

UPPER SAPEY CHURCH RESCUE and FRIENDSHIP ROOM

NEWSLETTER No 1, SEPTEMBER 2014

COFFEE MORNINGS

We are trying regular weekly coffee mornings in church. These are mainly social affairs, to sit in the sun (perhaps!), and enjoy a cuppa, to exchange your bedtime reading, to discuss progress or bemoan lack of it, or even to wield a duster or screwdriver. Saturday mornings, 11am to noon. Everybody is welcome.

ORGAN

The electronic organ, which was given fairly recently when the main organ was not working, is taking up valuable space, and is now not used. We have both the Archdeacon's and the Rector's permission to find it a new home.

HISTORY

Ann Marriott from Adamswood, and Mo Padfield from Harpley, are working on historical research. They have done a lot already - we heard some of Mo's findings at the Church Safari last year - and are aiming for displays in church, a leaflet or similar for visitors to carry round, and a small book or large booklet of Church and Community history which will be for sale.

WEBSITE

Do look at the website - www.whitbourne.org.uk and click on Upper Sapey. It is growing, thanks to John Bland, and will have various documents and notices on it.

GRAVEYARD PLANS

The plan showing graves and a list of inscriptions prepared in 1953 by Mary Batchelor, are now on the website. (At the moment, click on 'Parish of Greater Whitbourne', then on 'Useful Links' on the left. You will find the link to Upper Sapey Graveyard there - but John is going to re-organise this and it will eventually be on the Upper Sapey page.) Somebody was asking for it recently. Would anybody like to volunteer to bring it up to date?

LAY TEAMS

Plans are going ahead in the Greater Parish (Whitbourne, Edvin Loach, Tedstone Delamere and Upper Sapey, not forgetting Tedstone Wafre and Wolferlow, all under one Rector) to introduce a Lay Ministry Team. Many other parishes throughout the country now have one. Lay Teams add another dimension to life. They work with the Rector and are answerable to the PCC. Sometimes

they plan and run services, sometimes take on visiting duties, prepare for Baptism and Confirmation, look at holding special services and other parish events. What each member takes on depends on their own gifts and capabilities. Nominations should take place during October. Forms will be available in church. Anybody can nominate anybody else, with or without their knowledge. The Rector will draw up a short list and talk with short-listed nominees, who of course can always say 'No'. We hope that the resulting team will be in place before Christmas, but this might be hopelessly optimistic!

MONEY

We have almost (but not quite) got the banking arrangements in place for the Appeal. John Bland has agreed, most nobly, to be the Treasurer and we are now looking at the best way to deal with banking. In the meantime, please give any money either to John (at Redlands) or to Carol Wilde (at Springfield), who will agree on the best place to put it. We will be able to Gift Aid it, which increases its value by 25%. However, this has to come out of taxed income, so if you pay income (or capital gains) tax in any one year, you are entitled to gift aid donations to charity, including churches, up to the amount you have paid tax on. So keep an eye on your total donations. They do spot checks from time to time!

SONGS OF PRAISE

We are hoping to hold a Songs of Praise Service on a Sunday afternoon sometime before Christmas (this does depend on being able to find a willing organist), so start thinking now about your favourite hymn. Please pass nominations to the Rector or me.

DAC

Before we can do anything to the church, we have to have the 'in principle' agreement of the DAC. This, the Diocesan Advisory Committee, says whether we can or cannot do anything. In general they are on our side. Unfortunately they ran out of time at last week's meeting so we will have to wait for the next one (16th October) to hear whether we have it or not.

Best Wishes

Brenda Allan, Gaines Lodge, Worcester Road, Whitbourne.
Secretary, Greater Whitbourne P.C.C.