

# Akeman Benefice Calendar

For the parishes of Chesterton, Middleton Stoney and Wendlebury, with a calendar of events across the benefice. Thanks to the support of advertisers and an army of volunteers a free copy goes into every house in the three villages, and by e-mail to many others.

The ABC has four parts – News and reports, Church, the calendar of events across the benefice and advertisements. 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. If you don't tell me, it won't go in. Please think wider than your own village.

*I don't know why I never see baby pigeons, any more than I know why motorcycles only get punctures in the back tyre. But I do know something very special about sweet peas – thanks to David's Gardening Notes this month. Where else could you expect to brush with Carl Linnaeus, the cardboard centres of loo rolls (I know another use for those too – connected with grave stones – any guesses?), the marvellous delicate family of vetches, and the harmless use of genetic engineering? Of course you would get that and more if you were to eavesdrop on the Evergreens in the back of the Wendlebury Minibus – and no doubt your education would be broadened in more senses than one – but the Gardening Notes maintain a wholly wholesome scale of interests for which may the Lord make us truly grateful.*

Toodle pip.



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

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## 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

### **Parish Council Meetings April**

We had both the usual PC meeting and the Annual Parish Meeting this month. The PCM was a short one. The APM gives residents a summary of what has happened over the past year and we heard about Oxford CC, Cherwell, The Primary School, The Village Hall, The Rainbows & Brownies, The Playing Field (Football & Cricket), The Church, The Evergreens & The ABC Newsletter.

### **New Residents**

We like to give all new Chesterton residents a Welcome Pack ( Who does what in the village, useful phone numbers and a Village History booklet) If you get a new neighbour please let us know.

Colin Board

### **Proposed Chesterton Community Plan**

A small number of residents took part in the initial meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> April to explore whether the village is interested in developing a Community Plan. THANK YOU to everyone for your valuable comments. Community Plans give us the opportunity to work together to improve village life, tackling issues which are identified as most important by local people.

People were asked what they liked and disliked about the village. Likes included the rural location; beautiful gardens and excellent playing field. Dislikes included speed and volume of traffic through the village; dog fouling and the impact on village life as Bicester continues to expand. The people present agreed they would like to begin a Community Plan. The next step is to gain more interest and support from a wider cross-section of the community. If you were unable to attend the recent meeting, look out for other opportunities to HAVE YOUR SAY in the near future.

If you would like to comment on the Community Plan or be part of the Steering Committee, please contact Candy Pheasey (241019), Helen Hayes (246335) or Jackie Meek (357071) or email [Jackie@team-meek.com](mailto:Jackie@team-meek.com)

## **Young Families Service and Workshop**

We had a beautiful day and a good crowd for our Easter Service last Sunday. Easter bonnets and hats abound. Well done to all of you who donned them. Including Colin Board and Giles. Colin had parrots on his head (don't ask) and Giles had eggs hanging in some sort of Australian arrangement!

We sang Lord of the Dance, Ride on ride on, and Jesus Christ has risen today, all played of course by Katherine Miles. We tackled the difficult story of Easter slightly differently this year with a 'walkabout' (there's the Australian theme again!) We started off at the pulpit and rode on a donkey to Jerusalem, we stopped and enjoyed the 'last supper' and allowed that little sneak Judas to slip out unnoticed. Then we ventured on to the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus was arrested there and taken to Pilate (round the back of the church) He sentenced him to death after the crowd (who participated very well) shouted kill Him kill Him. Poor Jesus, AKA Sam Gauld, carried a heavy cross with a crown of thorns on his head to the place of his crucifixion. Questions were asked from other young members of the congregation like 'are we going to whip him' and 'shall we use rope or real nails on the cross?' Having dealt swiftly with these questions we proceeded 'outside' the city wall (church wall) and crucified poor Jesus. The sky went black and Jesus died. We trailed sadly back into church as we were asked 'shall we leave him out here?' 'No! He's coming with us to be resurrected!'

Inside we finished the story with Charlotte Hayes as an angel taking Jesus up to Heaven to sit at the right hand of his Father. A happy ending indeed.

We rounded the service off with our traditional Easter Egg Hunt. Many thanks as always to our 'Easter Bunnies' Erika and Colin. Always supportive; always appreciated. Thank you.

Hope you all have a lovely Easter.

Sue Ashdown

## **YOUNG FAMILIES EASTER MONDAY RUGBY GAME**

This was Philippa's idea, and what a great one it turned out to be! For no particular reason except for a bit of fun, she invited anybody who wanted to play to come along on Easter Monday for a friendly game of rugby on the playing fields. Over 20 turned up dressed for action along with family and friends to support us. Arthur Miller did an excellent job as referee and then played in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half as Joel took over, while Colin Stocker held things together as linesman. Amanda Smith supplied us with 'half time oranges' and Daniella developed a new tactic in the game by screaming at people instead of tackling them. It was quite effective! Little Oliver Shotton was probably the youngest on the pitch. He seems to thoroughly enjoy himself even though he was bowled over a couple of times. At the end of the game we made sure he got the ball and we all encouraged him to run, run, run. So, he put the ball down and ran! Just a little bit of work to do there Oliver. Giles and his friend Jon were probably the oldest on the pitch and at times in severe danger of having heart attacks. The words 'take it steady' seemingly fell on deaf ears. Debs Chapman and I were the only 'mums' on the pitch. We did our bit and saw a bit of action, however I drew the line at tackling several stones of thundering competitive male with nifty little side steps; there are limits you know! I think the gloriously sunny afternoon was enjoyed by everyone and thankfully with no serious injuries. Thanks to everybody who turned up. It was really good fun. **Sue and Philippa**

## **Middleton Stoney**

### **Annual Parish Meeting**

All parishioners are invited to attend the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING which will be held in the Village Hall on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May At 7.00pm.

The agenda will include reports from all those who contribute to our village and this will be your opportunity to listen and also have the opportunity to contribute if you wish.

### **The Maintenance Fund**

The winners of the two £25 prizes for April were Mrs Anneliese Rookwood and Mr. & Mrs. Jefferis.

### **MIDDLETON STONEY CRICKET CLUB**

Your support is always welcomed on a Sunday (see fixture list below) as there is no better place to watch the game than in the Park. Please use the Bullmarsh Close entrance which is the third turning from the traffic lights on the Enstone road.

## Fixtures - 2009 Season

All fixtures commence at 2.30pm unless otherwise stated

Date	Opposition	Venue/Time	Date	Opposition	Venue/Time
May 3	Upton House	Home	July 12	The Nigel Cassidy	Home - 2pm
10	Entertainers	Home	19	Warwickshire Pilgr	Home
17	Rainmen	Home	26	Ickenham	Home
24	Old Leightonians	Home	August 2	Britwell Salome	Home
31	Glos. Gypsies	Home	9	Pelicans	Away
June 7	The Min C.C.	Home	16	Jesters	Home
Thurs. 11	R.T. Harris's X1	Home - 6.15pm	23	Nomads	Home - 1.30pm
14	Cryptics	Home - 11.30am	30	Invalids	Home - 1.30pm
Fri. 19	S.O.A.	Home	Sept. 6	Turville Park	Home - 1.00pm
21	Oxford Downs	Away	13	Sheepscombe	Away - 1.00pm
28	Blue Lion	Home	20	The Law Society	Home - 1.00pm

## Wendlebury

### WENDLEBURY WI

For our April meeting we had a very interesting talk about Samuel Pepys, who is best remembered for his diary. Pepys lived from 1633 to 1703, the seventh son of a poor tailor, who survived both the Plague of 1665 (there were several other outbreaks of the plague in his lifetime but that was the worst) and the Great Fire of London 1666. He was a very enterprising and sociable character who was also well known for being unfaithful to his wife. In fact, his diary was partly written in code (part shorthand, part Latin, part French, part Spanish) to prevent his wife finding out what he had been up to! Pepys was imprisoned in the Tower of London four times but each time he managed to talk his way out, and each time while in prison he wrote another diary.

Pepys' diary is highly regarded as a window into the culture of the time. He included details of every day life, such as the habit of collecting the two parts of the body of a person who had been beheaded and sewing them together so that the family could have a portrait painted of the one they had lost (with a scarf to cover the join round the neck)!

Our May meeting will be held in the Village Hall on Tuesday, 12th May, at 7.30pm, and we shall be hearing about and discussing the resolution to be put before the NFWI AGM in June, which is "Honey Bees play a vital role in pollination of food crops and in our environment. In view of the concerns about the accelerating decline in the UK honey bee population, this meeting urges HM Government to increase funding for research into Bee Health".

Visitors and/or new members always welcome.

### Wendlebury Gardening Club

Once more a chance to start your growing season this spring with home grown good quality plants and seedlings. This year we are making a special effort to offer more veggies and help to "Grow Your Own" all at knock down prices plus bric-a-brac and cake stalls a raffle and a chat over coffee at the

PLANT SALE and COFFEE MORNING SATURDAY 9th MAY  
WENDLEBURY VILLAGE HALL 10.30 - 12.30AM

This year our Mini-Tour is to North Devon - near Bideford. and extended to 3 nights giving 4 days of visits to lovely gardens including Rosemoor and, for something different, Dartington Crystal. Other outings include a day at Hampton Court Palace Show in July - for which there are still places available to non-members, Ryton Gardens and evening visits to gardens nearer home: also the opportunity to visit other members gardens by appointment

We offer a warm welcome to new members and our annual subscription remains at £2 or £3 family membership

Elaine Harrop Chair W.G.CTel. 01869 252713

### **Village Fete 27<sup>th</sup> June**

To be held in the Village Hall grounds. Stalls (various). Ices. (Guess the weight of) cakes. Teas. Childrens; Fancy Dress. Competitions (Various). Roman Chariot Race (hopefully). Morris Dancers. Fete to be opened by a well-known TV Personality.

## **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.*

### **BLOOD DONOR SESSIONS, HELP!**

Help needed badly once a month for approx 2 – 2 ½ Hours to make tea for the donors at the Methodist Church, Bicester. Contact Mrs Lancaster 247335 for more information.

## **From our gardening correspondent**

**by David Jones**

### **Sweet peas: you can have any colour you like except yellow!**

I have been using Roottrainers for some years and was pleased to find that a 'deep' version is now available. They are excellent for starting plants with sensitive roots (e.g. Basil), for those with a good tap root and for seeds collected 'in the wild' about which there is nothing in the gardening literature and very little research published. Brussels sprouts, cabbages, other Brassicas and beans can be grown from 'seed to planting out' in Roottrainers with a high success rate. At least one garden centre locally is selling vegetable seedlings grown that way.

Alternatively, use the cardboard centres of toilet rolls, kitchen paper towel rolls (cut in half) or the cores of birthday and Christmas wrapping paper (again cut to size). Don't pack these too close together because fungal infections may result.

Free packets of sweet pea seeds came with the most recent Roottrainers I bought. I have no experience of sweet peas and neither my parents nor Hazel's grew them so I have decided to try.

What I do know is that one of the projects at the John Innes Horticultural Institution in the 1930's was an attempt to produce a yellow sweet pea. Kenneth Mather (later Professor of Genetics at the University of Birmingham) was put to the task. He used all the tricks available at the time, including X-rays, but failed totally.

What is very odd is that some common species in the genus *Lathyrus* (the sweet pea is *L. odoratus*) have yellow flowers and so it was anticipated that the genes for yellow would occur in the sweet pea, but their action was being masked in some way. Alternatively, yellow might be the absence of the other possible colours, although that usually gives white. In England, the meadow vetchling (*L. pratensis*), the yellow vetchling (*L. aphaca*) and the introduced fodder pea (*L. annuus*) have yellow flowers, although all the other species have flowers with some blend of red, purple and/or blue.

*L. odoratus* is 'endemic' to southern Italy and Sicily. This means that the species originated there and at one time grew there and nowhere else in the world. Of course the scent and the beauty of the flowers made it a prime candidate for 'domestication' and now it is grown almost everywhere. It does not, however, do well outside the TLC of a garden environment, except in its native country.

The small geographical area in which the species evolved may give a clue to the problem. The ancestors of the species may have 'lost' the relevant genes at some time. By identifying the genes concerned with yellow flowers in, say *L. pratensis*, it may be possible to transfer those genes into the sweet pea using genetic engineering techniques.

Then you could have sweet peas of any colour.

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## Church

### Rector's letter

The Revd Derek Walker, The Rectory, Alchester Road, Chesterton, Oxon OX26 1UW

Dear Friends,

In Holy Week I was asked to give a five-minute report to the Chesterton Parish Council AGM about St Mary's Chesterton. It was while Manchester United played Porto in the Champion's League, but local needs won the day, which is more than can be said for United!

I said in my report that St Mary Chesterton [or indeed any church] can be thought of as a *building*. It is of course 'the House of God'. For many people, the importance of the church is the structure, the tower, the roof, churchyard and paths. Some people who kindly give to the church, restrict their giving to the fabric. There is an ongoing programme of repair, and with generous gifts, gutters and downspouts have been improved, the organ refurbished, and after unwanted visitors to the roof, lead has been replaced in several areas. But may I suggest that the fabric, even a fine building like St Mary Chesterton, simply keeps the real church dry; well almost dry!

We can think of the church as a *Christian family*. When a family lives in a house, it becomes a home. I went on to say the services we provide. In the case of St Mary Chesterton, there is a traditional 8.00am Communion, a successful and welcome Young Families Service led by Sue Ashdown, a formal Holy Communion and an All Age Service called Chesterton Praise. Each parish in the Benefice has their own pattern linked to the whole benefice. People meet together for fellowship and encouragement, and to share their faith in Jesus Christ. These are the activities, the family life within the House of God.

I then went on to say that we could think of St Mary Chesterton or any local church *as part of the wider church*. There is a danger of simply looking just at the local parish church, important though that be. However, we are part of the Akeman benefice of seven churches, a pastoral unit with incumbent, House for Duty, and two Local Lay Ministers. Wider still we have the Deanery, about 30 local churches, and then the Diocese of Oxford, and beyond that the world wide church.

We are planning for a Mission in 2010 in the Benefice and Deanery, with the opportunity to share the good news of God's love for His world. If the church isn't a mission church then it fails in its message. Jesus gave one command to his church - to 'make disciples.' - to make followers. So is the church just a building, or is it people of faith being built up to share the news of Jesus?

With my prayers and good wishes,

Derek

# Services in the Akeman Benefice May 2009 *Welcome*

Each Sunday there is a Holy Communion at 8.00am 9.15am and 11.00am, and two All Age Worship services at 11.00am. in the Benefice.

## May 3<sup>rd</sup> Easter 4

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	Jane Hemmings
Kirtlington	11.00	All Age Worship	Mike Nunn
Hampton Gay	15.15	Evening Prayer	Derek Walker

## May 5<sup>th</sup>

Middleton Stoney	4.20	Buggy Service	
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## May 10<sup>th</sup> Easter 5

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 ot Green	11.00	All Age Worship	Jane Hemmings

## May 17<sup>th</sup> Easter 6

Kirtlington	8.00	Holy Communion	Derek Walker
Middleton Stoney	9.15	Holy Communion	Jane Hemmings
Weston ot Green	11.00	Holy Communion	Jane Hemmings
Chesterton	11.00	All Age Worship [Chesterton Praise]	Mike Nunn
Wendlebury	11.00	All Age Worship	Derek Walker
Kirtlington	18.00	Evensong	Grant Lee

## May 21<sup>st</sup> Thursday Ascension Day

Kirtlington	9.30	Ascension Day Communion	Jane Hemmings
Wendlebury	19.30	Ascension Day Communion	Derek Walker

## May 24<sup>th</sup> Easter 7

Bletchington	10.00	United Benefice Holy Communion	Jane Hemmings
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## May 31<sup>st</sup> Pentecost

Middleton Stoney	8.00	Holy Communion	Derek Walker
Wendlebury	9.15	Holy Communion	Mike Stokes
Kirtlington	11.00	Holy Communion	Mary Carney
Bletchington	11.00	All Age Holy Communion and Baptism	Derek Walker
Chesterton	11.00	Chesterton Pentecost Praise	Paul Clifford
Weston	11.00	All Age Holy Communion	Jane Hemmings

**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](http://www.bicestermethodist.org.uk)

**1<sup>st</sup> 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+).

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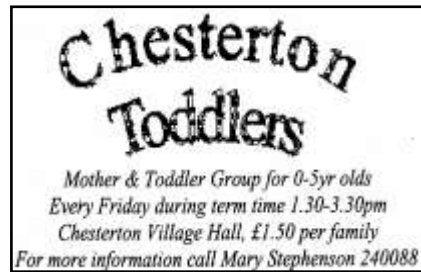
**Paula Davies Tel: 07795 070591**



## 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
10 <sup>th</sup> May					London Bridges <sup>1</sup>	
17 <sup>th</sup> May		Church open Gardens open <sup>2</sup>				
30 <sup>th</sup> May					Travelling supper <sup>3</sup>	
11 <sup>th</sup> July					Sports Day <sup>4</sup>	
15/08/09					Vineyard visit <sup>5</sup>	



Bletchington	PCC	Kathy Gedling	350491
	PC	C E Lane	350257
Chesterton	PCC		
	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](mailto:dauphin.jg@btinternet.com).

<sup>1</sup> Blue Badge Guided Tour of London's City Bridges & City Gates

<sup>2</sup> From 2 – 6 p.m. Monks Head, Weston Rd, Bletchington and Hollyhocks, North St, Islip for the National Gardens Scheme)

AND

Teas and Home-dame cakes, flower arrangements, books and plants for sale in St Giles Church, BLETCHINGTON (for St. Giles' Restoration Appeal) Please park at the church if possible and walk into village (5 minutes) as parking in Weston Road is limited.

<sup>3</sup> Village Travelling Supper. This annual event is a great way to meet new friends

<sup>4</sup> Children's Sport Day and Village BBQ

<sup>5</sup> Vineyard Visit & Wine Tasting. Bothy Vineyard continues an ancient tradition of wine making in the Vale of the White Horse, Oxfordshire, dating back at least to medieval times.

**There are lots more events listed under village websites**