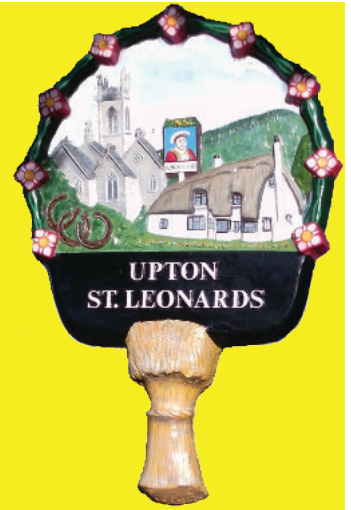


# *Upton St Leonards Life* *incorporating Church News*

Issue 66

February 2020



*It's Springtime!*

Feb 14 – St Valentine's Day

Feb 25 – Pancake Day

It's also  
a leap  
year!



Don't forget our

Spring Show

That's being held on March 28

See page 4



The picture below is from Village Day 2016. Why are we showing this? Well, because this year there is another: the 2020 Village Day and Village Hall Centenary Celebration – 6 June . Please put that in your calendars (if you haven't already).



## What's been happening . . .

### GLOUCESTER BRASS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Gloucester Brass returned, after missing Xmas 2018 with us, to enliven the Christmas festival, and a nearly full church enjoyed a great evening. Conductor Mark Knight was in good form with his jokes, mostly at the expense of his players, and pieces for the band alone were interspersed with audience carols. Mulled wine and mince pies were served in the interval. It was a good programme - I particularly liked 'Frosty the Snowman' which featured a fine bass trombone solo, played by Martin Bland. Many thanks once again to Gloucester Brass and to church members who stewarded and did the refreshment. An enjoyable evening!

On the back page there's a very good picture of the band in the Church, taken by Andrea Dawson.

Andy Russell

### UPTON ST LEONARDS WI

Hippocrates, the Greek philosopher, said: "let medicine be your food and food your medication". At their January meeting, Upton WI heard much about Aloe Vera, well known as both a food and a medicine. This amazing plant was the subject of Mandie Cran's talk. Originating from Arabia, Aloe Vera is now grown all over the world. It is a succulent that loves hot dry deserts, and is used widely. Known as the silent healer, it was first recorded over 4000 years ago on a Sumerian clay tablet. There are a number of very early texts describing Aloe Vera and its uses. The gel of the plant is the main ingredient used in food, cosmetics and traditional medicine. It is said to aid digestion and boost a healthy immune system, and is also excellent for skin conditions. Speaker Mandie Cran was given a very warm round of applause followed by a vote of thanks from Marlene.



Speaker Mandie Cran of Cirencester

There's an outing to Slimbridge in January, tea at Lily's in Gloucester in February, and in March there is a Box Making workshop at the USL Pavilion.

We meet again on Monday 3rd February for a talk by the Haven Family Centre. All ladies are very welcome

Kathy Quant

### NEW YEAR'S QUIZ NIGHT AT THE BMI

It was a busy night for the first quiz of the year at the BMI on Saturday 11 January, There were 85 quizzers making up 17 teams. These seasonal quizzes continue to be very popular!

As usual Eric our quiz master managed to provide us with a great quiz with a wide range of topics. A good way to kick start the new year.

The winners on the night were "The Woodentops" who narrowly beat "Wilkie's Wonders". We raised £192.25 from the entrance fee and raffle. This has been added to the BMI charity fund (for Midlands Air Ambulance and Gloucester Young Carers this year).

The next quiz will take place on Saturday 21 March.

### TWYVER WI

Happy New Year to all our Members!

This was our Resolutions Meeting, and members are asked to vote for their choice from among the WI shortlist of resolutions for 2020:

- A call to increase potential stem cell donor registration
- Female crash test dummies
- End modern slavery
- Time to talk about death and dying
- Protect our precious helium

Further details and more information on the resolutions is available on the NFWI website and WI Life magazine.

Our speaker for the evening was Kat Gibson, a much travelled and enthusiastic speaker who regaled us with stories of her travels in Bolivia, Uganda, Rwanda and Guatemala. Kat was only 18 years old when she started her travels, but had long before decided she wanted to visit and work with children in Bolivia and eventually on to other secondments and did so in the end through the auspices of various childrens' charitable organisations. She lived as they lived and saw first hand the terrible poverty in many of the orphanages, villages and districts she was sent to during the months in each country. There were good times, sad times and indeed

very scary times, but helping the street kids in these parts of the globe kept her spirits up and she is still in touch with some of the children, especially the girls she and others helped to start new lives, by educating them and teaching them they didn't have to sell themselves in order to survive. She now works at the Barnwood Trust and her travelling days are behind her for the time being. What an inspiration to us all.

Anita gave the vote of thanks and we were all in agreement that Kat is a very special lady.

Next meeting is on 10th February, all are welcome.

Linda Munnoch



Speaker Kat Gibson  
(Barnwood Trust picture)

## HISTORY GROUP

Mike Stratford talked to the group about the history of some of the older houses in the Village. He had plenty of historic pictures to illustrate the talk. Not much recorded history of the houses goes back to before the 17<sup>th</sup> century, but Grove Court goes back at least as far as the Domesday Book, though the current building only has traces back to the 1500s (only!). Here's a puzzle for you: on a wall at Grove court there is a carved stone, probably C16. But no one knows what the carving represents. There is a picture of the carving on the back page - have a look.

There was a delightful moment in the talk when Mike showed a picture of the old Rectory, demolished in the 1960s, where Pinlocks now is. The picture was dated 1956 with the caption that it was taken on the occasion of the engagement of the Rector's daughter, Dorothy Graham, to Peter Baker, and the couple were seen in the foreground of the picture. A voice from the back row called out "that's me!" It was Dorothy Baker.

The next talk is on Thursday 19 March and is intriguingly entitled "Blood and Guts!".



## Lunchtime JAZZ at the BMI

On a sunny Sunday afternoon In January a packed BMI had a great time listening to Jazz performed by John Beckinham (of Brockworth) and his combo. It was a great delight to be there and listen and chat. There is a down side to the popularity of the event - there was so much chat that only those sitting near to the band could really hear the playing. But overall I'm sure the BMI committee felt their idea to have a lunchtime concert was a great success.

**Rhys James Fencing**

All types of fencing and gates supplied & fitted. From minor repairs to complete new fence, I offer a fast & friendly service.

Local contractor, fully insured, established over 20 years.

Garden work undertaken. Trees removed, stumps ground, hedges cut. All waste responsibly disposed of.

The Lodge Rance Pitch Upton St Leonards

07931 380463 / 01452 372051  
rhysjames64@outlook.com  
and on facebook

Approved Contractor to Local social housing Association and the Diocese of Gloucester

**David Cridland Contracting**

Fencing, Ground maintenance and groundwork contractor

3 Ton mini-digger with driver available

All types of fencing supplied and erected. Hedges cut. Trees pruned. Ground cleared.

From small gardens to farms, no job too small.

Service and reliability guaranteed

Fully insured 20 years experience

**01452 311215 or 07836 279974**  
COMMELINES MILL FARM  
UPTON ST LEONARDS GL4 8EG

**Hill Farm Cottages**  
Upton Hill, Upton St Leonards, GL4 8DA

Self-catering cottages well furnished and equipped with the comforts that will make a stay in the Cotswolds one to remember fondly. Each cottage has full central heating and a colour television in the lounge. Towels, tea towels and attractive bed-linen are all provided for you; all you need to bring is food.

**01452 614081**  
hillfarmcottages@hotmail.co.uk

## What's coming up . . .

### Entertainment at the BMI

Hope you enjoyed the Jazz lunch and an evening with "Bak2Bak" in January

Have you spotted that we are putting on 2 entertainment shows per month??

So in February line-up is:

SATURDAY 8 Feb – 8pm-late

IAN OLIVER

SATURDAY 22 Feb – 8pm-late

JOE HAYES

And in March

SATURDAY 7 Mar – 8pm-late

JOHN CLARE



All these are open to members and signed-in guests

### Spring Quiz

Saturday 21 March, 8pm

£1.25 per person for teams of up to 6  
(Minimum £5 for teams of up to 4)

Please add your name to the booking sheet by Thursday 19 March to ensure that there are enough tables and copies of quiz sheets

Profit on the night to be donated to the BMI charity for 2019-20: Gloucester Young Carers and the Air Ambulance

Open to members and signed-in guests



### Village Litter Pick



Can you give us 60-90 minutes of your time on SATURDAY 7 MARCH from 10am? Meet at the

Recreation ground. We can supply bags, pickers, gloves and hi-viz jackets, or bring your own.



**ST. VALENTINE'S DAY**



Do something special for a loved person!

# The 2020 Spring Show



The 2020 Spring Show will be on Saturday 28 March  
At the Village Hall, 2-4pm

So there are just 8 weeks to go – start getting  
your entries ready!

The full schedule of classes will be available from the Village Shop from the last week in  
February and also from the Upton St Leonards Parish Council website.

In the meanwhile, we can list here a few of the classes

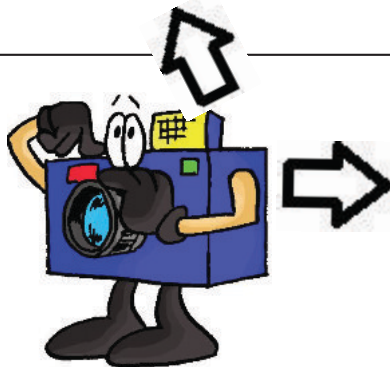
The photographic classes are:

- Village pride
- Reflections
- A close-up photograph
- Fun on wheels
- That looks tasty!
- A face full of wisdom (black & white only)
- Children's class: Ball Games

There are two "Charity" classes (items to be donated):

- Make an item suitable for a children's raffle, in any medium. Items will be donated to the Donkey Sanctuary.
- Knit a square to a given specification\* for the South African charity "Knit a Square". The squares are made up into blankets for orphaned or vulnerable children.

\*The details can be seen here if you have internet access:  
<https://knit-a-square.com/basic-square-knitting-pattern-instructions/>  
It will also be in the schedule, or you can contact Marilyn Bannister.



While you have your cameras and phones out for the Spring Show photo classes, you might also think about the Upton Show later in the year. Its photo classes are:

- A riot of colour
- Taken unawares

- Look me in the eye
- An unusual view
- Favourite view of Upton St Leonards
- Rear view – black and white
- A bridge – black and white



**John Weygang**  
OPTOMETRISTS FRP

Your local practitioner, providing the highest quality eye care, including **FREE NHS Eye Tests**, specialised products and services for you and your entire Family

Please contact our Churchdown practice if you would like to arrange a Home visit



**LOCATIONS :** ABBEYMEAD 01452 306807  
CHURCHDOWN 01452 855484 | GLOUCESTER 01452 522118  
HUCCLECOTE 01452 619100 | QUEDGELEY 01452 721108  
[www.weygang.co.uk](http://www.weygang.co.uk)

**Do you need help around your home?**

*"Being local, I'm a very Handy Man!"*



With over 30 years experience, here are just some of the jobs that I can do to help you improve and maintain your home.

-  **Tiling**
-  **Bathroom installations**
-  **Hall, stairs & landing**
-  **Painting & decorating**

**SPECIALIST**

*Friendly, Caring, Trustworthy Service from a Friendly, Caring Person at Really Friendly Prices.*

For a **FREE** quotation please ring me, **David Holder** on  
**Tel: 01452 611866 Mobile: 07977 099996**  
or **Email: holdermaxine@aol.com**

**DJH Home Services, Gloucester** Established 1984

**Brothertons**  
Accountants & Tax Advisors

Personalised, friendly service to local business owners and individuals

All Aspects of Accountancy:  
Self Assessment Tax Returns  
Sole Trader Accounts  
Limited Companies  
VAT  
Payroll  
Bookkeeping

*Local family firm  
Established 1998  
Free initial meeting  
Fixed quotes*

2 Abbeymead Avenue, Gloucester GL4 5ER  
01452 311711  
[www.brothertons.co.uk](http://www.brothertons.co.uk)  
email [info@brothertons.co.uk](mailto:info@brothertons.co.uk)



reports - and you specify what you want to hear about, so it is tailored for you. You can also reply to messages you get sent, so the Police listen to what you have to say.

**'Your Community Alerts'** has been set up by Gloucestershire Constabulary and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. It is a free messaging system to keep residents and businesses up-to-date with crime statistics and other information about crime and crime prevention in their areas.

You can sign up on this system to receive a range of

To become part of 'Your Community Alerts' you can go online to register, at the website [www.yourcommunityalerts.co.uk](http://www.yourcommunityalerts.co.uk)

If you can't do that, then there are some application forms on the Police noticeboard, just inside the entrance of the Village Hall - and you can send in your application by post. However the messages and alerts you get can only come to you by email, text or voicemail.



Just in case you hadn't yet heard, this year the May Day public holiday has been moved to Friday 8 May. This is to coincide with the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day. Lots of diaries and calendars were printed before the change of date was announced.

## 2020

Advice: when you are writing a date this year, use the full 4 digits 2020. If you write just 10/2/20 it is very simple for someone to change that to 10/2/2019, for example.

## FOOTPATHS, ANIMALS and WALKERS

On your walk, if you go through a field, you are quite likely to come across horses or other livestock.

- Please do not feed the animals
- Don't scare the animals
- Dogs on leads, please

Just ignore the animals you see, and they will probably ignore you. We had a call from one distressed landowner who said a party of walkers had somehow scared horses by shouting or chasing, and this could have resulted in injury. You will sometimes find that animals approach you - simply ignore them, make a slight detour if you have to. If you think there is an animal that seems to be threatening, in a field with a footpath, report it to the Parish Clerk.

## IT'S A SCAM

This one is doing the rounds again. A telephone call tells you that your Amazon Prime membership will be automatically renewed at a cost of forty pounds (or some such fee). If you don't wish to renew, press 1.

This is a scam. Just put the phone down.

Other frequent scam calls you might receive say:

"This is a call from Microsoft Technical department. We have detected that someone has got access to your computer"

"Your internet connection is about to be cut off, press 1 to speak to someone"

(Or words to that effect)

Just put the phone down. Don't try to be polite, don't say anything.

**USL**  
Village Store

Mon-Fri  
7am-7pm

Sat  
7am-6pm

Sun  
7am-12pm

Your Village Store and  
Post Office

**SHOP LOCAL**

**SUPPORT LOCAL!**

Rahul and Seeta  
Churchfield Road 01452 618189

**N.T. Boothroyd**  
**Plumbing & Heating**  
Est. 1986

---

All Plumbing & Heating Work  
Undertaken & No Job too small !  
Boiler & Fire Servicing  
Central Heating Systems  
Landlord Certificates, etc.

Glos: 01452 552192  
Chelt: 01242 250497  
Mob: 07816 103709  
[ntboothroyd@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ntboothroyd@hotmail.co.uk)

**MICHAEL TUCK**  
Your LOCAL ESTATE AGENT

**SOLD IT!**

FREE VALUATIONS CARRIED OUT  
WITHIN 24 HRS IF REQUIRED

**01452 612020**

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

## Items from Upton's History

A light-hearted look at snippets collected and sent to us by Mike Stratford.

A form of punishment used in the seventeenth and eighteenth century were the Stocks. People were locked in a seated position by their hands and feet. The stocks in Upton were at the Pound (the junction of High Street and Birchall Lane). The Constable had the power of ordering disorderly people to be placed there and to remain all night. They were, it is reported, frequently used, and the people in them were roughly treated. Caroline Middlecote\* remembers, "We did dub 'em well with bad eggs, but it was a shame." The stocks were abolished in Upton in 1837. Do we need them back? Can you think of anyone who should be put in them?

\*Caroline died in 1908 aged 89, leaving 22 great-grand-children.

Are you waiting for a Doctor's appointment? Perhaps you might like to try the following cures from Upton's past?

An old woman named Cole, who lived in a timber house in Bond End was said to be able to charm away thrush in children. She had a formula of incantation and touched the mouth, said to be with borax.

To cure shingles, wheat was placed on the blacksmith's anvil and then applied.

Warts were cured by a black snail being placed on them, then pricked with black-thorn as many times as there were warts to be touched. The skin of the snail was then hung on the thorn bush.

Any takers?

A man from Matson described a professional sheep-stealer who lived next door to him. He told how the whole family of the sheep-stealer were sent to Botany Bay in Australia. He also described how the Constables were afraid to visit Matson singly, two always went

together. Lianne PCSO take note!

### Upton was a Village with many Inns:

King Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn visited Upton on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1535, and visited the Inn called The Harrow afterwards renamed The King's Head.

The Inns were as follows:

- The Bell on Upton Hill
- The King's Head, in what is now Old Way
- The Royal Oak near the Pound
- The Old House at Home in the High Street
- The Yew Tree at the Pound
- The Plumber's Arms at Matson
- The Cross House, Portway

Many other houses had cider presses.

Dr Ancrum of St Leonards Court was instrumental in reducing these to only one, the current King's Head.

Anyone fancy a drink? Cheers.

### News from a hundred years ago (1920)

The membership of the Birchall Memorial Institute is now 175, the highest it has been since the foundation of the Club. During the past three months lady friends of members have been invited to Whist Drives and Dances. These events have severely tested the accommodation of the Institute premises. (No Village Hall at the time as it was in the course of being built.) An increase in subscription to the BMI was also confirmed at this time by a Special General Meeting (amount not known, sadly).

The Village Hall was nearing completion with an expected opening date of April 1920. So the hall is one hundred years old this year.

**Make a note of Village Day 6th June when this Centenary will be celebrated**



**Mog's Happy Days Private Hire**  
"Why drive when you can be driven?"

**Lewis Morgan**  
Chauffeur

**07814 947587**  
lewismorgan58@live.co.uk

Hi! I'm Lewis Morgan, Gloucester born and bred family man. I've been driving safely for 40 years.

Independent Private Hire for up to 4 persons plus ample luggage space.

UK Holiday destinations, Airports, Weddings and Parties. Cheltenham and Chepstow races, shopping trips, hospital appointments.  
OAP discount.

Just ask for what you need and see if I can help!

**07814 947587**  
www.mogshappydaysprivatehire.co.uk

## Little Court Cottages

Cottages for long rent, and self-catering accommodation for short breaks, in Upton St Leonards, perfect for visiting friends and family.

Email: [info@littlecourtcottages.co.uk](mailto:info@littlecourtcottages.co.uk)  
**Tel: 01452 615150**  
[www.littlecourtcottages.co.uk](http://www.littlecourtcottages.co.uk)



## J.B. RD

### CHIMNEY SWEEP

**Traditional and Power Chimney Sweeping from £40**

Open Fires, Boilers, Cookers and Stoves Serviced

**Chimney Pots, Cows and Bird Guards Fitted**  
Flue Liners and Stoves Installed to Latest Regulations

**Cctv Chimney Camera Surveys**

PHONE ME TODAY FOR AN APPOINTMENT

**01452 521732**  
**07973 905151**  
[sootybloke@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:sootybloke@blueyonder.co.uk)



## From "The Villager"

Our thanks to The Villager for yet another letter and poem sent to us:

### DIRTY LANE

Dirty Lane is such an important part of our Village, being a valuable wildlife corridor, so it is good to see that there has been some recent new planting allowed against the new fence and ditch at the top end - in time those plantings will become the haven for wildlife that used to be there in the old hedge and trees that were removed.

Wellies are the order of the day now if you are considering crossing the fields, but one can still have a great walk staying within the Village built-up area. I have seen aubrieta flowering already and the faithful daffodils are emerging - how clever of mother nature to colour them yellow to brighten our dark days with their cheerfulness.

I am putting on the lights and the kettle now - the dogs have already snuggled down sensing the evening chill outside - what sensible animals!

## NATURE'S LACE by The Villager

The sun need not shine  
To see nature's lace,  
Silver birch, her branches so fine  
Are artfully displayed against the sky's face.

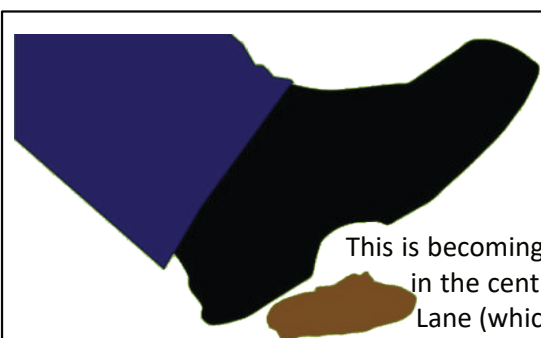
With edges of lace, the autumn leaf on the ground  
The colour only just fading  
But its structure still sound  
Pressed in a book, a beauty worth saving.

The strongly laced branches of a sleeping hedgerow,  
Inviting a bird's future nest,  
Reflecting its weave in the gentle flow  
Of the stream forever seeking its rest.

So exquisitely with such care,  
The spider's web strong yet delicately spun,  
A lacemaker's guide of how to prepare  
Their skills for generations to come.

Snowflakes drift down with wondrous patterns,  
Finest threads in purest white,  
Not made of cotton, but gleaming satin,  
Giving the land a mysterious light.

Look all around and you will see  
Nature's priceless art,  
Which is given to us completely free  
And protecting it, we must all play our part.



### Dog Mess

(What a pity this article goes on the same page at the Villager's lovely prose and poem)

This is becoming a big problem again. Maybe it's a winter thing? There was a huge poo in the centre of the pavement opposite the BMI the other day, and some on Dirty Lane (which was then trodden in by schoolchildren).

**PICK IT UP - BAG IT - TAKE IT HOME OR TO A BIN**

**NO EXCEPTIONS**

If you think you know who the irresponsible dog walkers are (there are probably only one or two), let the Parish Clerk know and he can get the Dog Warden onto the case. Actually imposing some fines could make a huge difference!

### ASSISTANT GROUNDSPERSON

The Cricket Club is seeking someone who can help with mowing and rolling, a few hours each week in summer. The club could make this a paid position. It really needs someone who can be there at flexible times and days,

controlled in part by weather. Recently the groundwork has been shared by two (retired) people who agree between them who will work when. One of the current team has now given up. Contact Andy Russell.



# 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



*Rev Clodagh Ingram writes*

Our daughter has come home to live with us during the past year due to ill health and she spends time each day watching the birds and squirrels in our back garden. She wanted to encourage the bird population and asked if she could have the gift of bird feeders and a bird bath for her Christmas present. We purchased the feeders and suitable bird feed from the Royal Society for Protection of Birds and on Boxing Day I sat looking at the unwrapped box with its image of a birds head and bill and the words 'giving nature a home'. It's one of those odd strap lines which appear to be a contradiction yet sums up a reality.



Nature by its very nature (excuse the pun) is not contained. The word 'home' suggests something of being contained, placed within the safety of four walls and a roof. As I sat on Boxing Day, with the Christmas story so fresh in my mind, I found myself wondering what it might mean to say to those who do not know Jesus that the invitation beyond Christmas is all about giving God a home.

It sounds contradictory because God like nature does not need a home. And yet the whole story of Christmas is about Jesus, God's son coming to live in the world.

God asked Mary to be Jesus' mother and she opened her heart and gave Jesus a home. Joseph also opened his heart and gave Jesus a home. They had a choice and they both said yes and gave God a home.



There is a very famous picture by Holman Hunt called 'Light of the World' – it depicts Jesus (an adult Jesus) standing by a closed door with a lantern in one hand, his other hand raised to knock on the door. There is no handle on the outside of the door which is surrounded by overgrown plants and ivy. The door has not been opened for the longest time and the door can only be opened from the inside.

Giving God a home is about an ongoing relationship. God does not need anyone to give him a home but we need God to make his home in us: for our own sake and for the sake of our world.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

*Clodagh*

## Church Calendar for February 2020

Sun 2	8.00 am	Holy Communion
	10.00 am	Celebration Service
Mon 3	4.00 - 4.30	Evening Prayer
Tue 4	9.30 - 9.50	Evening Prayer
	9.50 - 12.00	Coffee & Chat
Wed 5	4.00 - 4.30	Evening Prayer
<b>Sun 9</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Communion Service</b>
Mon 10	4.00 - 4.30	Evening Prayer
Tue 11	9.30 - 9.50	Morning Prayer
	9.50 - 12.00	Coffee & Chat
Wed 12	4.00 - 4.30	Evening Prayer
<b>Sun 16</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>No Service</b>
	<b>4.00 pm</b>	<b>Confirmation service with communion</b>
Mon 17	4.00 - 4.30	Evening Prayer
Tue 18	9.30 - 9.50	Morning Prayer
	9.50 - 12.00	Coffee & Chat
Wed 19	4.00 - 4.30	Evening Prayer
<b>Sun 23</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Communion Service</b>
Mon 24	4.00 - 4.30	Evening Prayer
Tue 25	9.30 - 9.50	Morning Prayer
	9.50 - 12.00	Coffee & Chat
Wed 26	7.00 pm	Ash Wednesday service

## St. Leonard's Church News

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

### *Sunday Service ringing.*

Ringers gather from here and there each Sunday Service,  
Ringing chamber full of chitter and chatter then the call "Grab hold for Grandsire Triples"  
Lynne, take the fourth - Charlie on the seventh - John's at the back  
All in place now, "hush now ! Treble's goin', she's gone"  
Ding dang dong dung - ding dang dong dung - a good rhythm no-one wrong  
"Go next" the conductor shouts and so the changes begin  
"Grandsire Brian, dodge with the seventh and go in  
Ringing a method you must concentrate especially if it is your first time on the eight  
Rhythm still good as others make their changes in time  
Banking on each knowing the method blue-line  
"Get down to the front !" shouts Bob - "Bob !" calls the conductor  
All eyes making rapid glances - does everyone know where to go ?  
"thirds, lead and out to the back", from me to Rog  
Winking at the fifth to make our next dodge  
"Treble lead - LEAD TREBLE ! three takes you"  
"Don't flinch if you see the two near"  
it should still be doing 4/5 down-dodge here  
To keep it right, follow the 'blue line' we all have to do as patterns of music, to some, that may look strange a lifetime of skill but no one knows the full range  
"Watch your timing now we are nearly in rounds"  
the people want to hear us ring well placed sounds calling our citizens to church to celebrate and praise God who has called each ringer the bells to raise  
Satisfied we have done our job, the congregation is plenty now it's time to lower and leave the tower  
all quiet, bells at rest, chamber safe and empty until next Service or practice night - lights off

Charlie Burnett -our tower captain © 2011

Regular practice evenings at USL every Wednesday 7:30-9:00pm (tower door)

*all welcome*



### *Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February 4.00 pm Confirmation Service*

We are delighted that Bishop Rachel will be taking the service as this is a very special, and significant moment in the life of our community.

A confirmation service is a public declaration of faith that people make after baptism (either as an infant or an adult) and after careful consideration. It is a joyous occasion for all of us to celebrate along with the confirmation candidates.

Do speak with Clodagh or James if you would like to know more.

### *Please note*

There will be no 10.00 am communion service on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February.

Communion will be incorporated in the Confirmation Service to be held at 4.00 pm

## Mothers' UNION

The next meeting is on the 20th February, 2.00pm

in St. Oswalds Church Hall

Subject: Members treasures (please bring a 'treasured' item to the meeting)

*All are welcome*



## St. Leonard's Church News

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

Ash Wednesday



*Remember that you are dust,  
and to dust you shall return.*

ECCLESIASTES 3:20

### What Is Ash Wednesday?

Each year, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent and it is always 46 days before Easter Sunday. Lent is a 40-day season (not counting Sundays) marked by repentance, fasting, reflection, and ultimately celebration. The 40-day period represents Christ's time of temptation in the wilderness, where he fasted and where Satan tempted him. Lent provides the opportunity for Christians to set aside a time each year for similar fasting, marking an intentional season of focus on Christ's life, ministry, sacrifice, and resurrection in preparation for the celebration of Easter.

### *Ash Wednesday Service*

St Leonard's Church

on Wednesday 26th February at 7pm

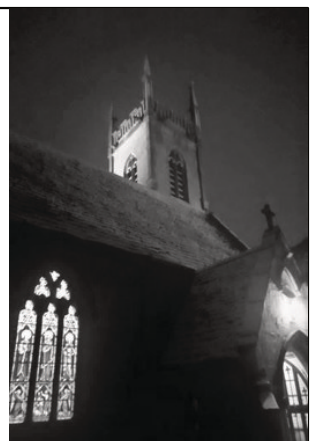
to mark the beginning of Lent

### *Tower Floodlighting February 2020*

To celebrate the birth of Euan Balmer to Lindsay and Richard on New Year's Eve, the proud grandparents Les and Sandra Waite are sponsoring the Tower Lights in February.

On the 25th February, the Tower Lights are lit in remembrance of Derek Brinkley, whose birthday it would have been on this date. Kindly sponsored by his son, Alan.

*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 remembrance 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 Pages of USL Life is the 10th of the preceding month.*



# St. Leonard's Church News

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

## Who's Who at the Parish Church

### Priest in Charge:

Rev Clodagh Ingram

### Curate:

Rev James Turk

### Churchwardens:

Keith Robbins

### Vacancy

### PCC Secretary

Sarah Kent

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

### Church Treasurer

Vacancy

### Baptism & Wedding Enquiries:

Church Administrator - Jenny Cunningham

[jennycunningham46@googlemail.com](mailto:jennycunningham46@googlemail.com)

### Deanery Synod Representative

Dorothy Cox

### Bell Tower Captain:

Charlie Burnett

### Mother's Union

Rachel Hall

### Church Cleaning Rota

Claire Appleyard

### Church Flowers

Jenny Cunningham

## World Day of Prayer service

at  
Christchurch Abbeydale

on  
Friday 6 March  
at 10.30 am.



*The service has been planned and written by women in Zimbabwe. They have lived with unrest for many years. We can show our support for them by hearing their stories*

## Lent Lunches

at St Augustine's, Matson,

every Friday from 28<sup>th</sup> Feb,

12:00 to 1:30

£2.00 including tea/coffee

## The Gloucester & District Christian Choir

In concert

At

St Augustine's Church, Matson

On

Friday 21st February 2020 at 7.30pm

Tickets £5.00

Refreshments available during interval

### Your qualified village electrician



**MJBoon**  
Electrical

☎ 07773 626241

✉ [matt@mjboonelectrical.co.uk](mailto:matt@mjboonelectrical.co.uk)

- Free estimates and advice
- All aspects of electrical work undertaken



# CHORLEY'S

GLOUCESTERSHIRE'S FINE ART AUCTIONEERS

Free auction valuations

Regular fine art & antiques sales

Insurance & probate valuations

01452 344499

[enquiries@chorleys.com](mailto:enquiries@chorleys.com)

[www.chorleys.com](http://www.chorleys.com)

PRINKNASH ABBEY PARK GL4 8EU

### Computer Playing up?

- Virus, Spyware, Malware removal
- Slow Computer
- Printer setup or fault
- Internet or wi-fi problem
- Data Recovery and Data Transfer service
- Software fault diagnosis
- Computer Tuition
- Computer Health Check
- FREE telephone support for minor problems



### Call Churchdown Computers

t: Mark on 01452 534668 or 07557 483438

e: [mark@churchdowncomputers.co.uk](mailto:mark@churchdowncomputers.co.uk)

w: [www.churchdowncomputers.co.uk](http://www.churchdowncomputers.co.uk)

# Arts Page

The theme for this month of chilly weather is CATS as they have an uncanny way of finding a very warm place to sleep.



## THE SINGING CAT by Stevie Smith (1902 – 1971)

It was a little captive cat  
Upon a crowded train  
His mistress takes him from his box  
To ease his fretful pain.

She holds him tight upon her knee  
The graceful animal  
And all the people look at him  
He is so beautiful.

But oh he pricks and oh he prods  
And turns upon her knee  
Then lifteth up his innocent voice  
In plaintive melody.

He lifteth up his innocent voice  
He lifteth up, he singeth  
And to each human countenance  
A smile of grace he bringeth.

He lifteth up his innocent paw  
Upon her breast he clingeth  
And everybody cries, Behold  
The cat, the cat that singeth.

He lifteth up his innocent voice  
He lifteth up, he singeth  
And all the people warm themselves  
In the love his beauty bringeth.

## THE KILKENNY CATS

A fabled pair of cats from Kilkenny in Ireland, who fought so ferociously that only their tails remained after the battle. Hence the expression: “they fought like Kilkenny cats”.

There once were two cats of Kilkenny,  
Who each thought ‘twas one cat too many,  
So they quarrelled and fit,  
And they scratched and they bit,  
‘Till instead of two cats there weren’t any.

(Anon)

## MACAVITY : THE MYSTERY CAT by T. S. Eliot (1888-1965)

Macavity’s a Mystery Cat: he’s called the Hidden Paw-  
For he’s the master criminal who can defy the Law.  
He’s the bafflement of Scotland Yard, the Flying Squad’s despair:  
For when they reach the scene of crime – *Macavity’s not there!*

Macavity, Macavity, there’s no one like Macavity.  
He’s broken every human law, he breaks the law of gravity.  
His powers of levitation would make a fakir stare,  
And when you reach the scene of crime – *Macavity’s not there!*

Macavity’s a ginger cat, he’s very tall and thin;  
You would know him if you saw him, for his eyes are sunken in.  
His brow is deeply lined with thought, his head is highly domed;  
His coat is dusty from neglect, his whiskers are uncombed.  
He sways his head from side to side, with movements like a snake.  
And when you think he’s half asleep, he’s always wide awake.

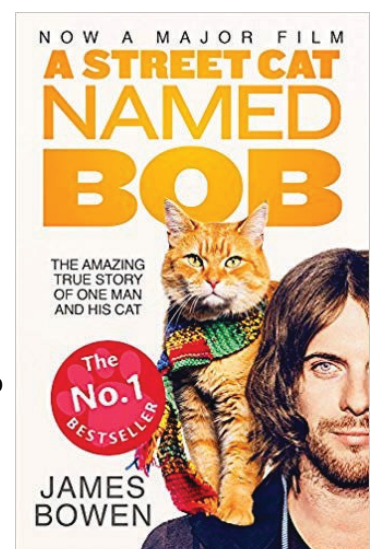
Some thoughts on cats:

“Cats, I always think, jump into your lap to check if you are cold enough to eat yet....” Anne Enright , Irish Novelist

“If man could be crossed with a cat it would improve man, but it would deteriorate the cat” Mark Twain 1835 – 1910

## Book Review : A Street Cat Named Bob by James Bowen published by Hodder.

Originally published in 2012, this is the first in a series of Bob the Cat books. There is also a film with the same title. James Bowen was a heroin addict and busker in London who was at his lowest ebb when he met a stray ginger cat who refused to leave him. The cat was injured and the author says that he had to be responsible and take Bob to the vet for treatment. From that point his life changed. Book sales have reached over 1.5 million copies. A happy ending to warm you in chilly February.



## The Ministry Is Unaware . . .

**Tony Pryce**, who chairs the Motorway Working Group on behalf of the Parish Council gives us a bit of history of the motorway and on what has been done so far to mitigate the effects of noise and pollution.

### 'The Ministry is unaware ...'

It all looked fine on paper. Plans published by the Ministry of Transport during the mid 1960s depicted a new section of the M5 motorway in Gloucestershire that would link with sections already built to the north and south and establish a fast and safe route for traffic between the Midlands and the South West. A local engineer concerned by how this might affect Upton St Leonards examined the plans and reassured his wife that the location of the motorway was such that it would have no impact on their new home in Woodland Green. The planned route was some distance from Woodland Green, much nearer the city. Sometime later when walking his dog close to his home the engineer came across a group of men with surveyor's poles and enquired what their task was. As you might guess, they were marking the course of the motorway along its current path and seemed to know nothing of the original plan or why it had been altered.

In fact the idea of building the motorway had been proposed some twenty years earlier, as the Gloucestershire Echo of 23rd November 1950 pointed out:

"The plan for a new motorway from south to north through the county of Gloucester is not a new one, for it was fully elaborated four years ago [i.e. 1946] by the Ministry of Transport. The Ministry is therefore not unaware of the need for it, but the lack of progress with it, apart from the preparation of plans, suggests

that the Ministry is unaware of the urgency of the need. When the plan was prepared it was estimated that the project would take ten years to complete it. Four years have passed already, and the work has not begun. In view of the heavy demand for labour and materials for the rearmament programme, the Ministry will probably not make a start upon it for some considerable time."

This was a bold proposal. Great Britain emerged from World War 2 victorious but broke. By the end of the war the national debt exceeded £21 billion. As the nation strained to recover economic stability the idea of a national road building programme had to compete with the new Labour government's pledge to nationalise many of the ailing industries; the Echo's pessimism over delay proved particularly apt for Gloucestershire as this section of the motorway did not open until 1971.

The engineer and his wife moved into their new home in 1969. Its front elevation faces the motorway and following the opening of the motorway the Ministry of Transport arranged for their home to be modified in an attempt to reduce motorway noise. Double glazing was installed to front windows on the upper and lower floors and devices were fitted to force external air into the lounge and front bedrooms. This arrangement was also employed in many of the surrounding properties and proved to be unpopular; somewhat ironically the fan was found to be noisy and the forced air unwelcome, particularly during cold weather. It at least indicated, however, that the Ministry realised there was a problem.

M5 motorway viewed from garden in Woodland Green – 1977. © 2020 David Barber



In this article I have looked at the problem of motorway noise and how it might be addressed. In a future edition of USL Life I shall consider the corresponding problem of airborne pollution and set out what is, and what is not, being done about it.

Since the Gloucestershire section of the M5 was opened the volume of motorway traffic has increased fivefold - a fact no one living close to the motorway will need reminding of – and yet very little effort has been made to address the noise and airborne pollution this has created. Concerned by the lack of action, in June 1999 David Drew, then MP for Stroud, raised the matter with the then Minister for Transport, Helen Liddell. The Minister responded: *“We have established a policy of using quieter surfaces where appropriate in resurfacing trunk roads (including motorways). We have set up an annual budget of £5 million to deal with some of the most serious cases of noise from existing roads ...”*

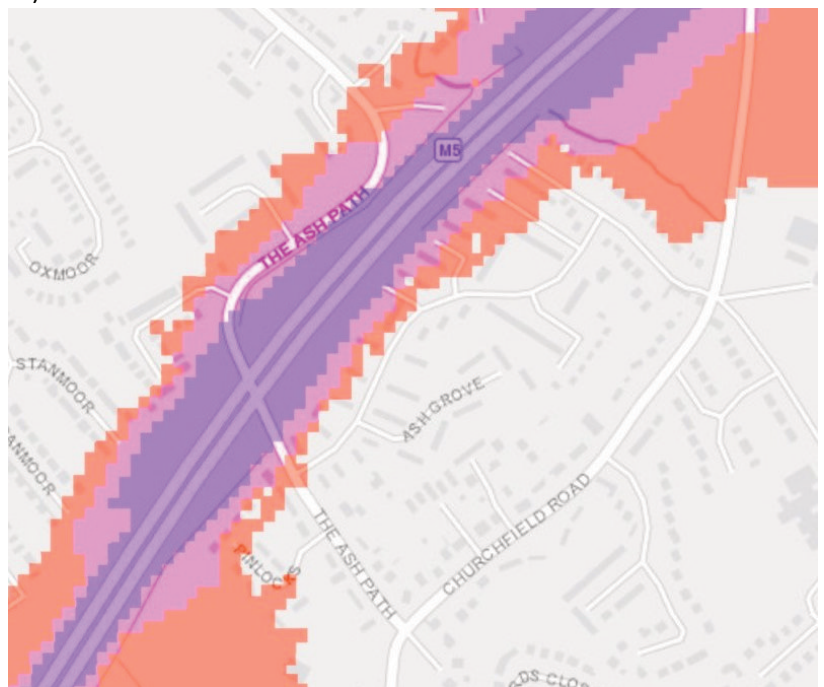
### Quieter surfaces or fencing or both?

The application of this policy (using quieter surfaces) would make an interesting case study. To this day, Highways England maintain that it holds good but even a cursory examination of actual practice shows this is not the case. On 5th November 2018 Construction News reported that, following concerns over motorway noise, *‘Highways England is trying out a new type of barrier along a section of the M1 at Wakefield that should not only reduce noise for nearby residents but also act as a safety barrier.’* This followed similar solutions seen on the M1 in Leicestershire near Enderby and Narborough, and the M40 in Oxfordshire between Loudwater and Wheatley; the latter produced mixed results, a survey conducted after the barriers had been installed revealed that some residents are now unhappy with the view from their back garden. And of course there is Upton St. Leonards. In 2004, following concerted local effort, the Highways Agency installed low height wooden fencing along a limited section of the M5 that borders the village. Its durability has always been open to question, but what is not in doubt is that the level of noise beyond the fencing is still unacceptable.

Those who complain about the level of noise are faced with a difficult question: so exactly how much noise is too much? Fortunately, Defra has now provided an answer. On 2nd July 2019 the department published its ‘Noise Action Plan: Roads’. According to the plan, if noise at a given location is equal to or greater than 65 dB(A), (using the noise measurement method LA10,18h, whatever that means, a method of sound measurement that I would not pretend to understand) the location is deemed to be a Noise Important Area. The relevant highway authority is then under an obligation to reduce the noise to below the given level, for the motorway this falls upon Highways England. But what are the prevailing motorway noise levels across Upton St. Leonards?

In July 2017, Defra published a document entitled Strategic Noise Mapping, which set out the results of computer modelling intended to show the level of noise emanating from our roads, including motorways. It encompassed the area of M5 motorway adjacent to Upton St. Leonards, which had been resurfaced with a low-noise material earlier that year. For reasons known only to Defra, the metrics used to determine Noise Important Areas and the metrics used for their computer modelling ‘are not directly comparable’, they have therefore produced maps showing what they believe to be the best approximation.

The map for Upton St Leonards (here) shows that properties from Lobleys Drive to a point southwest of



The Kings Head are within a Noise Important Area – all the darker coloured areas experience noise that is equal to or greater than 65 dB. This includes all the houses in Woodland Green and Pinlocks adjacent to the motorway. Using this evidence, our Parish Council is now engaging with the Chief Executive Officer of Stroud District Council and our new MP, Siobhan Baillie, asking them to challenge Highways England on the level of noise we currently experience from the M5. And so our quest for an effective long-term solution goes on, let’s hope that achieving this is not too far away.

Tony Pryce

Acknowledgements. Thanks are extended to Sylvia Crisp and David Barber, both of Woodland Green, Bob Gibb of Pinlocks, and staff at the Gloucestershire Archives for their help in compiling information and material for this article.

## Freecycle corner. . .

Whilst clearing a cupboard recently, I came across a box of embroidery silks, two hoops, some "vintage" paper transfers and some embroidery fabric covers (see attached picture). I wonder whether anybody might be interested in having them?

Phyllis Bennett



## Brian Warner – some memories of a friend

When I arrived in Upton St Leonards, Brian was the milkman, and also a fellow cricketer. I regarded him as a good friend, and got to know him and his family, Pam, Jeremy and Craig, well. I loved going over to his place in summer to help him and Jim Stephenson get in the hay for their sheep and calves. Hard, hot work, but fun.

Brian was a sort of "go to" guy when there was a problem. In about 1979 there was a heavy snowfall which blocked all the local roads. Brian was the first out there with his tractor clearing a way through. On another occasion my wife managed to get our VW combi stuck in the rectory garden (it's a long story!), so she called Brian who came to the rescue. Brian loved going to farm and machinery auctions and it was he who came back one day with a motorised heavy roller for the cricket club (the club's first such), and for a long while he also had a "spare" roller parked at his place (which, I have to admit, I drove unlicensed, uninsured, down High Street when it was needed at the Rec.) When USCAN needed some storage for wood for the footpath work, Brian willingly let us use a corner in one of his barns.

When the supermarket (Safeways, now Morrisons) arrived, there was a big incentive (in price) to buy milk from there rather than the milkman. My large family was one of his best customers, and we refused to cancel with him.

Brian used to employ teenagers to help on his rounds, showing a very generous nature, because profits must have been tight and I'm sure he could have done the rounds by himself. But he seemed to regard it as important to bring these lads on (usually it was boys), by trusting them and giving them responsibility. Pam tells me that quite a few of these "apprentices" attended Brian's funeral.

Thanks and farewell, Brian – and may you rest in the peace you deserve.

Andy Russell



## HEATHER SKELTON

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Heather Skelton on 12th December, after battling illness. She was a long-standing villager, wife of John, our local artist who also passed away last year. Son Andrew and family would like to thank all friends and neighbours for their support and condolences.

An advertisement for Roger Brown, a painter and decorator. The text is written in a cursive font. At the top, it says "Roger Brown" in a large, elegant script. Below that, it says "Painter and Decorator" and "Free Quotations". At the bottom, it provides two phone numbers: "Telephone 01453 454724" and "Mobile 07554 637175". The background of the ad features a large, detailed image of a paintbrush with a wooden handle and a metal ferrule holding the bristles.

An advertisement for B.A. Electrical Services. The text is in a bold, sans-serif font. At the top, it says "B.A. Electrical Services". Below that, it says "Domestic &amp; Commercial Insured &amp; Registered". There is a logo for NAPIT (National Association of Professional Insulation and Thermal Contractors) with the text "Part P Approved Electrician". Below the logo, it says "For all your Electrical Needs". At the bottom, it says "A Professional and Friendly Service Quality Work at Competitive Prices For a Free Estimate call Bernie 01594 368607 / 07881 981352".



Regular weekly events are only shown for the first month here

# VILLAGE DIARY

## FEBRUARY

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	Fitness Training (2 sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.30pm
3	Mon	Parish Council Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30pm
3	Mon	Upton WI - The Haven Family Centre.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00pm
4	Tue	Recycling and food waste week		
4	Tue	Needles and Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45-12.15pm
4	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30pm
5	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.00-12.00pm
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
6	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	10.00-10.45am
6	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30am
6	Thu	Pilates.....	Village Hall Annex.....	1.00-2.00pm
6	Thu	Fitness.....	Pavilion.....	6.00pm
6	Thu	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	8.00pm
7	Fri	Pilates.....	Village Hall.....	11.30-12.30pm
8	Sat	Entertainment Night.....	BMI.....	8.00pm
9	Sun	Tennis.....	Pavilion.....	10.00am
10	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-11.30am
10	Mon	Coffee Club.....	BMI.....	10.00-12.00pm
10	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-1.45pm
10	Mon	Fitness Training (2 sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.30pm
10	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.0pm
10	Mon	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	8.00pm
10	Mon	Copy date for March issue of USL Life		
11	Tue	Rubbish and food waste week and garden waste for those with brown bins		
11	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45-12.15pm
11	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30pm
12	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.00-12.00pm
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.....	10.00-10.45am
13	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30am
13	Thu	Pilates.....	Village Hall Annex.....	1.00-2.00pm
13	Thu	Fitness.....	Pavilion.....	6.00pm
13	Thu	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	8.00pm
14	Fri	Pilates.....	Village Hall.....	11.30-12.30pm
16	Sun	Tennis.....	Pavilion.....	10.00a.m
17	Mon	Coffee Club.....	BMI.....	10.00-12.00pm
17	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-11.30am
17	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-1.45pm
17	Mon	Fitness Training (2 sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.30pm
17	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.45pm
17	Mon	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	8.00pm
18	Tue	Recycling and food waste week		
18	Tue	Needles & 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	Healthy Living.....	Pavilion.....	7.00pm
19	Wed	Bingo.....	BMI.....	8.00pm
19	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30pm
19	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice.....	Bell Tower.....	7.30-9.30pm
20	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	10.00-10.45am
20	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30am
20	Thu	Pilates.....	Village Hall Annex.....	1.00-2.00pm
20	Thu	Fitness.....	Pavilion.....	6.00pm
20	Thu	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	8.00pm
21	Fri	Pilates.....	Village Hall.....	11.30-12.30pm
22	Sat	Entertainment.....	BMI.....	8.00pm
23	Sun	Tennis.....	Pavilion.....	10.00am
24	Mon	Coffee Club.....	BMI.....	10.00-12.00p/m
24	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-11.30am
24	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-1.45pm
24	Mon	Fitness Training (2 sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.30pm
24	Mon	Camera Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00pm
24	Mon	Pilates.....	Pavilion.....	8.00pm
25	Tue	Rubbish and food waste week and garden waste for those with brown bins		
25	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45-12.15pm



25	Tue	Badminton .....	Village Hall .....	8.30-10.30pm
26	Wed	Stitchers .....	Pavilion .....	10.00-12.00pm
26	Wed	Ladies Probus .....	BMI .....	10.00am
26	Wed	Bingo .....	BMI .....	8.00pm
26	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics .....	Village Hall .....	7.30-9.30pm
26	Wed	Bell Ringing Practice .....	Bell Tower .....	7.30-9.30pm
27	Thu	Senior Circuits .....	Pavilion .....	10.00-10.45am
27	Thu	Tai Chi .....	Village Hall Annex .....	9.30-10.30am
27	Thu	Pilates .....	Village Hall annex .....	1.00-2.00pm
27	Thu	Get Together Club .....	Village Hall .....	2.30-4.30pm
27	Thu	Fitness .....	Pavilion .....	6.00pm
27	Thu	Pilates .....	Pavilion .....	8.00pm
28	Fri	Pilates .....	Village Hall .....	11.30-12.30pm

Regular weekly events not listed below this line

### MARCH

2	Mon	Parish Council Meeting .....	Pavilion .....	7.30pm
2	Mon	Upton WI .....	Village Hall .....	7.30-10.00pm
7	Sat	Village Litter Pick .....	Recreation Ground .....	10.00am
7	Sat	Entertainment .....	BMI .....	8.00pm
9	Mon	Twyver WI .....	Village Hall .....	7.30-10.00pm
10	Tue	Copy Date for April issue of USL Life		
16	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club .....	Village Hall .....	7.30-9.45pm
19	Thu	History Group – Blood, Guts and a little bit off the top .....	Village Hall .....	7.45-9.00pm
21	Sat	Spring Quiz .....	BMI .....	8.00pm
23	Mon	Camera Club .....	Village Hall .....	7.00-9.00pm
25	Wed	Ladies Probus .....	BMI .....	10.00am
26	Thu	Get Together Club .....	Village Hall .....	2.30-4.30pm
28	Sat	Spring Show .....	Village Hall .....	2.00-4.00pm
30	Mon	Lady Downe Trust .....	Upton St Leonards School .....	7.00pm

### APRIL

6	Mon	Parish Council Meeting .....	Pavilion .....	7.30pm
6	Mon	Upton WI .....	Village Hall .....	7.30-10.00pm
10	Wed	Copy Date for May issue of USL Life		
13	Mon	Twyver WI .....	Village Hall .....	7.30-10.00pm
20	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club .....	Village Hall .....	7.30-9.45pm
22	Wed	Ladies Probus .....	BMI .....	10.00am
25	Sat	Entertainment Night .....	BMI .....	8.00pm
27	Mon	Camera Club .....	Village Hall .....	7.00-9.00pm
30	Thu	Get Together Club .....	Village Hall .....	2.30-4.30pm

**Contact Paula Quinn to get your event in the diary**



Really sorry - we got the bin days wrong in the January issue. For most of you, luckily, you knew better or the grapevine worked. So here are the correct dates for the next seven months.

## Bin collection dates 2020

4 Feb	Recycling & food waste	19 May	Rubbish, food waste & brown bins
11 Feb	Rubbish, food waste & brown bins	26 May	Recycling & food waste
18 Feb	Recycling & food waste	2 Jun	Rubbish, food waste & brown bins
25 Feb	Rubbish, food waste & brown bins	9 Jun	Recycling & food waste
3 Mar	Recycling & food waste	16 Jun	Rubbish, food waste & brown bins
10 Mar	Rubbish, food waste & brown bins	23 Jun	Recycling & food waste
17 Mar	Recycling & food waste	30 Jun	Rubbish, food waste & brown bins
24 Mar	Rubbish, food waste & brown bins	7 Jul	Recycling & food waste
31 Mar	Recycling & food waste	14 Jul	Rubbish, food waste & brown bins
7 Apr	Rubbish, food waste & brown bins	21 Jul	Recycling & food waste
14 Apr	Recycling & food waste	28 Jul	Rubbish, food waste & brown bins
21 Apr	Rubbish, food waste & brown bins	4 Aug	Recycling & food waste
28 Apr	Recycling & food waste	11 Aug	Rubbish, food waste & brown bins
5 May	Rubbish, food waste & brown bins	18 Aug	Recycling & food waste
12 May	Recycling & food waste	25 Aug	Rubbish, food waste & brown bins

## CHRISTMAS QUIZ

We hope you had some fun with our Christmas Quiz (and didn't immediately look up all the answers on Google!). Our "official" answers are below, though one or two may be open to debate! There were no prizes on offer, but we received answers from Julie Winstanley, and Jane Watkin (and one other, unnamed) - thanks, good to know that someone was interested.

### Adult Christmas Quiz

- 1 In 1953, this Christmas song was Eartha Kitt's biggest hit of her career - **Santa Baby**
- 2 What was the traditional English Christmas dinner before turkey? **Goose**
- 3 Which two countries are first to celebrate New Year? - **Samoa and Kiribati**
- 4 Who invented the electric Christmas tree lights in 1882? - **Thomas Edison**
- 5 Which famous Christmas song was introduced by Judy Garland in the 1944 movie 'Meet Me in St. Louis'? - **Have yourself a Merry Little Christmas**
- 6 Which leader banned Christmas pudding and mince pies during the 17th Century? - **Oliver Cromwell**
- 7 What was the first Christmas song broadcast from space in 1965? - **Jingle Bells**
- 8 During the 12th century, who traditionally left socks containing fruit and nuts at houses of the poor? **French nuns**
- 9 In which country is it a tradition to eat Christmas dinner at KFC? **Japan**
- 10 What is the name of the tiny Pacific island that is first to celebrate Christmas? **Christmas Island**
- 11 Which country is home to a collection of limestone stacks known as 'The Twelve Apostles'? **Australia**
- 12 Which British civil servant commissioned the first commercial Christmas cards? **Henry Cole**
- 13 Mince pies used to known by what other name: a.Crib pies, b.Pastry pies, c.Sweet pies? **Crib pies**
- 14 Which chemical compound is traditionally used in Christmas crackers to make them bang? **Silver fulminate**
- 15 What is 'Smoking Bishop'? **A punch served at Christmas**
- 16 "I Believe in Father Christmas" incorporates a tune by which classical composer? **Prokofiev**
- 17 Since 1952 only two groups have had three consecutive Christmas number ones. The Beatles did it in 1963, '64 and '65. Who was the other group to achieve the same distinction? **Spice Girls**
- 18 Who is the sweetheart of Harlequin in English pantomime? **Columbine**
- 19 Who wrote the poem, "The Cultivation of Christmas Trees"? **T S Eliot**
- 20 What was the name of the first US Minister to Mexico and why is his name linked with Christmas? **Joel Pointsett (after whom Pointsettia was named)**



### Children's Quiz

- 1 In 1948, what song was released by Spike Jones and the City Slickers? **All I want for Christmas is my two front teeth**
- 2 Two of the reindeers are named after weather phenomena. Name the reindeers. **Donner (thunder) and Blitzen (lightning)**
- 3 After leaving Bethlehem, to which country did Joseph, Mary, and Jesus travel? **Egypt**
- 4 Which country is the largest exporter of Christmas trees? **Canada**
- 5 What is a female turkey called? **Hen**
- 6 As well as icing, what 'M' is traditionally used to decorate a Christmas cake? **Marzipan**
- 7 What is the name of the boy in the 1982 film 'The Snowman'? **James**
- 8 What is the name of the fictional town in 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas'? **Whoville**
- 9 How many types of birds are mentioned in the Twelve Day of Christmas song? Name them. **Six: partridge, turtle dove, French hen, "calling" or "colley" bird, goose, swan.**
- 10 Which 2019 Christmas film features a young woman named Kate who takes up a job as an elf? **Last Christmas**
- 11 Which Christmas film features a boy and an American steam train heading to the North Pole? **Polar Express**
- 12 In which country is Lapland located? **Finland**
- 13 Which member of the British Royal Family prepares a speech that is broadcast on Christmas Day? **The Queen**
- 14 What was Scrooge's famous line? **Bah Humbug!**
- 15 How many times does the number 2 appear on a standard Advent calendar? **8**
- 16 Can you unscramble the following word to reveal a vegetable that is eaten over the festive season: UOTPRS? **Sprouts**
- 17 What gift is an anagram of ESNECNKNARF? **Frankincense**
- 18 What is the name of the reindeer belonging to Kristoff in the Disney film Frozen? **Sven**
- 19 Which red chested bird often appears on cards over the festive season? **Robin**
- 20 What is Santa's real name? **Saint Nicholas**



## 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: Andy Russell  
Editors: Andrea Dawson  
Andy Russell  
Barbara Swindin  
Peter Wilson

Company Secretary: Cliff Alderman  
Treasurer: Owen Stinchcombe

Feature writers: Teresa Clarke  
Christina Caldwell  
Linda Munnoch  
Ann Morphew

Church pages: Rachel Middleton

Clubs / Societies / Organisations: Catherine McLean

Diary: Paula Quinn

Advertising: Contact: Andy Russell

Admin Support: Janine Black

Distribution: Jenny Cunningham

Photography: Jim Browne

Proof Readers: Carol Hardacre  
Pam Tickner  
Kate Davies

USL Life is published by USL Life CIC, a Limited Company, and is printed at Leyhill Prison.

## Welcome to the Team

*Pam Tickner has joined the editorial team of USL Life, in the role of a proof reader. We were delighted that she agreed to help us.*

*She replaces Chris Ellson who has "retired" after over 5 years in the job. Our thanks go to Chris.*

**DISCLAIMER:** USL Life welcomes adverts for goods and services but reminds readers to make their own checks before entering into any contract or other arrangements with advertisers, as USL Life cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of the advertisements.

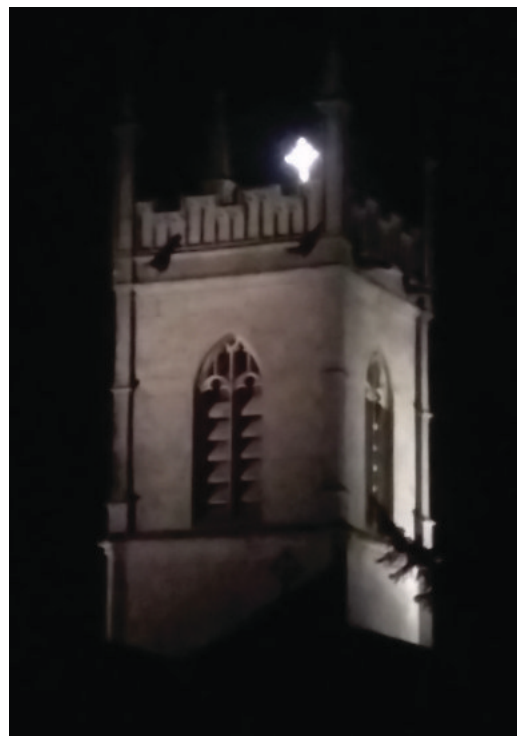
The editor next month will be Barbara Swindin



Two more pictures from Christmas and the New Year

Gloucester Brass performing at their Christmas Concert, and some very nice decorations in the Church.

The Christmas Star shines out brightly from the Church tower



### THE MYSTERY STONE

(See the article on Upton's historic buildings, on page 3). This stone is part of a wall at Grove Court. We don't know what it represents or why it is there. Maybe some fancy initials, or just a design? What can you see in it?



*Fast, Friendly & Dedicated Service  
In Your Local Area*

**VOSA**  
 Family Run Business  
 Est. In 1968





**CEDAR MOTOR HOUSE LTD**  
 Grove Court, Upton Hill  
 Gloucester GL4 8DA  
 01452 617240 or 07976 322735

**MOT TESTING WHILE YOU WAIT FOR PETROL AND DIESEL VEHICLES**  
 Diagnostic Fault Code Reading.  
 Vehicle Servicing & Mechanical Repairs.  
 Clutches & Timing Belts Replaced, Top Quality Tyres,  
 Batteries & Exhausts Fitted AT Competitive Prices.  
 Insurance & Accident Repairs.  
 Welding Service.

Servicing for New & Used Vehicles Using Genuine Parts If Required, at Much Lower Rates than Main Agents. All Parts and Repairs Complying with Manufacturers Warranty Requirements.  
 Lube Service from £89 incl VAT  
 Interim Service from £129 incl VAT  
 Full Service from £175 incl VAT

*We are situated on Upton Hill in Upton St Leonards. Grove Court is 100 yards past the Kings Head Pub on the right hand side. Collection service available.*


**The BMI Club**  
 (Est 1898)  
 Bondend Road  
 Upton St Leonards

Members Club, new members welcome.  
 Two bars, wide screen TV with Sky/BT Sports. Snooker /Pool Tables. Skittle Alley.  
 Regular entertainment nights.  
 Function room hire.

Annual Fee £10 plus £5 joining fee.  
 Senior Citizens half price

To join just call in and see Alec our Steward for details.  
 Open Mon-Fri lunchtimes & evenings.  
 Sat-Sun Open all day.  
<http://www.bmiclub.co.uk/>  
**Tel. 01452 616384**

**A1 Windows**  
*"for all your window needs"*

A local friendly company with over 35 years experience  
 uPVC windows, doors and conservatories  
 Replacing misted glass  
 Locks  
 Hinges  
 Handles  
 Patio rollers  
 Guttering, fascia and soffit boards  
 Free no obligation quotations  
[www.a1windows-gloucester.co.uk](http://www.a1windows-gloucester.co.uk)




**Simon Green**  
 01452 535811  
 07989 891227