15	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30pm
17	Wed	Ladies Probus.....	BMI.....	10.30am
18	Thu	History Group – Mary Queen of Scots - Liz Griffiths.....	Village Hall.....	7.45-9.15pm
21	Sun	Sunday Lunchtime Jazz.....	BMI.....	1.00pm
22	Mon	Twyver WI (note the unusual date!) - Butterflies of Gloucestershire.....	Village Hall.....	7.30pm
28	Sun	Comedy Night.....	BMI.....	8.00pm

JUNE

3	Sat	Entertainment night.....	BMI.....	8.00pm
5	Mon	Upton WI.....	Pavilion.....	2.00pm
5	Mon	Parish Council Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30pm
10	Sat	Copy date for July issue of USL Life		
12	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30pm
14	Wed	Ladies Probus.....	BMI.....	10.00am
19	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.30pm
24	Sat	Summer Quiz.....	BMI.....	8.00pm

To place an entry in the Village Diary, please contact Paula Quinn

Weekly courses

This section lists the courses that run every week.

Activity	Day	Venue	Contact	
Yoga	Mondays 10am	Village Hall Annex	Lara Bricknell	07876 764425
Pilates	Thursdays 1pm	Village Hall Annex	Philippa Barker	07861 727198
Pilates	Fridays 9.30am	Village Hall Annex	Philippa Barker	07861 727198
Chair-based Pilates	Wednesdays 1.30pm	Pavilion	Angela Harris	
Dance Workout	Tuesdays 7pm	Pavilion	Debra Law	07505 761420
Kettleball Fitness	Monday 5.30 & 6pm	Pavilion	Deb Locke	07738 104404
Seniors Fitness - NEW	Thursdays 9.30am	Pavilion	Deb Locke	07738 104404
	(Starting April 13 - see advert on page 16)			
Art Class	Tuesdays 2pm	Village Hall Annex	Christine Hughes	01452 614227

Litter picking

In February, members of the footpaths team did lots of litter-picking on Nuthill Road, High Street and Portway and Birchall Lane. There were something like 25 black bags full. Then last month there was a Village Litter pick, and 9 good people turned out, clearing up some of Upton Hill, Birchall Lane (again), the Recreation Ground, Churchfield Road, the shops and Woodland Green. About 15 bags full. I don't suppose for one moment that readers of this magazine are to blame for leaving litter, so there is little point exhorting you again, here, to stop it! What I do want to do is say thanks to the many people who do read this and who do spend a bit of their time being public-spirited in clearing up the litter. It is because of their continuing efforts that the area is largely free of ugly litter.



Sports Report

A Special Place

This poem was written by Carl Hill. Though it isn't about the WI and its Centenary, Carl dedicated it to the WI.

Our village of Upton, so near to Stroud,
An idyllic place, where all are allowed.
A cricket pitch, some tennis courts,
A Village Green, with Owl of course.

A local shop, a club, and Church,
Trees of green and silver birch,
Local farmers till the earth,
Planting crops for springtime birth.

A local school, a smart hotel,
A place to dine, relax, and dwell,
A pleasant stream that babbles through
Our fields and meadows so green and new.

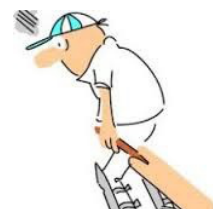
Horses graze in many fields,
Hedges grown for them to shield,
Riders smart and dressed to go,
Asking us to please "Go slow".

Upton is our place to live,
In sunshine and rain, it makes us strive,
A special place to be alive!

The **FOOTBALL** team, at the time of writing, is 5th out of 12 in Stroud League Division 2, played 15, won 7, drawn 3, lost 5, goals for 37, against 33. Seven games to go.



CRICKET moves outdoors in April with the clock change and warmer weather (we hope!). Training has taken place indoors through the winter and the players are anxious to get going for real. Thursday evenings in May and July will be very busy with "Dynamos" cricket - this an England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) special scheme for ages 8-11. By the time you read this the course will probably be fully booked, and the club's junior sections will be full - we can only accommodate a certain number of youngsters on the Dynamos course and in our youth teams. But we'd like to hear from any adults and over 15s who would be interested in playing and helping run the club. The contact is Andy Russell, 07776 341333. First matches on the Rec are at the end of April.



The Tuesday evening 6pm **TENNIS** club meetings have started. This is the time to join the tennis club - just turn up, or contact usltennisclub@gmail.com. Last month's magazine had a report on a very successful 2022 for the newly re-formed women's doubles team. They will be aiming for more success in 2023.



Jackie Mead

We are sad to announce the death of Jackie Mead of Woodland Green. Jackie and her husband Roger arrived in the Village only two years ago, yet in those two years they have joined in heartily with as many village activities as some of us have in forty. We send our condolences to Roger and the family.

Mel Moore

Sadly, just as we were going to press, we heard of the death of Mel Moore, of Upton Hill. Mel's funeral will be at St Leonard's Church on Wednesday 5th April at 11.30am. Everyone is welcome to attend and donations in lieu of flowers for Mel are for the Church Roof Appeal.

'Our' poet, Ted Gardner, was a lifelong friend of Mel and he has written a poem for him:

Most things can be mended,
If we know where to start,
But the thing we cannot repair
Is a true friend's broken heart.

Time, they say, is a healer,
But I know it's not always true,
The pain of being without them,
And the things you no longer do.

The smile you had each morning,
The laughter during the day,
The answer to a question,
They all have gone away.
The time you spent together,
The happy days you treasure,
The memory of a love we've lost,
Is a gift we cannot measure.

Goodbye, Mel.

Matt and Kim of Perry Orchard are delighted to announce the birth of Jago Elijah Boon, their second child.

VACANCY

Can you help Upton St Leonards Playgroup & Pre-School?

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Andy Russell with Upton WI

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Next month's editor



Barbara Swindin

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Needles and Pins

Lesley Greysmark, leader of the Needles and Pins group that meets weekly in the Village Hall, writes: "Earlier this year, with the weather being chilly and the price of fuel going up, the task for the class was to make hoodies. We bought the materials at H&H. We worked very hard, we changed the pattern slightly to fit everyone, the hoodies came together really well, amongst all the chattering of course, and the ladies were pleased with the finished garments. Thought we could show everyone how well they all turned out, rather professional I'd say. Just goes to show what can be made with a little help along the way."



Upton St Leonards WI Centenary - the Tea Party celebration

