

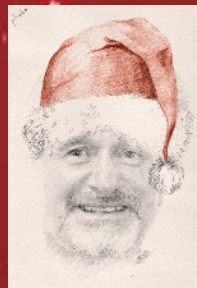
# *Upton St Leonards Life* *incorporating Church News*

**Issue 52**

**December 2018**



# Merry Christmas



# Letter to the Editor - Fancy A Festive Walk?

The Cotswolds are abundant with wonderful locations, perfect for a ramble. Gather loved ones, wrap up warm and enjoy the benefits of a winter walk.

Thank you to Tom, who recently took part in the Stroud Valleys Walk in aid of the Meningitis Trust and wrote to us about his experience:



*This long established 21 mile walk around the Stroud valleys always takes place on the last Sunday in September. The Meningitis Trust ensure that walkers can do as little or as much as they choose and the route is very family and dog friendly. A shuttle bus service means that at any check point, transport is available to take participants back to their starting point. The check points are also where a wide range of snacks from fruit to more substantial victuals are often on offer to boost energy!*

*Amongst the 19,000 taking part in this year's walk was an 83 year Upton resident who has done the circuit in all but 2 years since 1992, when the walk covered 23 miles from and to Painswick! In more recent years the circuit takes in the old railway line from Stroud cricket club to Nailsworth before a steep climb to Minchinhampton and over the common before plunging down to Brimscombe. From Brimscombe it is uphill followed by a delightful wooded way and lakeside walk through Toadsmore Valley to Bismore before climbing to Lyppiat and Round Elm.*

*The trail now leads towards Slad passing along what must be the most unexpected but memorable vista from Swifts Hill. After a descent to a lake it is uphill again to Slad's war memorial and beyond by mainly bridleway and field, looping gradually to Pitchcombe.*



*Pitchcombe to the Standish Woods is a long and steady climb in one of the largest fields in the area that is sure to test stamina! The reward is the knowledge that up hills are now conquered! You are now following the Cotswold Way and as you emerge from the wood at Randwick, widespread views across the Severn Vale are to be seen. Gradually the Cotswold Way descends over fields, through a vineyard to the railway footbridge at Stonehouse before reaching the much improved Stroudwater Canal from where it is a short distance to base and relaxation to recover, swap tales of the day and count the blisters!!*

*Fundraising through sponsorship helps support the work of the Meningitis Trust, so even at this early stage why not make a note of next year's date, Sunday, 29 September 2019, to either support by donation or doing a little or all of the walk. If an 80 plus villager can do the full round, so can the rest of us .... Perhaps!!!*

**Tom (Upton resident)**

**Remember - If you're short on time, even a brisk 10-minute daily walk has lots of health benefits and counts towards your recommended 150 minutes of weekly exercise!**

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# What's been happening in Upton?

## HEALTHY LIVING FORUM

This group is about self-education and gives us pointers where to find the information we need to educate ourselves, so we can then make informed decisions with our health care professionals about how we manage our health. We outline the small changes to our lifestyles, which can improve our health.

The group met in October at the Pavilion. We shared our experiences on where we were on our healthy living journey. We looked at various books written by doctors and scientists who have researched this subject. Being diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes is a big wake-up call and it's good not to wait until you stumble across this diagnosis by accident, as one member did recently.

The advantages of not having to deal with hunger when reducing your weight is key to success and this was fully explained during our discussions. We looked at how meal plans such as 'HelloFresh' can provide portion

controlled meals, which are fun to cook and involve real fresh food, which is healthy and nutritious. Our local Morrisons provide a similar service called 'Eat Fresh', a complete meal in a box, containing fresh ingredients. Portion control is a big step in maintaining our health and these food boxes gives us just that.

In November we met on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> from 7pm - 8.30pm in the Pavilion. We shared the latest science regarding the use of Statins - one of the most widely prescribed medications.

In December our meeting is on Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup>, in the Pavilion at 7pm. Those attending are asked to watch the film "Widow Maker". This is available at <http://www.thefatemperor.com/blog/>

This film is quite shocking but well worth watching. We will also share tips for surviving Christmas and other festive occasions without gaining weight and interrupting your healthy eating plan. Do come along and join in the fun.

*Millie Barnes*



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# What's been happening in Upton?

## TWYVER WI NOVEMBER REPORT

A warm welcome was extended to all by Chair, Monica Gray, and we began as usual by singing 'Jerusalem'. Preliminaries to the Annual Meeting were then discussed. Committee members were to be elected as 3 of our members are resigning this year.

Chair Monica then declared the meeting open and began by reflecting on her year's tenure. She recalled that one of our meetings when we made paper bunting depicting Random Acts of Kindness was a great memory of the many highlights throughout the year and thanked everyone for their support. A great speech from our Chair was applauded and the elections and voting were held.

It was unanimous that Monica be elected President for a further year and Treasurer, Sue, agreed to work alongside a new incumbent. We received a copy of the financial statement confirming we are in the black.

Upkeep of support is vital in order to keep Twyver operative. A Treasurer and Secretary are needed so please let us know if you want to offer yourself for either of these appointments and a 'job share' will be considered. Our Speakers for the year have been interesting, varied and thought provoking, centring around History, Creativity and Community Services, enabling us to always learn something new.

The Denman College Bursary for £300 towards one of their courses was won this year by Linda Munnoch.

Thank you's were extended to the ladies who have gone the extra mile during the year; Penny Owen for 'wearing many hats'; Janice Gilmore our Secretary, Sue Down our Treasurer, and everyone else who keeps the wheels turning.

Further business:

Our wall hanging is to be hung in the Cathedral next October for our Centenary. The display will be simple, different, yet encompassing all the WI criteria.

We have been asked to put out the call for any Love Stories attributed to the WI so please share them with us.

A further request for knitted baby clothes for the mother and baby unit was made.

Bunting makers are requested for Cirencester Park for July 2019.

Gloucestershire Bundles – contributions for next month please, toiletries, pyjamas up to age 13.

Next year's Group Rally is to be held on Friday October 11, 2019- more information later.

The Annual Meeting was then brought to a close.

This was followed by Bingo with fun and hilarity had by all and a big thank you to Janine for being our caller for the evening. The cheese and wine was much appreciated.

Our next meeting will held on 10th December; all are welcome.

*Linda Munnoch*

## GET TOGETHER CLUB

Forty members of the Get Together Club, plus helpers enjoyed a sausage (from our Farm Shop of course) and mash lunch with cream sponge and fresh fruit for dessert.

Young ladies from The Centre Point Dancing School provided lovely entertainment and a very happy time was had by all.

*Sue Merigold*



# What's been happening in Upton?

## Spatch & Spoon Charity Supper Club

In November's issue of USL Life there was an interesting new fundraising concept called the 'Spatch and Spoon Charity Supper Club', in aid of VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas) organised by Hannah Saunders in Six Acres.

Hannah is being sponsored by VSO to go on an International Citizen Service placement in Iringa, Tanzania. She will live with a host family for 3 months and work with small and medium enterprises headed by women. In return she has pledged to fundraise to support these enterprises.

So, Hannah decided to combine her passion for food and fundraising with a weekly themed gourmet supper club.

We, the USL Life editorial team, felt we had to go along and find out more about her placement, whilst enjoying some Thai themed food.

A warm and friendly welcome awaited us and Hannah offered us a typical Thai beverage to drink on arrival. She then told us more about her involvement with the VSO project and also explained to us about the dishes she had prepared for our gourmet supper. We started with a delicious soup, followed by a dish of fragrantly

spiced minced pork, chicken with cashews, rice and pak choi. Everything was beautifully presented and it was apparent that Hannah is a very accomplished cook.

We were delighted to hear that Hannah has more bookings in the weeks ahead and is now close to achieving the amount she has to raise. Thank you Hannah for all your hard work and for giving us the most wonderful evening.



## Upstagers Drama Group Appeal

Thank you everyone for supporting our productions over the years, we very much appreciate it and obviously need it in order to keep going. We really enjoy being able to give Upton St Leonards some drama but are finding it increasingly difficult to exist without younger members – especially males under the age of 40.

We may have to put off doing pantomimes, which would be a real shame as they are our most watched and enjoyed productions but always require at least one young man in order to work. Having written the last two myself (Snow White and Aladdin) I did bear the lack of young people in mind when creating the characters but the bottom line is that we always need a principal boy and girl no matter what.



The sad fact is that there are hardly any plays that don't require at least one younger man in them which makes it very difficult to find a good play for us to perform. If we can't find younger people - both males and females - but especially males, the group may not be able to survive for much longer. We are all getting older and plays for senior citizens are very thin on the ground.

If there are any younger people over the age of 16, and by younger I mean under the age of 40 or 50, who would be interested in doing a bit of drama, please, please, get in touch with us as I can assure you you will be welcomed with open arms. We are a very friendly group; we meet on a Wednesday evening and also have social events from time to time.

Can I please ask anyone who reads this to pass it on if they know someone who might be interested as we really want the group to continue going. Thank you for taking the time to read this and I really hope that we can find more people.

**Carol Vye for the Upstagers**

## #StolenMemories

Your home contains all of your special memories. If your home is ever burgled those memories could be stolen. This year, in the run up to Christmas, when the days are getting shorter, take steps to protect your home and keep your memories safe.



**Use this checklist to survey your home and implement changes.**

### Quick actions:

- Timer switch connected to a light for the front of your home
- Stop 'checking in' to locations online when you're not home.
- Avoid posting about expensive items you own online.
- Put any tools or equipment left around in your garden securely away.
- Put up a 'beware of the dog' sign.
- Move your house and car keys so they are not visible.
- Put up a window sticker advertising your alarm / cctv / neighbourhood watch scheme.
- Make your property look lived-in and loved from the outside.
- Add wire mesh to your shed's window and/or an alarm if possible.
- Turn on "Find my Device" and Activation Lock on your smartphone and tablet.
- Replace door locks if required.
- Remove unknown and past people from your online social networks.

### Planned Actions:

- Put up motion-activated security lighting at the back of your home.
- Lay down some gravel.
- Put high value items in a safe or in a third-party safety deposit box.
- Trim your hedges, greenery and bushes to give natural surveillance.

Any suspicious person/s seen in your area or vehicles please dial 101 for non-emergency or 999 for emergencies.

PCSO Lianne Hiscock's email is

Lianne.Hiscock@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk

Police Community Support Officer 9270

Police Station | Barton Street | Gloucester | GL1 4JB

Personal – 07811 418008

[www.gloucestershire.police.uk](http://www.gloucestershire.police.uk)

## Temporary Closure of Hempsted Household Recycling Centre

The Hempsted HRC will close from Monday 3 to Friday 21 December inclusive to install new equipment and improve the site. It will re-open on Saturday 22 December.

During the closure, the current machines will be upgraded. In order to prevent last minute closures and wasted journeys, and to make the sites more flexible to operate into the future, Gloucestershire County Council is bringing in a new mobile compactor. New open top skips will be provided. New and improved signs will be installed so visitors know which materials go where.

Where can I take my waste and recycling during this closure?  
Other recycling centres are available, the closest sites are:

· Wingmoor Farm, Stoke Orchard, GL52 7RS  
Open 10am to 4pm. Closed on Wednesdays.

· Oak Quarry, Coleford, GL16 7EG  
Open 10am to 4pm. Closed on Tuesdays.

· Pyke Quarry, Horsley, GL6 0QA  
Open 10am to 4pm. Closed on Wednesdays

The above are open 6 days a week 10am to 4pm, including bank holidays.

To find an alternative HRC in Gloucestershire, please visit [www.recycleforgloucestershire.com](http://www.recycleforgloucestershire.com)



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# What's coming up in Upton?



The UpStagers  
Present

The Farndale Avenue  
Housing Estate Townswomens Guild  
Dramatic Society's production of  
"A Christmas Carol"

by David McGillivray & Walter Zerlin (and Charles Dickens)

The Village Hall - 29th, 30th November & 1st December  
7.30pm (Doors open at 7)

Tickets £9 (£8 Concessions) Refreshments available  
For tickets call 03336 663366  
(£1.75 Service Fee applicable per booking)  
or online at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/theupstagers](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/theupstagers)

## CHRISTCHURCH ABBEYDALE

IT'S REALLY CHRISTMAS  
The Salvation Army Band and Songsters  
Are once again booked to perform for us!

Tuesday 18 December at 7.30pm  
Tickets, including refreshments, adults £5, children £1.

## Portway - Road Closure

Portway will be closed from Monday 3rd to Friday 7th December. This is to allow for drainage repairs by Amey working on behalf of Gloucestershire County Council.

Portway residents will get their own notice about access, but for everyone else - please use another route that week.

## Christmas Draw and

Carol Singing  
Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> December  
BMI - 8PM



CHRISTMAS EVE @ THE BMI

MONDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2018  
8.00P.M. – Late

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[www.andrewbirdhearing.co.uk](http://www.andrewbirdhearing.co.uk)

# What's coming up in Upton?



## BMI NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY MONDAY 31<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2018

7.30pm. – Late

### Dancing to BAK 2 BAK

Tickets £10.00

Tickets available for sale in the Long Bar  
for Club Members only.

Valid membership cards must be presented  
for each ticket.

The final date for purchase will be 14<sup>th</sup>  
December 2018



## POST CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR QUIZ

At  
**THE BMI**

OPEN TO MEMBERS AND SIGNED IN GUESTS  
(Please note every team must have at least 2 club  
members and membership cards may be checked on  
the night)

**SATURDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2019**  
**@ 8.00p.m.**

QUIZ-MASTER "ERIC"

£1.25 per person for teams of up to 6 (minimum  
£5.00 per team)

Please add your name to the booking sheet by  
Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January to ensure that there are  
sufficient copies of quiz sheets available.

Book early as there will be a maximum of 20 teams  
on the night.

All profit on the night to be donated to the BMI  
Charity for 2018-2019 – Prostate Cancer and CLIC

## Saturday, 26 January - Calling All Jazz Fans

The musical evening at the BMI on Saturday 26 January features the renowned band "Swing from Paris", who play in the style of 1930's *Hot Club de France* - Django Reinhardt and Stephane Grappelli etc. Vintage swing and gypsy jazz with violin, guitars and double bass. A fabulous evening. Put it in your diaries now!

<http://swingfromparis.co.uk/>



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Photo by Penny Owen



## St. Leonard's Church News

Website: [www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk](http://www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk)

**Priest in charge:** Rev. Clodagh Ingram  
**Curate:** Rev. James Turk

*You will be very welcome at all of our services*

### Church Calendar for December

#### Advent Sundays - Making Room for Christmas

##### 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent - Make room for God's Word

<b>Sun 2</b>	<b>8.00 am</b>	<b>Holy Communion service</b>
	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Celebration Service</b>
	<b>4.00 pm</b>	<b>Christingle</b>
<b>Mon 3</b>	<b>4.00 - 4.30</b>	<b>Evening Prayer</b>
<b>Tue 4</b>	<b>9.30 - 9.50</b>	<b>Morning Prayer</b>
	<b>9.50 - 12.00</b>	<b>Coffee &amp; Chat</b>
<b>Wed 6</b>	<b>4.00 - 4.30</b>	<b>Evening Prayer</b>

##### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent - Make room for God's Forgiveness

<b>Sun 9</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Communion Service</b>
<b>Mon 10</b>	<b>4.00 - 4.30</b>	<b>Evening Prayer</b>
<b>Tue 11</b>	<b>9.30 - 9.50</b>	<b>Morning Prayer</b>
	<b>9.50 - 12.00</b>	<b>Coffee &amp; Chat</b>
<b>Wed 12</b>	<b>4.00 - 4.30</b>	<b>Evening Prayer</b>

##### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent - Make room for Prayer

<b>Sun 16</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Communion Service</b>
	<b>4.00 pm</b>	<b>Carol Service</b>
<b>Mon 17</b>	<b>4.00 - 4.30</b>	<b>Evening Prayer</b>
<b>Tue 18</b>	<b>9.30 - 9.50</b>	<b>Morning Prayer</b>
	<b>9.50 - 12.00</b>	<b>Coffee &amp; Chat</b>
<b>Wed 19</b>	<b>4.00 - 4.30</b>	<b>Evening Prayer</b>

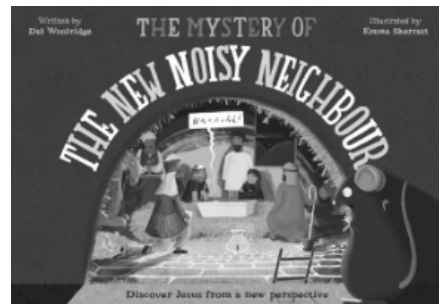
##### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent - Make room for new life

<b>Sun 23</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Communion Service</b>
<b>Mon 24</b>	<b>4.00 pm</b>	<b>Nativity</b>
	<b>11.00 pm</b>	<b>Christmas Communion</b>
<b>Tues 25</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Christmas Celebration with Communion</b>
<b>Sun 30</b>	<b>4.00 pm</b>	<b>Word &amp; Worship with Communion</b>



### Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 4.00 pm

The Christingle Service marks a special anniversary this year. For 50 years The Children's Society has been supported through the collection taken as part of the service.



### Christmas Eve at 4.00 pm

in  
St Leonard's Church

#### An invitation

to young and old alike to  
Come along dressed as Mary, Joseph, an angel,  
a shepherd, a King or a farm animal or even a camel  
and participate in the  
Christmas Story Pop Up Production 2018

### Mothers' UNION

Wednesday 12 December: Communion at St Oswald's at  
9.00 am



### Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December from 9.00 am

Christmas Clean Up - Anyone who would like to come along and lend a hand to clean the Church in readiness for Christmas you will be more than welcome.



# St. Leonard's Church News

Website: [www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk](http://www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk)



*Rev Clodagh Ingram writes*

Jesus told extraordinary stories like the one about the Prodigal Son (to be found in chapter 15 of Luke's Gospel) which simply tells us that it does not matter what we have done – God is waiting

for us to come home.

Christmas is a time for homecoming for many people. For others their former home or family or country is gone or home has never been the safe place it ought to have been. Yet we all long to come home.

The story of Christmas is the beginning of God's homecoming to live among the people he created. The story of Christmas is the beginning of the possibility of our own homecoming. One of the names given to the baby Jesus is 'Emmanuel' which means 'God with Us'. The Jewish people had waited hundreds of years for their saviour, they were expecting a warrior king to arise and restore them to their own land. But instead God sent his son, as a helpless babe into the heart of a family; into the heart of a community; into the heart of an occupied nation; into the heart of the people he loved to rescue them and restore them into loving relationship. The people he had been calling home: home from estrangement, home from exile, home from isolation, home from self-sufficiency, home from loneliness, anxiety, hatred and fear finally had the means to find their way back through Jesus.

No matter what has been happening in life God is calling each one of us home this Christmas. God is calling each one of us into relationship because he created us, he loves us and he wants us to know him better. He wants us back home among the family.

God calls us home through Jesus his Son who was born as a helpless baby and died as a man on a cross to open the way for us all to come home into the fullness of loving relationship and life offered by our creator God, the maker of heaven and earth and all that is in it.

"God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him." (1 John 4:9)

\*\*\*

And on behalf of the community of St Leonard's Church here is a blessing for each person and every family in the parish this Christmas time: **"May you be blessed by the Father Son and Holy Spirit with the spirit of the season, which is peace: the gladness of the season, which is hope and the heart of the season, which is love."**

*Clodagh*

## *Tower Floodlighting*

On Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November, the Tower Lights were lit to remember the 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday of Colin Freshney. With love from Maureen and all the family.



The Tower Lights in December are sponsored in loving memory of Joe Stubbs by his wife Paula, still greatly missed by his loving family and many friends.

On Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> December the Tower Lights will be lit to celebrate Pauline and Richard Sugdon's Golden Wedding Anniversary that occurred earlier in the year and for Pauline's birthday this month. Kindly sponsored by friends; Andrea Dawson, Sue & Richard Merigold, Hazel & John Day and Millie & John Barnes.

*If you or your family would like to have the Church Tower Floodlights lit to celebrate a special event such as a birthday, anniversary, baptism or in memory of a loved one please contact Jenny Cunningham for more details. 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 your donation this will help us too. Please note that the deadline of the Church News is the 10<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month.*

## *Alzheimer's Memory Walk*

I wish to thank the Monday Morning Coffee Club and the congregation of St. Leonard's Church who kindly donated and sponsored me for the Memory Walk I completed in Cheltenham on October 27<sup>th</sup> in memory of my husband Dr. Frank Hakim.

Along with donations from other organisations I collected £1,075.85p for the Alzheimer's Society .

My grateful thanks to all allowing the Alzheimer's Society to provide urgent research & care for this debilitating disease

*Margaret Hakim*

# St. Leonard's Church News

Website: [www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk](http://www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk)

Remembering the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the armistice which ended the fighting of the first world war, a group of us knitted poppies to decorate the tree in the churchyard and the entrance gates. The tree decoration is thanks to Viv Bick who sewed them together in the first instance and then attached them to the tree. It looks amazing.

Ginny Ring, Sheila Thomas,  
Jenny Innes & Gill Howell



Thanks to Jenny Innes for coming up with the idea and all those who knitted one or more poppies!! Collectively they make a great and meaningful display.



Viv Bick



Gloucester  
Brass



Many thanks yet again to Gloucester Brass who played so beautifully for our Remembrance Service, and accompanied our hymns. We are always pleased to welcome them and their music which has enhanced many of our services.



The uniformed groups of Upton St Leonards gathered together in the Village Hall before the Remembrance Service and Parade to paint poppies on locally sourced wooden plaques. The names on them represent everyone who served in WW1 as listed in the previous month's USL Life. The poppies were later placed around the font in the Church.

## Churchyard Tales 7

Despite a slowing down of the grass growing, work around the churchyard has not been slowing down. In the area in front of the nursery wall we are removing ivy from the wall itself as well as overhanging Laurel growth; brambles and twigs are being cleared, enabling and inviting future internment of ashes to take place. The Garden of Remembrance has also been tidied up. Mike Stratford has been a blessing taking away four and more bags a week of excessive greenery.

## Eight Bells Ringing for Peace



You may have heard the bells of the Parish Church of St Leonard's ringing out on the evening of 11.11.18.

For those who came to the Church 7.00 pm - it was a real pleasure to see you, it gave the opportunity to see

and hear the bells in action and for the ringers to provide a further insight into ringing techniques.

Twelve members of the Gloucester Branch of Church Bell Ringers, some of whom had only started ringing a few months ago, were able to ensure that the 8 bells were rung at the Church for this very important 100th anniversary in the World's history. The timing of the ringing at Upton coincided with the Worldwide events to

commemorate the armistice and the cessation of hostilities at the end of the first world war. and a 'Ring for Peace' in that it serves to remind us all to consider how we lead our everyday lives; to promote and encourage a lasting peace between all members of our species and to putting an end to the suffering and futility of war.

We mustn't forget, also, what a huge sacrifice animals have made throughout our history in the support of our armies in war and the enormous contribution they make to our wellbeing in peace - we thank God for them too - we should always respect and value them.

A heartfelt "thank you" to all ringers who rang the bells at Upton St Leonard's on the evening of Remembrance Day 2018. (Practice nights : every Wed @ 7:30-9:00pm).

*Charlie  
Tower captain.*

# St. Leonard's Church News

Website: [www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk](http://www.uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk)

## WW1 Plaques Dedication

Amidst a busy afternoon of visitors to Mike Stratford's fascinating weekend exhibition of items relating to World War One, the church went quiet as a congregation of some 75 local and not so local residents gathered to witness the dedication of the two World War One memorial plaques installed just days before.

A short service was led by Bishop Michael Hooper, grandson of Renford Charles Hooper who died in 1921 and whose name featured on the second plaque. Bishop Michael and his brother Alan were brought up in the village, living in Bondend Cottages and Michael sang in the church choir. He remembered fondly his time in the choir and was pleased to see so many friends in the congregation. He remarked that his grandfather, who led a humble life in the local fields as a cowman, although with aspirations to be a silversmith, could not have foreseen the changes in society that WW1 engendered, with improvements in women's right to work, and with education expanding such that Michael could aspire and succeed to such a high role in the Church.

During the service, the 40 names of those recorded were read by Revd James Turk and by Alan Hooper and Bishop Michael's son Wrenford James Hooper. Making the third generation of Hoopers involved, Renford's great, great grandsons William Wrenford and Sebastian were present, with William reading the Kohima Epitaph. It was pleasing to see relatives of others named on the plaques and our photo shows the Hooper

family, Iona Birchall (relative of Percy and Vivian Birchall) and Wendy Howe and her mother who had travelled especially from Leicestershire – niece and great niece of Edwin James Mills. Many others present knew the families of those who lost loved ones.

The plaques were crafted by local expert Paul Malvern and the equally talented signwriter Rob West who attended the dedication, along with many of those who had made donations towards the project. A book will be completed in the weeks to come, using material from Mike Stratford's collection and USL Life readers are encouraged to let him or me have any material relating to those named, which can be copied for the book, so we can record as much information as possible for the legacy of those who died for our freedom. Bishop Michael closed his talk with a prayer "For Peace and Justice throughout the World"; a fitting epitaph for the memory of 40 men who left their homes over 100 years ago and did not return.

*Roy Roberts*



PICTURE:  
Hooper family on left with Bishop Michael; Iona Birchall centre (Rob West and Roy Roberts behind), Wendy Howe and mother (in wheelchair) on right.

## Who's who at the Parish Church

### Priest in Charge:

Rev Clodagh Ingram

*Clodagh is available to be contacted  
Sundays through to Wednesday*

### Curate:

Rev James Turk

*Please note due to James's work commitments, calls, texts  
and emails will be answered evenings and weekends*

### Churchwardens:

Keith Robbins

Rachel Hall

### PCC Secretary

Sarah Kent

[pccsecretary@uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk](mailto:pccsecretary@uptonstleonardschurch.co.uk)

### Church Treasurer

### Baptism & Wedding Enquiries:

Church Administrator - Jenny Cunningham

### Deanery Synod Representative

Dorothy Cox

### Bell Tower Captain:

Charlie Burnett

### Mother's Union

Rachel Hall

### Church Cleaning Rota

Claire Appleyard

### Church Flowers

Jenny Cunningham

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## This month's feature:

### PHIL SHIPLEY – Artist in Wood

Once again, it's been a pleasure to discover more amazing talent in our village. Phil makes chairs, but not just any chairs – he's a master craftsman.



Having qualified at Redland College Bristol (now UWE) in Constructional Design and completed his formal training as a Teacher in Design and Technology, he spent 30 years at Beaufort School, passing on his expertise and his enthusiasm for creativity to students.

He's now retired from formal teaching, and as he recalls, he's unlikely to forget the day, as it was the day of the Great Flood!

His love of chair-making led him to tutor both at the Gloucester Arts & Crafts Group Summer School in Newent and St Peters and once a year he teaches in Chichester at West Dean College.

His choice of wood is Elm and Ash, now quite hard to source. He used to be able to obtain it from Westonbirt, as they used to hold wood sales but this is no longer an option. Whitney on Wye near Hereford has now become his go-to

supply. The particular elm used has to be air dried and pliable as kiln dried wood is too brittle.

Phil has designed his take on the Welsh stick chair and has named it Chair Mark II. One of his chairs has been fashioned in Burr Elm and is incredibly beautiful which you can judge for yourself in the photo both here and online. He also renovates old chairs and replaces the rush seating, and welcomes enquiries through his website [philshipleychairs.co.uk](http://philshipleychairs.co.uk)



In addition, Phil holds workshops so if any of you are interested you can contact him. He would love to hear from you.

Thank you Phil, for sharing your story.

*Linda Munnoch*

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## Adult Christmas Quiz

1. Which carol traditionally opens the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols from Kings College Cambridge?
2. What was the name of the "Pumpkin King" who went from Halloween Town to Christmas Town in the movie "The Nightmare Before Christmas"?
3. Which Beatles song was covered by Elbow for the 2017 John Lewis Christmas TV commercial?
4. Which Pope in AD 320 declared December 25th to be Christmas Day?
5. Which European country was the first to issue a Christmas stamp?
6. In which country would you be served twelve meatless dishes on Dec 24th?
7. What accompanied the Queen's Christmas message in 1982 for the first time?
8. The Suppression of Unlawful Games Act of 1541 banned all sports in England on Christmas Day except for which one?
9. In Beatrix Potter's "The Tailor of Gloucester" who was getting married on Christmas Day?
10. Best known for his legal thrillers, who wrote the novel "Skipping Christmas"?
11. Which river was famously crossed by Washington and his troops on Christmas night 1776, surprising the opposition forces on the other side?
12. On which Caribbean island was Columbus' ship "Santa Maria" run aground on Christmas Day 1492?
13. What is eaten in the USA as an alternative to Christmas pudding?
14. What type of trees do they utilise for Christmas trees in India?
15. What first went on sale as "Smith's bon-bons"?
16. If a person was given all the gifts in the song "The Twelve days of Christmas", how many gifts in total would they receive?
17. In which Bond film does the character Dr. Christmas Jones appear?
18. What did Santa Claus win in 1964?
19. There are 2 Christmas Islands; who discovered them and when?
20. Who was the first British monarch to broadcast a Christmas message?



**Please send in your answers by 31<sup>st</sup> December either by email or in the Village Hall Mailbox. Prizewinners for both quizzes will be announced in the January edition of USL Life**

## Children's Christmas Quiz

1. On what date do we celebrate Christmas each year?
2. According to the popular Christmas song, which of Santa's reindeers had a very shiny nose?
3. Who helps Santa make all the toys?
4. In the TV show "The Simpsons", both the pet cat and pet dog have very Christmassy names, can you name them?
5. Who were the first people to visit Joseph and Mary and their baby Jesus in the stable?
6. According to the Christmas story, in which town was Jesus born?
7. Which Saint is most associated with Christmas?
8. Which vegetable is left out on Christmas Eve to feed Santa's reindeers?
9. In the traditional Christmas pantomime, who is the mother of Aladdin?
10. From which Christmas movie does the song "Walking in the Air" come from?
11. Into what did Mary place Jesus to sleep?
12. What Christmas present did Harry Potter receive from Dumbledore on his first year at Hogwarts?
13. Which character from Dr Seuss "stole" Christmas?
14. How many doors are there on an Advent calendar?
15. How does Santa traditionally get into people's houses to deliver their presents?
16. What is the eleventh word of the chorus of "Jingle Bells"?
17. What type of pies are often eaten at Christmas?
18. How many wise men visited Jesus in the stable?
19. What type of play, beginning with the letter N, is often performed by children at Christmas?
20. What is the name of the snowman in the Disney movie "Frozen"?



# OBITUARIES

## COLIN FRESHNEY - 1936 - 2018



Colin was born in Dunston, a small village in Lincolnshire. Educated at Lincoln City School he then studied Sociology and Psychology at Nottingham University. During his early career in teaching, he met Maureen and they were married in 1960. Two children followed, Mark in 1961 and Alison in 1963. In 1970 the family moved to Upton St Leonards where they have lived ever since.

Colin was very active both in the village and in the county. He became a Parish Councillor and Chair of Upton Parish Council and was a district Councillor for Stroud and Chairman of the Brockworth School PTA. In 1981 he was appointed Vice Principal of the National Star Centre, where he remained until his retirement in 1994.

Shortly after he joined U3A as a committee member and subsequently became Chair and Vice Chair. He joined the Magistracy, and became Chairman of the Bench for Gloucestershire. Colin was instrumental in gaining one of the first Lottery Grants that helped to rebuild the Pavilion in Upton. He became President of the Village Show and was an active member of the Garden Club, reflecting his passion for gardening. He was also Chairman of the Lady Downe Charity, which bestows grants to deserving youngsters in the village. Colin was an exceptional leader, motivator, organiser and contributor, valued by all and missed by so many.

Maureen and family would like to express their sincere thanks for all the kindness and many messages of sympathy received during their bereavement.

## JOHN SKELTON 1946 -2018

We have lost another stalwart of the village, John Skelton, the wonderful artist and musician, who passed away on 24<sup>th</sup> September.

His wife, Heather, and all their family would like to thank everyone who attended John's funeral and all the villagers, friends and neighbours who sent their condolences. He will be very much missed by everyone.

### AN EXHIBITION OF JOHN SKELTON'S PAINTINGS

There will be an exhibition of John Skelton's paintings at the BMI  
on Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> December and Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December in the skittle alley, from noon.  
Paintings will be for sale.



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# December Arts Page

This month we offer some poems and a recipe on the Christmas theme.

## What The Donkey Saw by U.A. Fanthorpe

No room in the inn, of course,  
And not that much in the stable,  
What with the shepherds, Magi, Mary,  
Joseph, the heavenly host –  
Not to mention the baby  
Using our manger as a cot.  
You couldn't have squeezed another cherub in  
For love nor money.  
Still, in spite of the overcrowding,  
I did my best to make them feel wanted.  
I could see the baby and I  
Would be going places together.



## Cat in the Manger by U.A. Fanthorpe

In the story, I'm not there.  
Ox and ass, arranged at prayer:  
But me? Nowhere.

Anti-cat evangelists  
How on earth could you have missed  
Such an obvious and able  
Occupant of any stable?

Who excluded mouse and rat?  
The harmless necessary cat.  
Who snuggled in with the holy pair?  
Me. And my purr.

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John  
(Who got it wrong,  
Who left out the cat)  
Remember that,  
Wherever He went in this great affair,  
I was there.



## CHRISTMAS DAY AND MONARCHS

Christmas Day was deemed an auspicious time for earthly Kings to begin a reign. Charlemagne reached the height of his power in 800 when he was crowned "Emperor of the Romans" by Pope Leo III on Christmas Day in Rome.

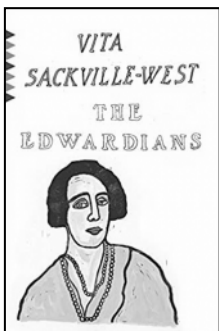
Some versions of Edmund the Martyr's life relate that he was crowned on Christmas Day 855 and that he became a model king. William the Conqueror was crowned King of England on Christmas Day 1066.

## FIGGY PUDDING:

Figgy Pudding has been enjoyed as a festive appetiser since medieval times. There is a recipe in a manuscript (now in the British Library) which was compiled by the Master Cook to King Richard II in 1392. "Take almonds blanched, grind these and draw them up with water and wine: quarter figs, whole raisins. Cast powdered ginger and honey clarified, seethe (boil) it well and salt it, and serve forth".



## BOOK REVIEW:



The Edwardians by Vita Sackville West was published in 1930 and received positive reviews and sold well.

It is one of her later novels and is a clear critique of the Edwardian aristocratic society as well as a reflection of her own childhood experiences. It gives insight into the every day life of the upper class of the era. There are descriptions of glamorous parties and luncheons and social expectations are highlighted. Most of the aristocrats depicted by Vita Sackville West are unaware that the maintenance of the expensive lifestyle they enjoy is only possible with the help of servants.

*Perhaps consider reading this before watching the Christmas Downton Abbey special.*



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

3	Mon	Yoga	Village Hall Annex	10.00-11.30am
3	Mon	Coffee Club	BMI	10.00-12.00pm
3	Mon	Yoga	Village Hall Annex	12.15-1.45pm
3	Mon	Yoga	Pavilion	5.30pm
3	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	7.30pm
3	Mon	Upton WI	Village Hall	7.30-10.00pm
4	Tue	Rubbish and Food Waste Week		
4	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.45-12.15pm
4	Tue	Junior Jujitsu	Pavilion	4.00-5.00pm
4	Tue	Brownies	Pavilion	5.30pm
4	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.30-10.30pm
5	Wed	Stitchers	Pavilion	10.00-12.00pm
5	Wed	Pavilion Painters	Pavilion	2.00-4.00pm
5	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00pm
5	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30-9.30pm
5	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice	Bell Tower	7.30-9.00pm
5	Wed	1 <sup>st</sup> USL Guides (term time only)	Village Hall	6.00-7.45pm
6	Thu	Senior Circuits	Pavilion	9.30-10.15am
6	Thu	Tai Chi	Village Hall Annex	9.30-10.30am
6	Thu	Fitness	Pavilion	6.00pm
8	Sat	BMI Pensioners Christmas Lunch	BMI	12.00pm
10	Mon	Copy Date for January issue of USL Life		
10	Mon	Yoga	Village Hall Annex	10.00-11.30am
10	Mon	Coffee Club Christmas Lunch	BMI	12 for 12.30 pm
10	Mon	Yoga	Village Hall Annex	12.15-1.45pm
10	Mon	Yoga	Pavilion	6.30pm
10	Mon	Twyver WI	Village Hall	7.30-10.00pm
11	Tue	Recycling and Food Waste Week		
11	Tue	Needles & Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.45-12.15pm
11	Tue	Junior Jujitsu	Pavilion	4.00-5.00pm
11	Tue	Brownies	Pavilion	5.30pm
11	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.30-10.30pm
12	Wed	Stitchers	Pavilion	10.00-12.00pm
12	Wed	Pavilion Painters	Pavilion	2.00-4.00pm
12	Wed	Healthy Living Group	Pavilion	7.00pm
12	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00pm
12	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30-9.30pm
12	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice	Bell Tower	7.30-9.00pm
13	Thu	Senior Circuits	Pavilion	9.30-10.15am
13	Thu	Tai Chi	Village Hall Annex	9.30-10.30am
13	Thu	Get Together Club Christmas Lunch	Bowden Hall	12.00 for 12.30pm
13	Thu	Fitness	Pavilion	6.00pm
15	Sat	BMI Christmas Draw and Carols	BMI	8.00pm
17	Mon	Yoga	Village Hall Annex	10.00-11.30am
17	Mon	Coffee Club	BMI	10.00-12.00pm
17	Mon	Yoga	Village Hall Annex	12.15-1.45pm
17	Mon	Yoga	Pavilion	6.30pm
17	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club	Village Hall	7.30-9.45pm
18	Tue	Rubbish and Food Waste Week		
18	Tue	Needles and Pins	Village Hall Annex	9.45-12.15pm
18	Tue	Badminton	Village Hall	8.30-10.30pm
19	Wed	Stitchers	Pavilion	10.00-12.00pm
19	Wed	Pavilion Painters	Pavilion	2.00-4.00pm
19	Wed	Bingo	BMI	8.00pm
19	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics	Village Hall	7.30-9.30pm
19	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice	Bell Tower	7.30-9.00pm
20	Thu	Senior Circuits	Pavilion	9.30-10.15am
20	Thu	Tai Chi	Village Hall Annex	9.30-10.30am
20	Thu	Fitness	Pavilion	6.00pm
22	Sat	Family Party (under 10's)	BMI	4.30-6.30pm
22	Sat	Family Party (older children)	BMI	7.00pm
24	Mon	Christmas Eve Entertainment Night	BMI	8.00pm
31	Mon	New Year's Eve Entertainment Night	BMI	7.30pm



## JANUARY

7	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	7.30pm
7	Mon	Upton WI	Village Hall	7.30-10.00pm
10	Thu	Copy Date for February issue of USL Life		
12	Sat	Post Christmas/New Year Quiz	BMI	8.00pm
14	Mon	Twyver WI	Village Hall	7.30-10.00pm
17	Thu	History Group – "Cathedral of Cloth – Ebley Mill"	Village Hall	7.45-9.15pm
21	Mon	Abbeyle Garden Club	Village Hall	7.30-9.45pm
26	Sat	Entertainment Night – "Swing from Paris"	BMI	8.00pm
28	Mon	Camera Club	Village Hall	7.00-9.00pm
31	Thu	Get Together Club	Village Hall	2.30-4.30pm

## FEBRUARY

4	Mon	Parish Council Meeting	Pavilion	7.30pm
4	Mon	Upton WI	Village Hall	7.30-10.00pm
10	Sun	Copy Date for March issue of USL Life		
11	Mon	Twyver WI	Village Hall	7.30-10.00pm
18	Mon	Abbeyle Garden Club	Village Hall	7.30-9.45pm
23	Sat	Entertainment Night	BMI	8.00pm
25	Mon	Camera Club	Village Hall	7.00-9.00pm

Contact Paula Quinn to get your event in the diary

## Christmas and New Year Events Calendar

Sat Dec 1	UpStagers "A Christmas Carol" 7.30pm
Sun Dec 2	Church - Christingle Service 4pm
Sat Dec 8	BMI - Pensioners Christmas Lunch (advance ticket only)
Mon Dec 10	Coffee Club Christmas Club 12 for 12.30pm
Thu Dec 13	Get Together Club Christmas Lunch at Bowden Hall
Sat Dec 15	BMI - Christmas Draw and Carol Singing 8pm
Sun Dec 16	Church - Carol Service 4pm
Tue Dec 18	Salvation Army Songsters at Christchurch Abbeydale 7.30pm
Sat Dec 22	BMI - Families' party 4.30-6.30 under 10s, 7pm older children
Mon Dec 24	Church - Nativity 4pm
Mon Dec 24	BMI - Christmas Eve Entertainment 8pm
Mon Dec 24	Church - Christmas Communion 11pm
Tue Dec 25	Church - Christmas Celebration with Communion, 10am
Mon Dec 31	BMI - New Year's Eve Entertainment 7.30pm (ticket holders only)

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## UPTON ST LEONARDS NOVEMBER WI REPORT

Hustle and bustle flowed through the Village Hall as the committee organised the room ready to receive members and visitors to our AGM. Eating before the business, we all enjoyed fish and chips, followed by tea and coffee.

President Lynne welcomed all ladies, reading previous minutes which were agreed. Without a Secretary, Lynne read the report on the past year's speakers and mentioned how our committee has worked hard to steer us through and keep us on track. Our 95th birthday celebration in February was a fantastic evening of partying with entertainment from Gloucester Strings Ukulele Band.

A call was given for someone to organise our monthly lunch club. Our recent lunch at the New Dawn was a success and very well supported. The outing to Concorde was a brilliant day out and hopefully we look forward to more outings in the future. On Tuesday 20th November we depart the Village Hall for a trip to Hop Pocket Shopping Outlet near Worcester for some retail therapy.

Our Treasurer explained the finances and said that we would need to fund-raise in the future. The ongoing workshop run by Judy, making a Christmas decoration was good but challenging. A sub-committee has planned a new programme for next year. We just need some new members to join us and all ladies are very welcome.

A table top sale has been booked for 16th March 2019. Anyone interested is asked to ring Lynne Cook.

We meet again on Monday 3rd December in the Village Hall for entertainment by Carole and Malcolm Brown. All ladies very welcome.

*Kathy Quant*

### UPTON ST LEONARDS LIFE

Web site: <http://usllife.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:

This month's editor:	Andrea Dawson
Editors:	Andrea Dawson Andy Russell Barbara Swindin Peter Wilson
Company Secretary:	Cliff Alderman
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Feature writers:	Teresa Clarke Christina Caldwell Linda Munnoch Ann Morphew
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Proof Readers:	Carol Hardacre Christine Ellson Kate Davies

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### USL PRIMARY SCHOOL - SHORT STORY COMPETITION

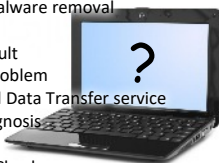
Once again, USL Life is sponsoring a short story competition at the Primary School. Our Feature Writers will be judging the entries. Prize winners' names will be printed in our January edition and we hope to be printing one or two of the best stories.

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Next month's editor is  
Barbara Swindin

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# Remembrance Sunday - 100 years on

This unique Remembrance Sunday drew a very large crowd, probably the largest gathering at the War Memorial for very many years. Villagers, young and old, stood there at 11am on 11 November to reflect and remember those killed in the service of their country.



Jim Browne in London for the Remembrance Parade

The final total raised for our 2018 Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal at Morrisons was £6,985.93. Many thanks to my helpers, Catherine McLean, Richard West, Rachel Ball, Nigel Clapton and Meg James.  
**Jim Browne**

Grateful thanks to all the Stratford family for their contribution to the Centenary event.

All around the county there have been some spectacular tributes to those that lost their lives 100 years ago.

Some of the best local displays are listed on the [www.SoGlos.com](http://www.SoGlos.com) website: Cheltenham Ladies College, depicting the silhouette of a soldier; Cheltenham College showing a numerical display of the number of lives lost; a human poppy formed in front of the Parish Church in Cirencester to mark the centenary; the wire soldiers at Slimbridge and the GCHQ poppyfall at Gloucester Cathedral.

## Bonfire Night at the Village Hall

Large crowds attended the Bonfire Night held on 5<sup>th</sup> November on the mildest November evening in recent years.

