

Upton St Leonards Life *incorporating Church News*

Issue 40

December 2017



Christmas Edition

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

- Tue 5 Salvation Army Band & Songsters at Christchurch 7.30pm
- Fri 8 Gloucester Brass - Carols and other charms - at the Church 7.30pm
- Sat 9 BMI Pensioners Christmas Lunch ††
- Sun 10 Christingle Service at Church 4.00pm
- Mon 11 Coffee Club lunch ††
- Thu 14 Get Together Christmas Lunch ††
- Sat 16 BMI Christmas Draw & Carols **
- Sun 17 Carol Service at Church 4.00pm
- Sun 24 Nativity Service at Church 4.00pm
- Sun 24 BMI Christmas Eve entertainment **
- Sun 24 Midnight Communion at Church 11.00pm
- Mon 25 10.00am Christmas Day Service at Church
- Sun 31 New Year's Eve celebration service at Church 4.00pm
- Sun 31 BMI New Years Eve entertainment (ticket only - see page 4)

†† - Sold out (already!)

** - For BMI Members and signed-in guests

What's been happening in Upton . . .

Upton WI

The Upton WI meeting started with the announcement that, sadly, Evelyn Rumsey had passed away. She had been a great supporter of the WI and had been a member of Upton WI since the 1950's. She had been on the committee for many years, serving as both Secretary and President. She will be greatly missed.

The main purpose of the November meeting was the AGM. We have a new President - Lynne Cook - elected at the meeting. Chocolates were given to the retiring committee members and they were thanked for all their hard work.

We then had a Quiz which was greatly enjoyed.

Everyone who went had enjoyed the Lunch at The Bell in Shurdington, and the next Upton WI Lunch is at The Barge Restaurant at The Quays.

Our next meeting is on Monday 4 December when we will be entertained by members of the local Cub Scout group performing a PANTOMIME! Oh yes they will! There will also be Christmas nibbles. Everyone is always welcome.

Diane Thomas



Bonfire Night at the Village Hall

A big thank you!

To everyone who came along to the annual Bonfire & Fireworks evening at the Village Hall on November 3rd. Also to all the helpers who were kept very busy. It was a very successful event and the weather was particularly kind to us, no wind or rain and very mild. As usual we raised a good amount to go towards the upkeep of the Hall.

3 lucky winners were, Paul who guessed that the reindeer's name was William, Theo who guessed there were 64 sweets in the jar and Dylan who did not guess the exact location of the treasure but was the person nearest to it. I hope they enjoy their prizes.

Jackie Lord

Cover Pictures

This month's cover picture is of the wonderful display there was this year of Michaelmas daisies and teasels at the Jubilee garden at the Recreation ground. Picture taken by Mary Russell.

As you can see in the newsletters since the summer, we have been experimenting with the use of colour on our covers and back pages, sometimes photos of events, and a couple of times we've used a good picture simply as a background. If you take a picture of either sort that might go well with e.g. a season or event, you could send it to us. We do decide at the start of each month what the cover will look like for the next month, so get it to us in plenty of time!

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What's been happening in Upton . . .

Twyver WI

Like Upton WI, Twyver WI's November meeting was its AGM. Members were reminded of many of the significant achievements made throughout 2017, including the introduction of the My WI website being launched in June and Sandy Baker being nominated as Digital Team Leader for the Gloucestershire Federation.

Our retiring President, Margaret Buckley, gave her final report and thanked each of the committee members and other ladies for their support during her 3 years of office. Margaret was presented with a bouquet of flowers from the incoming President, Monica Gray, to a generous round of applause.

Our meeting coincided with 'World Kindness Day' which is a nationally recognised day for the celebration of kindness in society and day to day life. Members had been encouraged to do random acts of kindness in the community. In the picture below, each triangle in the string is a record of one of these acts done by the members.

The evening concluded with TLC (Twyver Ladies Choir - formed in 2011) giving us their renditions of 'Jerusalem', 'Can't Help Falling in Love With You' and 'You'll Never Walk Alone', followed by a medley of Christmas songs including both the traditional and the new.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, 11th December at 7.30 where wine and mince pies will be served. New members are always welcome.



Twyver WI

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Coming up this month . . .

As usual at this time of year there are a large number of things happening - based around the Christmas Celebrations at the BMI and the services in the Church. The front cover has a list of most of them. Great opportunities for you to get out and meet your friends, re-acquaint yourselves with old friends and think in terms of enjoying yourselves, giving and receiving greetings and gifts. On this page and the next we have more details of some of these activities, and do also look at the Church pages so you know what and when there are services and concerts there.

*Upton St Leonards Life wishes all our readers a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!*

BMI CAROL SINGING and the CHRISTMAS DRAW

Saturday 16th December at 8p.m.



BMI CHRISTMAS EVE

SUNDAY 24 DECEMBER

8.00pm -- late

Entertainment with
"Inpulse"

(Open to members and signed in guests)



BMI NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

SUNDAY 31 DECEMBER

8.00pm -- late

Dancing to **IAN OLIVER**

Tickets £10

Tickets are now available for sale in the Long Bar for Club members only. Valid membership cards must be presented for each ticket. The final date for ticket purchase is 14 December



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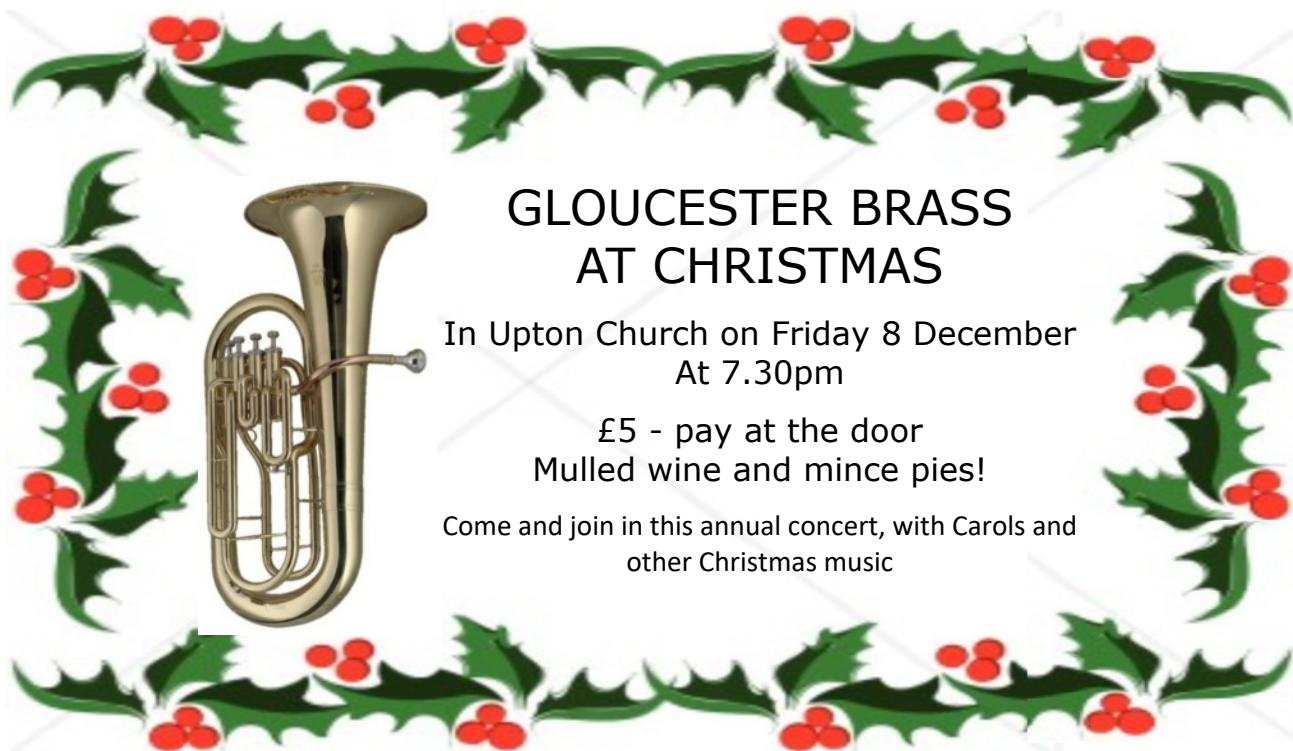
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. . . and two brass band / carol concerts and a quiz . . .



GLOUCESTER BRASS AT CHRISTMAS

In Upton Church on Friday 8 December
At 7.30pm

£5 - pay at the door
Mulled wine and mince pies!

Come and join in this annual concert, with Carols and
other Christmas music



CHRISTCHURCH
ABBEYDALE

IT'S REALLY CHRISTMAS

With the Salvation Army Band
and Songsters

Tuesday 5 December 7.30pm

Tickets:- £5 Adults; £1
Children

Including Refreshments
Advance booking
recommended

Telephone David for tickets

POST CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR QUIZ

*For BMI members and signed in
guests*

Saturday 13th January, 8pm

With Quizmaster Eric

*£1.25 per person for teams of up to 6
(minimum team size of 4)*

*Profits from the event to go to the BMI
chosen charities - Air Ambulance and
Maggies*

Please add your name to the booking sheet
on the BMI board by Thu 11 January so we
can get the right number of tables and quiz
sheets ready



Shoeboxes



Jenny Cunningham wrote a number of articles in recent editions of USL Life about the Christmas Child Shoebox appeal collections taking place all around the country. There was a display at the Upton Show. Jenny also told the Coffee Club about it. She writes: "In early November I went to the BMI just before 12 noon to collect the Poppy boxes, to be greeted at the door by several enthusiastic members of the coffee club, who were very quick to tell me how they had all enjoyed being involved with the shoebox appeal. Some members had filled shoeboxes, some donated money towards the transport costs and others bought lots of items which can be used to fill further shoeboxes. If possible, please can I use USL Life to say 'thank you' for the Monday coffee morning's efforts to help the appeal. Here is a photo of everything I was given from the coffee club."

Panto!

Please mark the date in your diaries!

THE UPSTAGERS

Will be putting on their usual hilarious pantomime on
Thursday 15, Friday 16 and Saturday 17 February

Panto!



Spring Show 2018

Get your cameras and your knitting needles out!

The Spring Show is being held on **Saturday 21st April** next year, instead of in March as usual. Hopefully this will give more people time to snap away to enter our photography classes, which have been a bit thin on entries in recent years. The classes are going to be titled:

- Through A Window
- Vintage Transport
- Family Time
- Down On The Farm
- Fruit(s) and/or Vegetable(s) Still Life
- A Frosty Morning - Black & White photos only

The Children's photo class is entitled My Best Friend but of course children may enter any class as long as they pay the correct entry fee.

Also I hope our knitters will be busy over the winter months to enter our charity knitting class which is going to be mittens for adults, to be given to the local Salvation Army.

We look forward to getting lots of entries and having a great show.



Get snapping!

Jackie Lord

FROM YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

The current Stroud District Local Plan was published two years ago, and sets out the planning policy for the period up to the year 2031. What is happening now is a consultation phase at a more detailed level, including a look at how future housing needs may be met. Clearly there has to be a process of examining potential sites for building some years from now. Stroud's web site states: "The Government wants all local authorities to review their local plans every 5 years. Although the current Plan was approved in November 2015, an early review will ensure that it remains up-to-date and meets future needs for the 20 year period 2016-2036. Plans can take up to 5 years to produce and so it is important that we start now."

A "Strategic Assessment of Land Availability" draft has been produced. Three areas in Upton St Leonards are identified in it as "Sites with future potential". One is a field to the East of the Stanley next to "Larkfield". A second is the field between Perry Orchard and the Stanley. The third is fields beside the Motorway to the North of Upton Lane, beyond the bridleway.

Some of these sites have appeared in older draft plans and on referral have been removed from the "potential" list, so the fact of these turning up again in proposals does not give the go-ahead by any means.

On Monday 4 December there will be a display at the Pavilion, from 6.30pm about the consultation and the proposals in the draft. If you want to have a say in the process, you are welcome to attend and to speak to the Stroud planning officers present.

Your Parish Clerk is Roy Balgobin

He can be contacted by email: usclerk@btinternet.com or by phone 01452621688 or 07977560114 or in his office at the Village Hall, office hours are 0900 to 1100 on Tuesdays and Thursdays (term time only).

Garden waste collection service (aka Brown Bins)

Some people who subscribe to the brown bin scheme have received letters saying they can only renew for 2018 on-line. This has caused distress to those who have no on-line access, or who are totally unused to or unprepared to make on-line payments. If you are in that predicament, do give Stroud District Council a phone call - it may still be possible to renew by phone or visit to Ebley Mill. If that doesn't work, ask a friend to apply for you, or you could ask one of us in the USL Life team, shown on the back page, if you wish.

Monitoring Speeding in the Village

PCSO Lianne Hiscock has recruited a couple of volunteers and trained them in the use of a radar device to measure and record vehicle speeds. If you'd be interested in carrying out occasional official surveys, get in touch with the Parish Clerk, above.

Bondend Road resurfacing

It can't have escaped your notice that the Bondend Road resurfacing planned for the end of October didn't happen. The new date proposed is the February half-term.

VILLAGE VERNACULAR

Another poem from Ted Gardener

T'other month our editor said that "Ted must think in rhyme",
Well, 'im be right thoust know, my brains a-working all the time,
I thinks up poems daily, it's what gives I zest,
Though some folks say I'm cracked & ought to take a rest.
But this time I've composed one in the local way
That we always used to talk, back in my grandfather's day,

With thees and thous and "aw bist old un you're a-looking fine",
It were the way 'e spoke when 'im cracked a joke,
'Im were like that all the time.
But nowadays we don't talk like that and maybe more's the pity,
'Cos modern talk is hard to rhyme and doesn't sound so pretty.
'Twas nowt wrong with an accent & you may well agree
As long as thoust can understand what I be saying to thee.
At least back then we learnt to mind our Ps and Qs,
And we never cursed & swore when a lady was in view!

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We will remember them . . .

. . . continuing our series recalling the lives of Upton men who died in WW1 on the hundredth anniversary of their loss, December 1917 meant another grieving Upton family:

ALBERT JOHN SMITH

Albert was born in Upton in 1887, the son of George and Mary Smith. When war broke out Albert worked for the Midland Railway as a shunter in Gloucester. So it was appropriate that he joined the Royal Engineers and worked on rail supply lines to the front. On home leave in July 1917 he married Edith Farley in Gloucester. He was ordered to Palestine to work on railways there, but never made it. On 30 December 1917 en route to Palestine, the troop ship SS Aragon was torpedoed by a German U-boat just outside Alexandria harbour, with the loss of something like 600 lives, including Albert. He is buried in a War Cemetery in Alexandria, Egypt.

Remarkably, there is a photograph of the sinking of the SS Aragon, reproduced here.



This year's Acts of Remembrance . . .

Remembrance Sunday 2017



The pictures on the left show the Act of Remembrance at the Village War Memorial this year, with the uniformed youth organisations and many Villagers.

Poppy Collection

Jim Browne, pictured on the back page, writes: "This year we remembered a hundred years since the Battle of Paschendale so we were at our usual spot in Morrisons, Abbeydale for 12 days before Remembrance Sunday. I thought it would be very difficult to surpass last year's total of £3,700. I should not have doubted the generosity of our community, people putting £20, £10, £5 notes into our collection tins. We even had two old £1 notes (Yes, One Pound Notes). I was astounded when Morrisons told me that we had raised £5,208. I would like to thank our community for their generosity and also to my helpers who gave up their free time to assist me at Morrisons. Next year it is 100 years since the Great War ended so we are going to make an extra effort and I have already had people say they will help out. I will be looking for more nearer the time, so if you can spare a couple of hours we would be extremely grateful."

Dave Knight writes:

Parochial Church Council away day

On a Saturday in November, the St Leonard's Church Council met together for an 'away day' at Oakle Street near Minsterworth, at a lovely house with amazing views across the valley towards Gloucester. The location was ideally suited for prayer and reflection with a view to growing our church community and planning ahead for the future. The day was led by Revd Ingram.

We commenced with worship, consisting of prayer and singing accompanied by Revd Turk playing guitar, moving onto a task where we looked at the time line of our church and noting the high and low periods for our recent history. It became apparent that in the years when the building was very well attended the institution and formality of the church was generally, although not entirely, the driving motivation for attending.

In recent times society has somewhat changed and the old values of formality and loyalty to the building of worship have changed. The focus which is now emerging, led by the diocese, is more mission led going out into the parish and spreading the Gospel message. This was discussed at length and we felt that although our church numbers were down, we were starting to move forward as our recent services have shown e.g. songs of praise, harvest on the allotments and continuing and growing our involvement at the school.

We spoke about welcoming and embracing Coopers Edge, part of which forms our parish, and how we can spread the good news there.

As the day progressed we became very aware of the importance of prayer in all aspects of our ministry from which we gain strength, motivation and hope for the future.

Clodagh provided lunch, after which we discussed how best we can grow as Christians as we journey forward. It became evident that with Clodagh and James we have a very good foundation on which to build and by working together with prayer and unity the future of our church at Upton St Leonards is assured.

The day ended as it began with worship and we were all encouraged and uplifted. A big thank you to all involved, not forgetting our hosts.

Dave Knight
Lay Chair of the Parochial Church Council

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER

Sun 3	8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am Family service with baptism
Tue 5	9.30 to 9.50am - Morning Prayer 9.50am -12.00 - Church open for coffee & chat 7.00pm PCC meeting
Fri 8	7.30pm Gloucester Big Band - Concert and Carols
Sun 10	10.00am Holy Communion 4.00pm Christingle Service
Tue 12	9.30 to 9.50am - Morning Prayer 9.50am -12.00 - Church open for coffee & chat 2.00pm Upton Primary School Service (KS1)
Wed 13	10.00am Play Group Nativity
Thu 14	2.00pm Upton Primary School Service (KS2) 4.30pm Rainbows and Brownies Christmas Event
Sun 17	10.00am Holy Communion 4.00pm Carol Service
Tue 19	9.30 to 9.50am - Morning Prayer 9.50am -12.00 - Church open for coffee & chat 2.30pm Chipmunks Christmas Service
Sun 24	CHRISTMAS EVE 10.00am Holy Communion 4.00pm Nativity Service - The Greatest Journey 11.00pm Midnight Communion
Mon 25	CHRISTMAS DAY 10.00am Christmas Service for All followed by a short said communion.
Sun 31	NEW YEAR'S EVE 4.00pm New Year's Eve celebration followed by short said Communion

The collection taken at the Christingle Service (4pm, 10 December) will go to The Children's Society

Fancy Dress!

The 4pm service on Christmas Eve is to be a "pop-up" Nativity, entitled **THE GREATEST JOURNEY**. So you are invited to come dressed up as one of the characters in the story: wear a dressing gown and tea towel (shepherd) or a paper crown (king) or some tinsel (angel). Or you might want to bring a walking stick, map and walking shoes. There will be a part for all to play, young and young at heart.

CHURCH NEWS

The St Leonard's Day special service on 5 November was

led by Revd Clodagh and we welcomed visitors, strangers and members of the church community past and present. We gathered to give thanks for God's faithfulness, say sorry and to pray for the future ministry of the church here in Upton St Leonards. We were delighted to have more than 100 people gather and most stayed for refreshments and lunch. Thank you to all who prepared and served the lunch. It was an uplifting service which acknowledged the hurt of the past and looked with hope to the future! The picture ↓ was taken after the service by Dan Ingram.



Who's Who at the Parish Church

Priest-in-Charge:

Revd Clodagh Ingram

Clodagh is available to be contacted
Sundays through to Wednesdays.

Curate:

Revd James Turk

(Evenings and weekends only, please)

Churchwardens:

- 1 Keith Robbins
- 2 Rachel Hall

PCC Secretary:

Enquiries via Revd Clodagh or Keith Robbins
pccsecretary@uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk

Church Treasurer:

Vacancy

Baptism & Wedding Enquiries:**Church Administrator:**

Jenny Cunningham

Deanery Synod Representative:

Dorothy Cox

Bell Tower Captain:

Charlie Burnett

Mothers' Union:

Rachel Hall

Church Cleaning Rota:

Claire Appleyard



Organ repairs - complete!

Sheila Thomas writes: "On entering the church late Thursday afternoon on 2 November, I was greeted with the wonderful sound of the organ being played once again. The organ builder Keith Jones managed to complete all the repairs a week ahead of the original schedule so we were able to have the organ in full working order in time for our very special service for St Leonard's Day. A big thank you to him but also

a very big thank you to all those who gave so generously to our appeal no matter how small or large. Every bit helped!!".

Sheila is being a bit modest when she says "we were able to have the organ ... for St Leonard's Day". Because it was Sheila who was playing for that great service, and of course it was Sheila who organised all the fund raising for the repairs. So huge thanks to Sheila, and thanks to all who donated money for the repairs.

CHURCH NEWS

Cancel Christmas - Jesus was born June 17, say scientists

Don't panic and please do not return your Christmas presents just yet! This alarming headline appeared in the Daily Mail a few years ago now. The article in question suggested that new scientific evidence had debunked the theory that Jesus was born on December 25th. Researchers tracked the appearance of the 'Christmas star', which the Bible states three wise men followed to find Jesus. Australian stargazer Dave Reneke used complex computer software to chart the exact positions of all celestial bodies and map the night sky as it would have appeared over the Holy Land more than 2,000 years ago. He discovered that a bright star really did appear over Bethlehem 2,000 years ago - but pinpointed the date of Christ's birth as June 17, and not December 25.

All very interesting I'm sure you agree. But are we missing the point. The date is not important, the fact it even happened is the most important thing. It might have happened on December 25th but it might be June 17 for all we know. The Bible doesn't say and it doesn't give us many clues. December 25th is a good day, and it might even be the right day, but no one can say for sure. What is certain is that it all began in the womb of a young girl. God spent his first nine months on earth as a preborn baby. Fully alive. Fully human. Fully God.

I had a conversation with someone some time ago. A close friend of mine was intrigued by my faith and was questioning me about God. At one point I asked him, "what would it take for you to believe?" He replied, "I would believe if God came down and stood in front of me and told me himself." "He has!," I said. "He came down, 2,000 years ago, and lived among us".

That night all those years ago, God entered the human story. No one can really say how it happened - or even how God can become flesh and still be God. But that is what the Bible teaches. It's complicated and hard to get your head around but thankfully we have wise, articulate people to help us. We call them Theologians, and Theologians call this truth about God coming down to us in human form 'The Incarnation'. The exact date of when this happened is not important but it did happen and at Christmas we celebrate the birthday of the most important person who has ever lived. It is out of gratitude for what God did for us that we remember Jesus' birth by giving each other gifts. For God in human form was the greatest gift ever given.

In his carol "O Little Town of Bethlehem," Phillips Brooks perfectly encapsulates the wonder of what happened that night 2000 years ago.

How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is given;
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heaven!
No ear may hear his coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

And so he does! Why not take time this year to reflect on God's great gift to you? Do come and join us at St Leonards, where you will find a warm welcome as we once again celebrate and thank God for all he gave us at Christmas.

Revd James

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CHURCH NEWS

CHRISTMAS AT ST LEONARDS

Here's a further quick reminder of the Special Christmas events at the Church - you are most welcome

FRI	Gloucester
8	Brass concert &
Dec	carols in church, 7.30pm

SUN	Christingle at
10	4.00pm -
Dec	getting ready for Christmas

SUN	Carol Service
17	at 4.00pm
Dec	

SUN	Christmas Eve
24	10am Holy Communion
Dec	4pm Nativity Service
	11.00pm Midnight Communion

MON	Christmas Day
25	10am Christmas
Dec	service for all,
	followed by a short "said" communion

SUN	4pm New Year's
31	Eve celebration
Dec	followed by a short "said" communion

Please note that in the November newsletter the Christmas Eve midnight communion service start time was shown incorrectly as 11.30. It is 11.00pm

Tower Floodlighting in December

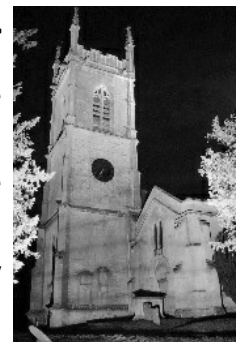
On Tuesday 5th December, the Tower Lights are lit in remembrance of Eileen Taylor, with love from Navon, Marilyn, Geoffrey & Shirley and all the family.

The Church Tower is lit for Iris, who would have been 100 years old on the 11th December, love Liz.

On the 18th December, the Tower Lights are lit in celebration of the 1st Wedding Anniversary of Sally and Nik Lygo, who were married in Upton Church. With love and congratulations from Dad, Jo and all the family.

The Tower Lights at Christmas are sponsored in memory of Joe Stubbs, with love from all his family.

If you or your family wish to have the lights sponsored in celebration of a birthday or anniversary or for a loved one's life or any other reason then please contact Jenny Cunningham. There is no set amount for this, just what you would like to gift to the Church in order to help cover running costs. If you are able to gift aid any donation, this will help us too. If you would like to sponsor the Church Tower Flood Lights then please contact Jenny Cunningham for more details. Please note that the deadline of the Church News is the 10th of the preceding month.



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CHURCH NEWS

My Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

In the last week of October I was privileged to go on a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, with people connected to Gloucester Cathedral. It was led by the Dean, Stephen Lake. The Bishop of Tewkesbury Robert Springett and the Cathedral Director of Music Adrian Partington were among our group of 43. Each day we held prayer meetings with lessons and hymns which were appropriate to the places we visited. (NB The standard of singing was brilliant.)

Day 1: To the Mount of Olives, looking across the Kidron Valley to the old city of Jerusalem, and to the Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus was arrested. Also to the village of Karem to various churches and the cave where St Jerome spent almost 30 years translating the Hebrew Scriptures into Greek and Latin (his translation is known as the Vulgate). We continued to the Israel museum to see the Dead Sea Scrolls.

Day 2: We crossed into Palestinian territory to Bethlehem and Beit Sahour. We were in the Shepherds Fields for Eucharist with Bishop Robert, and then entered Manger Square and visited the Grotto of the Nativity, the oldest Christian church in the world. In the caves we saw Christ's birthplace and cradle. In the adjoining church we sang "Away in a Manger".

Day 3: Back once again in Jerusalem, we visited St. Ann's church, dedicated to the grandmother of Jesus. Next to the church are the pools of Bethesda, where Jesus healed a crippled man. We walked along the Via Dolorosa (way of sorrow) where Jesus carried his cross. En route we sang the Negro spiritual - "Were you there when they crucified my Lord" and said prayers at each of fourteen stations. We also had Evening Prayer at St. George's Cathedral, Jerusalem.

Day 4: To the Yad Vashem Holocaust museum - very moving. In the afternoon we visited the church and tomb of Lazarus, followed by Eucharist at the Church of St. Peter-in-Gallicantu, just outside the old city.

Day 5: We drove through the desert to see a 4th Century Greek monastery and on to Herod's great desert fortress at Masada, where over 900 Jewish defenders and their families killed themselves in AD70 to avoid being captured and enslaved by Romans. We then arrived at the Dead Sea, the lowest point on the earth's surface, floated in the therapeutic water and continued from there to the Sea of Galilee.

Day 6: At Nazareth and Cana-in-Galilee, the site of Jesus' first miracle, turning water into wine at a wedding. We then visited St Gabriel's Anglican church for morning service and holy communion. We also visited the Basilica of the Annunciation commemorating the angel Gabriel's message to Mary that she would become the mother of Jesus.

Day 7: We visited sites associated with Jesus' life around the Sea of Galilee including the site of the Sermon on the Mount and the church of Tabgha built where Jesus fed the five thousand from five loaves and two fishes. We celebrated Eucharist on the shore of the sea of Galilee and visited St Peter's church on the beach where Jesus appeared to Peter and the disciples after his resurrection. Lunch was at a Kibbutz nearby. In the afternoon we drove over the Golan Heights to Caesarea Philippi, near the source of the river Jordan. In the river we renewed our baptismal vows, led by Bishop Robert. We returned to our hotel by boat across the Sea of Galilee, and appropriately stopped on the lake for prayers.

Day 8 Our homeward journey was via the Roman port of Caesarea on the Mediterranean Sea, with interesting Roman remains including a restored amphitheatre where we had a short service of blessing before returning to the airport and home.

The whole experience was very memorable and I recommend anyone to go on a similar trip if the opportunity arises.

Michael Blanch

Gnome Hunt

The Church is most grateful to the sponsors, organisers and hunters who raised money at the recent Gnome Hunt, half of which was paid to the Church funds. The picture shows Revd Clodagh accepting a cheque for £1050 from Marilyn Bannister. (The same amount went to FOCUS)



CONGRATULATIONS TO UPTON'S MOST RECENT OLYMPIAN - ROBERT FISHER

Robert is now 24 years old and having grown up in Upton St Leonards and still residing in the village, has been playing tennis since he was fifteen, and began competing in 2013 at tournaments run by the LTA Tennis Foundation. Being shy as a young lad the sport not only helped his confidence but gave a sense of achievement along the way, with some excellent winning performances. Besides tennis he follows a variety of sports with Formula One being a firm favourite, plus he enjoys the odd game of pool at the BMI Club.

Robert was delighted to be selected to compete in the Special Olympics National Games, an event held every four years, where athletes compete against others with similar ratings of sporting ability. This year it was held in Sheffield in August, and 2600 athletes representing regions from across Great Britain, participated in twenty different sports in various venues around the city, with athletes staying at



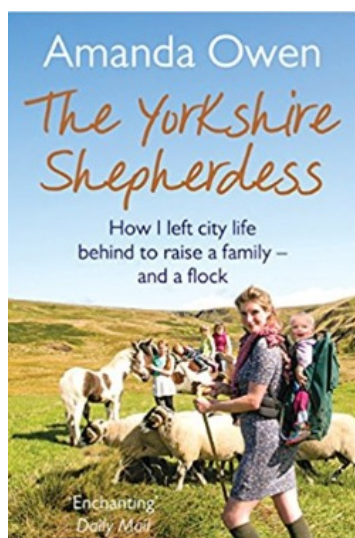
accommodation in the Olympic Village at Sheffield University.

The opening ceremony took place at Sheffield United's Bramall Lane stadium, beginning with a parade of athletes, followed by an entertaining show presented by celebrities, Jim Carter, Tony Hadley, Suzi Perry and Chris Kamara. Despite it being a very wet day this didn't dampen the experience for all the athletes and spectators supporting them.

Robert was one of only two athletes from Gloucestershire joining the South West squad, and he competed in the tennis competition, finishing second in division 4 of eleven divisions in the men's singles to earn a silver medal, but after a great effort playing in the top doubles division with partner Alex, he had to be content with fourth place overall. But more importantly, Robert returned home having enjoyed the whole experience with new friendships formed and lasting memories.

Since being introduced to tennis at Milestone School, he now trains 4/5 hours each week at Oxstalls Tennis Centre, and this year has also competed in five regional tournaments around the country in Wrexham, Leeds, Nottingham, Manchester and Welwyn Garden City. He recently competed at the Tennis Foundation National LD Championships in Nottingham, coming top in Division 4 of twelve divisions.

BOOK REVIEW



The Yorkshire Shepherdess and A Year in the Life of the Yorkshire Shepherdess, by Amanda Owen

These two books are informative, real page-turners and thoroughly enjoyable. They would make wonderful Christmas presents.

The Yorkshire Shepherdess describes how Amanda Livingstone moved from Huddersfield to the Yorkshire Dales to work on a farm. She says that she was entranced by the TV series All Creatures Great and Small as a child. After some years working as a farm labourer, eventually she married a local tenant farmer twice her age, and together they

farm at the head of Swaledale in North Yorkshire.

The sequel, A Year in the Life of the Yorkshire Shepherdess, gives a wonderful impression of how Amanda and her husband, Clive, bring up a large family (9 children) and work extremely hard to run the farm. Amanda is an excellent communicator and this reader recommends these books which leave one full of admiration for hill farmers whose way of life appears not to have changed much in decades.

ISBN 9781447251781

ISBN 9780283072413

(Review written by the USL book club)

It is very sad to report the recent passing of some very well known Villagers.

We hope to have commemorating articles about Evelyn and Ron in the next few months' issues.

Evelyn Rumsey died a few days before her 95th birthday. So many people knew Evelyn that one hardly needs to say how great was her contribution to the Village and to all of us. The Church, the Village Hall, the Upton Show, Upton WI - she made immense contributions to all, on their committees and above all, doing lots of the jobs needed to run events and organisations.

Ron Seex who led the Taena Community at Whitley Court and ran the farm there also gave a huge amount of time and effort to the Village. For many years he was our District Councillor and was on the Parish Council, including being its Chairman. Ron died at the end of October.

Dr John Morphew lived in Perry Orchard, moving in with his family in 1968. He was a consultant psychiatrist working mainly in the Forest of Dean area.

Revd Tony Swann lived in Perry Orchard until a few years ago. He moved into the village when he took up work as Chaplain at Leyhill Prison. He often helped out at the Church - taking services. After Leyhill he was Vicar of Kemble, but kept his Perry Orchard house until he retired.

Brian Samuels was not a resident, and probably not known to many of our readers, but he was very proud to be a supporter of the Village football and cricket clubs, and attended most of their games, home and away. He died in early November.



What a difference!

Six of the USCAN footpaths group and two other helpers cleared out the flower beds by the shops, a much needed and overdue tidy-up. Thanks to the workers, and to the Tru-Cuts and Post Office staff for providing refreshments!

WANTED!

ONE OR TWO PEOPLE

To look after the "Village" Flower
Beds and borders.

Could you do it?

Contact the Parish Clerk or one of
the footpaths group.

So who actually looks after these beds, and the Village Green flower beds and other bits of the Village? Well - it isn't anyone's job. It falls to volunteers, and there aren't any committed to this job at the moment. The Village needs one or two people to put themselves forward as keepers of these areas. The work can be done under the auspices of USCAN, and that means there is a backing organisation and access to some funds. Maybe a tiny group which meets weekly or fortnightly or as needed to trim, plan and implement? When, every now and again, there is a lot of work to be done, or a heavy job, the footpaths group can help. They also own some of the tools which might be needed.

Our feature article is on Village resident

John Priday

JOHN PRIDAY - A village legend!

Many of you will know John, after all, he's been around for quite some time! Approaching his 90th birthday with the same twinkle in his eye and sense of humour that has endeared him to us over the years.

John spent many years in the equine world up and down the country, and supporting village gymkhanas and flower shows. A purveyor of fine veg from his van and his stalls at markets county-wide; good Samaritan and helper to those in need, not forgetting erstwhile bingo caller at the BMI.

Not a man to brag or broadcast his many attributes, nevertheless his presence has enhanced other lives not least his family, his dear wife Violet, with whom he spent almost 50 years and his children Heather and Steven, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

So, in keeping with his keen wit, here are a few anecdotes from his archive of stories committed to memory during his days of market trading at the Charfield car boot sales a few years ago:

First of all, John has two allergies - fast women and slow horses! One spends all your money and the other loses it!!!

John was known as 'The Veg Man' who sold his wares at unbeatable prices and was the only supplier of "Passion Eggs" in the county (a must for the ladies). So-called when a woman came and bought some of John's extra-large eggs (double-yoked hens' eggs) and, upon returning to his stall some time later, advised him that after a lovely breakfast of said eggs, both her daughters and indeed herself, had become pregnant - the mind boggles! So, of course, not one to miss a trick, John's patter became 'come and buy your Passion Eggs here' and they were a sell-out.



John, pictured here with his late wife.

One day a rather picky customer came to his van and said, "I want 10 oranges and wrap every one up in a separate piece of paper please", John duly obliged.

The customer then said, "and a pound of cherries please and please wrap each one in a separate piece of paper too". John gave the customer one of his looks but, nevertheless, he wrapped the cherries as requested.

"And what is that there?" the customer asked, pointing at a basket in the corner - "Raisins" said John, "but they're not for sale!".

John is a great example of human kindness and we wish him well for the future.

Linda Munnoch



John Weygang
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We have put as much in here as space permits.
Events happening weekly are only shown for
the first month or so

VILLAGE DIARY

DECEMBER

4	Mon	Coffee Club.....	B.M.I.....	10.00-12.00p.m.
4	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-11.30a.m.
4	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-1.45p.m.
4	Mon	Fitness Training (2 sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.30p.m.
4	Mon	Zumba.....	Upton St Leonards School.....	6.30-7.30p.m.
4	Mon	Upton WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
4	Mon	Stroud District Planning consultation.....	Pavilion.....	6.30p.m.
4	Mon	Parish Council Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30p.m.
5	Tue	Rubbish and Food Waste Week		
5	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45-12.15p.m.
5	Tue	Tuesday Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.00a.m.
5	Tue	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	11.00-12.00p.m.
5	Tue	Junior Jujitsu.....	Pavilion.....	3.30-4.30p.m.
5	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
6	Wed	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
6	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.30-12.30p.m.
6	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.00-4.00p.m.
6	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
6	Wed	Bingo.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
6	Wed	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	8.00-9.30p.m.
7	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.15a.m.
7	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
7	Thu	Get Together Christmas Lunch.....	Bowden Hall.....	12.00 for 12.30p.m.
9	Sat	BMI Pensioners Christmas Lunch.....	B.M.I.....	12.00p.m.
10	Sun	Copy Date for January issue of USL Life		
11	Mon	Coffee Club Lunch.....	B.M.I.....	12.00p.m.
11	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-11.30a.m.
11	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-1.45p.m.
11	Mon	Fitness Training (2 sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.30p.m.
11	Mon	Zumba.....	Upton St Leonards School.....	6.30-7.30p.m.
11	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
12	Tue	Recycling and Food Waste Week		
12	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45-12.15p.m.
12	Tue	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	11.00-12.0p.m.
12	Tue	Junior Jujitsu.....	Pavilion.....	3.30-4.30p.m.
12	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
13	Wed	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
13	Wed	Wednesday Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.00a.m.
13	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.30-12.30p.m.
13	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.00-4.00p.m.
13	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
13	Wed	Bingo.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
13	Wed	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	8.00-9.30p.m.
14	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.15a.m.
14	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
16	Sat	Christmas Draw and Carols.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
18	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-11.30a.m.
18	Mon	Coffee Club.....	B.M.I.....	10.00-12.00p.m.
18	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-1.45p.m.
18	Mon	Fitness Training (2 sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.30p.m.
18	Mon	Zumba.....	Upton St Leonards School.....	6.30-7.30p.m.
18	Mon	Abbeyle Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.45p.m.
19	Tue	Rubbish and Food Waste Week		
19	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45-12.15p.m.
19	Tue	Tuesday Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.00a.m.
19	Tue	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	11.00-12.00p.m.
19	Tue	Junior Jujitsu.....	Pavilion.....	3.30-4.30p.m.
19	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
20	Wed	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
20	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.30-12.30p.m.
20	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.00-4.00p.m.
20	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
20	Wed	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	8.00-9.30p.m.
21	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.15a.m.
21	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
24	Sun	Christmas Eve Entertainment Night.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
31	Sun	New Year's Eve Party.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.

 Regular weekly events not listed below this line

JANUARY

2	Tue	Parish Council Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30p.m.
8	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
10	Wed	Copy Date for February issue of USL Life		
13	Sat	Post Christmas/New Year Quiz.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
15	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.45p.m.
18	Thu	History Group - "Small Monuments Inside a Church".....	Village Hall.....	7.45-9.15p.m.
22	Mon	Camera Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00p.m.
25	Thu	Get Together Club.....	Village Hall.....	2.30-4.30p.m.
27	Sat	Entertainment Night.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.

FEBRUARY

5	Mon	Parish Council Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30p.m.
5	Mon	Upton WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
10	Sat	Copy Date for March issue of USL Life		
12	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
15,16,17	Thu-Sat	Upstagers PANTOMIME, Oh yes it is!.....	Village Hall.....	tba
19	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.45p.m.
22	Thu	Get Together Club.....	Village Hall.....	2.30-4.30p.m.
26	Mon	Camera Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00p.m.

Contact Paula Quinn to get your event in the diary

The Village Poet

Guess who I met . . .
 . . . t'other day - outside the Village Hall door;
 T'was our Village Poet, and I could tell you more!
 We played in the infant playground about nineteen forty-four,
 Or maybe as early as forty-two, of that I'm not so sure.

We were both born in the Village,
 As were many still here today,
 There's Brian, John, Mike, Garry,
 Graham, Richard, Rachel, Ruth,
 Michaeline, Dink, Evelyn and Melvyn
 And I'm sure many, many more!

We do so much love our Upton life,
 There's so much here to do,
 There's Church, the Village Hall, Pavilion
 The pub, the hotels, the Abbey,
 The Farm Shop, the Village Shop
 And the BMI as a favourite rendezvous!
 Each one for you to choose.

I'll think about more things to say
 And save them for another day,
 Some things make you laugh, not frown,
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TOWN HOMOPHONES

Homophones are words which sound the same but have different meanings. All of these are names of towns or cities in the UK e.g. a town in Dorset with the clue "A small body of standing water" would be Poole.

LOCATION & CLUE

- 1 Yorkshire: Used as connections between electrical equipment.
- 2 Cornwall: The smallest room
- 3 Isle of Wight: A journey on a horse
- 4 Lancashire: A small stoneless juicy fruit.
- 5 Yorkshire: An evil demon that feeds on human beings
- 6 Berkshire: Past participle of verb meaning "to consume"
- 7 West of Scotland: A tune or melody
- 8 Isle of Wight: Female elephants
- 9 Oxfordshire: Docile or submissive
- 10 Northants: A kitchen appliance
- 11 North Wales: Various saprotrophic fungi
- 12 Hertfordshire: An irritating sensation of the skin
- 13 Middlesex: A long slender pointed weapon
- 14 Staffordshire: Part of the hull of a ship
- 15 Cheshire: A ship's company
- 16 Mid Glamorgan: A large accumulation of money
- 17 Scottish Island: A television provider
- 18 Hertfordshire: At what place
- 19 Middlesex: Discolourations, stigmas or blemishes
- 20 Cornwall: Icy precipitation

... and something more local ...

For our Christmas special we decided to form a band in the Village to perform at the BMI. We put a lot of thought, as one does, into the name of our combo – this being, undoubtedly, the most important part of forming a band. So we are the **Leon DuPont Stars**. The band members each came up with their own stage names (how pretentious!) **Dani Tyler** is on vocals. We have **Don O'Redband** and **Chip Carten** on sax, **Roy Pathwill** on trombone, **Trish Geeth** and **Ned Whoball** on guitar, **Otto Thurcan** on bass, **Tom Ullpin** on drums and **Rabbie Hankspyn** on keyboards. Now these names are a clue about where each lives – so where do they come from?

There are 30 answers, 20 towns on the left and 10 local places clued in bold in the band story above.

Send in your answers, even if you haven't got them all, **by 31 December**. Use email via the website* "contact us" page. Highest score or we will pull one of equal bests from a hat to win a fabulous box of chocolates!

Answers will be printed in the January issue.

* usllife.org.uk



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Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2017

Many thanks to all who gave to the poppy collection this year. Thanks also to organisers Meg James and Jenny Cunningham. Jenny particularly - for she kept going in spite of the death of her mother. Huge thanks also to Jim Browne who did the bulk of the collecting at Morrisons and others who gave time there.



The picture shows Jim at the display in Morrisons.

On page 8 you can read about Jim's experience there this year and how much was collected.



They shall grow not old . . .

UPTON ST LEONARDS LIFE

Web site: <http://uslife.org.uk/>

To contact us, use the website above or the postbox by the Village Hall main door, or use the contact details that appear below:

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