



## CHURCH DIARY FOR February 2007

### **Sunday, 4th February - third before Lent: Septuagesima**

10.00 am All-age Service

### **Sunday, 11th February - second before Lent: Sexagesima**

8.30 am Holy Communion

### **Sunday, 18th February - next before Lent: Quinquagesima**

9.30 am Parish Communion

### **Ash Wednesday, 21st February**

7.30 pm Eucharist service at Holy Cross, Chiseldon

### **Sunday, 25th February - Lent 1: Quadragesima**

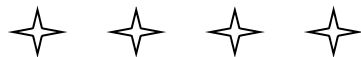
9.30 am Morning Prayer

There will be a midweek service of Holy Communion each Wednesday at 10.00 am at Holy Cross

Lent Groups: please look out for notices in the Church

**PRIEST-IN-** The Revd Roger Powell (01793 740369)

**CHURCHWARDENS** Charlotte Frost (841361)  
Gordon Mudge (841338)



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Contributions for the March edition by 25 February please:



# *The Dragon*

The Village Newsletter for  
Ogbourne St George

February 2007

## **WHAT'S ON IN OGBOURNE ST GEORGE THIS MONTH**

### **February**

6 & 27 Little Fishes. 1.45-3pm in the Church

**Coming soon** Marlborough Players - Alan Bennet's "Getting On" (*details inside*)

### **Church Christmas Quiz winners**

The winners of the Christmas Quiz were David Cook (Liddiards Green), S Rayner (Chiseldon) and Tina West (Lower Herdswick). Thank you very much to the 75 people who bought a copy and so raised £75 for church funds - but only 14 replies were submitted! To encourage greater response, next year the prizes will be for the top 2 answers and also for an answer drawn randomly from all those returned, whether completed or not, right or wrong. *Charlotte Frost*

### **Celebrating 60 years in the WI**

A village resident has achieved 60 years as a member of the Women's' Institute. Doreen Johnson was 22 when she joined the WI here in Ogbourne St George. She continued as a member when she moved away to live in Yeovil for four years and rejoined the village WI when she returned. In 1996 she was awarded a certificate to commemorate 50 years' membership.

Sadly the Ogbourne St George WI folded due to lack of support but, not to be daunted, Doreen joined the WI at Ogbourne St Andrew and has attended there ever since. Just before Christmas the members arranged a surprise party for Doreen complete with an iced cake decorated with "Doreen 1946-2006" to celebrate the 60th anniversary of her joining the WI.

Doreen enjoys all the talks and demonstrations that the WI offers although she says her favourite part of the meetings is having a cup of tea and a chat to the other members.

As one of the older residents of the village Doreen has seen many changes. She attended the original village school and saw the new one built in its place; she has witnessed the loss of village shops and the replacement of old cottages with new housing but she does not have any regrets about the way village life has changed and still very much enjoys living here.

## Parish Council Meeting January 11.

The Parish Council met in the Village Hall on January 11th. Apologies were received from councillor Paul Willis. KDC councillor D Hunter and WCC/KDC councillor Chris Humphries were present and two parishioners attended.

The PC discussed matters arising from the previous minutes most are still to be finalised:

- KDC has inspected the foul water near the kennels but has still to report back
- KDC has been informed of the concerns about the Ash Tree in the Bell Field
- The dispute over the Chantry Meadow bridleway is still ongoing
- The cycle path to Marlborough at Wet Pit bends is scheduled to be cleared
- A decision is awaited on whether the litter bin outside Park Farm will be replaced

Under finance there was a discussion on setting the precept for 2007/8. In 2005/6 the Parish Council carried forward £5170 and the current balance of £5,600 will mostly be carried forward. Election expenses to come in May could be as much as £650 if seats are contested. It was decided that the precept should be set at the same level as last year. i.e. £16. Chris Humphries suggested that this was well below the average which is £26.

Since the last meeting a number of planning applications in the village have been approved and one appeal at Fawns Close has been rejected.

The Chairman raised the Poor's' Gorse Fund. This has been referred to the Charity Commission to have the terms of its distribution amended in order to make it more accessible to good causes in the village. It was agreed that the current trustees will be reappointed for a further period of 4 years.

Under any other business it was reported that a stile was in poor condition north east of the Manor House and also that there was a broken standpipe at The Drove. Both these issues will be investigated. The Chairman reported on a consultation meeting he had attended on the proposal for Wiltshire County Council to take unitary status. *(More details further on in this issue.)*

The next meeting will be on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Ogbourne St George School - We are still looking for a midday supervisor for Mondays & Fridays (small remuneration) and would really like to hear from adults of any age who may be interested! The children in Class 1 are a delight and there are no kitchen duties. Please get in touch if you can help.**

## Wilts CC moves towards unitary status.

Wiltshire County Council has voted to apply to the Government for permission to create one council for Wiltshire. This new status would mean the replacement of the county and the four district councils, including Kennet DC, with a single council. Wiltshire CC responded to the government's invitation to consider the reorganisation of its services and has been working with accountancy experts since last November to consider the costs and benefits of such a proposal. It has been calculated that the move to one council would lead to savings of nearly £15M per year. The cost of the reorganisation is anticipated to be £17.9M and it is expected that those costs taken with the proposed savings would be repaid within two to three years from the start of the new authority.

Now that the Council has voted to pursue this path it has submitted its proposals to the Government for consideration and a response is expected in March. If the government approves the plans there will be a wide ranging consultation within the County before the government gives final approval in July. If Wiltshire is given the go ahead the new council would be created in late 2008.

For residents this change would mean that all services such as housing, planning, environmental services etc previously carried out by Kennet would come under the banner of one authority. Swindon Borough Council is an example of a unitary authority. If the government gives the go ahead for Wiltshire to pursue this we will have the opportunity during the consultation period to hear full details of the proposals and raise any concerns.

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## The **Marlborough Players** take to the stage again with a production of **Alan Bennet's "Getting On"**

The play is set in the early 1970's when Edward Heath was prime minister, Margaret Thatcher education minister and mini skirts at the height of fashion! It explores the life of George Oliver, a disenchanted socialist MP, as he contends with his passing years.

Directed by Oliver Clauson, the play is being performed at Marlborough's Town Hall on **7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> March 2007**~ curtain up at 7:30 p.m. **TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE**, at £6.00, from the White Horse Book Shop. Please note that the play contains some strong language.

**Did you know** that a Parish Steward Scheme operates in the village where a steward makes monthly visits and can carry out small works such as hedge trimming round road signs, hand cleaning road gullies, clearing debris and leaves, minor repairs to potholes and kerbs etc. If you identify any small jobs that need doing please contact Carol Manos on 841245.