



CHURCH DIARY FOR September 2007

Sunday, 2nd September—Trinity 13

10.00 am All-age service

Sunday, 9th September—Trinity 14

8.30 am Holy Communion

Sunday, 16th September—Trinity 15

9.30 am Parish Communion

Sunday, 23rd September—Trinity 16

9.30 am Matins

Sunday, 30th September—Trinity 17

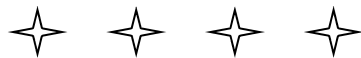
10.30 am Team Eucharist at Ogbourne St Andrew (please *note time*)
The Bishop of Ramsbury, the Rt Revd Stephen Conway, will preside and preach at this service, and afterwards there will be a Parish Lunch in Ogbourne St George Village Hall

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

Advance Notice
Harvest Festival this year will be on Sunday October 7th.

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

CHURCHWARDENS Charlotte Frost (841361)
Gordon Mudge (841338)



EDITOR Wendy Reardon Smith
Mill House – Tel 841270 e-mail: wendy@sbnexus.co.uk

Contributions for the next issue by 20th September please



The Dragon

The Village Newsletter for
Ogbourne St George

September 2007

WHAT'S ON IN OGBOURNE ST GEORGE THIS MONTH

September

- 4 & 18 Little Fishes 1.45-3 pm at St Georges Church. Pre-school children and their parents and carers welcome. Please ring Richenda George (841278) for more information.
- 6 Village Website Meeting. 7.30pm at the Village Hall
- 6 Little Dragons Carer & Toddler Group 1.45-3 pm in the Village Hall
- 13 Parish Council Meeting. 7.30pm at the Village Hall
- 30 Parish Lunch for the Bishop of Ramsbury. (see inside for more details)



Friday October 5th Village Harvest Supper

Harvest Supper will be held in the church this year. Recently the event has been held in the Village Hall but this year the organisers are recreating the Harvest Supper that was held some years ago when St George's was turned into "Church Bistro". The plan is to turn the pews round with tables in between and decorate the church with candles to provide the ideal atmosphere for everyone to enjoy the Harvest Supper. This is very much a family event so by using the church there will be all the more space for the children to run around!! Do put the date in your diary now — there will be more details circulated in mid September.

Two local Mums will walk the Ridgeway for Charity

Deirdre Booth, of Ogbourne St George and Rachel King, of Barbury Castle Estate, have set themselves the goal of walking the entire length of The Ridgeway in just 5 days – a total of 87 miles from Ivinghoe Beacon in Buckinghamshire to Overton Hill in Wiltshire. They will start on 2nd September and their wish is to raise money for two charities:- The Naomi House Children's Hospice and Greatwood - Caring for Retired Racehorses.

All donations will be warmly accepted - please contact 01672 841 522 or 07717557636.

PASTORAL VISIT TO THE RIDGEWAY BENEFICE BY THE BISHOP OF RAMSBURY

Our Area Bishop, the Rt Revd Stephen Conway, has been in post about a year and is now arranging a series of pastoral visits throughout his patch to enable him to get to know us better. The Ridgeway Benefice is his first destination, and he will be spending the day here in the three parishes on Thursday, September 27. He is hoping to meet lots of us during the course of his time here, both churchgoers and non-churchgoers - we are all parishioners! - and wants to kick-start the day with a **Men's Breakfast in Chiseldon Church Hall at 7.30 am** (gulp!). Richard Irwin has volunteered to get the bacon sizzling, so come on down, all you bright-eyed and bushy-tailed guys, and bend the Bishop's ear. Bishop Stephen will then come along to the School here in Ogbourne St George to take Assembly and to formally open the new extension. During the rest of the day his programme will include visits to various places and people in the Benefice: clubs, businesses, a farm, and so on.

Then on Sunday, September 30 Bishop Stephen will return to the Benefice to preside and preach at the **Team Eucharist at Ogbourne St Andrew at 10.30am** (please note change of time from usual). Afterwards there will be a simple **Parish Lunch in Ogbourne St George Village Hall**, to which all are welcome whether or not you have been to the service. There is no cost for either of these meals, but from a housekeeping point of view it would be helpful to know rough numbers, so please call the co-ordinator Charlotte Frost on 01672 841361 if you plan to come. Full details of the visit will be available later in September but do make a note now in your diaries of the above events. The Bishop really wants to learn first-hand of our concerns, ideas, hopes and grievances, so if you have a point to raise or a problem to discuss, now is the chance to take it straight to the horse's mouth!

A Brush with Faith is the title of a three week exhibition of the Methodist Collection of Modern Christian Art coming to Marlborough 23 September - 14th October. The collection includes works by Eric Gill, Graham Sutherland, Elisabeth Fink and others. The exhibition has already toured extensively in cathedrals both at home and abroad. Volunteers are needed to help with stewarding the exhibition for two hour stints during its opening hours 10.00am - 4.00pm Monday - Saturday & 2.00pm - 4.00 pm Sundays. Suitable training will be provided. If you would like to help please contact Rachel Maurice (in August) 01672 514119 mauricerachel@yahoo.co.uk or Laura Willis (in September) 01672 512 357 admin.stmarys@tiscali.co.uk Leaflets publicising the event and giving details of what promises to be a very interesting exhibition are available at the Ogbourne Churches .

Little Dragons Carer and Toddler Group is our drop-in session for babies, toddlers, pre-schoolers and is the perfect place for carers and their children to come and have fun and meet new people. Held on Thursday afternoons in the Village Hall from 1.45-3.00pm the first session this term will be on 6th September. The ideal opportunity for children to play together whilst you catch up with other parents and carers. Refreshments provided. For more information contact Nicola Hickford 841418/07770 588349.

The Role of the Parish Clerk

Cliff Freeman, the Parish Clerk, writes...

When the late Joyce Frost asked me if I would be the Clerk to the Parish Council I now realise that I accepted relatively blindly, not really knowing what I was letting myself in for. Mr Wilkinson, the previous Clerk, simply handed over some files of papers together with the minute book and financial record book, cheque book and bank statements and there I was in the deep end. The role of Clerk is often described as that of Chief Executive of the Council although the Clerk doesn't make decisions but advises the incumbent Councillors on all the issues that come both within and outside the Council's remit. The Clerk is responsible for ensuring the Council acts within the law and conducts its business properly. One of the titles bestowed on the Clerk is that of 'Proper Officer'. This entitles me to take and sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office made by each Member to enable them to act as a Councillor. Originally I was Clerk and Treasurer, now I have the grand title of Responsible Financial Officer which authorises me to prepare and sign the Annual Financial Return for audit. As well as these responsibilities the Clerk prepares and submits the annual precept to the District Council to ensure a charge for the Council's services is made on the local rates, keeps proper accounts which are reported to the Council at each meeting, prepares and displays agendas and minutes and generally advises and guides the Councillors in performing their parish duties. Staying in touch with developments in all aspects of Parish Council business, dealing with correspondence and paying contractors, arranging insurance and appropriate memberships are more of the administrative tasks which befall the Clerk. It's the wide variety of aspects and knowledge required that makes it a very interesting role.

Village Website

At the Annual Parish Meeting in May the creation of a village web site was discussed. Tim Frost produced a proposal for a web site in 2001 but at the time there was not sufficient interest from the village to take the matter further.

Since that time many villages have produced their own web sites which have contributed to promoting a more active and informed community. To see if there is enough support from residents for this facility a meeting has been arranged in the Village Hall for Thursday 6th September 2007 at 7.30pm.

The creation and maintenance of a web site requires a wide range of skills covering graphic design, feature writing, administrative and technical computer knowledge. So if you have any of these skills or would like to try your hand at them please come to the meeting. Good village web sites meet the needs of all age groups in the community young or old so it would be nice to see a cross section of the community at the meeting.

If you can't attend the meeting but would like to give your support in the future please contact me.

Keith Wallace Email: kg_wallace@btinternet.com Tel: 841405