

Upton St Leonards Life *incorporating Church News*

Issue 41

January 2018



See Page 15 for
January's Feature on
New Year Resolutions

Stroud District Council
Local Plan Review and
the
Parish Council's
Response: Page 5



See page 16 for a special
tribute to Evelyn Rumsey

Letters to the Editor



The email below was sent to all the participating WI's in the county urging them to enter into the centenary wall hanging competition and this was the result!!!!

From: Gloucester Secretary **On Behalf Of** Secretary GFWI

Sent: 21 November 2017 12:28

To: Twyver WI - Janice Gilmour

Subject: Centenary Wall Hanging - Results

Thank you all for entering the Centenary Wall Hanging Competition. In all, 12 Institutes entered and there were very many good ideas. In some ways it was a pity it could not be a composite of them all.

The judges were looking first of all for entries that filled the criteria and some failed on this. Size and orientation are primary, as is presentation. Then consideration was given to whether the hangings spoke of Gloucestershire, for example did they include the Cathedral, Cotswold sheep, the Forest and the River Severn? Also did they involve several techniques? Based on these criteria, four designs were short listed and from these four, two were chosen and then placed in rank order.

The design from Twyver WI was the winning entry and is chosen to be placed in the Gloucester room at Denman. Lydney was the runner-up and has been asked to complete its design, for WI House. Both will be on display locally during the GFWI Centenary year, 2019.

At the December meeting, Twyver WI welcomed three new guests. Members were congratulated on their successful submission of the best wall hanging, depicting the county of Gloucestershire.


A significant number of ladies donated items to the Gloucestershire Bundles Charity which were then going to be distributed to needy families over the festive period.

Due to the inclement weather conditions, our speaker was unable to reach us so fortified by mulled wine and

mince pies, members provided their own readings and TLC led the way in the Christmas carols. Many had attended the annual WI concert in Cheltenham the previous week and Margaret Buckley, Janine Black and Louise Coole had had the pleasure of rehearsing with Wynne Evans (of Go Compare fame) prior to what was deemed to be the best concert ever.

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Letters to the Editor cont'd



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16 November 2017

Our Ref: 38/13

Dear Marilyn,

The Upton St Leonards Gnome Hunt was an amazing event and it was a pleasure to join you for a sunny day with the children, and to see such incredible support from the local community for the event and your fundraising.

The Gnome Hunt is a fantastic, and fun, way to raise funds and your continued support of Focus is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for the cheques totalling £1,050.00 to our focus fund, and it is wonderful to be able to make these donations go even further through gift aid.

Your support will particularly benefit our Sky Ceiling appeal for our radiotherapy treatment rooms. We have recently been able to install our first Sky Ceiling, which has transformed the room and is providing a much more welcoming and inspiring environment for local cancer patients, and now thanks to the funds raised through the Gnome Hunt and other supporters we have been able to order two more.

Our oncology staff really are buzzing about the Sky Ceilings, it is a real boost for them to see supporters like you getting behind their dedicated work and making an impact for patients.

Thank you for all the hard work and imagination in creating this wonderful event for Focus, and I look forward to showing you the Sky Ceilings once they are in place.

Yours sincerely

Richard Smith
Head of Fundraising

Charity no. 1051606

Cheltenham & Gloucester Hospitals Charity is the working name of Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust General Charitable Fund which is registered in England and Wales charity no. 1051606. Registered office is Victoria Warehouse, The Docks, Gloucester GL1 2LL.



The picture (greyscale doesn't do it any favours!) is of a "Sky Ceiling" at the oncology centre. In the foreground is the radiotherapy unit. The nine tiles with a sky picture are on the ceiling, making something much more pleasant than bare ceiling for patients to look at while they have to lie still for ages.

I received this letter and photo as a thank you for October's Village Gnome Hunt. It's great to think the monies are being used to help fund their Sky Ceiling appeal for the radiotherapy treatment rooms and nice to share this info with our community.

Marilyn Bannister

UPTON ST LEONARDS ART & CRAFT GROUP

We are a group which meets at the Upton St Leonards Pavilion each Wednesday between 2 pm and 4 pm, to enjoy two hours of art and craft.

There are no tutors. We use the time to sit, concentrate and focus for a period of undisturbed creativity, only interrupted by a break for tea and biscuits at 3 pm.

We share our individual experiences in the different mediums (acrylics, watercolours, oils and textiles) and are



happy to offer help to each other in the progression and completion of a piece of work.

We charge between £1 and £2 per session depending on how many attend, but we do pay for a course of ten sessions in advance.

We would love to welcome new members. If you feel you would like to join us, please contact either Jill Fleming or Teresa Clarke.

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What's been happening in Upton?

Call My Wine Bluff

A most successful Call my Wine Bluff evening was held in the Village Hall on Saturday, 25th November.

With compère Duncan Lord (to the far right of the picture) and our three esteemed oenophiles, Paul Rosewell, Teresa Clark and Alec Russell trying their hardest to dupe and confuse the audience with their viniculturist bluffs, the audience knew they were in for an entertaining evening.

Whilst each of the panellists explained about aromas and blends from Albarinos in Spain to Zinfandels in California there were those, as usual working hard behind the scenes, namely Cliff Alderman, Jenny Cunningham, Catherine McLean, Mary Russell and Janine Black, so a big thank you to everyone for providing us with such an enjoyable night.



During the interlude we had the pleasure of listening to The St Leonards Singers.

At the end of the evening around £400 had been raised for USL Life CIC, the non-profit company which produces this magazine for the local community.

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What's been happening in Upton?



Parish Council report:

A very informative presentation was given by Conrad Moore and Mark Graham from Stroud District Council on the Local Plan review, which includes three potential development sites within the parish. These were identified in last month's USL Life.

In response the Parish Council has sent a formal letter to the District Council about the review. Here are some extracts from that letter:

The Parish Council feels that at this early stage it is more relevant to comment on the overall Strategy for development within the District than detailed comments about possible individual development sites. Although having said that, we would wish to reiterate our comments already made in connection with site UPT006 (North of Upton Lane, beside the M5).

We firmly believe that this site is wholly inappropriate for housing development by virtue of its extreme proximity to the M5. Development here will only increase the number of residents having to live with the effects of the unacceptable extreme noise and pollution as already experienced in this area.

If, however at any point this site is seriously considered, noise mitigation must be of the utmost priority, and the whole site would require bunding to separate it from the motorway. Pure mitigation in house design will not be enough.

Regarding the possible development of sites in proximity to the M5, the Parish Council draws attention to the points raised concerning site UPT006. The principles raised here should apply to all sites in proximity to the motorway. In particular the Parish asks that the District Council actively promotes via planning policy and direct lobbying the following initiatives:

- (a) The extension and improvement of existing acoustic barriers in sensitive areas.
- (b) A policy to renew low noise surfaces when noise reduction ceases to be effective (rather than when it becomes unsafe).
- (c) The introduction of a motorway speed limit through the Gloucester/Cheltenham urban area to reduce noise and air pollution.

These initiatives would have the benefit of improving conditions in existing residential areas, as well as enabling development on some sites adjacent to the motorway.

Any future planned developments should take account of the current demographics that show many young and older people desire to stay within the community they have been brought up in and for many, lived in, all their lives.

Many older people are now living in large properties on their own or as a couple, with a great desire to downsize, but desperate to stay within the community they know. Therefore any development planned should be sympathetic to that desire. Planners should ensure that the size and style of homes planned, take account of this issue. Community should be at the heart of any of these developments, which may include recreational areas etc.

With regard to UPT003 and UPT004 (the Perry Orchard and Stanley sites), a detailed response to issues raised here should

await selection of a District-wide strategy. However the Parish Council points out that both sites are sensitive edge of village sites with an environmental sensitivity relating to the village setting at the foot of the AONB protected scarp edge. The District Council (and the Secretary of State) has recognised this in the past with a long history of refusal to grant



planning consent on both sites, upheld at appeal.

The Parish Council also considers it appropriate to point out that whilst consistently opposing the outward spread of the village towards the scarp edge, it has nevertheless supported development to the north of the Parish, on a substantial scale.

Stroud District Council Christmas Tree Recycling

After the festive season the council will be supporting the local hospice, **Longfield**, by recycling Christmas trees. For a donation, however big or small, the trees will be collected from residents' doors. The council will not be providing Christmas tree skips this year.



The organisation, 'Just Helping', working on behalf of Longfield, will be collecting trees in the Stroud District on 5th, 6th and 7th January.

The trees will be shredded at the hospice and used on their gardens.

To arrange a collection, please call 01453 886868 or book on-line at www.charityxmastreecollection.com

What's been happening in Upton?

UPTON SHOW - SECRETARY'S REPORT

This year will be remembered for the sad loss of one of our Life Presidents, Evelyn Rumsey. She had a long association with the show since its formation in the mid-fifties.

For many years Evelyn was Secretary and after giving that up she continued to play an active role every year, by collating the entry forms and transferring the information onto the results sheets. This was no mean task when you consider the number of entries. Evelyn will be sadly missed not only by the Upton Show, but also by the Village.

This year will be my 20th year as Secretary and I am pleased to announce that Sara Hemming will be assisting me.

We must also take this opportunity to thank our Treasurer, Anne Evans and Maggie Theakson who have organised the judges section for the last 6 years. We wish Maggie all the best when she moves to Wales shortly. I would like to thank Lynn Bateman, who updates our Schedule every year.

This has been a challenging year but our Committee and volunteers pulled together once again to make this year's show a success despite the appalling weather on the day. We were delighted to have a number of new volunteers and together with our regular volunteers were able to put the show together and for that the Committee is most grateful.

Our Committee would also like to express our thanks to all those exhibitors who put in so much time and effort to produce high standard exhibits. I am pleased to report that exhibition numbers remain high.

We have achieved a reputation as having one of the best shows in the County and that is thanks to all involved past and present. I am sure you would wish me to minute our grateful thanks to them for a job well done.

Our Chairman, Tim Harbottle went to great lengths to ensure we had an excellent raffle with excellent prizes but due to illness he was unable to attend the show. I am pleased to report he is now on the road to recovery and will continue as our Chairman.

Peter Macey

Celebrating 50 years

FIFTY YEARS ago, the Village was subjected to a HUGE change. Between about 1955-1970 it grew from 100 houses to 600, and the M5 was built.

The Woodland Green / Ash Path area was completed in 1968, so 2018 is its 50th anniversary. A resident writes: "It's all about the 60's/early 70's! Can you remember what you were doing in 1968? Were you one of the families that moved into the new estates?"

We thought it would be great if we could get together and celebrate this period of time. We know that many of the original residents still live here and we're sure there are many tales of this era.

This was before the building of the motorway, when that area was just fields! The bus services were few and far between! The most popular services were 9.00a.m. on a Tuesday and Friday, returning at 12.00p.m. to coincide with the playgroup hours, the bus stop being just outside the Village Hall.

We are considering a "Get Together" later this year for anyone who was there at the time, and further details will be issued in due course. It may be time to dust off the old 60's records and retrieve your mini-skirts/bell bottoms from the attic and revive some memories from 50 years ago."



USL Life and the History Group are considering doing a study of the huge change. If you have photos, plans and reminiscences of how the Village and its institutions changed and adapted, can we borrow them to build up an exhibition or booklet? Please send material to Mike Stratford or Andy Russell.

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What's been happening in Upton?

UPTON ST LEONARDS WI



Last month's article had a number of omissions and our apologies go to Diane Thomas who submitted the information. The missing content is printed in italics below.

Members' attention was brought to items in the Newsletter, Patchwork – hexagon table mat, Canal Art Work, GFWI Calendar 2019 – Subject is Gloucestershire Waters, County Walks 2018, WI Committee Officers Training, 2017/2018 Scrabble Competition.

We came 5th out of 22 in the final of the Quiz. We then had the AGM. Chocolates were given to the retiring committee members and they were thanked for all their hard work.

With a new committee on board we look to the future. Our new President Lynne welcomed everyone. An excellent lunch was enjoyed at the Barge Restaurant and we look forward to meeting again in January for lunch at The Kings Head.

Our entertainment was provided by Sue and David Bailey with their Magic Lantern Christmas Show. These wonderful hand painted Victorian slides showed how colourful stories, some to music, were shown in parlours or local halls.

Party food, mulled wine and soft drinks were served, followed by David playing keyboard while we sang carols. A fitting and festive end to our December meeting.

As there is no meeting in January due to the bank holiday we meet again on Monday February 5th where we will be celebrating our 95th birthday with entertainment by the Gloucester Strings Ukulele Group. Everyone is very welcome. **Kathy Quant**



On Monday, 4th December, Twyver WI Walkers met up for mince pies and mulled wine before embarking upon their muddy walk to Prinknash Abbey.



Abbeydale Gardening Club - A Year Long Walk in Woodchester Park

Robert Bryant began his talk by giving us a brief background of some of his more recent work, which included designing the rose gardens at Highnam Court and Snowhill. For the past 4 years he had worked as a volunteer guide at Highgrove for 2 days a week. However, being a member of the Royal Photographic Society was really where his talk came alive as the quality of his photographs was exceptional.

As Robert took us through the seasons, we were able to enjoy some fabulous photography of plants, wild garlic, great swathes of bluebells as well as insects, ducks and damsel flies.

As a Grade 1 listed house in the Victorian Gothic style, Woodchester is absolutely unique because it is unfinished and so offers visitors the opportunity to see how a house of this period was constructed. We learned that building began in the 1850's but the house was eventually purchased in 1986 by Stroud District Council for £20,000 when it had fallen into considerable disrepair.



The Woodchester Mansion Trust was formed to restore the property and whilst the house is still incomplete the roofs are now safe so that the public can enjoy guided tours.

The Woodchester Valley is classified as an area of special biological interest and one of the the most popular walks is called The Boathouse Walk which passes the mansion and includes parkland, woodland, three of the ponds and the picturesque boathouse.

The walk takes approximately 2 hours to complete and is 3½ miles long.

New members are always welcome. We meet on the 3rd Monday of the month.

What's been happening in Upton

Pensioners' Lunch at the BMI

On Saturday 9th December, the BMI held its annual pensioners' Christmas lunch. Once again it proved to be one of the most popular occasions in Upton with 85 guests being treated to a traditional three-course lunch, a free drink from the Bar, wine, mince pies and coffee.

Everyone appeared to have a great time and clearly enjoyed the entertainment provided by our local magician



Andy Field who performed some amazing tricks which astounded everyone.

Our Musical entertainment was again performed by "Kenny" who never lets us down and had everyone bopping and jiving the afternoon away. Our thanks go to Paula Quinn who organised the event and thanks to the BMI Wednesday Bingo group who sponsored the whole event. Thanks also go to Mary and Alec for the splendid meal and to the BMI Committee members, helpers who set up the tables, served the food and cleared away after the event.



Get-Together Club Meeting and Christmas Lunch

After a lovely visit to Upton St Leonards Primary School at the end of November, where the children entertained us with Christmas songs and carols plus a moving dance routine, members of the Get Together club met again the following week for the annual Festive lunch.



Bowden Hall Hotel was again our chosen venue where we were looked after extremely well. A few committee members who are also member of the TLC choir gave a fun rendition of the Christmas Pudding Song, which was enthusiastically received!! A Christmas Raffle was held, the main prize being Afternoon Tea for two, kindly donated by Bowden Hall Hotel.

Before Members left, they were reminded that the first meeting of 2018 would be 2.30pm Thursday 25th January when subs would be collected and the Programme for the year given out.

The Chairman, Jackie Clouting, wished the members a healthy and Happy Christmas. Additional photos can be seen on page 20.



What's coming up in Upton

POST CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR QUIZ

For bmi members and SIGNED IN GUESTS

Saturday 13th JANUARY 2018

With Eric @ 8-00p.m.

£1-25 per person for teams of up to 6

(MINIMUM £5-00 PER TEAM)

All profit on the night to be donated to the
bmi charity for 2017 - 2018

"AIR AMBULANCE AND MAGGIES"

PLEASE ADD YOUR NAME TO THE BOOKING SHEET BY
THURSDAY 11th JANUARY TO ENSURE THAT THERE ARE
SUFFICIENT COPIES OF QUIZ SHEETS AVAILABLE TOGETHER
WITH TABLES ON THE NIGHT



The UpStagers Drama Group

Present

"Aladdin"

A pantomime by Carol Vye
at

Upton St Leonards Village Hall

On

15th, 16th & 17th February 2018

Performances at 7-30pm each evening and
2-30pm matinee on Saturday 17th
(doors open 7-00pm and 2-00pm)
Tickets £8-00 (£7-00 concessions)

Refreshments will be available.

Rentacrowd

Saturday, 3rd March 2018

This year's theme is

POPSTARS!

Tickets cost £8 pp

Almost sold out ..

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to secure your table

Entertainment Night at the BMI

Saturday 27th January 2018

at 8.00p.m.

Open to members and
signed in guests



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CHURCH NEWS

Special services in January



IN LOVING MEMORY

On Sunday 14 January at 3pm there will be a quiet evening service of remembrance for loved ones no longer with us, and you can light a candle in their memory.

Tea & Coffee after the service.

PLOUGH SUNDAY

On the 21 January at 6.00pm we will celebrate once again the traditional "Plough Sunday", with



its theme of blessing on agriculture in the area. Refreshments will be served after!

*You are most welcome at
these and all our services*

The next pages have pictures and words from some of the special Christmas Services last month, highlighting the reach of the message to children in the area.

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR JANUARY

Sun 7	8.00am Holy Communion 10.00am Family service with baptism
Tue 9	9.30 to 9.50am - Morning Prayer 9.50am -12.00 - Church open for coffee & chat 7.00pm PCC meeting
Sun 14	10.00am Holy Communion 3.00pm "In Loving Memory" Service
Tue 16	9.30 to 9.50am - Morning Prayer 9.50am -12.00 - Church open for coffee & chat
Thu 18	2.00pm - Mothers' Union - (In church) AGM, followed by more from Sister Catherine: "Continuing my Journey"
Sun 21	10.00am Holy Communion 6.00pm Plough Sunday Service
Tue 23	9.30 to 9.50am - Morning Prayer 9.50am -12.00 - Church open for coffee & chat
Sun 28	10.00am Holy Communion
Tue 30	9.30 to 9.50am - Morning Prayer 9.50am -12.00 - Church open for coffee & chat

Who's Who at the Parish Church

Priest-in-Charge:

Revd Clodagh Ingram

Clodagh is available to be contacted
Sundays through to Wednesdays.

Curate:

Revd James Turk

(Evenings and weekends only, please)

Churchwardens:

Keith Robbins

Rachel Hall

PCC Secretary:

Enquiries via Revd Clodagh or Keith Robbins
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Church Treasurer:

Vacancy

Baptism & Wedding Enquiries:

Church Administrator:

Jenny Cunningham

Deanery Synod Representative:

Dorothy Cox

Bell Tower Captain:

Charlie Burnett

Mothers' Union:

Rachel Hall

Church Cleaning Rota:

Claire Appleyard

Flower Rota:

Jenny Cunningham (see above)

CHURCH NEWS

Our Christingle Service

Thank you to all who braved the snow and wintry weather to attend our Christingle Service led by Revd Clodagh.

Christingle means 'Christ's Light' and it is a symbol of what Christians believe about Jesus Christ. Each piece of the Christingle holds special significance to help children, and us all, understand what it means when we say Jesus is the light of the world. During the service a Christingle was assembled:

- the orange represents the world,
- the red tape symbolises the blood of Jesus who died to save us from our sins,
- the four cocktail sticks, with sweets and dried fruit, represent all of God's gifts to us, the four seasons and the food which the earth provides,
- the lit candle represents Jesus's light in the world bringing hope to people living in darkness, and
- the tin foil reminds us that Jesus invites us to join in his work of love and reflect his light and love into the world around us. Jesus taught us to love our family and friends but also to love those we don't know in need of our help.

Revd Clodagh writes:

Greetings as we step into a new year. January first, is the beginning of the calendar year and a time when many people take the opportunity to consider what they might do differently: the New Year equalling a new beginning.

As a minister, I have the opportunity, once a year, to sit down and reflect formally on my working life, with a colleague. There are two helpful outcomes from the process. The first is that I am enabled by someone who listens and asks questions to help me work things out for myself. The agenda is mine and it is not the role of the other person to give advice or direction. The second is that it helps me to see for myself what is going well and where the challenges lie and identify what steps I want to take moving forward having acknowledged the disappointments and successes of the past year.

The New Year is traditionally a time for making New Year's Resolutions. Resolutions are often made because of the things we are unhappy about rather than Resolutions connected to the things that are going well in our lives. I offer a challenge to you this year. The challenge is to stop and consider the positive aspects of your life as well as the challenges you are facing because in doing so you will begin the New Year differently than you might otherwise have done.

Revd James led singing and prayers, culminating in the lighting of the Christingles, a special moment for everyone, when St Leonards was lit only by candles. There was also a collection for The Children's Society, who work with some of the most vulnerable children in our country.

It was a really uplifting service full of hope for the future, and a wonderful way to start our preparations for Christmas.

(The pictures on the back page were taken at the service by Diana Way.)



What an angel! This picture was taken at the pre-school Nativity service in church.

If you are an extravert ask someone you trust to listen to you as you work your way through the framework below. If you are an introvert take time to think things through and then share your thoughts with someone. The framework is one of thanksgiving for all that is good, recognition of disappointment, acknowledgement of the things that are going well and awareness of what might be possible in the coming year.

"Without the counting of blessings there is no thanksgiving. Without the recognition of disappointment there is no resolve. Without the acknowledgement of accomplishments there is no celebration. Without awareness of potential there is no hope. Without hope there is no desire for growth. Without desire for growth the past will dwarf the future." (Servants and Shepherd ABM Ministry Paper, Oct 1998)

God's invitation is always into flourishing life and that can be helped when we take a realistic and hopeful look at what we have been and what we can still become.

Happy New Year

Clodagh

CHURCH NEWS

Gloucester Brass in Upton Church

It was a cold evening but inside the Church it was warm and welcoming for the Gloucester Brass concert. This has become an annual treat! With over 100 in the audience the church nave was pretty full. I have to say I do like the sound of the band in the church. It makes such a mellow sound that seems to come from all around, reflecting off the walls and roof. The concert had the usual mix of Christmas music, "Jingle Bells" etc., and carols for the audience to sing. The band played the carols quite a bit faster this year (I moaned about the tempo being too slow last year!).



One highlight for me was Adolph Adam's well loved "O Holy Night" carol. This tune and setting seemed to work very well - a great tune above slow moving harmonies, just right for brass band, and even though there were a few slip-ups in its performance, I thoroughly enjoyed it. When they got to "Walking in the Air", one could see the band were really enjoying themselves - and probably because it was very familiar to them, they relaxed and put out a beautiful sound - well done.

Altogether a most enjoyable evening. Mince pies and mulled wine in the interval were also much appreciated. So thanks to the band and to the people making us welcome and serving the refreshments.

Andy Russell



Operation Christmas Child - Shoeboxes

There was a great response from the Gloucester area and we had quite a few boxes in from Upton - Church, School, Mothers' Union, Coffee Club. Something like 6,000 shoeboxes left Gloucester and this year they went to a very poor region of Bulgaria. The picture shows Jenny Cunningham, in the warehouse, checking through the contents (each box had to be checked to ensure the contents were suitable). Thanks to all those who helped. Our Village has only lately become involved in this Christmas effort. One imagines that for Christmas 2018 it will be easily possible to make a much bigger contribution. This terrific idea, of sending a shoebox full of simple gifts to children overseas, who don't get any presents most years, has struck a chord with many of us. Thanks go to Jenny who did much of the co-ordination in the Village.

Thank you

The Church keeps going financially because many of you commit to giving generous regular amounts, and we can rely on this income. We are most grateful for these donations, be they via the 500 club, or direct to us through a standing order or a weekly envelope. Many also Gift Aid their donations, which means we can claim back tax paid, increasing the value of the donation by 25%.

At the end of last year, we sent individual thank-you letters to all regular givers. If you are a regular giver and didn't received such a letter, please accept our apologies - it means our lists of names and addresses are not as correct as they should be. Please contact one of the church officers to let us know, and we will get it right next time!

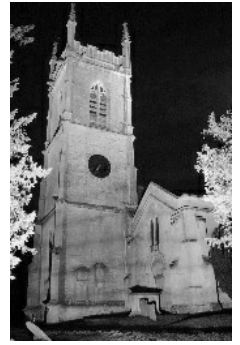
Of course we are equally grateful for all other donations however big or small, whether it is for general church costs or special appeals, such as the building fund. THANK YOU.

CHURCH NEWS

Tower Floodlighting in January

On Sunday 7th January, the Tower Lights are lit to celebrate the baptism of Aneira Sullivan, with love from Mummy, Daddy and Joshua.

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



Mothers' Union

The January meeting of the Mothers' Union is on Thu 18th, in church at 2pm. This will be a short AGM followed by another talk from Sister Catherine: "Continuing my Journey".

In February (15th) we will hear how the 2017 Shoebox Christmas Appeal went, with pictures taken at the Gloucester collection centre.

All are very welcome to these meetings.

It was with much sadness that we said farewell to Evelyn. She had been a truly loyal and faithful member of St Leonards Mothers' Union, and had been secretary for many years. She was an inspiration to us all. She was a true Christian lady. She was a great supporter of all Church events, and had served on the PCC for many years.

I would like to say a very big thank you for the guidance and help she gave me as M. U. Leader.

God bless you, Evelyn, you will never be forgotten.

Rachel Hall

10 Feb - Coffee Morning - Bring & Buy
Buy & Buy
& Buy
Bring
Morning
Coffee Morning - Bring & Buy - 10 Fe

COMING UP NEXT MONTH - 10 Feb

Coffee morning - Saturday 10th February, 10 to 12.30 in the Village Hall

Cake stall, Bring & buy, Tombola

Admission £1 buys tea/coffee and biscuits

Proceeds to go to the Church Building Fund

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FOOTBALL SUCCESS!

Readers will know that Upton St Leonards Football Club 1st team won the Stroud League Division 1 title last year and moved up to a higher level - the Gloucestershire Northern Senior League, playing in its Division 2.

After a slightly shaky start as the new boys, the team has really gelled and has met the challenge, and now tops the Division. A remarkable record! Games played 13, won 9, drawn 2, lost 2. The team is travelling, as might be expected, all over North Gloucestershire and the Forest of Dean.

The second team is also having a tremendous season. It too was promoted at the end of last season from Division 4 of the Stroud District League, and now tops the table in Division 3 (P9 W7 D1 L1).



Answers to USL Life Christmas Prize Puzzles!

TOWN HOMOPHONES - ANSWERS

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

... and something more local

Answers – the names in bold are anagrams of USL locations. In case you hadn't spotted this, we are going to leave them here for you to un-jumble!

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Leon DuPont Stars | Roy Pathwill |
| Dani Tyler | Ned Whoball |
| Don O'Redband | Otto Thurcan |
| Chip Carten | Tom Ullpin |
| Trish Geeth | Rabbie Hankspyn |



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Our Feature Article this month is: IT'S RESOLUTION TIME!

Historians tell us that it was the Babylonians around 4,000 BC who were the first people to make New Year's Resolutions. The tradition, encouraged by the King, was to keep the people loyal to him, pay taxes, trade fairly, act kindly and in doing so, please the gods. Currently, it is us in the West who are most likely to follow the tradition, usually for personal improvement i.e. health and/or fitness.

New Year's Resolutions

With the New Year on the horizon, *USL Life* thought we might contribute to this on-going tradition with a few suggestions for our readers, namely to FORGET THE DONT'S and ADD some simple ideas to increase our well-being and feel-good factor.

ADD A SMILEY FACE Smiling is a great face exercise and if we can greet people with a smile we're likely to receive a smile in return - what a happy way to live!

ADD COLOUR Taking time to 'stop and stare', and noting the variety of colours around us can change our mood and divert our attention from the demanding pace of modern-day living. W. H. Davies describes this very well in this verse from his poem 'Leisure':

'What is this life if, full of care
We have no time to stop and stare.
No time to stand beneath the boughs
And stare as long as sheep and cows.'

ADD BLISS Listen to the birds singing. If you have bird-feeders, top them up in winter at the same time daily, so the birds know where there's a reliable source of food and the family can enjoy watching their habits and hearing their songs.

ADD SOUL MUSIC Soul music is any music YOU like. Listen to your own collection; hum along, sing out loud or go for gold and dance to it as well! Solo dancing can be fun and liberating; encourage the family to join in and create happy memories. For a wide variety of music, join the large community of Radio 4 listeners on Sunday mornings for 'Desert Island Discs' and listen to other peoples' soul music.

ADD SPICE TO YOUR LIFE We're talking cooking here! Tickle taste buds and add interest to your menu by adding a larger variety of herbs and spices. Store them near your food preparation place so that you don't forget to use them. A word of caution, bravery and restraint are required! Did you know, spices can reduce cravings for sweet and creamy foods, so they're good for the waistline too?

ADD NATURAL BEAUTY A walk can bring liveliness to the body and colour to the cheeks; feel your feet on the earth and air on the skin; or run and feel the body moving through time and space. Try walking 'The Stanley'; starting from Bondend Road, just past the houses on the left there are large fields, usually with three horses in. Look eastward towards Nut Hill, then scan the escarpment along the line of treetops and hills that separate earth from sky until you spot sheep on the hillside in the south and notice how animals make the landscape look more beautiful. If you look higher you may see the clouds mixing and moving and shape-changing. Become a 'Student of Change' and create a new world inside yourself by watching the ever-changing natural world that we all share here in Upton.

Christina Caldwell

USL LIFE wishes all our readers A VERY HAPPY YEAR in 2018

Tribute to Evelyn Rumsey - reprinted in its entirety from USL Life Issue 1 Sept 2014



Evelyn, who died in November, shortly before her 95th birthday, will be remembered with great fondness and admiration for her contributions on so many levels to Village life.

Evelyn was our first featured resident as she edited the Church News almost non-stop since 1967! Now 91 years young, she was born and schooled in Erdington before becoming a shorthand typist for a solicitor, an insurance company and then the Birmingham National Fire Service. After moving to Wylde Green, a trip with her sister to Weston-super-Mare in 1939 provided a chance meeting with John, USL resident and future husband - just like in the movies! They married in 1943 and she became a telephonist for Gloucester Fire Service when John joined the Fleet Air Arm at Locking. They moved to Brockworth in 1946, had two children, Jenny and Tony and she joined the Mothers' Union in 1951. In 1956 they moved to Cross House, USL where Christine was born. Sadly, Christine died from breast cancer in 2005.

USL had no street lighting when she moved here. With gaslight downstairs and loos outside, you had to go to bed with a candle. Some things change for the better it seems, although it was far smaller then. Six Acres, St. Leonards Close, Perry Orchard and the M5 didn't exist.

She was an active member of the church, a choir member for over 25 years and on the Parochial Church Council for 40 years in the catering department. Evelyn still organises the Church Flower Rota and is the secretary of Upton Mothers' Union. She has been President and Secretary of the Upton W.I. This group raised money from carol singing

for a tea for the Upton elderly in 1961 and this became the 'Get-Together Club' where Evelyn was treasurer, then chairman, and she has only recently retired from its committee. Evelyn was chosen to visit Highgrove where she and others represented the W.I. to celebrate its 90th Anniversary at a tea hosted by Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall. For years she made Upton cricketers' teas, often on both weekend days!

As if this wasn't enough, Evelyn joined the Upton St. Leonards Players and became treasurer, and fondly remembers the many soirées where she organised suppers. She served as secretary on the Village Hall Committee, joined the Social Committee when the Spring Show was formed and is delighted that it is still running. Other achievements include organising adult and junior village quizzes, and the junior one is still popular.

For over 30 years Evelyn served on the Flower Show committee as Catering Officer, Secretary and now sorts entry forms as she can 'do that sitting down' - we think she deserves a sit down now!

With five grandchildren and eight great grandchildren to occupy her and hobbies of crochet and knitting, Evelyn reflects that Upton is a 'lovely, friendly village' with many activities on offer. She believes modern families' many commitments make it hard to support events but she's glad the Flower Show remains popular. She was pleased to see so many supporters at the opening of our beautiful new village green in July.

We're pleased to see you looking good, Evelyn, and that many of the village events that you helped to start are still going strong.

Interview by: Kathryn Alderman

We will remember them

Continuing our series on the death toll from WWI, this month sees the 100th anniversary of the death of

THEO DASHWOOD

Theo Dashwood was born in Kidderminster in 1893, the son of Christian and Edith Dashwood. He trained as a market gardener. His family had moved to Gloucester some time before 1911, and his younger brother Campion Dashwood lived at Mill Cottage, Bondend, Upton St Leonards.

He signed up to serve in the Mercantile Marine Reserve and had reached the rank of Second Officer. On 18 January 1918 his vessel, HMS Louvain, carrying mail and troops, set off from Malta headed to the Greek island of Lemnos, the base for the blockade of the Dardanelles. On 20 January the ship was torpedoed in the Aegean Sea. It sank very quickly, and though there was a Navy escort, of the 240 people on board only 16 survived.

His name is recorded on the Plymouth Hoe Memorial to those buried at sea. He was awarded the Mercantile Marine War Medal.



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

VILLAGE DIARY

JANUARY

1	Mon	New Year's Day		
2	Tue	Parish Council Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30p.m.
2	Tue	Rubbish and Food Waste Week		
2	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45-12.15p.m.
2	Tue	Tuesday Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.00a.m.
2	Tue	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	11.00-12.00p.m.
2	Tue	Junior Jujitsu.....	Pavilion.....	3.30-4.30p.m.
2	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
3	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.30-12.30p.m.
3	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.00-4.00p.m.
3	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
3	Wed	Bingo.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
3	Wed	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	8.00-9.30p.m.
4	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.15a.m.
4	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
8	Mon	Coffee Club	B.M.I.....	10.00-12.00p.m.
8	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-11.30a.m.
8	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-1.45p.m.
8	Mon	Fitness Training (2 sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.30p.m.
8	Mon	Zumba.....	Upton St Leonards School.....	6.30-7.30p.m.
8	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
9	Tue	Recycling and Food Waste Week		
9	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45-12.15p.m.
9	Tue	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	11.00-12.0p.m.
9	Tue	Junior Jujitsu.....	Pavilion.....	3.30-4.30p.m.
9	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
10	Wed	Wednesday Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.00a.m.
10	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.30-12.30p.m.
10	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.00-4.00p.m.
10	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30p.m.
10	Wed	Bingo.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
10	Wed	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	8.00-9.30p.m.
10	Wed	Copy date for February issue of USL Life		
11	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.15a.m.
11	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
13	Sat	Post Christmas/New Year Quiz.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.
15	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	10.00-11.30a.m.
15	Mon	Coffee Club.....	B.M.I.....	10.00-12.00p.m.
15	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-1.45p.m.
15	Mon	Fitness Training (2 sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.30p.m.
15	Mon	Zumba.....	Upton St Leonards School.....	6.30-7.30p.m.
15	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.45p.m.
16	Tue	Rubbish and Food Waste Week		
16	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45-12.15p.m.
16	Tue	Tuesday Probus.....	B.M.I.....	10.00a.m.
16	Tue	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	11.00-12.00p.m.
16	Tue	Junior Jujitsu.....	Pavilion.....	3.30-4.30p.m.
16	Tue	Badminton.....	Village Hall.....	8.30-10.30p.m.
17	Wed	Stitchers.....	Pavilion.....	10.30-12.30p.m.
17	Wed	Pavilion Painters.....	Pavilion.....	2.00-4.00p.m.
17	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.30m.
17	Wed	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	8.00-9.30p.m.
18	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.15a.m.
18	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
18	Thu	History Group -"Small monuments inside a Church"....	Village Hall.....	7.45-9.15p.m.
22	Mon	Yoga.....	Village Hall Annex.....	12.15-1.45p.m.
22	Mon	Fitness Training (2 sessions).....	Village Hall Annex.....	6.00-7.00p.m.

22	Mon	Zumba.....	Upton St Leonards School.....	6.30-7.30p.m.
22	Mon	Camera Club.....	Village Hall	
23	Tue	Recycling and Food Waste Week		
23	Tue	Needles & Pins.....	Village Hall Annex.....	9.45-12.15p.m.
23	Tue	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	11.00-12.00pm
23	Tue	Junior Jujitsu.....	Pavilion.....	3.30-4.30p.m.
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24	Wed	Upstagers Amateur Dramatics.....	Village Hall.....	8.00-9.30p.m.
24	Wed	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall Annex.....	8.00-9.30p.m.
25	Thu	Senior Circuits.....	Pavilion.....	9.30-10.30p.m.
25	Thu	Tai Chi.....	Village Hall.....	9.30-10.30a.m.
25	Thu	Get Together Club.....	Village Hall.....	2.30-4.30p.m.
27	Sat	Entertainment Night.....	B.M.I.....	8.00p.m.

F E B R U A R Y

5	Mon	Parish Council Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30p.m.
5	Mon	Upton WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
10	Sat	Copy Date for March issue of USL Life		
12	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
15	Thu	Upstagers - Aladdin Pantomime.....	Village Hall.....	T.b.a
16	Fri	Upstagers - Aladdin Pantomime.....	Village Hall.....	T.b.a.
17	Sat	Upstagers - Aladdin Pantomime.....	Village Hall.....	T.b.a.
19	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.45p.m.
22	Thu	Get Together Club.....	Village Hall.....	2.30-4.30p.m.
26	Mon	Camera Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00p.m.

M A R C H

3	Sat	RentaCrowd.....	Village Hall.....	8.00p.m.
5	Mon	Parish Council Meeting.....	Pavilion.....	7.30p.m.
5	Mon	Upton WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
10	Sat	Copy Date for April issue of USL Life.....		
12	Mon	Twyver WI.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-10.00p.m.
19	Mon	Abbeydale Garden Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.30-9.45p.m.
22	Thu	Get Together Club.....	Village Hall.....	2.30-4.30p.m.
26	Mon	Camera Club.....	Village Hall.....	7.00-9.00p.m.

Contact Paula Quinn to get your event in the diary



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Coffee Club Christmas Lunch

On behalf of the 67 people who attended from the Monday Coffee Club we would like to thank Alec, Mary and their helpers for the lovely Christmas Lunch they cooked for us all.

Although the snow was still on the ground outside, there was a nice friendly atmosphere in the decorated lounge and alley; the time just seemed to fly by. At the beginning, Rev Clodagh popped in to give us Christingles to take home and to say Grace for us.



Wishing You All Good Health & Happiness

For 2018

**Coffee Club resumes Monday,
8th January**

10-12

See you there!



After the meal Stan Trickett gave the vote of thanks, which was a great way to end a successful year together.

Upton Ladies Probus

At the November meeting of Upton Ladies Probus, we were entertained by Judy Jackson with a demonstration entitled "Something Christmassy".

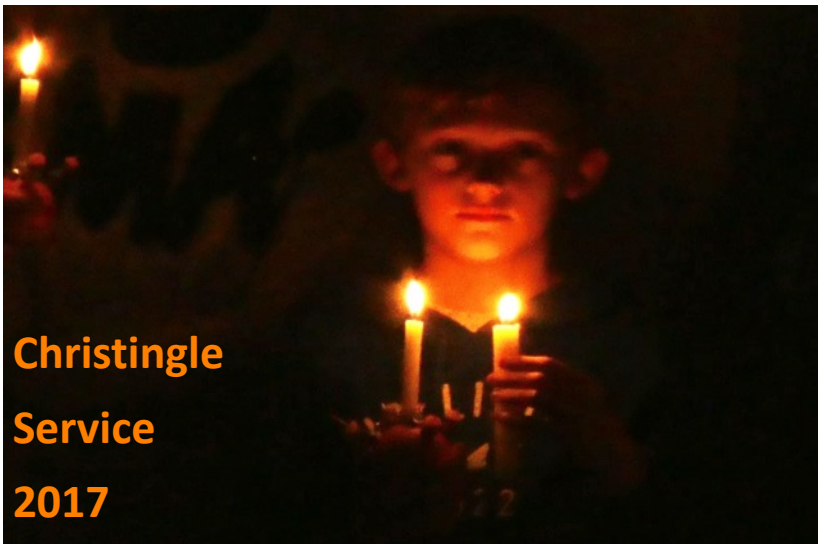


Judy showed us how to make various Christmas flower decorations, including a door wreath and table decoration.

NOTICES

Congratulations to Richard and Emma Rowles on the recent arrival of a beautiful bouncing baby boy.

It is with great sadness that we learned of the death of Richard Long. Our sincere condolences to Mike Long and family.



**Christingle
Service
2017**



(Pictures taken by Diana Way)



**The Get-Together Club
Committee enjoying a well-
deserved sit down!**

From left to right Glenda Buck,
Hazel Day, Penny Owen, Anita Owen,
Jackie Clouting, Julie Threfall,
Pauline Sugdon, Sue Merigold and
Pam Tickner

UPTON ST LEONARDS LIFE

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

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the postbox by the Village Hall main
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Peter Wilson
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Christina Caldwell
Linda Munnoch
Chris Ellson
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