



CHURCH DIARY FOR October 2007

Sunday, 7th October—Trinity 18

10.00 am **Harvest Festival.** All-age service. *Gifts of produce very welcome which will be taken on to the Swindon Women's Refuge*

Sunday, 14th October—Trinity 19

8.30 am Holy Communion
6.00pm Evensong

Sunday, 21st October—Trinity 20

9.30 am Parish Communion

Sunday, 28th October—Last after Trinity (Bible Sunday)

9.30 am Matins - **NB Clocks GO BACK one hour today!!**

There will be a midweek service of Holy Communion each Wednesday at 10.00 am at Holy Cross except for October 10th.

From the Register

Wedding Blessing

September 1 Carolyn Gater and Kamran Abbasi Larkey

Baptism

September 2 Morgan George Beer

Emily May Murray

September 16 Lucy Rose Scott

Leading Intercessions

The Revd Ian Cooper, our Deanery Lay Training Officer, will be leading a morning session on 'How to Lead intercessions' on Saturday November 3, 10.00 am to mid-day in Ogbourne St George Church. There will be ideas about how this important part of our worship can help us all to grow and develop our prayer life. For more information please speak to Fr. Roger.

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

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



The Dragon

The Village Newsletter for
Ogbourne St George

October 2007

WHAT'S ON IN OGBOURNE ST GEORGE THIS MONTH

October

2 & 16 **Ogbourne Little Fishes.** 1.45-3.00pm at Ogbourne St George Church

4 & 18 **Mobile Library** 9.50-10.45am, next to the School.

5 **Harvest Supper** 7.30pm at St Georges Church. Tickets in advance only from Charlotte Frost (841361), Sarah Smith (841233), Sue McNally-Mills (841284) Adults £6. 5-12s £2, under 5s free.

Village Hall 100 Club

We need to raise money to pay for repairs to the flat roof over the porch at the Village Hall, which wasn't done when the main area of flat roof was repaired in 2001. To do this, a 100 Club is being set up. (For those who don't know how this operates, it involves 100 x £1 tickets being sold each month, £50 of which is returned each month to 3 tickets drawn out of the hat winning £25, £15 and £10.) Preferably tickets will be sold for the whole year up front (ie for £12), but 6 months (£6) at a time is also possible. Tickets are not restricted to one per person – far from it!! - and they are available from Charlotte Frost (841361) and Jane Merritt (841309), with any cheques payable to 'Village Hall 100 Club' – get in quick and choose your lucky number. We will be making the first draw at the beginning of December by when all the tickets will have been sold won't they? Do please support this fund-raising effort – it has much better odds than the Lottery!

Harvest Festival weekend In preparation for the Harvest Supper and Harvest Festival we will be cleaning and decorating the Church on Friday 5th October between 10 and 11.30 am. Do join us if you would like to help.

And Father Roger is looking forward to welcoming Little Fishes and their families to the Harvest Festival on Sunday 7th October at 10 am and to us taking part in the services. We hope some former Fishes will come along too and help us sing. Richenda George 841278.

The village lengthsmen will be visiting the village on 23 October to carry out small jobs round the village such as drain clearing, pot holes or cutting back shrubs. Please contact Carol Manos on 841245 if you know of any jobs that need doing.

The Revd Roger Powell writes... Harvest has surely been celebrated ever since human beings first planted seeds, cut the heads of grain and stored them to use through the times of scarcity. Celebrating harvest goes very deep in

us, it seems to stir in us a sense of our country roots, memories of a land that lived by agriculture before the Industrial Revolution turned most people into townies. There will be many of you who will not have to go very far back to find your farming connections; the sudden rise in people growing their own vegetables is surely the beginning of a wish to go back to those deep country roots.

This year we shall be celebrating Harvest Festival on the 7th October, details of the services on that day can be found in the calendar of services. It may seem strange that some of us bring tinned goods to decorate our place of worship, but these can be a modern way of acknowledging our dependence on God. On the other hand, lumps of coal or sheaves of wheat may evoke memories of harvests of the past, when life was harder and the celebrations more poignant.

In the Bible, harvest and judgement go together, the parable of the wheat and the tares puts the point very starkly (Matthew 13:24-30). So it is right and good to be thankful, but we have to ask ourselves how we can help all humankind to be thankful. We can never sit back and say we've done enough whilst so many people across the world do not have enough to eat. All good wishes, Fr Roger

Use it or Lose it!! The County Council mobile Library visits the village between 9.50 and 10.45am on alternate Thursdays and parks next to the school. It appears that over recent time the number of villagers using this facility has declined. Wiltshire County Council reviews its library service annually and it would be very sad if we lost this very convenient service through lack of use. Next visit is October 14th – why not call in and have a look at the selection of books on offer.

Barn Dance

Following what seemed like weeks of non-stop rain, the day of the Barn Dance dawned bright and actually sunny and over 120 people enjoyed a great night out. The live band – Butter Side Up – was excellent, the dancing lively, the food delicious: cowboy themed steak pies supplied by “Giselda’s” and scrumptious puddings. The Buckin’ Bronco was a great attraction with fierce competition to see who could stay on the longest. Over £900 was raised for school funds which will be spent on equipping the new teaching area currently being built. Especial thanks go to the Illiffes for so generously donating the use of their barn, Maddy Coles for her delicious meringues and of course everyone who came and supported the event.

If you would like to see how the funds raised are being spent take a look around the back of the school at the new “Outdoor Classroom”. Predominately for the use of the younger children it will enable learning to take place in an outdoor environment whatever the weather. Recent research has shown that children, especially boys, learn more effectively outdoors so this space helps ensure that your village school continues to provide the best possible environment for teaching and learning. *Nicola Hickford*

Parish Council Meeting

The Parish Council meeting was held on 13th September. Seven residents attended. Tim Frost presented a report to the Council on progress towards establishing a Parish Website. He asked for the Council’s support and official backing for the venture and this was agreed. It is hoped that a prototype website will be ready for demonstration by Christmas. There is now a Parish Website Forum which can be accessed at <http://osgweb.freeforums.org>.

Cllrs. Smith and Rouse are looking at possible options for curtailing speeding in the village and the Clerk has arranged for a speeding audit to be carried out. Cllr Willis reported that the School is developing plans to improve the parking problems outside the school including relocating the ‘school’ signs and for a bus layby. The plans will be brought to the Parish Council’s attention before being implemented.

Amongst other matters discussed:- the removal of a tree from the river; the replacement of the No Smoking notice in the Village Hall bus shelter following its removal; the creation of laminated bus timetables; and the installation of a dog fouling notice at Coronation Gardens. Cllr Willis has sourced replacements for the playground items and the Clerk will order them. Following a complaint from a resident attending the meeting the Clerk will write to Dukesmead Kennels regarding foul water lying on the fields of Whitefields Farm and notify the Environment Agency. He is also arranging for trees in the Bell Field to be pruned. The village lengthsman will be asked to clean the Village Hall bus shelter on their next visit.

Planning: An application for an Industrial/office building at Old Chase Road has been refused by Kennet. Applications for the erection of an industrial office building at Bytham Road, a pitched roof at Poppins and another transmission dish at Whitefield Farm have all been approved. There was concern that the District Councillor had shown little involvement in the Parish’s planning issues and the Clerk was asked to bring the matter to his attention.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm. Next meeting will be on **Thursday, November 8th**.

The full minutes are displayed on the new Parish Council Notice Board.

Hungerford Farmers’ Market - the place for fresh local food

The new Hungerford Farmers’ Market which opened last month will be held on the fourth Sunday of every month outside the Town Hall between 9am and 1.30pm. The fresh local food on sale will include meat, cakes, cheese, bread, pickles, and jams. There will be fresh vegetables from our own Ogg Valley Organics and local wines, fruit juices and fresh sea fish and shell fish.

Market dates for this year are:

- Sunday 28 October
- Sunday 25 November
- Sunday 23 December – *perfect for buying all the Christmas meat, vegetables, bread, last minute ingredients, and preserves*