

Offchurch News

The Village Magazine

November 2013



Cyclamen Hederifolium



Offchurch News deadline: 19th November 2013

All notices for next issue to offchurchnews@gmail.com or Catherine Kaye, Nine Hills Cottage, Welsh Road by this date at the latest. Thank you.

November 2013

| Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | Sun |
|--|---|---|--|-----|---|---|
| | | | | 1 | 2 |  3  |
| 4  |  5  |  6  | 7   | 8 | 9  |  10  S |
| 11   |  12  Offchurch CAMEO |  13  | 14   | 15 | 16 |  17   |
| 18  |  19    | 20  | 21   | 22 | 23  |  24  |
| 25   |  26  |  27  | 28   | 29 | 30  | |

Village Hall Cleaning for November: Sue and Tim Lyne



Grey bin collection



Green bin collection



Mobile Library stop: Old Post Office 10.00am-10.20am



Bell ringing practice, 7.30pm-9.00pm, Church Tower



Services in St Gregory's Church p. 5

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Sunday School, St Gregory's Church p. 5



Family Service, St Gregory's Church p. 5



Upholstery and soft furnishings class, 9.30-11.30am, Village Hall



Afternoon Club, 2.30pm-4.30pm, Village Hall p. 18



Village Hall leaf clearing, 9.30am, Village Hall p. 16

Offchurch
CAMEO

Cameo, 8.00pm, Village Hall p. 12



Offchurch Garden Club, 7.30pm, Village Hall p. 16



Tennis Club Night (Thurs); Cricket (Sun), Netball (Mon) times vary, Offchurch Sports Club



Offchurch Crafts, 7.30pm-9.30pm, private home p. 12



Churchyard Working Group, 9.30am-12.30pm, Churchyard pp. 9-10



Reading Circle, 8.00pm, private home p. 12



Pilates classes at 12.15pm, 5.45pm and 7.00pm, Village Hall. Contact Linda Bamber 07915 855 420



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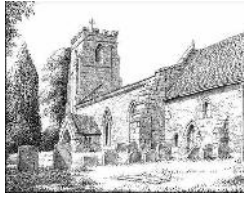
From the Vicar

November is a month for remembering. Some of the memories are personal – we have a united service in Long Itchington on 3rd November at 3.00pm to remember loved ones who have died. Other memories are not so personal – Guy Fawkes night on the 5th may bring back memories of past fireworks displays, but the events commemorated happened many centuries ago, and many of us find disturbing the way in which those events are celebrated – even if we are glad the gunpowder plot was discovered, we cannot be glad about the barbaric punishment given to the plotters, and the idea of burning an effigy of Guy Fawkes in celebration seems to us wholly un-Christian.

What about the Remembrance day celebrations around the 10th and 11th? They may be personal to some who have lost relatives or friends in conflict. But even if we have no such memories, the celebrations can be deeply meaningful. We are not celebrating the glories of war – though we may celebrate the courage and selflessness of those involved. What never fails to move me is the thought of all those young lives lost in conflict, in horrendous numbers in some battles, especially in the first World War. Nowadays, it is the numbers of civilian casualties that I find disturbing. I am not a pacifist; I believe there are still some people so wicked that they will stop at nothing to get their own way, and can only be overcome by force. But force should be the last resort, and whenever it is used there is bound to be innocent suffering. Remembrance day is an occasion to remember also the harm caused by warfare, and to strengthen our resolve to seek peace and harmony so that we can live alongside people with whom we may have little in common, and even much that causes disagreement.

Why does God allow all this tragedy? I am sure that God does not want it – his promised goal is everlasting joy, not suffering or tears. I believe the chief means to his goal is the Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth. Yet God allowed him to be nailed to a cross, to suffer and to die. How could he? Christians believe that without his death and subsequent resurrection, we would have no hope of forgiveness and acceptance with God and new life. Somehow, in a way that we don't understand, God used that terrible evil to bring about the greatest good. Can we not trust that God can bring good even out of the tragedies we remember this month?

Tim Britton (01926 812518 or email tim@thefeldongroup.org.uk)



November Church Diary and Rota

| | | | |
|------------------|---------|--|-------------------------------------|
| 3 rd | 10.00am | Matins | David Varnish / Brian Green / Wendy |
| 10 th | 10.00am | Remembrance Sunday Holy Communion with Sunday School | David / Wendy |
| 13 th | 8.00am | Holy Communion | Tim |
| 17 th | 10.00am | Family Service | Marcia |
| 24 th | 10.00am | Holy Communion | Tim / Wendy |

Midweek worship with prayer for the village takes place in St Gregory's every Thursday at 5.00pm – all welcome.



Charity Fair

Delia Button Invites you to her 19th Charity Fair in aid of the Teenage Cancer Trust on Monday 11th November at Westbury, 5 Park Road, Leamington Spa. From 9.00am until 9.00pm.



ST GREGORY'S MATTERS



Any report that fully described our recent activities could run the risk of completely emptying my word processor's lexicon of "superlatives" ... So, briefly, then ...

Funday: A very happy event that, rewardingly, attracted 26 enthusiastic children, plus parents, all of whom enjoyed the activities. Towards the end of the afternoon the extent to which religious education has a real impact on our children was quaintly demonstrated ...

Following a tuneful cantillation of "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands", the question was posed:

"So, who do you think has the whole world in his hands?" The first confident reply came instantly ... **"Father Christmas"!** ... some further remedial work indicated here, then.

Loaf distribution: Susan, almost single-handedly, knocked on over a hundred doors so that all Offchurch residents could have the opportunity to share in the spirit of Harvest. Our little gift was very well received. (Incidentally, shares in Waitrose rose significantly on reports of a sudden surge in the sale of mini-loaves!)

Harvest Supper: The animated chatter and laughter that filled the Village Hall during the meal rapidly gave way to urgent cross-table whispering and sign language, as teams shared imaginative answers to Brian's canny quiz. The winning team fairly romped home, the others were obviously affected by acute custard-overload!

Harvest Thanksgiving Service: The fruit-holding capacity of St Gregory window-sills was severely tested by the sheer amount of produce and magnificent flower arrangements on display, not to mention the wealth of gifts donated by the congregation. Bishop John was obviously taken with it all, commenting particularly on the great music and the contribution made by the children. He suitably wowed us with his sermon - even risking a couple of dubious jokes! The auction raised £100 which has been shared between Leamington Christian Mission and CORD.

Saint Gregory ... The man:

Dove divine: Devotees of St Gregory will likely have noticed that, in contemporary paintings / drawings, he is invariably depicted in the presence of a hovering or perching white dove, to the extent that **the dove** has become his personal emblem (note the banner hanging to

the right of our own altar). This dove connection originates from a fascinating, well documented report by Gregory's friend, Peter the Deacon;



“When the pope was dictating his homilies he insisted on there being a curtain between him and the scribe. As the pope remained silent for long periods at a time, the inquisitive scribe made a hole in the curtain through which he beheld a dove seated on Gregory’s head with its beak between his lips. When the dove withdrew the pope spoke, but when he became silent the dove replaced his beak between his lips.”

It is commonly conjectured then, that inspiration for Pope Gregory's homilies was divinely derived from the words that this celestial winged messenger communicated to him (it is, indeed, not unusual for a dove to be portrayed as a representative form of the Holy Spirit). Since no evidence exists to suggest that Peter the Deacon was anything other than an inquisitive, literate, mega-nosed, up-front sort of guy (a forthright Roman who called a “spade” a “pala”), believers are able to accept the story with a high degree of credibility. Others, who might be less inclined to adopt an unquestioning appreciation of “holy mystery”, would be left to ponder the existence of a cross-species interface that involved....a) a bird, able to whisper using a sophisticated form of “pidgin Latin”, and b) an early Vatican resident endowed with aural sensors lurking somewhere in the region of his taste buds.

If you've ever been curious enough to read any of St Gregory's homilies (have a look at his thoughts on *Ezekiel*), you'll be in no doubt that here, as in many aspects of life, great things can surely be achieved simply by embracing *“the power of dove”!*

“IS IT NOTHING TO YOU; ALL YE THAT PASS BY” ... leaden words etched into the Cornish granite base of our war memorial. Whatever the answer, three influences might soon, possibly, sharpen our awareness of this churchyard monument:

Following a recent survey by the War Memorials Trust we are in the process of replacing some missing lead-lined letters that spell out the names of fallen Offchurch servicemen (ten WW I and three WW II).

Our annual Service of Remembrance will centre on the memorial as we gather round it at 11.00am on the 10th November.

The newly renovated memorial will have a heightened significance to many, next year, when we mark one hundred years since the outbreak

of "The Great War".

Monumental

Vain, senseless loss, faux-glorified in stone,
Denied, those hundred years that dim its cause,
"Of Offchurch", "lost in action", long unknown,
Mourned victims of "*the war to end all wars*".

Ten names, grey-etched, carved Cornish rock,
Ten lives, their fates behaunt us, yet.
Above, "eleven" tolls - the faceless clock,
Beneath, bowed heads avow "*lest we forget*".

David Varnish

Offchurch Sunday Funday Club

Organised by St Gregory's Church, the Offchurch Sunday Funday Club is an opportunity for children of all ages to meet and to have some fun together. Mums and Dads too can meet and get to know each other.

Saturday 21st December 3.30pm-5.00pm

Special Christmas Party at which you will be able to make a Christingle. Come to church on Sunday morning, 22nd December to see your completed Christingle and light the candle.



Suitable for all ages! Everyone welcome!

Parents are very welcome to stay and join in the fun.

RSVP to jane_inman@sky.com or 01926 338704 to help with catering but not essential.

Potato Lunch Thank You

A big thank you to all came to the Potato Lunch on 19th October. It was a great success and raised a little over £420 for Rufus 'Friends Fund; and a very special thank you to the group of stalwart helpers without whom these events, which have been taking place for many years, could not happen.

Sandy Hedderwick



St Gregory's - A Sanctuary for Wildlife

If the latter end of October and beginning of November be for the most part warm and rainy, then January and February are like to be frosty and cold, except after a very dry summer.

Unfortunately this famous "Shepherd of Banbury" saying, number 25, is untrue according to my trusty book. But in tests, it proved to be 29 per cent correct. I think therefore it must be true in part. This has been a dry summer but has it been a very dry one? Perhaps not.

The late autumn storms and rains usually continue until the 13th, peaking 9th - 12th. In mid month, one sees a brief quiet foggy anticyclonic interlude covering 15th to 21st, peaking 18th to 20th. The return in late November and early December to unsettled rainy weather is the first of the early winter storms. These are almost certain to occur 24th November through to 14th December. With two separate maximums on 25th November and 9th December. Perhaps Richard will tell us what happens next month or in January.

Sorry about all that talk of winter storms; let's look at the churchyard. I remember last year we had real problems with our autumn cut. You know, when we cut all the long grass. (Summer meadows, etc.) This year is going much the same way, I did mention that our scythe mower threw a wobbly and how Dave had made the repairs very quickly. I'm afraid the rain then interfered. Losing a day sets us back a fortnight as you know, so as I write we still haven't finished the cut and the raking up. We will get there this month I'm sure.

Miff mole has been very busy again leaving us his many hills. We can and do use them for seed beds for seeding spring flowers, we have quite a good bag of seed collected last month from this year's flowers, thanks to Heather. Hopefully that job can be done this month, November is the best time.

We are still strimmer-less, our Japanese strimmer won't charge up. It's a bit daft really, there is no pull-start method, battery only. Pity, because it was a very good tool when it was working. I think it means a new machine will have to be purchased. Looks like it's time for a churchyard coffee morning or something unless you have just bought a

new strimmer and don't know what to do with the old one? Give me a shout.

The mowing is nearly done for this year but we are running late. How about working on Saturdays 9th and 23rd November, 9.30am till 12.30pm, with coffee and biccies at about 11.00am? If you haven't been before, call by and have a look. We are almost harmless. Thanks to one and all.

Mike Porter

Offchurch Sunday Funday Club



St Gregory's second Sunday Funday activity in September had a harvest theme and the children who attended made some beautiful art and craft work which is on display in the church. Pop in and see their work if you're passing.



We were delighted to welcome 26 children to the event who, apart from colouring and sticking, searched the churchyard to gather a treasure trove of items and sat down to a picnic tea.

Invitations to our Christmas activity on 21st December will be sent out shortly. Everyone is welcome but we like to invite the children individually, so if you know of children in the village we may have missed, please let me know: jane_inman@sky.com.

Offchurch Neighbours on Call



Offchurch **Neighbours on Call** has been developed as a result of a need identified in the Parish Plan.

The scheme is designed to help with those little emergencies or problems which we all encounter from time to time. Volunteers have offered to help with things like lifts to hospital or doctors' appointments, picking up prescriptions, shopping, dog walking, babysitting etc.

If you need help call **07943 556133** and we will do our best to put you in touch with someone who can help. We can't promise to solve everything and we know Offchurch is a very caring community where friends and neighbours help each other already, but the offer is there.

We will soon be delivering a fridge magnet (design above) to every home in Offchurch to act as a quick reminder should you, at any time, need assistance from **Neighbours on Call**.

Offchurch Village Hall

Available for hire

To check availability, visit:

www.offchurch.org.uk/village-hall

To make a booking or for more information:

07943 556133 or

villagehall@offchurch.org.uk



Offchurch Crafts

We will be having a go at encaustic painting - hot wax painting. It is a very ancient art form and a lot of fun to try!!

Why not come to the craft group at Brickyard Cottages on Tuesday 19th November at 7.30pm and give it a try...

If you have an old iron and some old reject photographs, would you please bring them with you. Thank you.

Jane Hedderwick

For further information about the craft group, please contact Janet on (01926) 425430.

Offchurch
CAMEO

Tuesday 12th November 2013

8.00pm in the Village Hall

“Bring and Show”

Bring an object that is slightly obscure or out of the ordinary and see if anyone can guess what it is! Wine and nibbles will be provided.

Everyone is very welcome. £2 charge for visitors

For further information, please contact Sue Lyne
on 01926 332892.



Reading Circle

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 26th November 2013 at the home of Judith Perry, 20 Village Street at 8.00pm. Our book for November is *The Hare with Amber Eyes* by Edmund de Waal.

We welcome anyone who would like to come and join us – we meet on the last Tuesday of every month in each other's houses. For more information, please ring Liz on 01926 886119 or email ldvarnish@gmail.com

Reading Circle members



YOU ARE INVITED TO

*A Traditional Family
Christmas Party*



Saturday 14th December 2013

Offchurch Village Hall

from 4.00pm



🕒 Parlour Games 🕒 Carols and Music 🕒

🕒 Visit from Santa at 5.00pm 🕒

🕒 Cheese and Nibbles 🕒

🕒 Licensed Bar 🕒 Grand Raffle 🕒



**Tickets £6 adults (glass of mulled wine on arrival included)
£3 children under 12**

**Available now from Liz Varnish 01926 886119 / Janet Seaton
01926 425430**

**Proceeds to be shared between St Gregory's Church, Off-
church Village Hall Foundation and Crisis for Christmas
Charity**



Photographic Competition



CLASS 1 Children up to 14 years

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| <i>Theme</i> | Any subject photographed during 2013 |
| <i>Print size</i> | from 15x10cms [6x4ins] up to 25x20cms [10x8ins] or A4 |
| <i>Entry fee</i> | 50p per print |

CLASS 2 Adults and Young People (14 years upwards)

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| <i>Theme</i> | Weather - can include people or other objects, photographed during 2013 |
| <i>Print size</i> | from 15x10cms (6x4ins) up to 25x20cms (10x8ins) or A4 |
| <i>Entry fee</i> | £1 per print |

Entrants can submit up to **3 prints per person** in colour or black and white.

Entrants must not be professional photographers (i.e. must not make more than 35% of their annual income from the sale of their photographs).

Closing date: Sunday 8th December 2013

Judging criteria

All entries will be judged by two independent judges who will select the winning entries using the following three criteria:

- 1. Technical competence**
- 2. Visual impact**
- 3. Originality**

The judges' decision is final.

Prizes will be awarded to the winning entrants.

Exhibition

An exhibition of all the entries and the presentation of prizes will be held at the Cheese and Wine evening on Sunday 29th December 2013, between 6.00pm and 8.00pm. Do come along!!

Photographic Competition Entry Form

| | |
|------------------|--|
| NAME | |
| ADDRESS | |
| TELEPHONE | |
| CLASS | |

(Class 1: Children up to 14 years - Class 2: Adults and Young People 14 years upwards)

PRINTS - MAXIMUM OF 3

Title 1 _____

Title 2 _____

Title 3 _____

Photographs, accompanied by a completed entry form and the entry fee, should be handed in to Brickyard Cottages, Welsh Road, by mid-night on Sunday 8th December 2013.

Please also WRITE CLEARLY ON THE BACK of the photo THE TITLE if any, and THE CLASS which you are entering.

ENTRY FEE

Class 1 50p per print

Class 2 £1 per print

Photographs can be collected after the exhibition or by arrangement.

For further information, please contact Sandy Hedderwick on 01926 613543.



News from the Village Hall

Meeting up

The next meeting of the Village Hall Committee will be on **Monday 2nd December 2013** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Photographic Exhibition

Offchurch village Hall Committee invites you to the annual **Photographic Exhibition with Cheese and Wine**. The event will include an exhibition of the photographs submitted for the annual Offchurch Photographic competition and the presentation of the prizes:

**Sunday 29th December 2013 between 6.00pm and 8.00pm
in the Village Hall**

Cleaning the Hall this month

On the rota for November: Sue and Tim Lyne

Leaves

If you can spare some time on **Saturday 30th November** from 9.30am to help clear the leaves around the hall, we would be very grateful. Please bring brooms and other suitable tools. All help gratefully received. Many thanks from the Village Hall Committee.



Offchurch Garden Club

Our next meeting will be the Christmas Supper on Monday 25th November. It will start at 7.30pm at the village hall. The meal will be followed by a fun quiz.

Please contact Mo Chivers on 01926 613477 or e-mail mo.chivers@uwclub.net to let her know if you are coming. Many thanks.

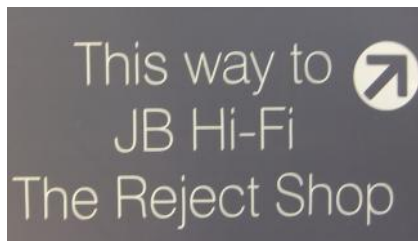
Perth Watch - September/October 2013

It may come as no surprise that at this time of year the weather in Perth, Western Australia, is fairly mixed – so much the same as in Offchurch, given the proviso that it's getting warmer here whilst I guess it's cooling down at home. We have had some very warm days but it cools down rapidly at night. The sun is strong with daytime temperatures in the upper twenties but it soon cools to single figures once the sun goes down. Despite being at 31 degrees latitude, the proximity of the Antarctic, with its significantly greater landmass than that of the Arctic, keeps the oceans and winds cool following the winter.

One curiosity of Perth is the fact that the clocks don't change with the lengthening days. The East Coast has already moved to "Eastern summer time" but the West Coast stays stubbornly on "standard time". This means it starts to get light very early but is correspondingly dark in the evenings. At present, it's getting light around 5.00am but quite dark before 7.00pm. Apparently, there have been many attempts to change but the farmers always win out. Interestingly, the time matches that of many of the major cities in China, including Beijing. Given that China is Western Australia's major customer for their iron-ore, maybe the financial aspects may well be factored into the decision to keep times as they are.

Curious Signs

Wandering around Perth and its environs I've spotted a couple of curious signs. The police seem to be in the "nabbusiness" (nab is the National Australia Bank) but JB HiFi is definitely not a shop of rejects despite what the sign states; perhaps there may just be need for an "and" in this sign?



RKS (Offchurch Weather Watch returns next month.)

Offchurch 100 Club October Draw

The fifth draw of the 100 club took place on 10th October 2013.

The winners are as follows

- 1st Prize Chris Clark
- 2nd Prize Pauline Wills
- 3rd Prize Jean Clark

Congratulations to our winners.

Cheques for £750.00 have now been paid to St Gregory's Church and the Village Hall.

Thank you to everyone for your support.

John Mander





Afternoon Club

The November Meeting will be on Monday 11th November in the Village Hall at 2.30p.m. November is when we invite members of Weston Club to join us. The speaker will be Alan Winterburn. Alan usually shows some very interesting slides and we look forward to seeing him again. We shall find time to discuss the Christmas Lunch, so this is a reminder to our Offchurch members to think about that.

The Harvest Lunch held on 14th October was enjoyed not only by the members, but we also had some friends joining us. Valerie made the soup and cooked the ham, Jim was in charge of the wine, and the fruit pies were homemade, so it was the usual high standard. We also made a profit of £45.00. How do we do it? Many thanks to everyone who came.

Valerie and Greta

Class Timetable

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------------|--|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| Mon | Baby Ballet 18mths+ 10.00am - 10.45am | | LoveDance 14yrs+ (Commercial, Street Jazz, Contemporary) 6.30pm - 8.00pm | | | | | |
| Tues | Studio 1 Strength & Conditioning 11.15am - 12.00pm | Pima Balerinas 3-4yrs 4.30pm - 4.30pm | Pre Syllabus Ballet 5-8yrs 4.30pm - 5.15pm | Pre-Primary Ballet 6-8yrs 5.15pm - 6.00pm | Primary Ballet 8-9yrs 6.00pm - 6.45pm | GCSE Dance 6.45pm - 8.45pm | | |
| | Studio 2 | Cheerleading (all ages) 4.30pm - 5.15pm | | Grade 1 Tap 10-11yrs 5.15pm - 6.00pm | Grade 2 Tap 11yrs+ 6.00pm - 6.45pm | Adult Tap 6.45pm - 7.45pm | Zumba 7.45pm - 8.45pm | |
| Weds | Boogie & Bounce 2yrs+ 1.30pm - 2.30pm | Ballroom & Latin 3-5yrs 4.45pm - 5.15pm | Ballroom & Latin 6-8yrs 5.15pm - 6.00pm | Ballroom & Latin 9-16yrs 6.00pm - 6.45pm | Adult Ballet 6.45pm - 7.45pm | | Ballroom & Latin Adults 7.45pm - 8.45pm | |
| Thurs | Zumba Over 50's 10.00am - 11.00am | Funky Dance 3-8yrs 4.00pm - 4.30pm | Gymnastics (all ages) 4.30pm - 5.00pm | Grade 1 Ballet 10-11yrs 5.00pm - 5.45pm | Funky / Modern 7-10yrs 5.45pm - 6.30pm | Grade 2 Ballet 11-13yrs 6.30pm - 7.15pm | Grade 1 Modern 11yrs+ 7.15pm - 7.45pm | Grade 3 Ballet 14yrs+ 7.45pm - 8.30pm |
| Fri | Mini Movers 0-5yrs 10.00am - 11.00am |  | | Little Tappers 3-6yrs 4.45pm - 5.15pm | Pre-Primary Tap 0-8yrs 5.15pm - 6.00pm | Primary Tap 0-10yrs 6.00pm - 6.45pm |  | |
| Sat | Musical Theatre 4-8yrs 9.00am - 10.30am | Musical Theatre 9yrs+ 10.30am - 12.00pm | Grade 3 Ballet 14yrs+ 4.00pm - 4.45pm | Grade 4 Modern 13yrs+ 4.45pm - 5.30pm | Grade 4 Ballet 14yrs+ 5.30pm - 6.30pm | LoveBallet Dance Studios Insight Park, Southam CV47 1NE loraine@loveballet.co.uk 07711 010404 www.loveballet.co.uk | | |

Deadline for November issue:

19th November

**All notices to be delivered by then please
offchurchnews@gmail.com**

Catherine Kaye, Nine Hills Cottage, Welsh Road

**Back issues of *Offchurch
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online! Visit the village
website:**

<http://www.offchurch.org.uk/offchurch-news>

(Click on the year and then the month you are interested in.)