

September/October 2008

Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Magazine



Editorial

Welcome to the brand new format Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Magazine!

We hope you will agree that this updated format is pleasing on the eye and that the information contained is easy to find and read.

Our thanks must go to Mags Truscott who has worked so hard to create this new look. The magazine is also now being professionally printed and collated as this was a very labour intensive job which has been undertaken by Ian Woodward for some time now and, once again, our thanks to him for his dedication to the task.

For the distribution of the magazine we rely on a team headed up by Jennifer Nutt. Once again this job is undertaken voluntarily and is time consuming as many of the properties in the parishes are spread out.

The magazine has had a very modest cover price of 25p for some time. Now that the decision has been made to publish bi-monthly, the cover price has been increased to 50p (or £3 for 6 issues a year). To fund the production of the magazine we do rely on contributions from our readers and, therefore, if you haven't yet paid for this year (2008) it would be much appreciated if you would drop £3 in an envelope and leave it at one of our churches, hand it to your distributor, or pop it in my post box at Mill Corner (located at the end of my drive on Mill Lane). Many thanks!

Summer is now over (did it ever begin?) and, once again, thanks to Jennifer Nutt for providing us with a write up on the village fete. Clearly a lot of hard work went into the preparation of this event and what a contrast to last year when the sun beat down and we were seeking shade! This event is however the sort of tradition we do not want to lose and although the attendance was down significantly over last year due to the weather, we all hope that this will not deter people next year.

Now that you can see for yourselves how smart this new format is, please contact us with your articles and stories and items for sale (all the items advertised in the last issue were sold almost immediately the magazine hit the doorsteps). This is an environmentally friendly way to dispose of your unwanted goods as we only need to go a short distance to view/collect — so, forget 'ebay' and try 'local' first! And of course, if you have a local business, why not advertise it here?

We look forward to hearing your views, news and anything else!

Jenny Cope
Parish Magazine Editor

Dates for your diary

Berkshire Maestros: The Young Musicians' Trust Concert

Saturday 20 September

Once again, the winners of the Robina Dallmeyer Memorial Awards for 2008/9 will perform in St James the Less church on Saturday 20 September.

This year, the talented young musicians are all wind players:

- Amy Patten: tenor saxophone
- Lucy Griffiths: flute
- Corinna Philpot: clarinet
- Rebecca Watt: oboe

There will be a professional piano accompanist from the Trust's teaching staff.

From 6 pm, by kind permission of the Revd. Heather Parbury, there will be a family barbecue in the Rectory garden. The concert will commence at 7:30 pm and end by approximately 9 pm. Members of the congregation and their families are most welcome to attend both events.

There will be an opportunity to contribute towards the continuation of these awards, which exist to provide special training and experience for young musicians at the start of their careers as potential professional musicians.

Walking group

Friday 3 October

The October walk will start at Tidmarsh Village Hall at 9:30 am and will last approximately 1½ hours. The walk will be at an easy pace on paths over fields and woodland. Sociable doggies are welcome! There will be coffee and chat afterwards in the village hall (see below).

Coffee morning

Friday 3 October

The next Village Hall coffee morning will take place on Friday 3 October from 11:00 am to noon for a catch up and a cuppa.

For those of you who haven't yet been and have thought about doing so, this is a relaxed social get together for anyone in the two villages, young or old, working or non-working. Please come along, we'd love to see you.

Why not combine it with a walk with the walking group starting at 09:30 am on the same day?

Harvest festival

Sunday 5 October

Harvest festival for Tidmarsh and Sulham will be celebrated on Sunday 5 October at the family service in St Laurence Church, Tidmarsh, at 10:30 am.

We shall be decorating the church from 10 am on Saturday 4 October. Gifts of fruit, vegetables, tins, and dry goods will be most welcome on either Saturday or Sunday.

Dates for your diary (continued)

The harvest gifts are taken to the Drop-in Centre in Berkley Avenue. The centre is run by Churches Together in Reading. The volunteers at the centre provide a hot, midday meal every weekday for homeless people and for some people on very low incomes. They are always pleased to receive our harvest gifts.

Casino evening

Saturday 18 October

Come along to the village hall at 7:45 pm til late (doors open at 7:30 pm) and take your chances at the roulette table. You can spend £2 on chips and not put on a calorie or damage your bank balance! This is a fun evening of very light-hearted 'gambling' with a chance to enjoy a drink a few nibbles and a great social get together.

There will be a bar on site and the £5 entrance fee includes a free drink on arrival. All profits go to the upkeep of the hall. No need to buy tickets; just turn up on the night.

Charity market

Saturday 1 November

St James the Less will again be 'hosting' the Charity Market in Pangbourne Village Hall. This year it is being held on **Saturday 1 November**.

Any charity, local or national, or local organisation can book a stall, either selling goods, which obviously can be Christmas-related if desired, or to raise awareness of their presence in the community. The princely charge for such a stall is **two homemade cakes**, which we sell on our cake stall to cover the cost of the hall.

This year we could be even bigger and better as, with the new smaller hall available as well, there is the scope to make this into an important fund raising event for many good causes. Please pass the word to anyone you think may be interested.

And ... even if you don't want a stall, please come and support the many charities represented.

Tea and coffee will be available from 11:00 am, the famous cheese lunches from noon, and the market will be open until 3:00 pm. Further details will be on posters around the village in October.

To find out more and/or to book a stall please, contact Jill Palfrey on 0118 984 2698.

Jumble sale

Saturday 8 November

There will be a jumble sale in the village hall starting at 2 pm. Please bring your donations to the hall by noon on the day.

Pamper evening

Thursday 20 November

The long-awaited Village Hall Pamper Evening has now been rescheduled for Thursday 20 November. As before, we plan to offer a range of beauty treatments and products for you to enjoy, with the possibility of buying some early Christmas presents too.

If you, or anyone you know, would like to exhibit at this event, please contact Karen Fountaine with the details on 0118 930 2622.

Village matters

Tidmarsh and Sulham fete *Saturday 2 August*

by Jennifer Nutt

At the beginning of the week running up to the fete, the weather forecast for Saturday was quite encouraging: mostly sunny with a few SCATTERED showers.

As the week progressed, I detected a slight change; showers with SOME sunny periods. By the time we reached Friday evening, it was for rather damp conditions, clearing the late afternoon to give a beautiful end to the day. This outlook was not very encouraging to those endeavouring to stage the main annual fund raising event for the two churches!

At least it was dry on Friday when we started to prepare the site. The plan was to erect two large tents; one for the teas and one for the band in the afternoon. This exercise was not as straightforward as we had hoped; there was a very strong wind blowing which made it inadvisable to leave the completed tents up overnight. As a result, we opted for plan B — leave the structures up with no legs and no canopies.

At 6 pm a reasonable band of stalwarts assembled in Sulham farmyard to take the ancient fete equipment from the store. Luckily, due to the inclement weather conditions, harvesting was on hold and John Haggarty, the farm manager, led the team with great enthusiasm and humour. Much of the equipment has not changed in the forty-odd years that I've been involved with the exercise;

in fact, many of the heavy tables, I suspect, date back to before World War 2!

Bob Guest arrived with his lorry and directed the process of loading the miscellaneous table trestles, chairs, and signs onto his truck. Two loads were needed, followed by a quick dash to St Andrews School to collect some 90 folding chairs.

On Saturday morning some anxious souls woke very early; the sky was a nasty shade of grey and it didn't look very promising or encouraging.

John Butler was on the site by 8 am marking the places where the various stalls and sideshows should go. By 9:30 am we gathered to start the daunting task of *setting-up*.

Fine drizzle was making life difficult and depressing but, with surprising good humour and dogged determination, we set to. Putting up the two big tents proved easier than I had envisaged and was a great morale booster.

Small groups took on the job of putting up the gazebos. Some were lucky enough to have the instructions; others had more of a challenge to sort out the various bits. This was made rather difficult for one group until they realised they had enough poles for two gazebos!

Another team of muscle men carried the tables around to the various stall sites and set them up. By this time, the fine drizzle had progressed to heavier bursts of rain!

Village matters (continued)

Stallholders began to arrive and unpack their cars, trying to protect their goodies from the wet; in the main, they were fairly unsuccessful.

A few kind benefactors appeared with cakes, books, plants, or items classified as White Elephant. It was noticeable that these kind donors were fewer than usual. Probably many were discouraged by the weather conditions or thought that no-one in their right mind would try to hold a fete in such adverse conditions.

Bit by bit, more people came to set up their stall or sideshow. Several had updates on the weather forecast — not expected to clear until 4 pm!

Every now and then the sky looked a bit lighter; once, for a brief moment, there was a glimpse of the sun lurking behind the grey cloud but these short interludes were quickly over as another heavy burst of rain came down.

However, at about 1:15 pm, a small patch of blue sky appeared. A quarter of an hour later there was an incredible transformation and we were bathed in warm sunshine.

The members of the band began to arrive, followed by just a trickle of fete goers. The numbers coming in were very low at first but gradually, as confidence in the clear blue sky increased, the trickle became a steady stream. Judging by the number of cars parked by the car park, attendance was down by at least 50%.

Those who came had a lovely afternoon, enjoying the excellent live music played by EMC Jazz and the entertaining shows put on

by Word Puppets. Sadly, though, the dancing display had to be cancelled as the grass was so wet and slippery.

There were plenty of games to amuse the children (and those young at heart) and people of all ages enjoyed the teas and lingered in the welcome sunshine to listen to the music and to chat with friends. The atmosphere of relaxation and fun was almost tangible; no-one was in a hurry to leave.

I should like to thank all that stoic band of people who worked so hard setting up the equipment in the pouring rain and then, at the end of the day, packing it all up to be stowed away until next year. Most of the time, they were working in atrocious conditions but with a great deal of humour they persevered.

A particular thank you to John Butler for drawing up such a good site plan and then marking out the Green early on Saturday morning.

As they left, many people expressed their appreciation; several remarking that it was lovely to come to an old-fashioned village fete. It was felt that there was a chance for all the family to enjoy themselves without being *ripped off*.

I think a little bit of goodwill is worth a great deal as it will encourage people to come back next year.

Village matters (continued)

100 club

Members of the Village Hall Committee will shortly be approaching you with details of this year's village hall 100 club.

Tickets cost £5 each and draws will take place over four months, with an additional draw at Christmas.

Prizes are as follows:

1st prize - £25

2nd prize - £15

3rd prize - £10

The takings from the 100 Club pay for the prize money; the remainder goes towards the upkeep of the village hall. Please sign up for this important cause.

Good luck!

Hiring the village hall

Tidmarsh village hall is available for hire for £10 per hour. Please contact Karen Fountaine on 0118 930 2622 for details and availability.

Farming news

Harvest at Sulham Farms

by John Haggarty

In any normal year, as September approaches farmers would be near the end of the grain harvest. However, this year has been a total exception. Everyone knows what a disappointing summer it has been and what a washout August was.

We have seen a period of very wet weather with very little sunshine. It seems such a long time ago when the harvest started at Sulham.

The end of July was warm and sunny and we started combining winter barley on 20 July. For four to five days the sun shone and the combine harvester quickly cut its way through the dry golden straw. We were also able to

bale the straw which will be used for bedding and feed during the winter for the cattle.

As is usual we then waited to start the main harvesting period in August when the wheat and spring barley are ready to cut. This year crops had looked very well through the early summer and there was an expectation that yields would be above average.

Farming news (continued)

In order for the combine to work, prior to cutting the straw must be dry — just the same as cutting your lawn. The grain must be at a minimum moisture to prevent it from heating up and mould resulting. So, for the first few days of August patience was the word and a thinking that the weather was bound to improve.

How wrong we were as conditions just seemed to get worse. If the grain does not come into the store dry, we can reduce the moisture as it comes off the field by putting it through the farm grain drier. This works like a giant hot hair drier and makes the grain safe to go into the store. I can then market the grain finding the best price and outlet for each particular crop or variety. The bad news on the grain drier is that it runs on diesel and uses vast amounts.

With no improvement in the weather it has meant pushing ahead at every opportunity and taking advantage of every window of opportunity even if it means working into the night. By the end of August we are now 75% of the way through with everyone working extremely hard. The most welcome thing now would be an Indian summer well into October.

As soon as the crops are removed, we are thinking of next year's harvest and planting will start in September (it has got to be better next year!). Before planting, the fields are ploughed. This is where our competitive spirits start and an event in the local farming calendar is the Ploughing Match.

We are a member of a local farming club which holds an Annual Ploughing Match and, alongside this, the farm enters crop competitions which have been judged throughout the summer. Tractor drivers from all around the county enter into the various classes which range from vintage machines to huge high horsepower tractors that were turning over many acres the day previous.

Last year the farm won two trophies in the crop competitions — the most notable being the Silver Challenge Trophy for the most points gained in all the crop competitions.

It may well be that ploughing entries are down this year as everyone struggles to bring harvest to a close but at least we can all have a good moan about the weather over the ploughmans lunch (of course) and a pint of local beer.

Church matters

Services for September

Date	St James the Less Pangbourne Hill, Pangbourne	St Laurence Tidmarsh Road, Tidmarsh	St Nicholas Sulham Hill, Sulham
Wed 3 Sep	10:00 Midweek communion		
Fri 5 Sep	10:00 Noah's ark*		
Sun 7 Sep Trinity 16	07:45 Holy communion 09:30 Family service 10:30 Sung communion 18:00 Choral evensong	10:30 Family service	
Wed 10 Sep	10:00 Midweek communion		
Fri 12 Sep	10:00 Noah's ark*		
Sun 14 Sep Trinity 17	07:45 Holy communion 09:30 Family service communion 11:00 Mattins	10:30 Family communion	
Wed 17 Sep	10:00 Midweek communion		
Fri 19 Sep	10:00 Noah's ark*		
Sun 21 Sep Trinity 18	07:45 Holy communion 09:30 Family service 10:30 Sung communion		10:30 Family service
Wed 24 Sep	10:00 Midweek communion		
Fri 26 Sep	10:00 Noah's ark*		
Sun 28 Sep Trinity 19 <i>Back to Church Sunday</i>	07:45 Holy communion 09:30 Family service 10:30 Sung communion 18:00 Choral evensong		18:00 Evensong

* Noah's ark takes place each Friday morning in the term time at St James the Less in Pangbourne. It's very popular with 0-5 year olds and their parents. Two leaders are supported by six or seven helpers. There is a short, informal service aimed at the very young followed by playtime and craft activities. Drinks and biscuits are served during which time there is much chat and social interaction. Everyone is very welcome.

Church matters (continued)

Baptisms

Charles Thomas

27 July 2008 at St James the Less

Charlotte Elliott

3 August 2008 at St James the Less

Grace Gatherum

3 August 2008 at James the Less

Ella Everest

10 August 2008 at St Nicholas

Weddings

Paul Freeman & Emma Christopherson

19 July 2008 at St Nicholas

Christopher Murray & Charlotte Hayne

19 July 2008 at St Nicholas

Funerals

Joanne (Joan) Reynolds

14 August 2008 at St James the Less

News from the rectory

by Revd Heather Parbury

September: Back to School! Back to Church!

It's some weeks now since the shops began their Back to School campaigns to persuade mums and dads to buy those new shoes, bags, sports kit and stationery, not to mention the school tie or sweat shirt or the 'room for growth' clothes necessary for the start of the new school year.

Did you know that there is also a **Back to Church Campaign** during September?

It's not the beginning of the church year — that happens on Advent Sunday (I know that's strange, ask me another time!) — but it is a good time to remind all those who have got out of the habit of worshipping together with other Christians during August, or during the last year or two, or even since you were baptised, that an important place for your spiritual development, Christian understanding, discipleship training, and all-round faith education is there for you.

Sunday Worship may be a bit off your radar at the present, or you may just have been meaning to *get around to it soon*, so now is the time to come along without feeling that you won't be the only one who doesn't know anyone or what to do.

The services on Back to Church Sunday on **September 28** are for anyone who would like a little bit of help getting over the embarrassment factor of making contact with your Christian family, and more importantly your heavenly Father, after a time away.

Church matters (continued)

You won't have to buy a special uniform and any books or paper you will need are already waiting for you. If you are coming for the first time, just like a new class, the room and people soon become familiar and friendly.

Simply ask for an **Admit One** ticket and come and join the party.

You'll be amazed at what you can learn and it's the best preparation for **life**.

So, pick a place and a time and come along to see what you're missing.

Services for Back to Church Sunday

Time	Place	What's on
10:00 am	St James the Less, Pangbourne	Family worship — all ages together
3:00 pm	St Laurence, Tidmarsh	Picnic and praise party
6:00 pm	St Nicholas, Sulham	Traditional 1662 Book of Common Prayer Evensong

News from Bob and Rosalind Arnold: our CMS mission partners at Bungokho in Uganda

by Susan Worthington, Mission Committee

The latest link letter from Bob and Rosalind arrived last month and carried encouraging news of the Kenyan refugees. Bob and Ros had been able to supply the Kenyans with many essential provisions: food, cooking utensils, buckets, mosquito nets, and clothing before the refugees were transferred to a more permanent location some hours from Bungokho. Since then, the mission had been continuing to support the two families that they had 'adopted'.

The *fund* — as Bob and Ros call the donations for which they again convey their grateful thanks — is enabling Charles, Agatha, and their five young daughters, as well as Ann and her nine year old son Bill, to start all over again in Uganda.

Charles — hoping for a job as a driver — had been waiting weeks for his licence which hopefully has arrived by now.

After pushing a number of doors, Agatha had just acquired a part-time post teaching students to become nursery school teachers.

Church matters (continued)

Ann had been continuing with her typing business at the university. There is, however, less work during holiday periods so the *fund* had assisted Ann to buy a photocopier. Photocopying is in constant demand and a good *earner*. Ann had also, unexpectedly, just been offered some hours of teaching secretarial skills at a newly opened small establishment.

Bob and Ros will keep us posted as to how the fund is continuing to help Bungokho to *stand in the gap*.

There is also news of Bungokho Rural Development Centre's first course for pastors.

Most of the pastors in the surrounding rural parishes are very poorly paid, mainly relying upon what their parishioners put on the collection plate and then receiving little, if any, pension. They need to keep livestock, grow their own food, and, if possible, have their families involved in some small income-generating activity.

Fourteen pastors attended and enjoyed an informative and fruitful week which included following Rick Warren's course on the Purpose Driven Life. The pastors returned home with seeds, young trees, and inspiration to share with their communities.

Bob and Ros have asked if we would give thanks and pray for:

- Continued good health and safety for all who live, work, and study at BRDC, within the centre and as they travel both long and short distances throughout the surrounding area.
- New ventures, such as, the pastors' course.
- New staff members and new students.
- Building of the wells.
- Visitors and funding.
- Proposals for the future.

The latest link letter is packed with interest, friendly news, and photos — not to mention names of people who have by now become familiar. Please do take a look at a copy on noticeboards at the back of our three churches.

Advertisements

Please support our advertisers and, when you contact them, mention that you saw their advert in the *Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Magazine*.

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Bartholomew Street, Newbury.... 01635 516 605

Pangbourne and District Volunteer Centre
Mon-Fri (ex Tue) 9:30-11:30 am ... 0118 984 4586

Clubs and societies

Tidmarsh with Sulham Women's Institute
Margaret Pawson (president)..... 0118 984 2619

Ecclesiastical

Priest-in-Charge of Pangbourne with Tidmarsh and Sulham
Revd Heather Parbury 0118 984 2928

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Edward Goddard 0118 984 2702
Julia Sheppard 0118 956 1820
Jennifer Nutt 0118 984 2370

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Sulham representatives
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Anne Bolam 0118 942 1020

Friends of St Laurence
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Jon Chishick, Secretary 0118 984 3666

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Useful contacts (continued)

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..... 999

Non-emergencies

Thames Valley Police.....	01865 841 1148
Pangbourne police station	0118 953 6000
Newbury police station	0845 8 505 505
Reading police station	0845 8 505 505

Scouts and girl guides

Beavers, Simon Pickett.....	0118 933 1615
Cubs, Jane Barkshire.....	07811 446 488
Scouts, Simon Pickett	0118 933 1615
Rainbows, Helen Randall	01635 48765
Brownies, Clare Pincock.....	0118 984 4286
Guides, Helen Randall.....	01635 48765
Rangers, Helen Randall	01635 48765

Public transport

Rail travel

First Great Western	08457 000 125
National Rail enquiries	08457 48 49 50
TrainTracker (train times/fares) ..	0871 200 49 50

Bus travel

Reading Buses	0118 9594000
Newbury Buses	01635 567500
Thames Travel.....	01491 837 988

Traveline

National/local bus, train, coach,
ferry and underground info 0871 200 22 33

Village hall committee

Peter King (chairperson).....	0118 984 4213
Karen Fountaine (bookings)	0119 930 2622

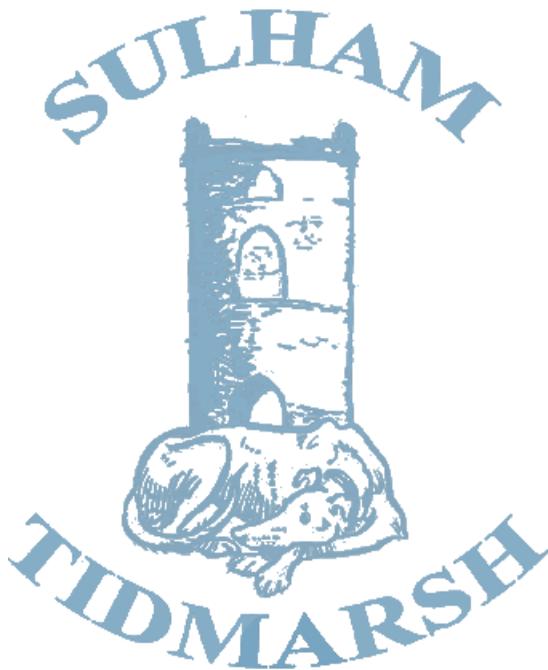
West Berkshire District Council

Main switchboard	01635 42400
Streetcare	01635 519080
Planning applications.....	01635 519111

We welcome all advertisements, articles and letters submitted for inclusion in the magazine but the editor reserves the right to refuse, alter or amend material which is unsuitable for any reason. The editor accepts no responsibility for, nor necessarily agrees with, views expressed in such submissions.

Please e-mail any items for the next edition of magazine to jenny@candcsystems.co.uk by 15 October at the latest.

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