

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 have never been too impressed by party Politics with a big 'P', and it has become unfashionable to admit to being interested in politics with a small 'p'. And we have seen the profession of MP dishonoured, so it is quite easy to run the whole lot together and say 'a plague on all their houses'. More argument than ever for the Editor to keep out of it. But I have to admit that I have been to two local 'political' gatherings in Chesterton this month – about the developments planned behind The Green, and the meeting with Tony Baldry about Chesterton's interest in Bicester developments – and got quite a taste for politics (with a small 'p') as an area where I might just make the smallest of differences, especially if I heed Mud's call to attend PC meetings if I want to try that.*

*And I have to admit too that Tony Baldry's letter, attached to this ABC, is a masterpiece of recording what was quite an angry and wide-ranging meeting. Whichever party he may belong to, and whatever criticisms people may have of his Politics, he did at least show something of the power of politics exercised by the 80 or so people who came to his meeting. Power to the people.*

*Now to get back in my box and resume my Toodle pip where I belong.*

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

### **Young Church**

Palm Sunday was tradition for me, we processed singing Hosanna and other well known praise songs from Kirtlington green to the church with Muffin (a Shetland pony not a donkey but never mind), where Jane presided over a very family friendly Communion service and the space was full. Easter Sunday in Chesterton had all the things you would expect (hats, the Easter story and an egg hunt) with Sue Ashdown.

Please remember that there is a 'Try going Bananas' workshop for 5-11 year olds in Wendlebury Hall on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2.30-4.30- drop the children off or join in the fun if you like. You must enrol - forms are available from me in Chesterton ring 242109 (Maggie Blake in Wendlebury and Jo Cropp in Middleton)



### **Grown up Church**

Surely there will be something for all tastes during the Lifeline Events Week. Starting on Saturday 15th May, the professional drama group Riding Lights Theatre Company (Edinburgh Festival fame) presents a show of sketches about climate change in Kirtlington church.

On Tuesday morning there will be the usual coffee morning at the Red Cow- all welcome, while on the Tuesday evening at 7.30 there is a yummy supper in the school hall with Lifeline speaker. It is free but you will need a ticket (again from me or Sue Ashdown). As usual bring your own cutlery and crocks, glass and drink.

Jane Stead is leading a guided tour around the churchyard on the afternoon of Friday 21<sup>st</sup>. There are limited places so please ring and book (Hilary 242109). We will meet at 2pm by the church lychgate. There will be coffee in the church afterwards.

Some of you will already have heard the Adoramus choir, who will be performing again in Kirtlington church on the evening of Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup>.

To end the week there is a celebration praise service in St. Mary's at 11am on 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Hilary Walbank

**Please note, there will be a FREE LIFELINE supper on 8<sup>th</sup> May in the school hall. Come along and have a good feed, a chat and meet the MISSIONER. Hilary**

## **Chesterton School**

We have returned to school for the Summer Terms in a blaze of very pleasant sunshine, just right for our "planting week" where pupils and staff have been busy preparing and planting the wildlife area-the foundations of which were put in last year. This has resulted in fighting nettles and thistles but what a victory for group work and learning from first hand experience. It has involved choosing the best positions for plants that like shade or those that prefer full sunshine. Families have been very generous in donating plants, as they are towards so many things that go on in school. I am also very grateful for the financial assistance given to us from Cooper School due to their science college status and the proceeds from the Andy Reading Road Race. I am told that when Andy was Head Teacher here he believed in using the environment in educating children so a fitting use of the money provided. Hopefully parents and friends will help us further with our fight against the stronger nettles during the School Association clear up day.

The planting week is just one example of many activities that are going on in school. Please go to our website [www.chesterton.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.chesterton.oxon.sch.uk) to see photographs of other activities or visit us at one of the events below.

### **Some Dates from Our Diary**

7 <sup>th</sup>	May	School Association Cinema Evening for pupils
8 <sup>th</sup>	May	School Association Clear Up Day
17 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup>	May	Missioner leading assembly as part of Lifelong Mission Week
21 <sup>st</sup>	May	African Dance Workshops
22 <sup>nd</sup>	June	School Association Fashion Show 7.30pm in the school hall
30 <sup>th</sup>	June	Sports Day
2 <sup>nd</sup>	July	School Association Family Sports Evening
17 <sup>th</sup>	July	Summer Fair

Carolyn Wharton, Head Teacher

### **Litter Blitz**

Thank you to the THREE people who turned up for the litter blitz on Saturday 17th plus of course Vic & myself - with just one apology. That is an all time record for the apathy shown in Chesterton for keeping it clean, although a few people have since said they did not know about it (They obviously do not read the notice board or ABC). And this may be the last one.

It has been suggested that an evening clearup may be more convenient and I would welcome comments on the best time/day to hold it.

Colin Board

### **Church sale and return please**

HONDA GRASSBAG.The church has an unused Honda grassbag for an IZY mower available for a small donation,if some one needs one.

MINUTE BOOK-I undertand that Church Minutes were first initiated early in the 20th century with the forming of PCC,s.In the Church Millennium Exhibition a very early book of Minutes was seen on the table behind the central pews.It was removed early and the organisers had no knowledge of it. It was a book with a hard cover in a dark colour, about A5 size. If anyone has knowledge of this or needs the grassbag phone Sylvia Strivens-Tel 253185.

### **Chesterton Praise**

When one arrives in Church for this Service, there is usually a hubbub of activity with singers practising with the organ,and others conferring with each other as to their roles in the reading,drama or prayers,while others do organising jobs or sit quietly chatting or praying. By 11am we start with a welcome and a hymn, led by Hilary Walbank, Chris Boyer and Sue Clifton, with a backing by Grace Jelfs. One of the readings is dramatised by members organised to do so by Pat Stokes,who gives them printed lines. These are based on the talk given by the clergy, as are the prayers written and read out by other members. Between these prayers we sing a special response, followed by singing the Lord's Prayer. The whole Service is simple but serious, with a variety of hymns we enjoy singing,with new ones we learn. We would welcome anyone who would care to join us to find out what a friendly time we have especially over coffee and biscuits afterwards! It is usually held on the 3rd Sunday of the month,but check in your ABC first.

Queries to Sylvia Strivens-Tel.253185

<p><b>Young Church Workshop</b> <b>Bible based fun</b> activities 10.30-12.00</p> <p>2nd Sunday every month in Chesterton School hall 5ish to 9yrs olds All welcome with Hilary and Linda For info ring 242109</p>
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## Middleton Stoney

### Church Maintenance

**End of Year Draw.** The two winners of our Maintenance Club Draw for April, were Mr. Jonathan Newman and Miss Amy Coldstream.

If any volunteer can spare 4-5 hours, approx twice a year during the summer months and would like to join the grasscutting rota for All Saints, please contact Alan Pay on 343733. Sit-on mower is provided!

## Wendlebury

### Gardening Club

*Smiles on faces at last as Spring, with a few hiccups, is believable. But there's a fair bit of catching up to do in the garden. Maybe we can help. At our annual Plant Sale in May there will be, as ever, an extensive range of seedlings and plants to give you a head start whether in a potage or in pots to "Grow Your Own for 5 - a - Day" and also fill in the gaps in the garden left by this vicious winter. However if gardening is not your thing there will be the bric-a-brac, cake, produce and raffle etc. stalls, - or just enjoy a chat over a cup of coffee and scones.*

DIARY DATE SAT. 15th MAY 10.30 -12.30 in the VILLAGE HALL

#### Other news

*Mini Tour to East Anglia 4th = 7th May We make 8 visits which include Hyde Hall, Blooms of Bressingham and Anglesey Abbey and also Christchurch Mansion which houses the most important collection of works by Constable and Gainsborough outside London. We now have a single and a double / twin room available if you'd like to join us. Details Tel . below Our programme of summer outings starts in June and we will be revisiting the gardens at Highgrove House and also Sudeley Castle.*

*New members always welcome - Annual sub £2. or £3 family.*

*Elaine Harrop 01869 252713*

## Neighbourhood Police

In relation to crime reported to Police there have been two car windows smashed in Chesterton and a set of car number plates stolen from were stolen from a car parked at Chesterton golf club. There were no crimes reported in Middleton Stoney, Little Chesterton and Wendlebury.

In relation to the NAG at the meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> March the following decisions were made.

Parking will continue to be monitored at Chesterton school as there are still a few issues at both the end and the start of the school day, it was decided to remove Stratton Audley and Steeple Aston as the team have conducted in excess of 30 targeted patrols in these areas and have hopefully

improved the parking in these areas, our patrols certainly seem to indicate this.

The new locations added are High Street Upper Heyford and Hardwick Road Hethe.

As there have been no reports of Anti Social Behaviour(ASB) in the identified locations, Fringford, Steeple Aston and Chesterton despite several months of patrolling it was decided to suspend patrols in this area and to discuss further at the next meeting, as the nights become lighter the reports of ASB may be forthcoming.

In relation to speeding it was decided to remove all three locations, Fritwell, Launton and Upper Heyford and monitor the following locations -

A4421 Newton Purcell, Station Road Lower Heyford, Station Road Blackthorn and Ploughley Road Ambrosden

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In relation to progress made on the original locations the following checks have been carried out.  
A speed indicator check (SID) at Bicester Road Launton on 1<sup>st</sup> March from 330pm to 415pm when 76 vehicles drove through the check and none were speeding  
A laser (speed gun) check at Fewcott Road Fritwell between 430pm and 5pm on 1<sup>st</sup> March when 38 vehicles were checked and two drivers were issued with tickets for excess speed.  
Another Laser check at Fewcott Road Fritwell on 5<sup>th</sup> March between 145pm and 225pm, when four drivers were given tickets for excess speed.  
A SID check was carried out in East Street Fritwell on 16<sup>th</sup> March between 10am and 1130 when 51 vehicles drove through the check and none were speeding.  
A laser check on the B430 at Ardley on 5<sup>th</sup> March between 810am and 905am, 1 ticket was issued and six cautions given for excess speed, another ticket for driving whilst on the mobile phone and another for not wearing a seat belt.  
5<sup>th</sup> March a Laser check was carried out at Heyford Road Middleton Stoney between 910am and 1025am when six tickets and one caution were issued for excess speed and another ticket for not wearing a seat belt.

The team have carried out a drugs warrant in Ambrosden during the month, I attended parish council meetings at Bucknell and Ardley and PC Sullivan attended Hethe's meeting. We have also attended the weekly coffee morning at the Red Cow in Chesterton which continues to be well attended by residents. We also escorted the children from Chesterton school to their end of term church service where they had a procession along Alchester Road dressed in Easter costumes.

During March the following crime trends have emerged, there has been an increase in the theft of scrap metal, if you have any lying around outside your property then please be mindful of this as we have had reports of people driving round looking for properties to target. Likewise around the Fritwell area there has been several thefts of heating oil, we have had several pubs broken into overnight and finally the lead thieves have returned to the churches and schools. . Also we have seen several pubs targeted in overnight burglaries; the offenders seem to be targeting gaming machines for cash. I have visited the majority of pubs in the villages and given crime prevention advice packs. **If you see anything suspicious then please report this to police by ringing 999 in an emergency or 0845 8505505 and in particular try and obtain any vehicle details especially the index number.**

You can meet members of the team at Wendlebury village hall from 2-3pm on 19<sup>th</sup> April, and the Red Lion coffee morning at Stratton Audley from 11 to midday on 20<sup>th</sup> April

If you have any village event that you would like us to attend then please let us know and we will do our best to get an officer along, we have several events in the calendar already. We can be contacted by E Mailing [bicesterruralneighbourhood@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:bicesterruralneighbourhood@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

Caroline Brown, WPC 437, Bicester Police Neighbourhood Specialist Officer.

From our gardening correspondent

by David Jones

### Garden Centres and Shops

These notes are being written earlier in the month than usual because Hazel and I are spending the middle two weeks of April in the Peloponnese on a botanical expedition with our friend Lance Chilton. We expect to see growing 'in the wild' many of the species from which garden and vegetable plants have been developed - *Crocus*, *Tulipa*, *Verbascum*, *Anemone* and *Salvia* as well as *Pisum*, *Beta* and *Daucus*.

As was not difficult to predict, daffodils did prove to be scarcely in full flower over the Easter weekend. And with another colder spell at the end of March fruit trees were held further back.

You will have read that Wyevale (who now trade under the name 'The Garden Centre Group Trading Ltd') have challenged the ban on trading on Easter Sunday on the basis that the Easter weekend would be expected to be about the busiest of the year for them. After the winter we have had, this reason would seem to be justified. There is however, the rather damning report on many national garden centres and supermarkets in the April 2010 Which? Gardening. Totally contrary to the top award from BBC Gardeners' World in 2009, Wyevale comes out fourth from bottom - out of 36 - in the judgement of 6,222 Which? members. There is further irony here, because Bridgemere, in Cheshire, now owned by Wyevale came 6<sup>th</sup>!! Hazel's cousins, who live in Market Drayton, have taken us to Bridgemere several times. We have then bought plants that we have not seen elsewhere. Blooms (also owned by Wyevale) came 21<sup>st</sup> - but behind Argos (20<sup>th</sup>).

Of the other source of plants reasonably close to us that made the list, Sainsbury's, B&Q, Wickes, Tesco and Homebase were in positions 30 - 32 and 34 - 35, respectively. Which? Gardening comments 'We think it's shocking that Wyevale - Britain's largest garden centre chain - and its staff get such mediocre ratings'. Wyevale also fared poorly in the Which? survey in 2002. Which? does admit that there considerable variations from branch to branch. To get such a low average score (50%) must mean that some branches are - - - - !

Among the 'better' garden centres listed, those that have branches in Oxfordshire are Frosts and Hilliers. As you know there are several family owned garden centres within reasonable distance. Each of you will have a favourite, but I will not list or rank them for fear of offending anyone, but we do support one to the northwest of Bicester from time to time.

## Church

### Rector's letter

#### Lifeline 2010 May 15<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>

Please be ready for a very special week in May. Saturday May 15<sup>th</sup> to Sunday May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Yes, it is the F.A. Cup Final on the first Saturday, but it is also our Lifeline 2010 week.

So, if enjoy a Flower Festival – we have one at Wendlebury for part of the week. If you would like to put a question about the Christian Faith or life today to a panel, we can sort you out at Weston on the Green one evening. The same goes for Cream Teas, buggy walk, flower demo, recipe swap, quiz night, golf day, children's workshop one weekend, and 'Going bananas' the next, and more.....best to take a good look at the programme.

We have five 'Lifeline' services on the two Sundays – non-communion, easy to read service sheet, good hymns, and a short talk, just for you! You will be most welcome.

At these events we welcome John Hibberd and a team who will help us to look at the Christian Faith, and how important Jesus Christ is in our world today. Two mega events – Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May Riding Lights 'Roughshod' a national Christian Drama group – who are mind-blowing! A week later, on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May a Christian Choir 'Adoramus' – well worth hearing.

This is not a money making scheme! It is for the community, it is an outreach from the Akeman Benefice Churches, and it is for you.

Derek Walker[Rector]

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*Services in the Akeman Benefice May 2010*

*Welcome*

**May 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Easter 5**

Chesterton	8.00	Holy Communion	Derek Walker
Wendlebury	9.15	Holy Communion	Jane Hemmings/+ Student to preach
Bletchington	11.00	Holy Communion	Derek Walker
Chesterton	11.00	Young Families	Sue Ashdown
Middleton Stoney	11.00	All Age Worship	Paul Clifford
Kirlington	11.00	Family Worship	Jane Hemmings
Hampton Gay	15.15	Evening Prayer	Derek Walker

**May 4<sup>th</sup>**

Middleton Stoney	4.30	Buggy Service
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**May 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Easter 6**

Bletchington	8.00	Holy Communion	Derek Walker
Kirlington	9.15	Holy Communion	Derek Walker
Chesterton	11.00	Holy Communion	Jane Hemmings
Wendlebury	11.00	All Age Worship	Mike Nunn
Weston o t Green	11.00	All Age Worship	Paul Clifford

**May 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Easter 7**

Kirlington	8.00	Holy Communion	Derek Walker
Bletchington	11.00	Lifeline Praise	
Chesterton	11.00	Lifeline Praise	
Middleton Stoney	11.00	Lifeline Praise	
Wendlebury	11.00	Lifeline Praise	
Weston on the Green	11.00	Lifeline Praise	
Kirlington	18.00	Evensong	Mike Nunn

**May 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**Easter 8**

**Pentecost**

Kirlington	9.15	Holy Communion	Derek Walker
Bletchington	11.00	Lifeline Praise	
Chesterton	11.00	Lifeline Praise	
Middleton Stoney	11.00	Lifeline Praise	
Wendlebury	11.00	Lifeline Praise	
Weston on the Green	11.00	Lifeline Praise	

**May 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Trinity Sunday**

Chesterton	10.00	United Benefice All Age 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](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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## 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
23 May	Taster session for Holiday Club 'Going Bananas'. Contact PCC member					
24 June			Concert in Church by St. John's Choir.			
19 June			Salmon & Strawberries			
27 <sup>th</sup> June				<b>BBQ</b>		
24-27 August	'Going Bananas' holiday club for 5 - 11-year-olds					
2 <sup>nd</sup> October				Village Hall event		
27 <sup>th</sup> November				Village Hall Event		

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**Handyman**

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Weeding	Pointing
Rotovating	Re-building
Digging	<u>Decorating</u>
Planting	Preparation
General maintenance	Painting
	Wallpaper hanging



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**Chesterton Playgroup**

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](http://www.chestertonplaygroup.org.uk) or call Sylvia Kelly on 07751 478361.

**Chesterton**  
**Toddlers**

*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 Julia Hawkins 246763*

Bletchington	PCC	Kathy Gedling	350491
	PC	C E Lane	350257
Chesterton	PCC	Malcolm McBride	322951
	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
<u>Rector</u> The Reverend Derek Walker, The Rectory, Alchester Road, Chesterton, OX26 1UW. 369815			
<u>Associate Priest.</u> The Reverend Jane Hemmings 350224 . e-mail <a href="mailto:dauphin.jg@btinternet.com">dauphin.jg@btinternet.com</a>			
Paul Clifford (LLM) 01865 515711. <a href="mailto:clifford@lakeside14.fsnet.co.uk">clifford@lakeside14.fsnet.co.uk</a>			
Mike Nunn (LLM) 01865 439986. <a href="mailto:mbnunnuk@yahoo.co.uk">mbnunnuk@yahoo.co.uk</a>			