

Akeman Benefice Calendar

JUNE 2009

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 15th 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. My apologies that this month we have a lot of material and so I have had to make the print a bit smaller and squeeze the margins.

Apart from the ABC it's hard to know what you can believe nowadays, But if you do go by the ABC there seem to be a lot of 'green shoots' around, and not just in the Gardening Notes (valuable though they are in sketching so many different ways of supporting new growth). As editor I seem to get to hear about a lot of activities in and beyond Akeman, and there's no doubt that a lot of people are becoming interested in taking stock on the quality of life we enjoy. I hope future editions will continue to reflect this. All news of what's new, especially for elderly and young, is always welcome.

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

Parish Council Meeting

The PC met on May 5th. All Officers were re-elected as follows. **Colin Board** Chairman. **David Jones** Vice Chairman & Planning Committee Chairman. **Philip Clarke** Planning Committee, Twinning & Village Hall Manager. **Chris Muddiman** Neighbourhood Watch, Health and Village Issues. **Stuart Weston** Playing Field. **Anna Davey** Allotments.

Topics discussed at the meeting included unpaid allotment rents, the purchase of a new printer for the ABC, the ongoing Bicester Eco Suburb and Philip Clarke's successful trip to Seully to start the twinning process. (Next steps are the formation of a twinning committee and a visit by the Mayor of Seully to Chesterton).

Next PC Meeting June 2nd 7.30pm

Litter Blitz

This took place on April 18th as you may have noticed, with yellow jacketed people around the village and a pile of rubbish bags plus two car wheels by the bus stop, ready to be picked up by the refuse collection. Thank you to the residents who turned up to help keep the village clean.

Bruern Abbey and Dogs

Bruern Abbey allow dog walkers to use the perimeters of the school grounds providing they are on lead, do not interfere with the school's work and provided they pick up any dog litter. Unfortunately some let their dogs roam free and do not clear up.

IF THIS CONTINUES THE FACILITY WILL BE WITHDRAWN , SO PLEASE BE SENSIBLE.

OWL EVENING

Our Village Hall was full with people eager to see Chrissie's Owls and to hear her interesting, informative and most entertaining talk. They were not disappointed. We also enjoyed wonderful refreshments afterwards. I want to thank all the ladies who provided refreshments and all those who helped.

We raised £190 for our Village Hall fund. Thank you to everyone who supported this event.

Erika Board

Evergreens' Afternoon Tea

I am having an afternoon tea and cake on Monday, June 15, in Chesterton Village Hall from 2.30 p.m. till 4.00 p.m. This is to raise money for the Evergreens. Entrance will be 50p, we will have a Raffle – Raffle prizes would be appreciated. Hope to see lots of you there.

Erika Board

TWINNING - VISIT TO SEUILLY

Philip & Lyn Clarke visited Seully, a small village near Chinon in the Loire Valley between April 13 – 17th, on behalf of the Parish Council, to meet the Mayor & councillors. The aim of the visit was to see if there was a genuine desire to examine a ‘twinning’ with Chesterton. At the reception the Mayor – M. Jacques Aupic – made it very clear that Seully would welcome closer ties with Chesterton. In addition the school teacher expressed a real interest in developing links with Chesterton School. One of the driving forces behind this initiative has been the Principal of Bruern Abbey School – Sterling Stover – who has a property in Seully, part of which has been converted into residential accommodation for boys from his school who undertake outdoor activities in the area.

The next steps are that we intend to hold a ‘French Evening’ in the Summer at which more information on Seully will be available, and there is an invitation to any residents who might like to join a ‘Twinning Committee’ to contact Philip on 01869 243993 or p.clarke538@btinternet.com. See below.

Seully is in the wine producing region of the Loire Valley and is renowned for its ‘Chinon’ wines – there will be an opportunity to sample the vintage at our ‘French Evening’

Philip Clarke

French Wine & Cheese Evening (with a presentation on Seully and user-friendly quizzes)

Friday July 3rd 7.30pm. £ 5.00 per ticket (Adults) £ 2.00 (Children). In aid of the Village Hall Improvement Appeal Fund. Tickets available very soon from Philip & Lyn Clarke (243993), Elaine & Terry Smith (252800) and Colin & Erika Board (252904)

Do put this date in your diary!

Love your village

Did you know that, under the aegis of the Parish Council, Chesterton is entering the Calor Oxfordshire Villages of the Year Competition? By the time you read this the entry form will have gone in.

The questionnaire lists lots of things a village might have, and filling it in can make one feel we haven't a chance. But it also can make one feel rather proud of what we do have, and gives a sense of priorities as to what we might go for to do even better next year. Of course the one great advantage we have is the ABC. Only Chesterton, Middleton Stoney and Wendlebury have something which goes into every household to keep the information flowing. So I felt it might be fun to list some of the haves and have nots to prompt the grey matter. And good to realise that much of what we don't have we are able to share with neighbouring villages. Here are a selection of both. Comment very welcome as always. *Editor*

HAVE	HAVE NOT
Neighbourhood watch	Our own youth club
Notice Boards	Much business in the village
Clean bus stops (thanks to Pat)	Shop
Newsletter	Post Office
Dial-a-ride	Pond
Hire of Wendlebury Minibus	Nature conservation area (though the school is constructing one), and we we are working with Cherwell DC in planning a community woodland.
Space on Wendlebury website	Website (in discussion with Oxford CC)
Evergreens	IT training (possible via the School)
Play group	Internet cafe / access
Toddler group	Youth Council
Rainbows	Traffic survey
Superb sports facilities	Housing survey
Meeting places including the Church, the Red Cow, the Village Hall, the School and playground, Bruern Abbey, the Playing field, the Sports ground and the Country Club.	
Junior football club	
Allotments	
Fairtrade (church)	
Variety of church services for all ages	
Village Plan (being formed)	
Active Parish Council and Councillors	
Community Plan Group*	
Village History (part of Welcome pack given to all new residents)	
Record of church graves and memorials	
Twinning with French town	
Bus service	

* 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

Young Families Service

Our May service had a spring feel to it, the weather was very spring like and so were our hymns – Colours of day and Daisies are our silver. The latter being a particular favourite of mine from my childhood, likening the flowers to jewels, it really is a lovely hymn.

Catherine, our organist, was away rowing or coxing to be precise and so it was left to me and Helen on the recorders, and do you know I think we actually got through both hymns without going wrong! Not bad hey? Thanks Helen, who yet again got thrown in at the dead end!

Our notices were most important this month as we have two big events coming up:

June Service will be our Pet Service and we have a police dog demonstration and talk from Paul Davis. Paul is a policeman in our village who now trains police dogs. Please, if you are intending to bring your dog it is especially important that it is on a lead and will sit quietly.

July Service will be a celebration of 10 years of Young Families Service. We are having a simple BBQ lunch and entertainment in the form of live bands and entertainment for the children. I will be sending out invitations, which I urge you to RSVP as I will need to know numbers for the lunch and refreshments. Also on display that day will be pieces of art by the children. You are allowed up to three pieces each, mounted with your name and age.

OK, back to May! The front cover was dedicated to Michael Chapman who celebrates his 11th birthday this month. Happy Birthday Michael. Also, Annabelle and Kai celebrated birthdays. Talking of birthdays, I was delighted to welcome for the first time, our youngest member at two weeks old. Alexander George Shotton, a new son for Emma and Phil and a baby brother for Oliver. Congratulations to you all.

Our story was The Lost Sheep and our activity Hide and Sheep. I know, but it did raise a laugh! This involved 'a sheep' hiding in the church and the rest of the flock searching for it. If you weren't found you could baa. Patience is a virtue so they say; most of our lost sheep were baaing away as soon as the search started! Never mind, I think they all enjoyed themselves, we finished up with the Lord's Prayer, colouring and refreshments. Thank you to all who took part and I look forward to seeing you all at our PET SERVICE next month. Remember if you don't own a pet, you can still come or you can bring something from the garden, like snails, slugs, caterpillars, worms, beetles. Just make sure they have a nice container and that you return them to the garden after the service. Good luck!

Sue Ashdown

Junior Football Club

On the 3rd May 2009 Chesterton Junior Football Club held its annual 6 a/side tournament. May I first of all thank the residents of Chesterton for their patience and support of this event. Whilst the football club endeavour to minimise traffic congestion through the village there are always those who refuse to use car parking facilities despite inconvenience they cause to others. The football club worked hard this to ensure traffic was kept moving and as a result there was no waiting to enter the car parking field. Our thanks go to all those many helpers who came along and gave up a considerable amount of their spare time either dispensing tea and coffee, serving at the BBQ or refereeing. Special thanks must go again to the Evergreens in Wendlebury and the Parish

Council in Chesterton who loaned items to the club on the day. A considerable amount of funds this year have been spent on the pavilion roof and that is set to continue with a new kitchen area soon'

If there are any of you out there who would like to get involved with a team we are looking to reinstate the following age groups U7, U8, U11, U12, U13, U14 & U15. The football club will pay for all your training and insurance. Your help can give young people the opportunity to do something they love but are unable to do and at the same time educate them in a disciplined activity.

Thanks again

Steve Honey Chairman Chesterton JFC

Middleton Stoney

The Maintenance Fund

The £25 winners in the May Maintenance Fund Draw were Mrs. E. Elmer and Mr. Ged Barwell.

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.

Steve Blake
Handyman

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Mobile: 0786 6233 446

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	Decorating Preparation Painting Wallpaper hanging



No job too small, give me a call

Middleton Stoney Cricket Club – fixtures. All at 2.30 pm unless otherwise stated

Date	Opposition	Venue / time
June 7 th	The Min CC	Home
Thur June 11 th	R T Harris' XI	Home 6.15
June 14 th	Cryptics	Home – 11.30 am
June 19 th	S.O.A.	Home
June 21 st	Oxford Downs	Away
June 28 th	Blue Lion	Home
July 5 th	Forty Club	Home
July 12 th	The Nigel Cassidy	Home – 2 pm
July 19 th	Warwickshire Pilgrims	Home
July 26 th	Ickenham	Home
August 2 nd	Britwell Salome	Home
August 16 th	Pelicans	Away
August 23 rd	Nomads	Home – 1.30 pm
August 30 th	Invalids	Home – 1.30 pm
September 6 th	Turville Park	Home – 1.00 pm
September 13 th	Sheepscombe	Away – 1.00 pm
September 20 th	The Law Society	Home – 1.00 pm



Village website

The Parish Council now has a website within the pages of Cherwell-local. This may be accessed via www.cherwell-local.co.uk simply typing in Middleton Stoney in the search box. Alternatively you can access direct as follows:

www.cherwell-local.co.uk/site/middleton-stoney-parish-council/index.htm

The site contains meeting dates for the parish council, most recent minutes and also, to comply with the freedom of information acts, a guide to the information held by the parish council.

Wendlebury

VILLAGE FETE

A very warm welcome back to the Wendlebury Village Fete after a break of more than 10 years. I hope that this will be the starting point to make this an annual event in the village calendar and one that really does bring the whole village together. This year the proceeds from the fete are being donated to ST Giles Church, specifically to fund the repair of the lightning conductor, as without this working the church cannot be insured.

Saturday June 27th 2.00 p.m. Village Hall

To be opened by Matthew Chambers who plays Daniel Granger in the BBC programme "Doctors"
Preceded by the Morris Dancer's parade through the village

And later on - a VERY special Chariot race.

Stalls & Games - Bouncy Castle, Cherry Picker Rides, Coconut Shy, Skittles, Tug of War
Tea & Cakes available in the Hall. Beer Tent. Competitions £1 per entrant
Children - Fancy Dress - Theme - Heroes, Miniature Garden on a 10" plate,
Adults - Bake a Victoria Sponge

Rules can be found on the Wendlebury Web Site. Or 01869 243967 for a copy and programme

WENDLEBURY WI

This month there was only one resolution to put to the Government. This concerned the disappearance and death of many of this country's honey bees. We are persuading the Government to put money into research to find a solution to this problem.

Some of our members then made a dressed and very 'posh' lady scarecrow. We hope to exhibit her at a 'Supper with Scarecrows' evening at Millets farm on Tuesday July 6th.

From our gardening correspondent

by David Jones

Cherries and broad beans

'Which?' Gardening for May has an article on Cherries for small gardens. The decline of cherry growing in England over the past forty years was put down to the size of the trees and the consequential problems of picking - Health and Safety?

Nearly all fruit trees are grafted onto a 'rootstock'. When cultivars are crossed the seeds produce a great variety of small trees. Only a few, if any, of these will be an 'improvement' on the original parents and existing varieties. For 'trials' and possible marketing the only way of preserving and multiplying the variety is by cloning - that is by grafting short lengths of young twigs before bud burst (so called bud-sticks) onto a suitable rootstock, usually of plum for cherry and almond.

This method of propagation had the added advantage that the little graft may well flower the next year. I have done this myself with almond bud sticks. Indeed, often branches of the original seedlings may be grafted onto rootstocks because that would speed up the flowering and fruiting and thence the selection process.

Of recent years two new rootstocks (Colt and Gisela 5) have been found that reduce the size of cherry trees and enable them to be grown in more soil types. 'Which?' Gardening is advocating these small cherry trees for the small garden.

Traditionally, you had to plant at least two varieties of cherry carefully matched, one to pollinate the other. There are two reasons for this. Each variety is unable to produce fruit using its own pollen and different varieties have slightly different flowering times. The trees are 'self-incompatible'. Furthermore, 64 named cherry varieties were grouped by Morley Crane at the John Innes Horticultural Institution (JI) on the basis of whether they would cross pollinate. Those that could not cross pollinate were placed in the same group. He found 12 such groups. Investigations of the mechanisms of this incompatibility by Dan Lewis at the JI led to the production of some seedlings that were self-compatible. One of these was shipped to Canada (for safety) in early 1940's. There it was crossed with the North American variety 'Lambert' giving rise to the variety we know as 'Stella'. Since then a number of other self-compatible varieties have come onto the market. So now you need buy only one cherry tree and hope the bees will do their stuff.

If you have suffered from your broad beans falling over - which we have - instead of staking each plant we are trying a new trick. We have placed metal 'canes' at each end of a row. String was tied to one cane, taken along the side of the small plants, twisted round the cane at the other end and brought back on the other side of the plants. The loose end was tied to the first cane. As the plants grew we tied another length of string slightly higher up the canes. The next stage is to slide the strings up the canes in keeping with the height of the plants. Bamboo canes might do, but the strings would probably have to be untied and retied. I will comment on the outcome later.

Church

Rector's letter

Dear Friends,

O God unseen, yet ever near.

You never know who it is you are going to meet! Carol and I were on a local bus in Bavaria, and unexpectedly met up with Carol's pen pal. I talked to Ian Rush the retired Liverpool player at a motorway service station. A police officer has just sold for £60,000 an official programme of the Investiture of the Prince of Wales; on the cover is the autograph of John Lennon, who he spotted in the traffic jam on the day in a Mini Cooper. I should have got Ian Rush's autograph!

I heard on Radio 4 about a Liverpool Football fan, who was at the wonderful game in Istanbul, when Liverpool came from three goals down at half time to win the Champions League Final 4-3. This fan, who had enjoyed a drink or two [or three], went back to his seat after half time. Things didn't look right, everyone was smart and formal, and he couldn't see any of his mates. Not surprising really, as he had gone back the wrong way, staggering past the security ring unchallenged, and found he was sitting by the Italian Prime Minister who enjoyed ridiculing the guy.... until.

The good news of the Gospel is that we are invited to meet Jesus. Someone asked me yesterday 'How do you know when you have met Jesus?' Carol recognised her pen pal – they had met and talked on a holiday the year before. There is only one Ian Rush. The fame of John Lennon means that we know his face. We know Jesus when we invite him by faith to be the centre of our lives. 'Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe'. Jesus said, 'Come to me all who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest.' This is commitment from him, and a challenge to us. The Easter truth speaks of Jesus being alive, the Pentecost truth is that He can be in our hearts by faith; 'The Lord is here, His Spirit is with us.' By faith Jesus is much nearer than we might think, and the Gospel promise is that he invites us to meet him, and to know him.

With prayers and good wishes,

Derek

Services in the Akeman Benefice JUNE 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.

June 2nd

Middleton Stoney 4.20 Buggy Service

June 7th

Trinity Sunday

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	10.45	Lamb Ale Service	Jane Hemmings
Hampton Gay	15.15	Holy Communion	Derek Walker

June 14th

Trinity 1

Bletchington	8.00	Holy Communion	Jane Hemmings
Kirtlington	9.15	Holy Communion	Jane Hemmings
Chesterton	11.00	Holy Communion	Mike Stokes
Bletchington	11.00	All Age Worship	Paul Clifford
Weston ot Green	11.00	All Age Worship	Jo Cropp

June 21st

Trinity 2

Kirtlington	8.00	Holy Communion	Derek Walker
Middleton Stoney	9.15	Holy Communion with Baptism	Jane Hemmings
Weston on the Green	11.00	Holy Communion	Derek Walker
Chesterton	11.00	All Age Worship [Chesterton Praise]	Jane Hemmings
Wendlebury	11.00	All Age Worship	Paul Clifford
Kirtlington	18.00	Evensong	Jane Hemmings

June 28th

Trinity 3

Chesterton	10.00	All Age Worship [Not a communion service]	Jane Hemmings
Middleton Stoney	18.00	United Benefice Holy Communion Service	Derek Walker

RC Church of the Immaculate Conception,
The Causeway,
Bicester.

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.

Rev Paul Martin,
253277

Weekend

Masses:

Saturday 6pm .
Sunday 9am &
11am

Sunday Services:

10.45am Morning Service (with Crèche).

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

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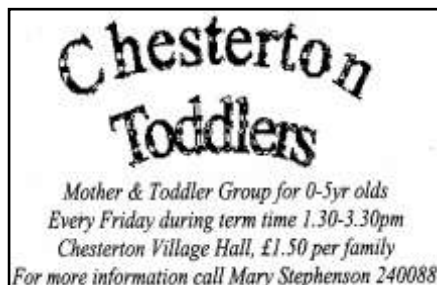
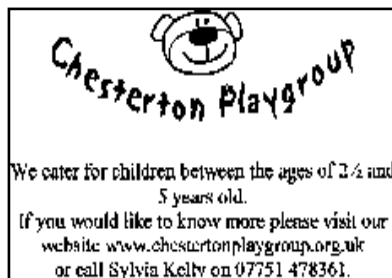
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Weeding & Border control
General Garden Maintenance either regularly or one off

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.

DATE	Chesterton	Bletchington	Kirtlington	Middleton Stoney	Wendlebury	Weston-on-the-Green
15 th June	Junior Football Club AGM ¹					
27 th June					Village fete ²	
28 th June				Village Barbecue ³		
3 rd July	Twining party ⁴					
11 th July			Fete		Sports Day ⁵	
26 th July						
15 th August			Car boot sale ⁶		Vineyard visit ⁷	
16 th August			Concert ⁸			
21 st November			Race night ⁹			



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	3 50875
	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
daunhin.ia@btinternet.com

¹ In the Red Cow at 7.30 pm

² See under Wendlebury (within)

³ Village BBQ on Sunday 28 June at 1.30pm at Middleton Stoney Cricket Club.

⁴ See front page.

⁵ Children's Sport Day and Village BBQ

⁶ Car Boot Sale in aid of Church Refurbishment Fund.

⁷ 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.

⁸ Palm Court & Pimms - in aid of Choir Stalls for the Church.

⁹ Race Night - in aid of Church Refurbishment Fund.