

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.

To paraphrase my grand-daughter's 'Why do we still build such ugly houses with centuries of lovely ones to chose from?', why do we spend so much time and energy roaring round the country when we should know by now where we want to live? No wonder Middleton Stoney is signposted miles up the M40, and Chesterton and Wendlebury and Weston on the Green are raising their defences against the invaders. And anyone who has ever ventured beyond it wants to keep Hampton Gay a secret.

Not that there's anything secret about the annual United Benefice service there on the 26th. Far from it. From the smallest parish in the Diocese you still get the loudest message, and have been since long before 1140 when Sir Robert de Gait gave it to Oseney Abbey. (My thanks to The Door of December 1989 for that). And still it is the first and only parish in the Benefice where every household gets their ABC by wire.

If you want an example of just how hard it can be to keep things simple, read the Gardening Notes. And there I was thinking you only had to shake a Cox to be sure.

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 June

Nothing to report this month. The economic situation is holding up most planning issues and we do not expect a decision on the Eco plans for a month or two.

Next Meeting July 7th. No meeting in August.

Colin Board

PS Charles Shouler was re-elected as our Oxford County Council representative.

News from Chesterton CE Primary School

We are now racing towards the end of the school year, the children and staff are looking forward to their holiday, Term 6 is always a busy time for everyone.

Here are some of the things that have been happening at Chesterton School:

On May 1st at our May Day celebrations, parents and children enjoyed looking round our new Kel-Berg Wildlife Area.. Thanks to a £7000.00 donation, the area was developed over Easter and everyone agrees that the result is truly magnificent. The area is 63 metres by 18metres. It has a bog garden, a wild life area, a shady place in the trees and seating areas. One day there will be bluebells and snowdrops under the trees, plants in the bog garden, log piles and bat and bird boxes in the trees.

Our School Association will be holding a Fashion Show on Tuesday 30th June at school. We are also holding an AUCTION of PROMISES on Friday 10th July. We already have glider flights, ironing services, cakes, chauffeured car trip and other pledges, but if you are able to donate a promise to help support us, please contact the school office.

Please visit the school website for more information on other events and school news (www.chesterton.oxon.sch.uk).

Mrs Carolyn Wharton, Headteacher

Thefts

Several houses have been broken into in the past few months. Apart from the obvious things like “do not leave doors unlocked when you are upstairs/in the garden” you can join the Neighbourhood Watch and be notified of problems happening in our area.

Bruern Abbey & Dogs

There has been some misunderstanding. The School is not able to permit the exercising of dogs on the school grounds. The Headmaster has received several complaints from parents whose children have been the unfortunate victims of dog fouling

Pavilion fire

I am saddened to have to report that the playing field pavilion was broken into and set on fire on Sunday evening the Sunday 7th June. The selfish actions of some thoughtless individuals have caused thousands of pounds worth of damage. I feel so sorry for all those people that have spent so much of their free time painting, decorating and repairing the building that viewing the resultant damage on Monday was truly awful. It was only a few months ago in happier times that I was able to report real progress with the renovations following financial help of the Parish Council and a grant from Cherwell District Council. Chesterton Junior Football and Chesterton Cricket Club have spent around £6000 in the last six months replacing the roof and rewiring which has now been destroyed or severely damaged. We will recover from this but it will take a considerable amount of time. I will report on this as progress is made.

Steve Honey, Chairman, Chesterton Junior Football Club

Evergreens Afternoon tea

We raised £100! Well done everyone. And thanks for all the help and donations.

Erika Board

French Wine & Cheese Evening (with a presentation on Seuilly 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)

Young Families Pet Service

The sun always shines for us at the Pet Service, but this year as we approached the day it just poured and poured and poured! I blamed myself for changing the date from September to June, but I did of course, have good reason. That reason being that our star guests couldn't make it in September.

However, I have zoomed ahead, so back to the beginning of the service where we celebrated two birthdays, Christopher and Ava - Happy Birthday to both of you. We had a couple of notices: one for the United Benefice family service on 28th June - here in Chesterton and to be taken by Jane Hemming, and of course our own 10 year celebration service on July 5th. I will be sending out invitations to all my families but anyone who has ever supported us is welcome - just give me a ring and let me know you are coming because I will need to know numbers - thank you. The church was full of dogs along with the odd snail and tadpole, which was very appropriate given the nature of our guests!

We sang 'All things bright and beautiful' played by Katherine, and had prayers for all animals asking especially that they get everything they need to be healthy and happy.

Then, I was delighted to introduce PC Paul Davies, for many years a dog handler with police and now a Police Dog Trainer for the Oxfordshire Area. Paul gave us an interesting and informative talk about the work of the police dog; how they train them, where they keep them and what they look for as puppies. This last point appeared to be absolutely everything you would not want in a household pet! Lots of questions were asked and answered but no-one was more interested and more attentive than Smartie, Arthur Miller's little Jack Russell. She never took her eyes off Paul and followed his every move. When he brought out the 'treat' toy to show us, Smartie was almost beside herself! If she could morph into a German Shepherd I think she would be one of the best police dogs ever! Anyway, Paul then took us outside and guess what? The sun was shining! They had cornered off with tape the area of grass at the back of the church and we were then safely treated to a demonstration of police dogs in action. It was fascinating and very exciting. We saw two young dogs work with their handlers, with Paul acting as the criminal. I now know one thing for sure: if I am ever in a situation where a policeman with a dog shouts 'Stand still'. I'd be the best blooming statue you ever did see! After a huge round of applause, we left them to put the dogs away and went back into the church for our final hymn 'who put the colours in the rainbow' and said The Lord's Prayer together. We were very grateful to Paul and his team, for giving up their Sunday morning for us and very proud to have such highly trained and dedicated men and dogs serving in our police force. Thank you, not just for Sunday but for everything you and your colleagues do for our community.

Sue Ashdown

Middleton Stoney

The Maintenance Fund

he two winners of £25 each for June were: Judy Stevens and Jeanie Martin.

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.

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

Date	Opposition	Venue / time
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

Steve Blake
Handyman

Tel: 01869 320139
Mobile: 0786 6233 446

<u>Gardening</u> Lawn mowing Weeding Rotovating Digging Planting General maintenance	<u>Stone Wall</u> Maintenance Pointing Re-building
	<u>Decorating</u> Preparation Pointing Wallpaper hanging



No job too small, give me a call

The Annual Parish Meeting took place on 18 May 2009.

Mr Andrew Fulljames, Chairman of the Parish Council, chaired the meeting and introduced reports from Thames Valley Police, All Saints Parochial Church Council, Councillor Charles Shouler, representing Oxfordshire County Council, the playground and village hall committees and gave his own report as our District Councillor.

In his report Mr Fulljames firstly thanked the outgoing Parish Clerk, Mr Kevan Dearman, for his outstanding service to the parish over 14 years. Thanks were expressed to the playground and village hall committees for their excellent work in looking after these village amenities.

The main issues discussed were two threats facing the village. Firstly, the application to build an Energy from Waste (EfW) – incinerator- plant at the Ardley waste disposal site and secondly, Eco-towns in the near vicinity.

Local parishes, particularly ourselves, Ardley and Bucknell had joined in opposition to the EfW which is considered inappropriate development for a number of reasons. The main concern for our parish is over what we estimate to be a threefold increase in traffic to the site when it is operating at capacity.

Councillor Shouler stated that Oxfordshire County Council was considering proposals from both Ardley and a further site at Sutton Courtenay and also the awarding of a contract to one of these sites for the burning of waste from Oxfordshire. Re traffic issues he confirmed that he had met with Mr Fulljames prior to the meeting and had agreed that OCC staff would undertake a fresh survey to establish traffic patterns after which there would be a further review. Councillor Shouler also outlined to the meeting the requirements of the EU Landfill Directive which had prompted OCC to seek alternative ways to dispose of its waste.

Mr Fulljames confirmed that Middleton Stoney Parish Council had already responded to the planning and environmental consultations and would remain opposed to the proposal. The planning application will be determined at the end of July.

On the subject of Eco-towns, the chairman confirmed that the Weston Otmoor proposal is still alive. The Parish Council, OCC and District Council remain opposed to this. Councillor Fulljames then reported that in November 2008, unknown to virtually

any elected member of Cherwell District Council, a proposal was put forward for an alternative Eco-town scheme North West of Bicester to steer the government away from the Weston Otmoor proposal. If it goes ahead it would involve building over 800 acres of farmland and extend Bicester almost to the M40 motorway. Councillor Shouler stated that OCC was neutral on the matter although he believed that the proposal lacked merit for a number of reasons, not the least of which was the fact that some landowners have already expressed opposition to selling their land. The Parish Council will continue to oppose any such development.

The Annual Parish Meeting was followed by the AGM of the Parish Council. Mr Andrew Fulljames was re-elected Chairman and Mr Geoff James was re-elected Vice- Chairman. The Parish Council welcomed Mrs Debbie Pay as a new co-opted member of the Council.

Full minutes of both of these meetings are available on the Parish website which can be reached via www.cherwell-local.co.uk.

Wendlebury

WENDLEBURY WI

At our meeting in June we had a talk from Emma Restall Orr entitled "Natural Burial Grounds". Emma and her husband run the Sun Rising Natural Burial Ground & Nature Reserve on the Oxfordshire/Warwickshire border, which they started 3 years ago. Although Emma said some people find it a difficult subject to talk about, she spoke very warmly and naturally about the alternative choices for burial which are open to everyone.

The site of Sun Rising is next to the historic battleground Edgehill which gives the area a sense of history. They have created a Nature Reserve with native trees and flowers and are committed to a totally environmentally sound business including coffins made from natural materials. Emma pointed out that burial is a choice and many people are not aware that they have a choice of burial in a traditional churchyard or cemetery and a natural burial ground for coffins and cremated remains. At Sun Rising one may also choose a plot in the Meadow area, where wild flowers and native grasses create a beautiful open space or the Woodland area, where a tree can be planted upon the grave. The burial ground is not consecrated to any one religion, so people of all faiths are welcome - as well as those whose spirituality is simply their love of nature. There are other Natural Burial Grounds around the country.

It was a very interesting talk and gave members much to discuss afterwards. Our next meeting is on 14th July at 7.30pm in Wendlebury Village Hall, non-members very welcome.

CONCERT OF CHAMBER MUSIC GIVEN BY

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From our gardening correspondent

by David Jones

Cherries - again - and apples

The new method, for us, of propping up our broad beans with metal 'canes' and string appears to be working - see last month's notes. We picked our first crop on June 14th.

I have been looking further into the history of the development of the cherry variety 'Stella' and found that there are, under the same name!!!, several distinct varieties of cherry occurring in commerce. Two cherry varieties named Bigarreau Napoleon and Emperor Francis were grandparents of 'Stella'. They belonged to the same incompatibility group and it was only by X-raying the pollen of Bigarreau Napoleon that some pollen was able to produce fruit on Emperor Francis.

Today, one specialist selling cherries advertises that Napoleon Bigarreau will fertilise Emperor Francis, while another states that Napoleon Bigarreau will self pollinate. This is an altogether confusing situation, and not only because the names have been swapped round! Because it was Hazel's father (Dan Lewis) who did some of the original work, I think I will get some of these trees and look into the problem next year.

A similar situation that is also causing real concern is that apples being marketed as Cox are almost certainly not Cox's Orange Pippin (originating in 1825 or thereabouts in the garden of Richard Cox of Colnbrook, Buckinghamshire). Although not a sure diagnostic, the pips of a genuine Cox's Orange Pippin rattle. Certainly, if it does not rattle, don't buy. A number of crosses and sports from Cox's Orange Pippin have been discovered over subsequent years, and these retain "Cox" in their names e.g. Crimson Cox, King Cox, Queen Cox. For marketing purposes the true name is reduced just to 'Cox'. Indeed, some authorities believe that the original stock of Cox's Orange Pippin has been lost from commerce! The same thing appears to have happened with several varieties of cherry because there is great confusion, based on self-incompatibility, as to whether of some of the trees with classic names are what they are said to be.

Plant Heritage had a visit to the Harris Garden of the University of Reading on 14th June in association with the 'Friends of the Harris Garden'. This being largely a 'teaching' garden there are many unusual plants that students need to know about because they are representatives of specific plant groups.

In addition to the tour of the garden - which is open to 'the public' only on eight afternoons each year - there were five specialist nurseries with plants for sale. These included unusual and rare plants not available from 'regular' garden centres. The Harris Garden holds the national collection of foxgloves. It was, unfortunately, rather early for most of them, but there are many other plants and features of the garden that should be of interest to people interested in making their own gardens 'unusual'.

The original landscape garden was started over a period of twenty years by the then Marquis of Blandford, later the 5th Duke of Marlborough, at the time of the Napoleonic wars.

Church

Rector's letter

Spiritual 'flipping'

Anyone who has ever had an expense account will know the dilemma - "Can I put this on my expenses?" And then at the end of the month you can't find the receipt! It happens, believe me.

We've listened to the disclosures day after day about the expenses of our representatives in Parliament - and there will be more - wondering whether anything else was happening in the world! There was a report in the Times of a notice in a sweet shop window in Skipton, Yorkshire, 'Only two MP's allowed in this shop at once.'

A Bible quotation comes to mind, 'Let him who is without sin cast the first stone.' It seems rather unseemly on both sides of the scramble for purity to name and shame. Someone once sent a joke email to twenty of his friends 'Flee for all is about to be revealed', and nineteen out of twenty of them left the country.

It isn't much fun being found out, and many people live their lives hoping and praying it won't happen. A skeleton free closet requires stringent accountability and transparency. Someone has suggested that as we lose our grip on the idea of a God who knows all, so increasingly we become more cavalier about how we live our lives. I go with that. If we believe that one day God will require us to give an account of our lives, that has a certain honesty and finality about it. And God will have the last word. And if we know in this life that he will view us with compassion, His offer of forgiveness and restoration has a measure of hope about it. Carrying guilt and hidden secrets makes for a heavy heart and spirit, which most of us have experienced at some time. It is a wonderful comfort to know that God who knows all can give us the strength and openness to put things right. There are times when we need to get out the 'chequebook' knowing it is payback time. It is part of restorative justice and the beginning of being free to serve, and it is our response to God's free gift of love in Jesus Christ.

With prayers and good wishes,

Derek

CONFIRMATION

There will be confirmation classes, one for adults and another for young people, starting in the autumn. If you are rising 11 or over, and are interested in being confirmed, please contact Jane on 350224.

Services in the Akeman Benefice JULY 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.

July 7th

Middleton Stoney 4.20 Buggy Service

July 5th Trinity 4

Chesterton	8.00	Holy Communion	Derek Walker
Wendlebury	9.15	Holy Communion	Derek Walker
Bletchington	11.00	Holy Communion	Mike Stokes
Chesterton	11.00	Young Families 10 year celebration	Sue Ashdown
Middleton Stoney	11.00	All Age Worship & Baptism	Jane Hemmings
Kirtlington	11.00	All Age Worship & Baptism	Derek Walker
Hampton Gay	15.15	Evening Prayer	Jane Hemmings

July 12th Trinity 5

Bletchington	8.00	Holy Communion	Derek Walker
Kirtlington	9.15	Holy Communion & Baptism	Jane Hemmings
Chesterton	11.00	Holy Communion	Mike Stokes
Bletchington	11.00	Open Air Service on the Green	Derek Walker
Weston of Green	11.00	All Age Worship	Jane Hemmings

July 19th Trinity 6

Kirtlington	8.00	Holy Communion	Derek Walker
Middleton Stoney	9.15	Holy Communion	Derek Walker
Weston on the Green	11.00	Holy Communion	Mike Stokes
Chesterton	11.00	All Age Worship	Paul Clifford
		[Chesterton Praise	
Wendlebury	11.00	All Age Worship	Mike Nunn
Kirtlington	18.00	Evensong	Grant Lee

July 26th Trinity 7

Hampton Gay 10.00 United Benefice Holy Communion Service Jane Hemmings

<p>RC Church of the Immaculate Conception, The Causeway, Bicester. Rev Paul Martin, 253277</p>	<p>Bicester Methodist Church, Sheep Street, Bicester. Minister: Revd. Paul Howse 240932 www.bicestermethodist.org.uk</p> <p>1st Sunday of each month: 10.30am-11.30am Connect – informal family worship in the main hall with refreshments.</p> <p>Sunday Services: 10.45am Morning Service (with Crèche).</p>
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Weekend Masses:
Saturday 6pm .
Sunday 9am & 11am

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

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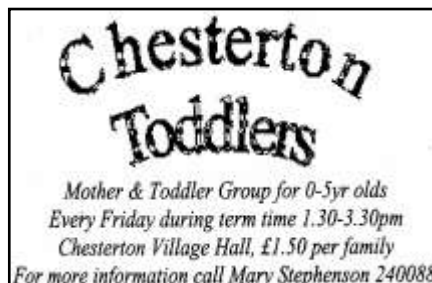
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Paula Davies Tel: 07795 070591

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.

DATE	Chesterton	Bletchington	Kirtlington	Middleton Stoney	Wendlebury	Weston-on-the-Green
1 st July	School Sports Day					
3 rd July	Twinning party ¹					
4 th July		Progressive Supper ²				
10 th July	School auction of Promises ³					
11 th July			Fete		Sports Day ⁴	
26 th July						
15 th August			Car boot sale ⁵		Vineyard visit ⁶	
16 th August			Concert ⁷			
21 st November			Race night ⁸			



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 dauphin.jg@btinternet.com
 Paul Clifford (LLM) 01865 515711.
clifford@lakeside14.fsnet.co.uk
mbaynuk@wbaa.co.uk

¹ See front page.

² Bletchington Again! A fun evening with great food. £15 per head. More information from Kathy, 350491.

³ See front page

⁴ Children's Sport Day and Village BBQ

⁵ Car Boot Sale in aid of Church Refurbishment Fund.

⁶ 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.

⁷ Palm Court & Pimms - in aid of Choir Stalls for the Church.

⁸ Race Night - in aid of Church Refurbishment Fund.