



## CHURCH DIARY FOR February 2008

### Sunday, 3rd February - next before Lent - (Quinquagesima)

10.00 am All-age Service

### Wednesday, 6th February - Ash Wednesday

7.30 pm Holy Communion

### Sunday 10th February - Lent 1 -(Quadregesima)

8.30 am Holy Communion

### Sunday, 17th February - Lent 2

10.00 am Short said service of Parish Communion (**please note time**)

11.00 am Thanksgiving Service for the life of Amy Thorne followed by burial of her ashes in the churchyard

### Sunday, February 24th - Lent 3

9.30 am Morning Prayer

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

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

**CHURCHWARDENS** Charlotte Frost (841361)  
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Contributions for the next issue by 20th February please



# The Dragon

The Village Newsletter for  
Ogbourne St George

February 2008

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

### February

- 12 Ogbourne Little Fishes. 1.45-3.00pm at Ogbourne St George Church
- 17 Thanksgiving Service for the life of Amy Thorne followed by burial of her ashes in the churchyard

## Yogapose

A new exercise class is starting on Wednesday 6th February at the Village Hall from 6 to 7pm. This is Yoga with a difference - more emphasis on stretch and tone and physical exercise and no meditation or chanting. Classes for all abilities will run for terms of 5 weeks with a 1 week break in between. You can pay for 5 weeks in advance for £20 or just turn up and pay the drop in rate of £4.50 per class. Check out the first session on February 6th or ring Terrie on 01793 790047 or 07980 409215 for more details.

## Pub Athlete of the Year

Mindful of its obligations to help reduce obesity rates and increase the fitness levels of residents, The Inn with the Well is introducing the Pub Athlete Competition. The competition will be held during February, March and into April and the timetable is as follows:

- Friday Feb 1 8.30pm Dominoes
- Sunday Feb 10 4.30 pm Crib
- Friday Feb 15 8.30 pm Darts
- Sunday March 9 4.30 pm Wii Interactive
- Friday March 14th 8.30 pm Shove Ha'penny
- Friday March 28th 8.30 pm Pub quiz
- Sunday April 6th 4.30 pm Carpet Bowls.

All activities are for individual entrants and there will be a prize for each competition. After the second event a league table will be set up and there will be an overall award for the winner with the title - Pub Athlete of the Year.

## The Revd Roger Powell writes...

Easter is very early this year and so therefore is lent. Ash Wednesday (the first day of lent) is on the 6<sup>th</sup> February and you can find more details about the services on that day elsewhere in this issue.

During the days of lent we are given the opportunity to deepen and strengthen our relationship with God; to commit ourselves afresh to proclaiming God's presence and love, as we go about our daily lives. Lent challenges us to look at our personal prayer lives, to read the Bible more, even to come to church more!

Lent is also a time of preparation for the celebration of the death and resurrection of Christ in Holy Week and at Easter. To help us in our preparations, we are again running a lent course. This year we will be looking at The Lord's Prayer. Although it is a familiar prayer to many of us, it still offers much for us to learn and grapple with as we apply it to ourselves and the community and world in which we live.

I hope that you will take the opportunity to use this lent to reassess *your* spiritual life; 'What is it that God is asking *me* to do?'

Details of the lent groups can be found in each of the churches or by asking me or one of the churchwardens.

I wish you all a 'good' lent. Fr Roger

## Parish Council Meeting

.At the Parish Council Meeting held on January 10<sup>th</sup> it was decided to increase the annual precept for the first time in many years, from £1500 to £5000. This will mean an increased cost to Band D properties (the base marker for Council Tax) of approximately £7.26 for the year. It is anticipated that the current year expenditure will exceed the precept by £2500 and, although this will be met by reserves, this level of expenditure to meet increased costs is expected to continue

Tim Frost and Paul Scott gave an update on the Parish website. Work is underway to ensure ease of use and the regular updating of the site. The chairman proposed five categories for the Parish Council section: Councillors – contact details and photographs; a summary of the responsibilities of Parish, District and County Councils; current and past minutes: Planning linked to the Kennet District Council site; Parish Council events and a separate area of the website for a calendar of all village events. The Parish Council agreed to fund costs of up to £150 during this development stage.

Cllr Willis reported on the plans to improve traffic flow at the school. The School has submitted an application to the County for funding of road safety and traffic flow improvement measures. This includes - moving the school warning sign (village hall side) up the road to provide earlier notice to drivers and to extend the pavement outside the school to improve pedestrian access and safety.

Cllr Smith reported that the speed monitoring device recently installed has shown that there are speeding issues that need to be addressed. Wiltshire and Swindon Safety Camera Partnership has suggested that they could arrange temporary erection of vehicle activated signs and pass information to the Police to enforce the limit. The Council agreed to consider the options. The problem of illegally parked cars at the t-junction of the Main Street and Old Marlborough road was also raised. It was agreed to draft a letter alerting residents to the danger that this causes and create a parking strategy for the area at the next meeting.

Parish Council elections will be delayed until 2013 against the Councillors' preferred option to have an election in 2009. WCC will be providing a strategy document to enable Parish Councils to decide which services they wish to control. Councillors expressed the need to ensure that funds are allocated with the services.

Amongst Planning applications it was reported that the erection of an office block at Old Chase Road, renewal of a first floor extension at Carlisle House, a two storey extension at Teach Nua and refurbishment at Cotswold House have all been approved by KDC. A revised plan for a single storey extension at Amberley will be considered.

Other matters raised included an update on the foul water investigation in the field at Whitefields Farm. The Environment Agency is still to determine the source. The Clerk will investigate the possibility of having plastic bottle and cardboard recycling bins at the Sonia Wright Nursery site and will also request Wiltshire County Council to replace the railings on the path to the main road bus stop.

**The next meeting will be held on March 13<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 pm**

## Was it You?

During the Christmas break a load of rubbish including a few bottles was dumped over the locked gate at the Sonia Wright Plants property. Kindly Sonia Wright put the bottles in the recycling bins and the rest of the rubbish out for collection. This is NOT a service she offers nor should it be expected of her. Her contribution of allowing the recycling bins on her property is sincerely appreciated by the majority of residents, indeed it can be hoped that this rubbish came from outside the village, but if it was you be ASHAMED, be VERY ASHAMED. This is the second time this has occurred at Christmas time and we know who it was first time round so hope it wasn't you again. Please be vigilant regarding the use of this facility and report any suspicious dumping activity to the Parish Clerk or any Councillor.

## The Village Hall 100 Club

The draw for the January 100 Club was made by children at the church after the January 6<sup>th</sup> Family service. Winners were: 1st Heather Elsey, 2nd James Murray, 3rd Ineke Scott.