

# Akeman Benefice Calendar

For the parishes of Chesterton, Middleton Stoney and Wendlebury, with a calendar of events across the benefice.

**The ABC has four parts – News and reports, Church, The Calendar itself, and advertisements. If you don't tell me it won't go in. We will take what we have on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. Please use e-mail where possible. I will not be able to post copies.**

**Toodle pip.**

**Stephen Pryor ([pryor@talktalk.net](mailto:pryor@talktalk.net)).**

## So far so good.

Well, well done everyone. The first edition of the ABC has had a generally very warm welcome. There have been some helpful suggestions. Some want a larger font for the reports and articles. Some want more of a 'directory' of who's who. Some think that information for the Calendar somehow comes out of thin air, not realising that it can only hold what people give me. I am keeping options open while we sort out printing and distribution. We have one more month of the lease of the Parish Magazine printer before we need to decide on a replacement.

## How about local distribution?

Many readers are on e-mail and some have said they would be willing to make copies for their neighbours. Would you be willing to give this a try for the March run of the April, May and June Calendars? If so could you let me know by e-mailing me with the following details?

Name..... e-mail address

I am willing to receive my ABC by e-mail.

I do/don't have Broadband. (delete as appropriate)

I am willing to run off [number] of extra copies for [addresses of a continuous number of houses, so that distributors can miss out a run of them].

I should like paper supplied.

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## NEWS and REPORTS

The 7 villages plus Young Families, gardening, open meetings, charitable community events etc. Please tell us of recent or forthcoming events which will be of interest to others in your village or nearby ones. Any individual or organisation is welcome to contribute. Try not to duplicate what people already know through their own organisations. We may have to shorten articles. Dates will also go in the Calendar section.

### Chesterton

NOTES FROM THE CHESTERTON PARISH COUNCIL FEBRUARY MEETING

The councilors & visitors discussed the progress on the woodland buffer zone, the allotments cycle track, the enlarged conservation area & the village hall extension.

The possible twinning with Seuille has been delayed due to local elections (rumours that it was due to the prime minister's possible wedding are unfounded).

Cherwell has given the green light to the business park but we do foresee many traffic issues as the housing gets built & 3000+ cars move to the area.

Alchester roads grassed areas are still being used

for parking (they were planted with daffs last year) & some villagers seem determined to ignore the rule of NO DOGS on the playing field.

Charles Shouler summarised Oxford CC's budget plans for 2008/9 and Frank Shouler discussed the playing field and surrounding area.

For further details speak to a councilor (see notice board for details) or, better still, come and JOIN IN the next meeting (see calendar) when you can meet our local policewoman and learn more about your village

## Young Families Service

### Young Families Crib Service

It really does seem so long ago now, but the Crib Service played to a packed church again at Christmas. We did 'Mary's Desert Island Discs' with an older Mary choosing the discs which reflected her life so far. Ben Stocker was the interviewer with Daniella Ashdown as the 'older Mary'. They both did a wonderful job with the right amount of sincerity and humour to boot. The young children acted out Mary's life in between the songs. They all played their parts beautifully but a mention has to go to the fiercest King Herod I have ever seen. He terrified us in rehearsals and blew us away on the night. Well done George Williams – I hope you don't act like that at home! Thank you to all the children and to everybody who helped make the evening such a success. Jason Williams and Colin Stocker deserve a special mention for all their efforts in putting the music together and playing in the band. Without these two it wouldn't be a 'rock n roll' crib service. Thank you.

#### Christingle Service

I can't say how thrilled I was when Hilary Walbank suggested to me that we combine the Christingle service with the January Young Families Service. What a brilliant idea – and what a success it was!

Lots and lots of young families turned out to hear about children who are less fortunate than theirs, to say prayers for them and to hear about the work of the

Children's Society which helps lots of young people all over the country.

Hilary told us all about the Christingle orange and I told a true story about a boy who ran away from home and how the Children's Society helped him to reunite with his family. I turned to Hilary to carry on with the next part of the service and found her sobbing and incapable of speech! She wasn't alone. My story had moved several people to tears. It nice to know we care enough to shed a tear. We can of course do more than that by donating to the Children's Society. Hilary and I then handed out the Christingle oranges with the candles lit in the top. I wish I had had a camera to capture the faces of children who had probably never held a candle before. It was magical. With all the lights out and the children carefully holding their candles we sang a beautiful hymn called 'Jesus loves the little children'.

Thank you Hilary – You and your Christingles will now be a permanent fixture in the January Young Families Service.

Next month is our Birthday! We will be 9 years old! Do come and join us on the first Sunday of the month - 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2008.

If you have any queries about the Young Families Service please do not hesitate to call me on 01869 247760.

Sue Ashdown

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## Gardening Notes for February

by Barbara Moore

Autumn fruiting raspberries are one of the easiest and most rewarding plants I grow on my allotment. The row of canes only needs to be cut down, fed and mulched each February to produce generous quantities of large, delicious fruits in steady succession from August to October. I grow 'Autumn Bliss' which is a popular traditional variety but there are newer ones such as 'Joan J' and 'Polka' that are said to be even better.

Raspberry canes are usually sold in bare rooted bundles of 5 or 10. Some garden centres stock them but Ken Muir is a specialist supplier with a far wider range of varieties that are available by mail order through their excellent catalogue or website\*.

They should be planted between November and March whenever the soil and weather conditions are suitable. Good, healthy canes can be expected to crop well for up to 12 years so if you intend to grow some it is worth preparing the site thoroughly.

Begin by digging a trench about 9" deep by 20" wide and incorporate a 3 to 4" layer of well rotted manure or compost with the soil in the base. Return the excavated soil to fill the trench and plant the canes shallowly about 2 to 3" deep and 15" apart along the row with their roots spread out horizontally. After planting reduce each cane to about 8" by making a sloping cut immediately above and parallel to a bud. Sprinkle a general fertilizer such as pelleted chicken manure or Growmore around the canes and apply a 2" thick layer of mulch along the row. It is not necessary to construct a post and wire support framework on either side of the row but where space is limited it is helpful for holding the canes upright to improve access for fruit picking. Once they are established raspberries produce vigorous new suckers that fill out the row and also grow beyond it. Unwanted ones can be removed during the summer but I usually leave them until February when I dig them up with some of the roots attached for re-planting any gaps in the row or giving away to friends.

\*Ken Muir Ltd. Tel 01255 830181 [www.kenmuir.co.uk](http://www.kenmuir.co.uk)

## A NAG nag

Hello! My name is Caroline Brown and I am your neighbourhood bobby (Neighbourhood Specialist Officer is the technical term). Many thanks for the warm welcome I have had walking round the villages. It is great to know that, as with so many of my colleagues, we police are really welcome in what is after all our home area too.

You all know of Neighbourhood Watch and the excellent work everyone does to help keep us safe from crime. You perhaps don't know quite as much about the example which the Thames Valley Police has set for the rest of the country in bringing together as many city- and county-wide organisations as possible. It is an important part of my job to set up a Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG for short) in Bicester very soon. Please help me!

NAGs will be made up of volunteers from within the community and will include residents, the police, local authority and other organisations such as schools and businesses. They are the key to the success of Neighbourhood policing and will organise tasks to be completed. We are in the process of completing survey questionnaires. Some of you may already have been approached and it is the concerns raised by these surveys that set the agenda for the NAG.

If you have not been approached yet and would like to complete a survey and have your views taken into account then please contact me. A NAG should be a representative of the different communities living or working within the community. The NAG will meet about every six weeks at different locations across the rural sector.

As a member of the NAG you will be able to influence decisions about your neighbourhood and public services. If you are interested in becoming a member, or would like me to come to a meeting of an organisation you belong to, then please contact me either by ringing 0845 8505505 and leaving a message for me or by E mailing me at [caroline.brown@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:caroline.brown@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk).

Many thanks, and looking forward to working with you.

Caroline Brown WPC 437  
Neighbourhood Specialist Officer  
Bicester Rural.

## Wendlebury W.I.

For our first meeting of the year we had a talk from Chrissie Harper about Owls. Chrissie's Owls is a setup in Stonesfield where a small group of people are committed to the care and conservation of owls. Chrissie brought along 3 owls including a Little Owl which sat on her hand and was very endearing! We learnt about the handling of owls, the training and care of captive owls, and the conservation of owls in the wild. It was a fascinating evening enjoyed by all.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February and the subject is **Chocolate** ! which is bound to be a crowd puller. We hope to see many members, and visitors are very welcome. 7.30pm at Wendlebury Village Hall.

## small ADS

*Depending on space we will carry a limited number of personal text adverts, with a small charge (probably £5 per ad per month) unless they are for the good of the community.*

### **3 (well 45 actually) chairs**

Free to a good home – 45 chairs no longer required from our Village Hall (Middleton Stoney). They are blue metal square frames, with canvas back and padded seat. Please contact Debbie on 343733.

### **Muriel Pocock's Art Classes (Wendlebury)**

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings 10-12 o'clock. Why don't you come along and practice your skills. You would enjoy it. I can teach you so do not worry. Fee: £45 for 10 weeks. Ring me on 01869 252790.



We are based at Chesterton Village Hall and have been established since 1977. We cater for children between the ages of 2½ and 5 years old. We have an excellent supervisor - Sylvia Kelly, and two playgroup assistants, and our education programme is based on learning through play, so we have lots of fun!

We are open term-time Mon – Fri 9.00 - 11.45 (Thursdays are for older children to prepare them for school).

If you would like to know more please visit our website [www.chestertonplaygroup.org.uk](http://www.chestertonplaygroup.org.uk) or call Sylvia Kelly on 07751 478361. Alternatively, feel free to pop in anytime for a visit.

### **Labrador puppies**

LABRADOR PUPPIES for sale. Top quality show pedigree. Home bred and well socialised. Lovely gentle temperament and nice stocky build. Black and yellow. Tel: 01869.253080 or 077.914.87.715


### **Various**

Wanted - Person with small tractor to plough double-sized allotment in Middleton Stoney. Please contact Anne on 01869 343102 if you can help.

For Sale - IKEA computer desk with pull-out keyboard shelf, colour - birch, £10 ono. Also kneeling-style office chair £10 ono. Please ring Anne on 01869 343102.

**The Chesterton Panto Troupe**  
Proudly Presents

# Babes in the Wood



Chesterton School Hall  
Friday 29<sup>th</sup> February @ 7.30pm and  
Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March @ 2.30pm and 7.30pm

**Tickets: £6 Adults £4 Children & Concessions**  
(no unaccompanied children under 12 please)

Tickets and further information from  
**Chris Craig 01869 252314 or from the School**

All proceeds to the Chesterton School Association

# Church

## Rector's Letter

Dear Friends,

**“Without a shadow of a doubt.”**

The church's calendar between Christmas and Easter has a distinct pattern. Firstly, there is the forty days celebrating the birth of Christ – that is the period from Christmas Day to Candlemas, on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Then, after a short interval, there comes the forty days of Lent, from Ash Wednesday to Palm Sunday. Finally, there comes Holy Week with Good Friday and Easter Day. We can think of these times in terms of light and darkness.

The first forty days tell of the coming of the light. Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist, foresees the day that will “dawn upon us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness”. The second forty days focus on Jesus the light, driving back the darkness. Jesus takes on the darkness born of illness, mental and physical, [Legion; the leper]. He takes on the helplessness, loneliness, and grief that illness brings, [the paralysed man; the deaf and dumb; Jairus]. He takes on blindness, physical and spiritual, [ Bartimaeus; the

Pharisees]. He tackles the darkness bred by fear and guilt, [the stilling of the storm; Zacchaeus]. He even takes on the darkness of death itself, [Lazarus]. The conflict with darkness reaches its climax in the days of Holy Week. From Palm Sunday to Maundy Thursday the tide turns against Jesus. On Good Friday the tide seems to overwhelm Him. At His death, it looks as if the light has been extinguished. On Easter Day, Jesus rises. The light had proved inextinguishable.

This period between Christmas and Easter chronicles the battle between light and darkness. It is a battle that still goes on, Christians live in the hope that “The light shines on in the darkness, and the darkness will never overcome it”. Without a shadow of a doubt, Jesus broke through darkness to light, from death to life. Walk with Christ through Lent, experience the shadows, and know His light.

With prayers and good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Derek [Walker]

### Services in the Akeman Benefice February 2008

### *Welcome*

<b><u>February 3<sup>rd</sup> Candlemas</u></b>				<b><u>February 17<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> of Lent</u></b>			
Bletchington	8.00	Holy Communion	Derek Walker	Kirtlington	8.00	Holy Communion	Derek Walker
		Weston to join with Bletchington		Bletchington	9.15	Holy Communion	Mike Stokes
Wendlebury	9.15	Holy Communion	Derek Walker	Middleton Stony	9.15	Holy Communion	Toddy Hoare
		Middleton Stony to join with Wendlebury				Wendlebury to join with Middleton Stony	
Chesterton	11.00	Young Families	Sue Ashdown	Chesterton	11.00	Holy Communion+Baptism	Geoff Crago
Kirtlington	11.0	Family Service		Weston on the Green	11.00	All Age worship	Mike Nunn
				Kirtlington	18.00	Evening Prayer	Grant Lee
<b><u>February 6<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday</u></b>				<b><u>February 24<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> of Lent</u></b>			
Bletchington	19.30	Holy Communion		Wendlebury	10.00	United Benefice	Derek Walker
Middleton Stony	4.15	Buggy service (every first Wednesday)				Holy Communion	
<b><u>February 10<sup>th</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> of Lent</u></b>							
Chesterton	8.00	Holy Communion	Derek Walker				
Middleton Stony	9.15	Holy Communion	Derek Walker				
Kirtlington	9.15	Holy Communion	Mike Stokes				
Bletchington	11.00	All Age Worship	Paul Clifford				
Chesterton	11.00	Chesterton Praise	Mike Nunn				
Weston on the Green	11.00	Holy Communion	Derek Walker				

<b>RC Church of the Immaculate Conception,</b> The Causeway, Bicester. Rev Paul Martin, 253277				<b>Bicester Methodist Church,</b> Sheep Street, Bicester. Minister: Revd. Nick Young 253547. <a href="http://www.bicestermethodist.org.uk">www.bicestermethodist.org.uk</a>			
Weekend Masses: Saturday 6pm . Sunday 9am & 11am				<b>1st Sunday</b> of each month: <b>10.30am-11.30am Connect</b> - informal family worship in the main hall with refreshments. <b>Sunday Services:</b> <b>10.45am</b> Morning Service (with Crèche). <b>6.15pm</b> Evening Service			
Bletchington	PCC	Kathy Gedling	350491	M Stony	PCC	Mrs Jen Hudson	343225
	PC	C E Lane	350257		PC Chair	Andrew Fulljames	343273
Chesterton	PCC	Geoffrey Strivens	253185	Wendlebury	PCC	Mrs Beryl Orme	249304
	PC Chair	Colin Board	252904		PC Chair	Anna McDonagh	244898
Hampton Gay	PCC	Ann Reeve	01865 373832	Weston-o-Green	PCC	Julia White	350723
	PC				PC Chair	Peter Hicks	351231
Kirtlington	PCC	Brian Waterhouse	350875	Rector The Reverend Derek Walker, The Rectory, Alchester Road, Chesterton, OX26 1UW. 369815			
	PC		350301				

## AKEMAN BENEFICE CALENDAR

This calendar will be shared across the Benefice. Where organisations have their own network those events which are likely to be of wider interest will take priority. Ditto only events where a date is fixed. Dates can be Calendared as far ahead as space allows. Please give a contact where needed. Send to [pryor@talktalk.net](mailto:pryor@talktalk.net).

DATE	Chesterton	Bletchington	Kirtlington	Middleton Stoney	Wendlebury	Weston-on-the-Green
4 February		8 pm Village News AGM <sup>1</sup>				
4 February					Evergreens AGM <sup>2</sup>	
5 February	7.30 PC meeting <sup>3</sup>					
					WI meeting – 'Chocolate' <sup>4</sup>	
19 February					Gardening Club <sup>5</sup>	
29 February	Chesterton Panto – see small ADs					
1 March	Chesterton Panto – see small ADs					
15 March				Quiz Night <sup>6</sup>		
22 March					Oxfordshire Theatre Company. <sup>7</sup>	
8 May					Hearing Dogs for the Deaf <sup>8</sup>	

**Don't forget – this space is for YOUR events, however far ahead.**

**Meantime, to get an idea of what regular Village Hall events are open to all in just one village, have a look at the 11 on the excellent Wendlebury website at <http://www.wendlebury.org.uk/event.html>.**

**These cater for all ages and a wide range of interests.**

<sup>1</sup> In the Village Hall Annexe. All welcome. Village organisations especially welcome as we need to discuss the funding of the Village News.

<sup>2</sup> The Chesterton New Evergreens meets at 2.0 for 2,30 in Wendlebury Village Hall. New members always welcome. The AGM looks at the 2008 programme.

<sup>3</sup> 7.30 PC Meeting with visit from our local policewoman (see NAG nag).

<sup>4</sup> See article under News and Reports.

<sup>5</sup> 7.15 for 7.45. This time there is a talk on 'Hydroponics' – to you and me growing plants in water, sand etc without nutrients – (on which Wendlebury should be expert after this weather!). New members are always welcome to this flourishing club. Elaine on 252713.

<sup>6</sup> 7.30 in the Village Hall. Details to follow.

<sup>7</sup> 'Ain't Misbehavin' at the Village Hall: a professional and vibrant evening guaranteed with a live jazz trio and five fabulous vocalists. Jack on 253646.

<sup>8</sup> An Evergreens outing to the High Wycombe centre