

The Parish Magazine

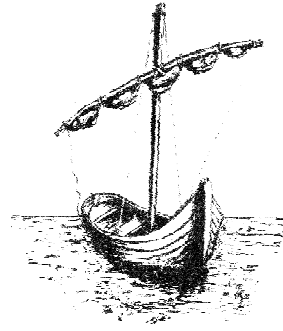
Ashton-under-Hill

Beckford

Overbury

Alstone &

Teddington



April 2011

40p



Schedule of Services for April 2011
The Parish of Overbury with Teddington, Alstone and Little Washbourne,
with Beckford and Ashton under Hill

	Ashton	Beckford	Overbury	Alstone	Teddington
3rd April Mothering Sunday	10.00 am Mothering Sunday Family Service <i>J Dodge & Lay Team</i>	8.00 am BCP HC <i>C Parr</i>	11.00 am Mothering Sunday Family Service <i>C Parr</i>	9.30 am Family CW HC <i>C Parr</i>	
10th April Passion Sunday	9.30 am CW HC <i>C Turpin/ Canon Baynes</i>	8.00 am BCP HC <i>Canon Baynes</i> 6.00 pm Evening Worship <i>C Turpin</i>	11.00 am Morning Prayer <i>R Palmer</i>	9.30 am Morning Service <i>D Oxley</i>	
17th April Palm Sunday	10.00 am United Parish CW HC <i>C Parr</i>				
Holy Week 18th April	7.30 pm Compline				
19th April					7.30 pm Compline
20th April			10.00 am CW HC		
21st April		8.00 pm Passover Supper			
22nd April Good Friday	2.45 pm Bredon Hill Group of Parishes Good Friday Pilgrimage and Service on Bredon Hill				
23rd April Easter Eve	8.00 pm Bredon Hill Group of Parishes Easter Liturgy Service at St Giles Church, Bredon				
24th April Easter Day	9.30 am Family CW HC <i>S Renshaw</i> followed by an Easter Egg Hunt	6.00 pm Celtic HC <i>C Turpin</i>	11.00 am CW HC <i>S Renshaw</i>		9.30 am CW HC <i>C Turpin</i>

BCP Book of Common Prayer **CW** Book of Common Worship **HC** Holy Communion

Morning Prayers will be said:

at 8.30 am on Tuesday at Teddington, Thursday at Alstone,
at 9.00 am on first and third Fridays, and 8.30 am on second, fourth (fifth where applicable) at
Ashton. **Holy Communion** is celebrated at 10.00 am on Wednesday in St Faith's Church, Overbury.

Clergy

Canon Matthew Baynes
Rev'd Clive Parr

Rev'd Terry Henderson
Rev'd Christine Turpin, Assistant Curate

Rev'd Susan Renshaw

Readers

Captain Dennis Oxley, Church Army
Roger Palmer

John Dodge
Kalantha Brewis



From the Vicarage....at Eckington!

As I write there is a definite feeling of spring in the air. The bulbs are beginning to flower and our gardens and roadsides are decorated with daffodils and crocuses. The buds on the trees are beginning to open out and soon our world will be green again, after the drabness of the winter. It's wonderful that Easter comes in this season of Spring, nature mirroring in creation the new life which we celebrate in Christ. Spring and Easter... both promises of something new, of hope, of warmth after the cold, of celebration after a penitential Lent, of life after death. We are moved into a new cycle of growth, a new beginning.

As Easter approaches, we look forward to celebrating our Lord's resurrection. Easter is indeed a joyous time, even more so when we have kept a holy Lent.

The liturgy of Holy Week is some of the most profound and moving that Christians experience. On Palm Sunday we celebrate Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey, with the crowds cheering him on, waving their palm branches, but the services on following days are not quite so upbeat, though no less meaningful. On Maundy Thursday at the Cathedral, there is the Chrism Mass, where the oils, to be used in the coming year for baptism, confirmation, ordination and healing, are blessed. This is also the service at which priests renew their ordination vows... reminding them once again of who it is they serve... a very humbling experience. In the evening we have a Eucharist which often involves the priest washing the feet of some members of the congregation, once again reminding us that Jesus came to serve and not to be served. During this service all the altar cloths and decorations in the church are removed as we remember that this was the day that our Lord was betrayed. A bare church reminds us of the solemn-ness of the season. On Good Friday we climb Bredon Hill with three crosses, symbolising the scene on Calvary. On Holy Saturday, at the Easter Vigil service (this year to be held at St. Giles', Bredon) we hear the story of God's redemptive work; stories from the Old Testament when God rescued his people. We light the Easter candle from a fire outside and bring the light into church, proclaiming that Christ is the light of the world. A priest or deacon sings the Exultet, the great hymn of praise to God and we proclaim that Christ is risen! Finally, on Easter Sunday morning, we celebrate the empty tomb, Christ having risen from the dead. We celebrate God's power to conquer death. We rejoice in God's love for us. And we go out to pass that love on to other people. I do hope that some of you will be able to join us for our services throughout Holy Week. Details are elsewhere in the magazine. It is only when we have walked the road with Christ in his Passion that we can truly celebrate his Resurrection.

I wish you all a very happy and blessed Easter.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Every blessing

Susan





The Curate Cogitates

Revd. Christine Turpin, Assistant Curate to the Bredon Hill Group of Parishes

08.03.11 Shrove Tuesday, or Pancake Day.

Traditionally a day to use up all the eggs, as luxury items, before the frugal period of Lent ensues. It's the last party day, the Carnival before Lent. ('Carnival', from 'carne va la' approximately, means 'meat goes there/away', significant of course as many gave up meat for Lent.)

In many more Roman Catholic countries, the Carnival, party period, before Lent is celebrated in quite lavish ways. If you go to Venice in Carnival time, you will not forget the costumes, masks and general party atmosphere. They also seem to know how to party at this time in South America!

Well it may not have been a Carnival at my house today, there were certainly no costumes, but the open day here saw plenty of pancakes and good humour. I am very grateful to those who helped in various ways with the volume of batter, tea and coffee. One of the really positive outcomes, was that people met and chatted to others from different Churches around the Hill.

It strikes me that although this was the 'party' before Lent, it actually could be said to be a Lenten exercise, in that it raised people's awareness of being part of a slightly bigger local Church. This in itself can teach us something of God and bring us a little closer to him. Which is what we try to do during Lent itself.

09.03.11 Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent.

As I half noted yesterday, Lent is not always about giving things up like chocolate or alcohol. It can be about making time to try a new discipline or something new, which gives us a new angle on God or his people. His Church. Making time to attend the Wednesday Evening Lenten talks, or to read a specific 'religious' book we have had on one side for ages, (I have many), these are more doing activities in lent. And yet they require a giving up too. The sacrifice of time. Time is the thing we are least able, or most reluctant to give up. We live such busy lives. 'There are not enough hours in the day', could be a mantra for our time. And yet there were always 24.

But if we were not here tomorrow, if time for us stopped, the world would carry on. It would get by without us. Time is a gift. It is not actually totally ours to possess. It is given, for a set period, then it is gone.

The Ash Wednesday service reminds us of this in a very visual and humbling way. Receiving ash on our foreheads, we are told 'remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ'.

There is a sense of urgency to use our set time, to seek, to get to know better and to stay faithful to Christ. It is as real as the ash on our foreheads.

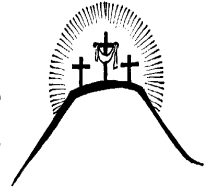
Whether you read this part way through Lent, or as you chomp your way through Easter eggs, this ash Wednesday message still holds, that from this gift of time that we have been given, we should set aside enough of it for God. Enough time and space to give him chance to draw near to us, and we to him. However that works for us as individuals.

Its not too late to start that enlightening book, or to just set 5 minutes aside each day in silence, waiting on God. May God grant us that time for amendment of life. And the will to amend, at this time of reflection, moving into new growth and new life, that does not turn to dust.

Christine Turpin

Lent around Bredon Hill.....

Clear your diaries on a Wednesday evening during Lent for what will be an excellent course on prayer led by the senior clergy of our Diocese. All welcome, meetings start at 7.30pm.



- 6th April Bishop John - Prayer as friendship with God Venue: Bredon Church
13th April Sister Mary - Praying when you feel you can't. Venue: Little Comberton
(Sister Mary is from the new Mucknell Abbey Community)
20th April The Dean - Intercessory prayer. Venue: Eckington Church

More Dates for your Diary

The following events will be taking place in and around Bredon Hill during April 2011:

Saturday 2nd April Elmley Castle

'THE ELMLEY NIGHT OUT' MAD JOCKS & ENGLISHMEN'

Another evening of fun and hearty music from three of the Midlands most accomplished entertainers. In addition our young musicians from Prince Henry's will play before the show starts at Elmley Castle Village Hall 7.15pm for 8.00pm. Proceeds in aid of Friends of Elmley Castle Church.

Tickets £12 to include light supper, plus bar & raffle from David & June Phillips (01386) 710337, Brian & Pat Lovett (01386) 710286 or Mary Parr (01386) 710700.

Saturday 2nd April

The Canteloube Trio, Beckford Church 8pm

Sunday 17th April

Overbury Farms Lambing Day

Friday 29th April - 1st May

Overbury Wedding Festival - Flowers and Dresses at St. Faith's Overbury

Saturday 30th April

Cotswold Flute & Harp Duo,
Teddington Church 8pm

Sat 30th April to Monday 2nd May Eckington Flower Festival

For contact details re events and if you have any dates you wish to be included, please email or call Joan Needham on 01684 772689 jneedham@toucansurf.com

Mothering Sunday

A Family Service with Holy Communion will be held at Alstone Church on 3rd April at 9.30. There will be flowers for the Mums and something nice for the children at the end of the service, come and find out.

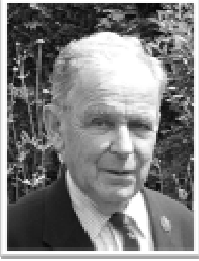


Easter Day Service in the Chapelries

This year it is Teddington's turn to host this service. Christine will take the service on 24th April, time, 9.30am, it will be Holy Communion.

Do try and come to this lovely service, a close to the austerity of Lent and the start of fresh hope and the blessing of Easter.

We plan to have something 'of sugar and spice and all things nice' for the younger generation so come and be surprised.



News and Musings from St Nicholas' Cottage

In Memory of Mrs Nella Prudence Fergusson-Cuninghame

Every Cheltenham Race week reminds me that I have been in the Beckford Parish for another year. This year tells me that I have been here eighteen years. I suppose that many readers, particularly those in Overbury and Conderton, may be rather like me in that they feel that they know Captain Johnny Cuninghame as a well known personality in our Church and community but Mrs Prue Cuninghame has been, for us, a lady we have seldom seen and one whom we hardly know - a lady whom we think of as being delicate and beset by health problems.

The Eulogy given by their son, Mr Andrew Fergusson-Cuninghame at the Service of Thanksgiving for her life at Overbury Church unlocked the interesting and exciting aspects of her life. I can but highlight a few of those things. Prue was born in Calcutta. Her father was in shipping and her first school was Tingaling, near Darjeeling, nestling in the foothills of the Himalayas. The family returned to England when she was eight years old. They had homes in Sussex and in Northwood, London. Her interests included a love for tennis, history, romantic novels and dancing. She had a sister and two brothers.

In 1937 she went to a finishing school in Switzerland. During that time, her mother took her to Dresden and while staying there, their passports were stolen, but her mother suspected that a young Jewish maid had stolen them and was delighted that a small inconvenience to them might have helped two people to escape from Germany before the roundups of Jews began.

On the outbreak of War in 1939, her father took up a retired officer's post at Biggin Hill. This allowed the two sisters to attend parties given by the young pilots in their Mess. She witnessed the dog fights that saved Britain as airmen fought their thrilling but deadly duels to save Britain.

In 1942 she joined the W.R.N.S (Wrens) and moved to Portsmouth to be trained. There she had the exciting experience of dancing with Lord Mountbatten. One night, when she was on fire-watching duties, she was blown across the room by an exploding bomb. This resulted in her being invalided out of the Services and she was given a job in London at the Admiralty.

In December 1943 her parents gave a small dinner party to celebrate her birthday and one of the male guests caught flu and he sent a brother officer, Johnny Cuninghame, to take his place. He was serving with the Guards Armoured Division and, despite all the competition for Prue, his constant letters from France, Holland and Germany eventually sealed their marriage at St Peter's, Eaton Square, London. The photo produced on the Service Sheet of the Thanksgiving for her life was the one that Johnny has carried in his wallet since the first day that they met. They were married in 1946.

At that service over 50 years ago, Johnny and Prue would have promised to love and cherish one another in sickness and in health. We thank God for the years when that was true in health and for their faithfulness to that vow in the more recent years of sickness. I have a great admiration for that noble little band of men who look after their wives who are in need of loving care for a long period. Of course, it is generally the ladies who look after men - and sometimes the men are very awkward! In these days of political correctness, I make no apology for saying that there are some things that women can generally do better than men! I am glad that young men are more "hands on" in the care of their children than would have been normal fifty years ago; but I am too old to repent if I am considered sexist when I salute men who have largely left domestic affairs to their wives when, like Johnny, they continue to look after their poorly wives for quite a long time.

In Memory of Mr Raymond Eves

In the times when so much is large and impersonal, when, more frequently than we like, scams and shoddy workmanship are things that we have to be aware of when we pick up advertisements on the 'phone or by unsolicited mail, how valuable it is to know of people who will do a good job, charge a fair price, be vigilant in coming when they say they will and will readily respond when necessary. Mr Raymond Eves was one such man. The Eves family were and are such people.

Ray was born when his parents lived in Cheltenham. He became a choirboy at the Parish Church. After his Funeral Service, the organist on duty at Cheltenham Crematorium told me that he has also been in the choir at Cheltenham Parish Church as a choir man until its closure, though he was pleased that it had re-opened but not with a choir. On leaving school, Ray learned the plumbing trade with a company in Cheltenham.

In 1952 he was called up for National Service with the Gloucester Regiment and he was one of those who lined the route of the Coronation of HM Queen Elizabeth. After the War, he worked with his father who built houses in Bredon and Ken's View in Teddington. His father died when comparatively young and Ken's View became the home of Ray's mother and of Raymond and Barbara, the two single son and daughter of the family. Mrs Emes died in June 2002, having reached the age of 90 years. Ray kept his hand in by doing plumbing and heating jobs after reaching pension age but had to give up a few years ago.

The Emes family are a close-knit family. After the funeral, everybody was invited to go to his younger brother's home for refreshments. We thank God for a thoroughly hard-working man who was loved by his wider family.

Dennis Oxley

Evening Worship at Beckford Church

'The Passion'

Music and reflection based on the last words of our Lord from the cross.

Sunday 10th April 2011 at 6pm

Refreshments available after the service



**Thursday 21st April 2011 - Maundy Thursday
8pm - St John the Baptist's Church, Beckford**

We invite you to share the sanctity of the Upper Room as we symbolically re-enact the Last Supper and prepare ourselves for the events of Good Friday.

The sharing of simple food and wine will be followed by an act of worship which includes the washing of feet (if so desired) and a short Eucharist.



Easter Sunday 24th April 2010 6pm at Beckford Church

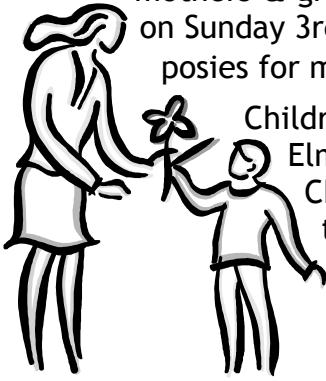
You are invited to join us for a celebration of Celtic-style Holy Communion on Easter Sunday. The service will follow the simple, informal format used in Iona Abbey for the evening Eucharist. Everyone will sit together around a long table for an intimate sharing of the Bread of Life, as the Sacrament is passed from one to another around the table.



ALL are very welcome to attend. If you do not wish to receive Communion, you are simply asked to pass the bread and the wine on to the next person, thus remaining united with us in fellowship and prayer. Refreshments will be served after the service to continue our celebration of Easter.

Mothering Sunday in Ashton

You are warmly invited to come and join in a Family Service to give thanks for our mothers & grandmothers, and for all that they do for us throughout the year on Sunday 3rd April at 10.00 am at St Barbara's Church, Ashton. There will be posies for mums & grannies, and refreshments afterwards.



Children and parents! Please come along to The Old Farmhouse, Elmley Road, on Saturday 2nd April from 2.30 pm for a 'Messy Church' session of making posies to give to mums and grannies in the Mothering Sunday Family Service in St Barbara's. Flowers, drinks and cake will be provided, so please come and join in the fun! Further details from Alex on 881487.

Palm Sunday

The United Parish Service for Palm Sunday will be held at St Barbara's Church this year on Sunday 17th April at 10.00 am, so please come and celebrate the start of the Easter journey with hymns and palms! The collection will be donated to the local charity "Caring Hands in the Vale" which provides hot meals and support for homeless and elderly persons in Evesham.

Easter Day

Please come and join in the telling of the greatest Bible Story of all in a Family Worship with Communion at St Barbara's Church on Easter Sunday 24th April at 9.30 am. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt for the children and Hot Cross Buns for everyone after the service.



Forthcoming Ashton Diary Dates for Spring Cleaning at St Barbara's

Please will you spare an hour or two to keep your village church and churchyard neat and tidy? Looking after an ancient place of worship and its surroundings is a perpetual work in progress. We are indebted to the 'professionals' who assist us in keeping St Barbara's in good order. However, apart from major maintenance works, our village church and churchyard are kept clean and tidy entirely by voluntary efforts, and your help would be much appreciated on the following dates:

Spring Churchyard Clear - Saturday 9th April from 9.30 am to 12 noon - It would be appreciated if you could bring your own tools

Annual Church Spring Clean - Saturday 30th April from 9.30 am to 12 noon - Cleaning materials will be provided.

Refreshments will be provided on both days. For further information please call churchwardens Malcolm Nelson on 881778 or Alex Dodge on 881487, and, for the church Spring Clean, Sylvia Kennedy on 882919.

Christian Aid

We believe in life before death Christian Aid Week - May 15th - 21st

I am very short of volunteers to do the house to house collection in Ashton this year. In a normal year we have about ten people available, but this year at least five of these will not be here at this time. How many homes you visit is up to you - some rounds are about ten houses, few more than twenty-five. Most collectors tell me that the only problem is that at so many houses they want to stay and chat!

Please contact me if you would like to be part of this important work, helping to collect money for the poorest people in our world. Alastair Humphrey 01386 881479.

A Plea

Alstone and Teddington and the houses in between make a delightful area for all to live and bring up our families, but with the peace and quiet comes one draw-back, lack of a general meeting place apart from our excellent Village Hall. No shop, no pub, no hustle and bustle and no strangers in the village but no meeting place either. Unless you consider our well kept, strong, history packed and quite different styled Churches or as they are known, the Chapelries.

The Chapelries need you. All who worship in our churches do so because they want to and enjoy the fellowship, they get to know the community and support one another. We need the young between the ages of 8 and 88 and anyone who fits in on either side of 'youth'. Yes, we could do with your financial support but we really want your presence. We are aware that some will say "you go if you want but it's not for me" but if the churches can't be maintained and have to be closed, that won't solve the problem of the buildings.

Both Teddington and Alstone Churches are listed, but the 'Redundant Churches Association' are not taking on any more properties. If these places of peace are closed, they are likely to be boarded up with a 'KEEP OUT' notice and perhaps even barbed-wire across their doors. They will fall into disrepair, vandalism and 'Health and Safety' issues spring to mind.



These historic landmarks need your support, I can't say it loud enough. They need you this year, next year and the years to come, so please help one way or another. Thank you for reading this through.

Rosie Atkin



LENT LUNCHES 2011

Bredon Hill Christian Unity Group (Co-workers of Mother Theresa)

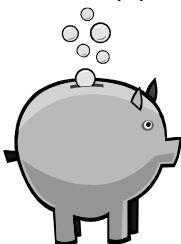
Everyone is most welcome to come along to these lunches each Friday during Lent, all commencing at 12.30 pm, where you can enjoy home-made soups, rolls & cheese and good company while supporting good causes. Donations this year will be given to the Friends of Tewkesbury and Pershore Community Hospitals.

We look forward to seeing friends old and new, at the following venues:

1st April	Adsett Cottage, Beckford	Jonna Gowthorpe
8th April	Manor Farmhouse, Bredon	Sally & Stephen Deakin
15th April	Berkeley House, Overbury	Mrs Dagny Holland Martin

If you require any further information please contact Alex Dodge on 01386 881487.

A **BIG THANKYOU** to my helpers and everyone who came along, baked cakes or donated raffle prizes for the Coffee Morning in Beckford Village Hall in support of **Brain Tumour Awareness Month**.



We raised £353.13 which is a wonderful amount and I'm sure the Charity will be delighted.

Many thanks, Shirley Ellis

Parish Minibus
Shopping Trips
to Worcester

April 8th & 22nd

*Picks up from all villages
on request.*

Call

*Andy Richmond 881237
Andrew Barnett 881145*

Cotswold Festival of Churches 14th -22nd May

As part of the Cotswold Festival of Churches, a pictorial exhibition 900 Years of St Barbara's will be on display daily throughout the Festival. There will also be a unique Family History Weekend at St Barbara's on 14th and 15th May when visitors to the church will be able to access information from our baptismal, marriage and burial registers from 1586-1950 and also the Census returns for Ashton from 1841 to 1911.

Former churchwarden John Dodge has compiled all of this information into a searchable computer database and anyone who is interested in researching their genealogy in the village will be able to take away a printout of any family details which they find in our records.

We believe that this is the very first time this access has ever been offered and is a unique opportunity for anyone with family connections in Ashton to find out more about their ancestors.

The church will be open for Family History enquiries from 10.00am to 5.00pm on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th May, and refreshments will be available.

If you have any documents or pictures relating to the history of your family in Ashton we'd love to see them. Please bring them along on the day, or contact John Dodge on 01386 881487 or Malcolm Nelson on 01386 881778.

For more information about the Cotswold Festival of Churches please see: www.cotswoldchurchesfestival.org or telephone: 08451 222660

Biography of Ursula Moray John (nee Williams)

An official biography celebrating the centenary of local author Ursula Moray Williams, who wrote some of Britain's best-loved children's classics, will be launched at a reception in **Beckford Village hall at 6pm on Saturday 16th April.**

Titled "Through the Magic Door, Gobbolino and the Little Wooden Horse", and written by Colin Davison who lives in Ashton under Hill, the publication by Northumbria Press coincides with the 100th anniversary of her birth in 1911.

Anyone who knew Ursula or read her books is most welcome to attend. Mr Colin Davison will give a short talk on how he came to write the biography, and he will be happy to answer questions.

Known locally as Mrs Ursula John, she published 68 books, plus numerous short stories, between 1931 and 1987 - the longest career of any children's writer of her generation. Some became world best-sellers including "The Adventures of the Little Wooden Horse" and "Gobbolino, the Witch's Cat", translated into many languages and are still in print today.



Colin Davison says, "In a sense, Ursula never left the magical, fantastical world of her childhood and that made her one of the greatest children's story-tellers of all time. She carried that spirit of adventure and fun into her life as well as her writing, even through personal crises, and her later work shows a deep compassion for the plight of children in difficulty. Her own story is immensely rich - as a writer, a superb illustrator, a children's champion, a mother, a benefactor - and it has been a joy to be given the opportunity to share this with others."

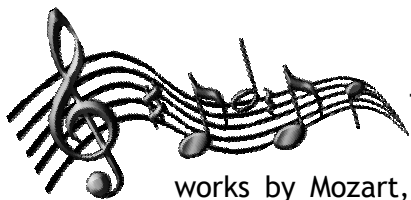
She was born 100 years ago this month and lived at Court Farm House, Beckford, then in Pearcroft, Conderton, for more than 60 years.

The Rector, Canon Matthew Baynes can be contacted at any time on 01684 772237, or email mbaynes@toucansurf.com



The Curate, Rev'd Christine Turpin,
01386 882263, or email c.turpin@mac.com





PARISH MUSIC SPRING CONCERTS

The Parish Music have two concerts in April and one in May:

On 2nd April in Beckford church, the Canteloube Trio perform works by Mozart, Milhaud and Gordon Jacob. The woodwind trio was formed in 2003 by graduates of the Royal College of Music who combine careers in orchestral and chamber music playing alongside work in music education. Jennie-Lee Keetley, oboe, played with the World Youth Orchestra and the European Union Youth Orchestra and last year recorded Graham Whittam's oboe quartet with the Carducci Quartet. Richard Russell, clarinet, graduated from the Royal Northern College of Music as did Stuart Russell, bassoon.

On April 30th in Teddington church, the Cotswold Flute and Harp Duo perform a concert that includes music by JS Bach, B Godard and Bizet (Entr'acte from Carmen; Duet from the Pearl Fishers) as well as a set of variations on Greensleeves. Harpist Catherine White enjoyed a distinguished career in the USA before moving to the UK where she has been principal harpist with the Ulster Orchestra and the Birmingham Chamber Orchestra. She is partnered by flautist Diane Clark, principal flute of the Orchestra of the Swan.

Finally on May 28th in Overbury church we welcome the internationally acclaimed Lendvai Trio, Nadia Wijzenbeek, violin, Ylvali Zilliacus, viola, and Marie Macleod, cello. Founded in 2004, the trio has recently toured Europe and the USA as well as performing in the Wigmore Hall, King's Place, the Barbican and Purcell Room in London. Their programme for Overbury has changed from that originally advertised. Their performance will now include Trios by Sibelius in G minor, by Max Reger Op.77b, the Trio No 2 by Martinu and Beethoven's Trio Op.9 No.2. The Lendvai Trio are performing the same programme in the Amsterdam Concertgebouw in June. A little further to go and rather more expensive - so don't miss them in Overbury!

All concerts start at 8pm. Admission is £10 at the door, with an opportunity to meet the performers and members of the audience over a glass of wine or fruit juice after the concert.

Beckford Nature Reserve

To celebrate the completion of the Rupert Ellis Hide the BNR trustees are holding a

Village Supper

On Friday April 15th at 7.30pm
In the Bredon Room at the Beckford Inn.

Choice of two mains and two desserts. Vegetarian option if ordered beforehand.

Tickets £10

For further information and tickets please contact:

Jennifer Berriman 01386 882029
Diane Colvin 01386 882532



OVERBURY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



28th, 29th and 30th April. The Royal Wedding Weekend. Plans are yet to be finalised but events will include a big screen to watch the ceremony followed by a wedding reception in the Village Hall; the church will be decorated with wedding flowers, there will be an exhibition to commemorate Overbury weddings of the past and Sunday's family service will provide an opportunity for couples to renew their own wedding vows. Most importantly, the whole event will be a celebration and lots of fun! Proceeds to go to St Faith's Church.

Come and celebrate the **Royal Wedding in Overbury** over the weekend of April 29th-1st May. After a coffee and croissant breakfast, watch the ceremony on a big screen in the Village Hall; then enjoy a buffet lunch. Bar provided. Tickets are on sale at £8, family tickets available- this includes lunch and a complimentary drink. Phone 725405 to reserve your place. There will be a display of flowers and dresses in the church, and a service celebrating marriage on Sunday morning.

Beckford Spring Market

Saturday 14th May, 2.00pm

We need your help please! The Village Hall is in great need of funds to repair the roof and every pound we can raise will make a difference. Could you run a Tombola or Raffle on the day? Please phone 881373 if you can help.



Sandra (881522) is doing her magnificent garden stall again, so will be pleased to hear from you if you have any plants, tools or gardening sundries.

We will be needing the usual bric-a-brac, toys, books, CDs & DVDs and prizes nearer the time - look out for the flyers dropping through your letterboxes!



Great British Fish and Chip Supper - Friday 20th May 2011

Want to do something different? Want to raise money where you live or work? Want to eat Fish and Chips, while raising money for charity? Hold a fish and chip supper on Friday 20th May 2011 whilst raising awareness of spinal cord injury and supporting SIA's information and support services.

You can hold a fish and chip supper in your own home, at work or hold a larger supper at your local community centre. SIA will provide a fundraising pack containing hints and tips, recipes, invitations and donation envelopes. By inviting 7 friends and asking them to donate an additional £5.00 means you will raise at least £35.00 from your supper but we will also give you additional fundraising ideas to raise even more money for SIA.

Every year in the UK over 1,000 people experience a spinal cord injury and there are an estimated 40,000 spinal cord injured people in the UK alone. The money raised from the suppers will help the Spinal Injuries Association offer support to individuals who become paralysed and their families, from the moment a spinal injury occurs, and for the rest of their lives by providing services and publications which enable and encourage paralysed people to lead independent lives.

Community Fundraising Officer, Elizabeth Wright, says, "The Fish and Chip Supper is a wonderful opportunity for a great evening with friends and family. We are also encouraging people who work to hold a Fish and Chip Lunch in their work places to raise even more funds. You may be even a local community group wanting to run a fun evening with your group.

Be a part of something special and make a real difference to help spinal cord injured people gain access to the information and support they need to enable them to live full and independent lives."

For more information or request a fundraising pack call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 678 6633 xtn 229 or email: fishandchips@spinal.co.uk or visit www.spinal.co.uk

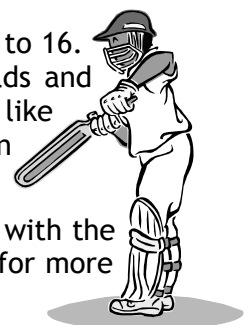
Ashton Cricket Club

With the new season fast approaching, preparations are under way for Ashton's adult & junior cricket teams. Indoor practice has been taking place at Evesham Cricket Centre and the outdoor season starts with a number of friendlies from the middle of April.

2011 will see Ashton's 1st XI returning to the Premier Division of the Cotswold Hills League for the first time in a number of years, while the 2nd XI bid to make a swift return to Division 5 after the disappointment of relegation on the last day of the 2010 season.

There will be three junior teams this season covering all ages from 11 through to 16. Junior practice will take place on Friday evenings 6.00pm for 7 - 10 year olds and 7.00pm for those 11 and above. New junior players are very welcome. If you'd like to come along and want to find out more, please contact David Whitehouse on 01386 882386

The Club will be holding a number of social events through the season starting with the Asparagus Supper in May. Everyone in the Village is welcome. Please look out for more details of these.





Saturday, 25th June 2011

This promises to be a great day out for the whole family with an exciting variety of attractions planned to appeal to all ages. Country and animal enthusiasts will find much to appreciate with working shire horses, falconry and dog agility displays plus a fun dog show. There will also be a Children's Country Dance Festival staged by children from local schools and a Puppet Theatre with shows throughout the day.

In addition, there will be a Classic Car Display with the famous, 1930's, 'Cake Walk' complete with original organs. Food lovers will be tempted in the Food Market area and other stalls will be selling everything from glassware to gladioli!

The Kemerton Country Show & Fair is being organised by the committee of The Victoria Hall, Kemerton to raise funds for its on-going maintenance and repair. With the kind permission of Mr Adrian Darby & Family, the venue will be The Park field on Kinsham Lane. Although a larger and more exciting event, the event retains the atmosphere of a traditional village show with bric-a-brac, books, cakes and tombola stalls. The show opens at midday and continues until the evening with bar, refreshments, music and activity throughout.

There will be ample car park space available for visitors and the event even has its own website. So for more information, visit www.kemertonevents.co.uk

Overbury Pony & Dog Show Sunday 3rd July 2011

With our sponsorship target of £1500 to ensure Overbury Show gets off the ground, we are starting to approach local organisations and individuals with a range of sponsorship opportunities. As always, we're delighted when our sponsors (or their children!) present rosettes and prizes.

Our grateful thanks to Heidi Day from Fox Saddlery for agreeing to be main show sponsor, and to local vet Diane Hussell from Crescent Veterinary Centre in Tewkesbury for sponsoring our novelty dog show. The show is for children aged 14 years & under and we'll be raising money this year for Overbury C of E First School, Macmillan Cancer Care and County Air Ambulance.

Further information from Ruth Darling email. ruthedarling@btinternet.com Tel: 01386 725630

Overbury Cricket Club

Believe it or not folks, it's time to be thinking about cricket again! The new season is nearly upon us, and this year we are celebrating our **125th Anniversary!!**

Our first Senior match is scheduled for mid-April. Please contact 1st X1 Captain, Adam Brookes (07805 003219), for details of Senior outdoor net practice.

The registration of our youth members will take place on Friday, 15th April. If you have children or grandchildren who might be interested, please bring them along to use our excellent coaching and net facilities.

Outdoor nets for the under-12s and under-13s will start in late April. Please contact Junior Co-ordinator, Paul Tamcken (07778 305251) for news of pre-season training and the forthcoming season.

We hope to run a number of special events in 2011: an **Over 60's County Match** in early May; a **Casino Night** at the end of May; a **Golf Day** on Friday 3rd June; a match against a **Wadworths XI** on Sunday 5th June; our annual **Six-a-Side** in late June and our **Fun Night** on Friday 1st July. Please come along and support the Club!

BECKFORD WI

We were pleased to welcome 25 members and 3 visitors (including two new members) to our March meeting. The president reminded everyone of forthcoming events including the Day Visit to Denman House and the Spring Group Meeting in April, the Skittles Match with Ashton WI in May.

Our speaker for the evening was Evi Vagvolgvi (BSc. Hons), a nutritionist, working with Biocare in Birmingham who manufacture many probiotics and supplements. She gave us a fascinating and informative talk on Women's Health and answered a lot of members' questions. Evi has worked in nutrition for the last 7 years and in that time has been a weight management consultant and has experience of skincare. She acts as a technical advisor for Biocare answering questions over the phone and by e-mail. Evi reminded us that we are what we eat and that to be healthy in body and mind we need to eat a wide variety of food types. Members were given advice on foods and supplements which would help with many types of women's health problems. Everyone found the talk very helpful and enjoyable.



Our next meeting is on Monday, April 11th April 7.30pm in the Village Hall when we will be having an Easter Theme Cookery Demonstration.

Diane Colvin



Beckford WI are organising a
Royal Picnic
Sunday, 1st May

Beckford Playing Fields 2.30pm

Come and celebrate the marriage of Prince William & Catherine at this village gathering.

Anyone is welcome to join us,

BUT it is a bring your own food and drink, chairs, tables and blankets event.



ASHTON UNDER HILL W.I.

At February's meeting Ashton WI celebrated their 70th Birthday. The occasion was marked, firstly by a reading given by Mrs Margaret Cotton of an account she had written in 1965, of the day she attended a garden party at Buckingham Palace.



This was followed by three humorous sketches directed by Marian Nelson and performed by six members, namely, Gilly Aspey, Mollie Groom, Yvonne Langridge, Judy Templeton, Christine Powell and Jenny Creese. A group photograph was taken and then we all enjoyed an excellent birthday buffet. The celebration cake, donated by Rosemary Hammond, was cut by Margaret Nicklin.

In our March meeting we enjoyed a well illustrated talk given by Nicholas Clarke entitled "Overland to Okavango". For many years Nicholas and his wife Ann have enjoyed a great interest in African travel, which began many years ago when they both met whilst working in Mombassa, Kenya.

After their return to live and raise a family in England, they continued their interest by visiting Africa for holidays, and the talk gave a graphic account of one journey that they made involving a trek across Zimbabwe and Botswana to the Okavango Delta. We followed their travels through many different terrains and heard about the many and varied plants, trees, animals and birds they encountered, as well as the geology of the different areas. We heard of the people and old friends they met and the country towns and villages they were able to visit. It was a very comprehensive account and fascinating journey.

Photos of our recent visit to the Roccoco Gardens at Painswick, were presented, displaying the wonderful drifts of snowdrops.



Members were reminded of the coffee morning on 20th May, 10:30 to be held at the home of Sandra Farquhar in memory of Sylvia Evans. Funds raised will be given to the Evesham Macmillan Unit.

Our next meeting on April 5th will be a talk given by Mr. Colin Davidson entitled "Through the Magic Door", and will tell the life of the celebrated author of childrens' stories, Ursula Moray Williams.

Visitors are very welcome.

Wildlife Notes by Fred Wood

I am trying to calm myself down after being incensed by reports in the Press of the senseless killing of a large number of swans on the Somerset levels. Hopefully justice will prevail and a punishment to fit the crime administered - it rarely does but miracles do happen.

Despite my leaving plenty of ivy for the small birds to roost in during the bitter weather, the severe low temperatures over the Christmas period proved too much for our resident wren who, after spending all last year with us, is no longer here. The wren is one of the first birds to go under in such conditions - nature can be very cruel at times.

On most mornings, taking our springer for a walk (did I say walk!), we pass by the wildlife lake near to Kemerton church. In addition to the mallard (wild duck), who are splendid in their spring plumage, others to be seen are the tufted duck - the drakes visible from a long way off by their white wing patches - as well as moorhen, coot (with a haircut similar to mine), Canada geese and, of course, the resident mute swan to oversee things and keep order.



With spring now upon us, dare we hope to hear the cuckoo again? However, do look out for the early butterflies - the orange tip floats over flowery roadsides, woodland glades and meadows (the female lacks the orange); the male brimstone is brilliant yellow above, while the female is greenish white and easily mistaken for a large white when in flight; the male holly blue is shiny blue with narrower black edges than the female; the small tortoiseshell is a garden butterfly that comes out to feed and sunbathe on spring flowers as early as February in some years.

With regret I wish to state that this is the last of my Notes for the time being. Thank you all for reading.

Fred Wood

Exit the Flycatcher - enter the Dove!

Many of you will remember the study of breeding Spotted Flycatchers around Bredon Hill. More than 120 households contributed in one way or another to the 8-year project. Since I gave up the study a lot of people have said how much they miss it and wonder if I have other plans. Well, yes I do - and this time it involves an even rarer bird - the TURTLE DOVE. This pretty bird is the only member of the Pigeon/Dove family to migrate and like our Spotted Flycatcher travels from Africa to breed in Europe. In the UK its population decline has been dramatic.

So, how can we help? In 2010, by a series of coincidences I discovered that Turtle Doves were breeding in 3 of our local villages! That set me thinking - maybe we could find out where else around Bredon Hill they are breeding?

Those who were interested would need to learn how to distinguish Turtle Doves from Collared Doves and even some feral Pigeons! The 2 Dove species look and sound similar so a little homework would be required - bird books and especially Google on the web will help a great deal. If you put in 'RSPB Turtle Dove' you can both see and hear the bird. (The RSPB are currently doing a survey of Turtle Dove in East Anglia). There is a convenient link to Collared Dove to help compare.



I need a network of organisers across the villages to co-ordinate things at a local level in getting volunteers to go and look/listen for Turtle Doves. As the birds were traditionally viewed as an agricultural species, little is known about those living in villages. They build their nest (I've only ever seen one nest!) in bushes and trees - the nest looks similar to a slightly smaller Pigeon's nest.

In this project we would not need to monitor the nest and breeding behaviour although any additional information would be welcome. Just a few basic details, including the location, nest site, date and details of observer, may well suffice. If you are interested in helping to look for these birds, or being a local co-ordinator for a village I'd be delighted to hear from you.

John Clarke 01386 725547 jclarkekem@btinternet.com

PARISH DIRECTORY

Canon Matthew Baynes 01684 772237 mbaynes@toucansurf.com	Priest in Charge Beckford Group Parish Pastoral Area of Responsibility: Beckford Rector of Bredon with Bredon's Norton, Rural Dean of Pershore
Revd. Terry Henderson 01386 710394 terryhenderson2@googlemail.com	Associate Priest ~ Area of Responsibility: Ashton Rector of Elmley Castle, Bricklehampton, Great and Little Comberton
Revd. Susan Renshaw 01386 750203 revsusan@btinternet.com	Associate Priest ~ Area of Responsibility: Overbury, Teddington and Alstone Vicar of Eckington with Defford and Besford
Revd. Clive Parr 01386 710700 cw.parr@btinternet.com	Associate Priest part-time Non-Stipendiary Minister
Revd. Christine Turpin 01386 882263 c.turpin@mac.com	Assistant Curate to the Bredon Hill Group of Parishes.
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Verger	Jim Wooldridge 01386 881049
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Saint John The Baptist's Church, Beckford

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Treasurer	Paul Jay 01386 881990
Organist	Mike Sanger Davies 01386 881910
Flowers	Doreen Byrd 01386 881360
Bell ringers	Nick Hopkins 01386 881711

Saint Faith's Church, Overbury

Churchwarden	Faith Hallett 01386 725206
Secretary	Christine Clark 01386 725405
Treasurer	Derek Rooney 01386 725585
Organist	Anne Brown 01684 292231
Flowers	Nicky Sentance 01386 725309
Bell ringers	Ros Long 01386 725111

Saint Barbara's Church, Ashton-under-Hill

Churchwardens	Malcolm Nelson 01386 881778 Alex Dodge 01386 881487
Secretary	Alex Dodge 01386 881487
Treasurer	Robin Welton 01386 881959
Organist	Anthony Greenwood 01386 881278
Flowers	Barbara Moore 01386 881597
Bell ringers	Nick Hopkins 01386 881711

Saint Margaret's Church, Alstone & St. Nicholas' Church, Teddington

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Secretary	Jane Rogers 01242 620592
Treasurer	Harry Jeffery 01526 397448
Flowers	
Teddington	Mary Healey 01242 620412
Alstone	Jane Rogers 01242 620592

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Teddington	Rosie Atkin 01242 620565
Alstone	Betty Beckman 01242 620289
Ashton	Ann Carnegie 01386 882393
Beckford	Roger Palmer 01386 881746

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Andrew Barnett	01386 881145

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Web Sites

www.bredonhillchurches.org
www.beckford-village.org
www.ashtonunderhill.org.uk
www.teddingtonandalstone.org.uk
www.overbury.org



April Diary

1st	Ashton Lunch Club, Cricket Club Pavilion	12 noon
2nd	Parish Music, Canteloube Trio, Beckford Church	8 pm
3rd	Mothering Sunday - see inside for details of services	
5th	Ashton WI "Through the Magic Door", Village Hall	7:30pm
9th	Ashton Churchyard Clear	
10th	Evening Worship - "The Passion", Beckford	6pm
11th	Beckford WI Cookery Demonstration, Village Hall	7:30pm
12th	Simply Soup, Beckford Village Hall	12:30pm
15th	Beckford Nature Reserve Village Supper, The Beckford Inn	7:30pm
16th	<i>Copy date for magazine</i>	
17th	United Parish Palm Sunday Service, Ashton	10am
	Overbury Farms Lambing Day	
21st	Passover Supper, Beckford Church	7:30pm
22nd	Good Friday Pilgrimage to Bredon Hill	
23rd	Easter Liturgy Service, St. Giles, Bredon	8pm
24th	Easter Day - see inside for full details of services.	
29th	Start of Overbury Wedding Festival until 1st May	
30th	Parish Music, Cotswold Flute & Harp Duo, Teddington Church	8pm
	Ashton Church Spring Clean	
<i>May</i>		
1st	Royal Wedding Picnic, Beckford Village Hall & Playing Fields	2:30pm

OVERBURY FARMS LAMBING DAY SUNDAY 17th April 2011

Tractor and trailer rides
Adults £5 Children FREE

Overbury Farms is inviting young and old to come and join in with the spring lambing. This is the eighth year that we have opened our gates, giving local people a chance to come and find out about what goes on "behind the scenes".



For more information visit
overburyfarms.co.uk
farmerjakef.blogspot.com
facebook.com/overburyfarms

Rookwood Cottage Devon

Traditional Devon thatched cottage with oak beams and open fireplace. One double bedroom and a second twin.



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