



## CHURCH DIARY FOR May 2007

### Sunday, 6th May - Easter 5

10.00 am All-age service

### Sunday, 13th May - Easter 6 - Rogation Sunday

08.30 am Holy Communion (BCP)

### Thursday, 17th May - Ascension Day,

7.30 pm Team Eucharist

### Sunday, 20th May - Easter 7

9.30 am Parish Communion

### Sunday, 27th May - Pentecost (Whit Sunday)

09.30am Matins

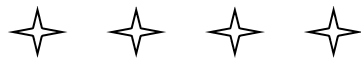
There will be a midweek service of Holy Communion each Wednesday at 10.00 am at Holy Cross.

#### Wednesday Worship

16th May at 7.30pm in the meeting room at Ogbourne St George Church. The subject for discussion will be "Heaven - How do you picture heaven? What are your hopes? What are your fears?"

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

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



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Contributions for the next edition by May 25th please:



# The Dragon

The Village Newsletter for  
Ogbourne St George

May 2007

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

### May

- 3 Kennet District Council Elections.** Place your vote at the Polling Station in the Village Hall.
- 8 Parish Council Annual General Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting.** 7.30pm at the Village Hall. All welcome to join in discussions and raise any issues or concerns.

**8 & 22 Little Fishes** 1.45-3.00pm at Ogbourne St George Church

## Marathon Success

Many many thanks to all of my friends and neighbours in the village who have already donated or pledged their support. It seems like just about everyone I know has put their hand in their pocket and been wonderfully generous. *The London Marathon 2007 was hot - even before the start. But I crossed the line on my own feet, and got the t-shirt, the medal, the blisters and the sunburn!* You've made it all worthwhile, and the thought of your generosity kept me going right to the end. So far, the total is over £1000 and people are still coming forward with pledges even after the event! You have all been very very kind, and I promise not to try and extract sponsorship from you for a marathon run again. Well, not for a year or two at least. :-). Of course, if anyone else has even a tiny bit of cash to spare, <http://www.justgiving.com/keithmacdonald> is still open! Bless you all!!!! **Keith Macdonald** who ran for <http://www.impsweb.co.uk>

### Please can you help?

We have had a few incidents of minor vandalism at the School at weekends and over the Easter holiday. Please can you help us by phoning the police on 01672 517802 if you see anything happening that concerns you? Our community policeman is Mr Jeremy Batchelor and he is keen to help us nip this in the bud.

Many thanks. Celia Hicks (Head Teacher)

## The Revd Roger Powell writes...

During May we continue to celebrate the season of Eastertide, which lasts, in the church calendar until the Feast of Pentecost (Whitsunday), the 27 May. Pentecost is when we remember that great outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles and Mary. The first Pentecost, as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles, was a dramatic event with fire and mighty winds and people speaking in tongues.

Many people still experience the Spirit in their lives in very dramatic ways and express this in equally dramatic ways. For most of us, however, this experience will not be as dramatic as the first Pentecost. God invites us to experience the Holy Spirit in many ways, through Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Communion, worship, praise, through acts of charity and justice. The Spirit is a gift God offers us and our hearts and minds need to be open to welcome the Spirit and to thus be transformed.

On the Day of Pentecost six young people from across the benefice, Dominic Veveris, Nicholas Bell, Charlotte Utton, Alexander Bampton, Holly Little and Sarah Parker are to be confirmed by the Bishop of Ramsbury at a service in Broad Hinton. I have valued so much preparing these young people who have questioning minds and also a growing faith. I ask that you will remember them and pray for them as they prepare to take this next and very important step on their Christian journey.

A Spirit-filled person will be a loving person; a Spirit-filled Christian Community will be a loving community. This gift of love is not something to keep to ourselves; it is something we must make real to all whom we meet.

*All good wishes Fr. Roger*

## Churchyard Maintenance

A great work has been done in the churchyard by Eldie Merritt and Sid Bolt who have cleared up the dump area in the north-east corner. This had become very unsightly latterly, and it was a big effort to sort out. Eldie brought down a large oil drum in which they burned anything combustible, and they bagged up anything that wasn't, which I then took to the tip – a huge carload. They have prepared the area for seeding with grass, and Eldie is going to construct a compound for compostable matter, also a container to hold a bin (which can be emptied regularly) for paper, plastic, wire, oasis etc. **Please** would people who tend graves make sure they put their spent materials in the right container from now on, so that the area can be kept tidy and Sid's and Eldie's hard work doesn't go to waste. It is really kind of them to give up their weekend and evening spare time: they offered to do it entirely off their own bat and it shows true community spirit. We are most grateful to them. **Charlotte Frost**

**St George's Dinner** Many thanks to everyone who supported and attended the St George's Dinner last Friday. It was a relaxing and fun evening, with delicious food; a Dragon Raffle and a Dragon Coastal Quiz. We were delighted to be successful in raising £340 for the Church. **Ruth Fraser**

## Up Over from Down Under

As many of you will have realised and contrary to popular opinion that we wouldn't, Beechley Cottage is occupied again and we have returned from an amazing year 'Down Under' with James' work. We have had an extremely rich year of culture, travel, family time and were privileged to live in Sydney, a beautiful and vibrant city in a stunning location. The weather, positive attitude of the people and outdoor culture made for a very comfortable lifestyle. Tom was a regular at the 'Baby Proms' at the Opera House and we ventured to sunset over Ayres Rock, swam with turtles and sharks on the Great Barrier Reef, celebrated Christmas in Tasmania and finished up with a month long road trip around the North and South Islands of New Zealand. We experienced how truly beautiful and diverse Mother Nature can be. We would be more than happy to share stories and several thousand photographs with anyone interested!

Most important of all, we bring back our most precious souvenir, Emily May, our beautiful daughter born 'under water, down under' in April. She is a real little Aussie who has struggled to adjust to the climate change, complaining bitterly if the temperature drops below 10 degrees!

The village have made us feel very welcome and eased our return in many ways. It almost feels as though we never went away at all! Beechley Cottage has been kept in immaculate condition and now that the weather has warmed up, we are loving time in the garden and the beautiful countryside around us. It is so nice to see Tom running free without fearing an encounter with a lurking venomous snake or spider!!

**The Murray Family, Beechley Cottage**

## Parish Council Election

Some confusion has understandably arisen about the election for the Parish Council or, as it turns out, the absence of an election. The position is that there will be no Parish Council election because the number of candidates (seven) now matches the number of vacancies. Unfortunately it took a long time to change the Kennet website, which initially showed eight candidates and that there would be an election. Cliff Freeman, our Parish Clerk, had added his own name to the list because shortly before nominations closed he had been advised that only a single nomination had been received. He subsequently withdrew his name when sufficient last-minute nominations were received, but Kennet took a while to process this.

The new Parish Council will thus consist of the seven nominees: Martin Grove, Carol Manos, Christine Mudge, Paul Rouse, Roger Smith, Keith Wallace, and Paul Willis. The first meeting of the new council will be on Tuesday 8th May, at 7.30pm. This will be the Annual General Meeting of the Council and one of its first tasks will be to elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman. It will be immediately followed by the Annual Parish Meeting, at which Tim Frost, as outgoing Chairman, will present a report of the Council's activities in the past year. The Annual Parish Meeting is open to all electors, who may participate in the discussions and raise any issues that they wish. **Everyone in the village is welcome to attend both meetings; please mark your calendar now for 7:30 pm 8th May in the Village Hall!**

There will still be an election on May 3rd for Kennet District Council, for which the candidates in the Ogbourne ward are David Hunter (our current KDC Councillor) and Graham Francis.