

January 2009

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. We will take what we have on the 15th of each month. Please use e-mail where possible. I will not be able to post copies. Please note that the Calendar is much under-used, and yet I get many complaints that people don't know what is going on next door. If you don't tell me, it won't go in. Please think wider than your own village.

Three cheers for our advertisers. Thanks to them we have enough money for a second year of publication. Given the uncertain business outlook that is a real token of investment in the community, so do support them in return. And many thanks for the kind messages to the 30 or so people who contribute to, assemble and distribute the ABC. Wishing all a happy and prosperous 2009.

I am slowly increasing the list of those who would prefer to get their copy by e-mail. It is tricky because I then have to change the distribution list of each deliverer each time. If you give me your e-mail address I will change the lists quarterly – from March onwards.

Toodle pip.

Stephen Pryor
(pryor@talktalk.net)

NEWS AND REPORTS

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

December Chesterton Parish Council Meeting Notes

Our local Police Officer presented a report on the problems this year especially speeding through Chesterton & Little Chesterton and agreed to carry out spot checks again next year.¹

Vic Keeble from Banks Furlong has been appointed Parish Clerk and Philip Hood has been appointed Internal Auditor. The precept (budget) for 2009/10 was agreed at £14000, the same as the current year.

Planning. Cherwell are continuing to put together the plans for the next 17 years but in the meantime all actual development is on hold.

Allotments. No issues and two vacant plots.

Playing Field. No issues and the pavilion now has a new roof for which the PC made a contribution.

New Residents. The PC has a "Welcome Pack" for all newcomers. **If you have a new neighbour please let us know.** (Email colin.board@btinternet.com)

NEXT MEETING January 6th 2009 7.30pm

HAPPY XMAS FROM YOUR PARISH COUNCIL



"and I suppose you'll be working again this Christmas?"

¹ One of those caught reports that the police told him that most of the speeding offenders were Chesterton residents.

CHESTERTON VILLAGE HALL APPEAL

This year we have raised £ 2,887 from our fund raising efforts which will continue into 2009. The last event – a Pampered Chef Party ably organised by Helen Hayes & Elaine Smith – has raised nearly £ 200 – and we would like to thank all those who supported the event. Our next event is going to be a unique occasion – on Friday January 23rd there is a ‘Special Dinner’ at Bruern Abbey School especially organised by the staff and boys of the School for village residents. All tickets have now been sold. We are really indebted to the Principal – Dr Sterling Stover – for his generosity in generating this event in aid of the ‘Village Hall Appeal’.

The Village Hall Trustees (Colin Board, Chris Muddiman & Philip Clarke) will be submitting grant applications by March and we are appreciative of the work done by our architect – Andrew Banks of Chesterton Barns – on our behalf.

The ‘Friends of Chesterton Village Hall’ (FCVH) are planning more events in 2009 – if you have a bright idea then do contact Colin, Erika, Elaine or myself – we will be really pleased to hear from you. 2008 saw a Table Top Sale, A BBQ & Treasure Hunt, an Aunt Sally Competition at the ‘Red Cow’, A Wine & Cheese party with an Auction of Promises and finally the Pampered Chef Party.

Philip Clarke

Young Families CHRISTMAS Service

We had a record attendance at our Christmas service last Sunday. Ninety people turned up to join in the festivities of Christmas with us. However, we started off with a moment I had been dreading, the sponsored slim and my weigh in! I took off everything I decently could and stepped on the scales. Georgia Walton announced my weight, 10st 13lb and the fact that I had lost a total of 12lbs. Thank you to everyone who sponsored me, please can I have the money now!

We started the Christmas service with the lighting of the 2nd candle in advent, by George Williams. George was one of three who celebrated their birthdays this month, Piers Walton and Katey Hobbs being the other two. Happy Birthday to all three of you. We sang ‘Oh come of ye faithful’ and then instead of reading a prayer, everyone wrote a Christmas prayer on a yellow cardboard star.

Once all the stars were written we hung them on a Christmas tree and covered them in snow. Yes, snow. I performed a little Christmas miracle (well science trick actually) a small handful of white powder, a little splash of water and hey presto...snow! A complete newcomer called Georgia was brave enough to come to the front and hold out her hand. As her previously empty hand overflowed with snow the entire population of children rushed to the front and lined up behind her. Each with their own handful of snow they covered the tree. I have to say it looked very pretty. If you have the time, pop into church and say a Christmas prayer yourself - it costs nothing. While you're there read some of the prayers on our tree, some of them are priceless!

We had the story of the first Christmas and then, as always, the children dressed the crib while our newly formed choir sang carols. A thank you at this point must go to Karen Bamford, who has restored some of our crib figures beautifully.

Good King Wenceslas boomed out through the church, obviously its not just Giles who loves this carol. Therefore I expect everyone was delighted that he put in all five verses, helping to contribute to one of our longest services ever! We finished off as usual with the Lords Prayer and then to everyone's surprise we heard the tinkling of bells.... Could it be? Yes it was! FATHER CHRISTMAS! My warmest thanks to FC who every year seems to put more effort into being a very loveable, very large, man in red. As Michael Chapman so aptly put it when he received his present ...cheers mate!

Have a lovely Christmas everyone.

SPECIAL NOTICE

Our annual Rock ‘n’ Roll Crib Service is on Christmas Eve @ 4pm St. Mary’s Church – Chesterton.

See you there!

Request

Help! The church needs more cleaners. See if you can find a friend or two to do it with and let me know. It's only once every 6 weeks and it can be fun – honest! Three of us did it last week – one brought mulled wine in a flask, one brought mince pies, one brought a CD player and ABBA! We had a ball! Go on pick up the phone – you know you want to.....We have a lovely church – help us keep it that way.

Sue Ashdown.

Young Families Christingle Service



Please join us for our service at Chesterton church on 4th January at 11a.m.
Help needed at 12 o'clock (about half an hour) in Chesterton church on Saturday 3rd to make the Christingles!!

Young Church Workshop

Bible based fun and games - anyone primary school age very welcome. We meet in Chesterton School Hall on the 3rd Sunday of the month 10.30 - 12.0.
From the New Year, in Chesterton, the Praise service will be on the 3rd Sunday and the Children's Workshop on the 2nd Sunday of the month. I look forward it!

Ring Hilary on 242109 for more info.

AN EVENING WITH MERVYN STUTTER

We had a fantastic evening on Saturday, November 22, in the school hall in Chesterton with Mervyn Stutter. Approximately 85 people attended and we raised over £450 to benefit the Village.

Our next event will be the Cotton Grass Theatre performing a couple of Alan Bennett's Talking Heads on Saturday, March 7, 2009. Make a note in your diary. Further details will be in the ABC nearer the time.

We would like to wish all our supporters a Happy New Year.

Candy, Erika and Catie
CHESTERTON EVENTS COMMITTEE



We cater for children between the ages of 2 1/2 and 5 years old.
If you would like to know more please visit our website www.chestertonplaygroup.org.uk or call Sylvia Kelly on 07751 478361.



Mother & Toddler Group for 0-5yr olds
Every Friday during term time 1.30-3.30pm
Chesterton Village Hall, £1.50 per family
For more information call Mary Stephenson 240088

Middleton Stoney

MIDDLETON STONEY BELLRINGING NEWS FROM 2008

During the year we were hosts to North Lincolnshire Guild ringers which Simon Cole brought down to this area. Also a team of ringers from Kineton Warwickshire rang a quarter peal.

We rang for one wedding at Middleton Stoney and for two weddings at Chesterton. We were pleased to provide ringers to help complete teams to ring for ten weddings at Launton, three at Lower Heyford, two at Fritwell, two at Bicester and one at Kirtlington. We also rang for two Memorial Services at Launton.

On Sunday 9th November the bells were rung half-muffled prior to the Remembrance Service at Middleton Stoney. In the evening, Rosemary Henson and I helped to complete a team to ring a half-muffled quarter peal prior to the Royal British Legion Remembrance Service at Launton.

We ring prior to most Sunday Services and practise on Wednesday evenings 7.30 to 9 p.m. We urgently need new ringers. If you would like to learn to ring please come and join us, or 'phone me on 01869 343312.

Many thanks to all the ringers in our team for their help and support during the past year.

Geoff James, Tower Captain.

THE MAINTENANCE FUND

WINNERS OF THE CHURCH MAINTENANCE FUND DRAW FOR 2008

January	Ged Barwell	Athis Vadivale
February	Malcolm Taylor	J.P. Hudson
March	Pat Stokes	Mrs. Frewer
April	Paul Senior	Isabel Hunt
May	Alice Goozee	Becky Davenport
June	Julie Mc. Bain	Ian Davenport
July	Brenda Bremner	Margaret Miles
August	Becky Davenport	Anneliese Rookwood
September	Linda Honey	Mrs. Nelson
October	Margaret Miles	Jill Prue
November	Tom Abernethy	Paul Allmond
December	Mrs. Dockrey	Caro Mc.Farlan

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL DRAW

Malcolm Taylor, Ann Taylor, Ken Hardy, Mr. & Mrs. Francis, Lester Smart & Henrietta Temple, Derek Ancil, Amanda Gee, Henry & Arabella Coldstream, Rhona Hickman, Dennis Norman, Fiona Turney.

All the above, including the regular draw, have won £25 each, (or each couple where linked by an '&'). These next two have won £50 - Mrs. J. Stevens. and £100 - Mr. David Nelson..

Buggy Business

We have a regular Children's service known as the Buggy Service, on the first Tuesday of each month in Middleton Stoney Church at 4.20 pm. The exceptions to this regularity are in December and January when it is too dark (and also rather cold) at 4.20. The service is aimed at children under about 7, but elder brother and sisters who sometimes keep on with us. We have a bible story – acted by anyone who wants to join in – and a song about it. We also have our 'Buggy Song' which is regular. We say prayers, read by those who can and would like to. The whole thing takes about 20 minutes after which we have drinks and biscuits. In January we have a Christingle Service on 11th in the morning.

Jen Hudson 343225

Village Hall person required

to take bookings and to look after keys for Village Hall. Preferably someone who is at home during daytime. Also looking for people to join the Village Hall Committee. Please contact Debbie on 343733.

Wendlebury

W.I.

Our Christmas Party was held in the village hall on Tuesday 9th December and 27 members and friends sat down together. The party was hosted by the Committee and the theme was clashing colours. There was a wonderful array of clashing items of clothing and footwear and in the same spirit the Committee cooked sweet and sour chicken for our meal! We played silly games and had a very enjoyable evening.

Our next meeting, and the first of the new year is on Tuesday 13th January when Adrian Williams is coming to talk about "Statues & Monuments of London". We start at 7.30pm and as always we welcome guests and potential new members.

Elsbeth Shirtcliff

Wendlebury website

Hi everyone,

Today we have launched the new look Wendlebury web site, still at the same address so your favourites link will continue to work.

The main reasons for the change are:

- To allow more space for any organisation to publish material.
- Make it easier for visitors to the site to find information.
- Make it easier to maintain.

Please give us feedback by emailing admin@wendlebury.org.uk

Also please be patient as we will be making further changes over the coming weeks.

If you are a committee member on one of the clubs or societies and want to see your section of the site expanded and updated then please email or contact Mike Pearce on 243967.

Wendlebury Village Hall

is still looking for someone to handle the bookings. It will suit anyone who is home a lot and apart from actually taking the booking dates, there is not that much to do. Contact Kerry Wilce on 245738.

small Ads

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

Wanted Diesel engined Transit Van/Minibus, MOT failure or accident damaged. Required to convert Village Community Minibus from petrol to diesel. Call Dave Jones on 242514 or email djwendlebury@yahoo.co.uk.

From our gardening correspondent

by David Jones

Greenhouse woes

At this time of the year the greenhouse is the most comfortable place to garden, but can also be the most frustrating. Yes, you are out of the wind and the rain and in - marginally – fresh air. But then there are the questions of management. Do you have a warm, cool or cold greenhouse? Do you water and, if so, how often. How and when should the greenhouse be cleaned?

Cleaning

For people who use the cold greenhouse for sowing seeds in late winter and early spring and, later, for tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers and cut flowers, cleaning is an easy (!) activity. At some time in winter the greenhouse is empty and a good wash down with Jeyes fluid (diluted to taste) will mean that the build up of insects, mites, fungi, algae and slugs the following summer will be delayed or, with luck, prevented.

A cool greenhouse, which is used primarily in winter for holding tender plants that spend the rest of the year outside, can often be treated in the same way as the cold greenhouse. The timing of the cleaning is more critical because there may still be the remnants of the

summer crops that you want to keep. Hauling out grow bags before the end of cropping is unproductive.

The warm greenhouse is a totally different situation, particularly when there are plants rooted into the soil and not in pots. Cleaning such a greenhouse had always been a problem until it was solved several decades ago. Unfortunately the problems have reappeared because of the current Health and Safety laws/regulations and we have to revert to the very tedious ‘traditional’ methods that require the removal of all the plants first.

There was a time when you could use ‘smokes’. These were conical shaped cardboard containers filled with insecticides or fungicides and fitted with blue touch paper. They worked like fireworks. They were so useful, because after closing down the greenhouse on a still evening, a match was put to the touch paper of the ‘volcano’ on the floor and you beat a hasty retreat, closing all the doors. The following morning it was safe to enter the greenhouse again. For amateurs, this was by far the best way for treating the glasshouse because the plants could be left in place. No more, the little volcanoes have been banned.

Church

Rector’s note

Firstly, a very Happy New Year. There will be all sorts of new things around at this time, including a new pattern of services. Please notice that there is a Holy Communion at 8.00, 9.15 and 11.00 in one of the churches in the benefice, and two All Age Services. It is good to use the skills of the ministry team in this way, so please help make this work and we serve and worship together.

Good wishes and prayers,
Derek Walker

Akeman Benefice Service Pattern weeks 1-4 from January 2009

Week	Bletchington	Chesterton	Kirtlington	Middleton	Wendlebury	Weston
1	11.00 HC	8.00 HC 11.00 Young Families	11.00 All Age	11.00 All Age	HC 9.15	
2	8.00 HC 11.00 All Age	11.00 HC	9.15 HC			11.00 All Age
3		11.00 All Age	8.00 HC 18.00 E Pr	9.15 HC	11.00 All Age	11.00 HC
4	UNITED SERVICE	at	one	of	the	parishes

Services in the Akeman Benefice January 2009 Welcome

January 4th

Christmas 2

Chesterton	8.00	Holy Communion	Derek Walker
Wendlebury	9.15	Holy Communion	Derek Walker
Bletchington	11.00	Holy Communion	Derek Walker
Chesterton	11.00	Young Families	Sue Ashdown
Middleton Stoney	11.00	All Age Worship	Mike Nunn
Kirtlington	11.00	All Age Worship	Jane Hemmings

January 11th

The Baptism of Christ

Bletchington	8.00	Holy Communion	Derek Walker
Kirtlington	9.15	Holy Communion	Jane Hemmings
Chesterton	11.00	Holy Communion	Derek Walker
Bletchington	11.00	All Age Worship	Paul Clifford
Weston o/t Green	11.00	All Age Worship	Jane Hemmings
Middleton Stoney		Buggy Service	See under Middleton Stoney

January 18th

Epiphany 2

Kirtlington	8.00	Holy Communion	Derek Walker
Middleton Stoney	9.15	Holy Communion	Derek Walker
Weston of Green	11.00	Holy Communion	Jane Hemmings
Chesterton	11.00	All Age Worship	Mike Nunn
Wendlebury	11.00	All Age Worship	Paul Clifford

January 25th

Epiphany 3

Bletchington	10.00	United Benefice Holy Communion	Jane Hemmings
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RC Church of the Immaculate Conception,
The Causeway, Bicester. Rev Paul Martin, 253277

Weekend Masses: Saturday 6pm .
Sunday 9am & 11am

Bicester Methodist Church, Sheep Street, Bicester.
Minister: Revd. Paul Howse 240932 www.bicestermethodist.org.uk

1st Sunday of each month: **10.30am-11.30am Connect** –
informal family worship in the main hall with refreshments.

Sunday Services:

10.45am Morning Service (with Crèche).

6.15pm Evening Service. 7.30 '9 Absolute' (year 11+).

AKEMAN BENEFICE CALENDAR

DATE	Chesterton
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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.

7 March	Alan Bennett ²

Bletchington	PCC	Kathy Gedling	350491
	PC	C E Lane	350257
Chesterton	PCC	Geoffrey Strivens	253185
	PC	Colin Board	252904
Hampton Gay	PCC	Ann Reeve	01865 373832
	PC		350301
Kirtlington	PCC	Brian Waterhouse	350875
	PC		
M Stoney	PCC	Mrs Jen Hudson	343225
	PC Ch	Andrew Fulljames	343237
Wendlebury	PCC	Mrs Beryl Orme	249304
	PC Ch	Anna McDonagh	244898
Weston-o-Green	PCC	Julia White	350723
	PC Ch	Peter Hicks	351231

Rector The Reverend Derek Walker, The Rectory,
Alchester Road, Chesterton, OX26 1UW. 369815
Associate Priest. The Reverend Jane Hemmings 350224 .e-mail
dauphin.jg@btinternet.com.

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² Chesterton Events Committee – in the Village Hall/ The Cotton Grass Theatre performing a couple of Alan Bennett's Talking Heads. More detail in the February ABC.

PASSING THOUGHTS

One day I shall the bucket kick,
I don't know when or how,
It may be when I'm old and sick,
Or any minute now.

Then if to heaven my soul should soar,
Let it be understood
It won't be through my efforts, or
Because I have been good.

And not because to church I went,
Reciting prayers galore,
And not for all the hours I spent
Collecting for the poor.

And not as a reward I've won
For all my lusty labour,
And not because I've always done
My duty to my neighbour.

It won't be through the friends I've known
Who thought that I was nice,
Or through the wisdom that I've shown
In giving good advice.

My hope to reach that heavenly place
Is not through good behaviour,
But faith in the amazing grace
Of Jesus Christ my Saviour.

Lynette Nicholson