

# PROGRAMME OF EVENTS



## **In the fritillary field**

Walk around and enjoy the fritillaries  
Sale of souvenirs

## **In the church**

Displays  
Tour of the Bell Tower  
Handbell Ringing (1:30pm and 4pm)  
Classical Trio (4:45pm – 5:15pm)  
Short Service (5:30pm)

## **Beside the church**

Morris Dancers (2pm and 3:30pm)  
*Roly Bain the clown* (11:30am 2:30pm)

## **In the churchyard**

Displays and children's activity

## **In the village hall**

Ploughman's Lunches (from 11:30am)  
Cream Teas (from 2pm)  
Plant, Produce and Souvenir Sales  
Toilets

St. Bartholomew's Church, Ducklington, Oxfordshire  
Parish Priest Rev. Bob Edy 01993 776625  
[www.ducklingtonchurch.org.uk](http://www.ducklingtonchurch.org.uk)



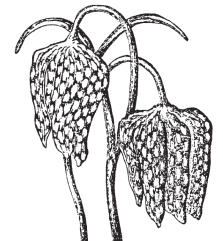
# **Fritillary Sunday**

at

**St. Bartholomew's Church,  
Ducklington**



**April 18th 2010**



Fritillary field, plant stall, souvenirs  
and ploughman's lunches from 11.30am  
Cakes and cream teas available from 2-5pm  
Activities in and around the church  
Service at 5.30pm

## **COMPLIMENTARY PROGRAMME**

IN AID OF CHURCH FUNDS  
[www.ducklingtonchurch.org.uk](http://www.ducklingtonchurch.org.uk)

## THE BACKGROUND TO FRITILLARY SUNDAY

The Peel family, who own the Fritillary field, formerly lived in Ducklington. They regularly invited people to come and see the flowers in bloom and although they have left the village, they allow and encourage Ducklington Church to continue the tradition on Fritillary Sunday each year. They are interested in conservation, and manage the field traditionally. In the 1980's, the Church, with a small but growing congregation, was faced with major expenses for repairs and conservation work, and began to use the occasion for fundraising. This gradually developed, so now there are ploughman's lunches, cream teas, sales of home made preserves and a large plant stall, including home grown fritillaries. Our handbell ringers perform in the church and the Ducklington Morris Dancers, outside. In recent years we have come to realise that the fragile beauty of the flowers in the field is a potent image of our beautiful and threatened planet. We have found ourselves wanting to share this understanding with our visitors. Christians believe that God cares for the whole creation, and that this gives us a duty of care for what He made.

The fritillaries also remind us that Jesus told us not to worry about our lives but to see "the lilies of the field", which display their beauty without effort or anxiety, as evidence of God's loving care.

## THE FRITILLARY MEADOW

Fritillaries enjoy growing in damp meadows and used to be commonly found in the Thames Valley; indeed, the flowers used to be picked and sold in Oxford. This was in the days before World War II when the meadows were grazed from August to February and then left to grow for a hay crop in July. This gave the fritillaries the chance to grow, flower and shed their fully ripened seeds. This cycle is denied them by modern farming practices. No artificial fertilisers were used which encouraged a great diversity of all meadow plants.



Ducklington is not the only place where fritillaries survive. The meadows at Magdalen College in Oxford and North Meadow National Reserve near Cricklade are better known and more densely flowered. But Ducklington is the only place

where visitors can walk among the flowers; it is this close contact which makes Fritillary Sunday so special for very many people. A leaflet with information on the Fritillary (*fritillaria meleagris*) is available at the field, as is a list of the 72 different plant species recorded when the field was surveyed some years ago.

## WHAT DO WE DO WITH YOUR MONEY?

The money you give us is paid into the church fabric fund and this is set aside for repair and conservation work to the church. St. Bartholomew's, like many churches, looks pretty strong and permanent, but this appearance can be misleading. Old buildings are all the time developing minor problems; roof tiles fall; there are leaks around old windows; exterior carved stone becomes weather damaged and needs replacing; walls need repointing. And there are the occasional major costs such as reroofing (every 50 years or so). These are determined every 5 years by a comprehensive architectural inspection.

The church building is not only for

the church congregation who love and enjoy it and care for it but also for the community who assume it will be there for baptisms, weddings, and funerals. And, as a beautiful structure first built more than 900 years ago it is part of our history and heritage. Fritillary Sunday gives the opportunity for everyone to see its beauty, enjoy its atmosphere and play a part in ensuring that it endures for centuries to come.

## NEW FOR 2010 ROLY BAIN

This year we welcome Roly Bain to Fritillary Sunday. Having trained as a vicar as a young man, Roly 'lived his dream' when he took a year out to go to Circus School to train as a clown. He has clowned all over the world and in 1994 was the Clowns' International Clown of the Year.

He will be bringing his circus skills to the 9.30am and 5.30pm services as well as putting on two 'shows' at 11.30am and 2.30pm. These shows will either be in church or in the churchyard, depending on weather. In between times, he will be around, offering people the chance to have a go at some circus skills.

His website is [www.rolybain.co.uk](http://www.rolybain.co.uk)

## FRIENDS OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

The Friends raise money specifically for the church fabric fund. Information and membership forms are available in the church.