

# The Parish Magazine

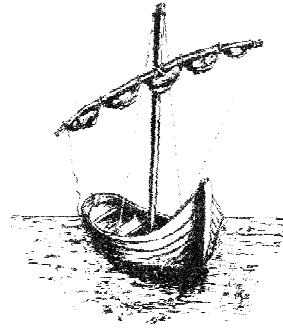
Ashton-under-Hill

Beckford

Overbury

Alstone &

Teddington



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July 2011

40p

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*"Blessed be the Lord for the beauty of summer and  
spring, for the air, the water, the verdure  
and the song of birds."*

*Carl von Linnaeus*



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

<b>JULY</b>	<b>Ashton</b>	<b>Beckford</b>	<b>Overbury</b>	<b>Alstone</b>	<b>Teddington</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> July</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Trinity	<b>6.00 pm</b> Evening Prayer <i>R Palmer</i>	<b>8.00 am</b> BCP HC <i>C Turpin</i>	<b>11.00 am</b> Family Service <i>C Turpin</i>	<b>9.30 am</b> CW HC <i>C Turpin</i>	
<b>10<sup>th</sup> July</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Trinity	<b>9.30 am</b> CW HC <i>T Henderson</i>	<b>8.00 am</b> BCP HC <i>T Henderson</i> <b>6.00 pm</b> Evening Worship <i>Lay Team</i>	<b>11.00 am</b> CW HC <i>T Henderson</i>		<b>9.30 am</b> Morning Prayer <i>D Oxley</i>
<b>17<sup>th</sup> July</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	<b>11.00 am</b> Family Service <i>M Baynes</i>	<b>9.30 am</b> Morning Prayer <i>R Palmer</i>	<b>8.00 am</b> BCP HC <i>S Renshaw</i>	<b>6.00 pm</b> Patronal Evening Prayer <i>M Baynes</i>	
<b>24<sup>th</sup> July</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity					<b>10.00 am</b> United CW HC <i>S Renshaw</i>
<b>31<sup>st</sup> July</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity		<b>10.00 am</b> CW HC <i>C Turpin</i>	<b>6.00 pm</b> Evening Prayer <i>J Dodge</i>		
<b>AUGUST</b>					
<b>7<sup>th</sup> August</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	<b>6.00 pm</b> Evening Prayer <i>J Dodge</i>	<b>8.00 am</b> BCP HC <i>C Parr</i>	<b>11.00 am</b> Family Service <i>O Malcolm</i>		<b>9.30 am</b> CW HC <i>C Parr</i>

**BCP** Book of Common Prayer      **CW** Book of Common Worship  
**HC** Holy Communion      **MP** Morning Prayer      **EP** Evening Prayer

**Morning Prayers** will be said:

at 8.30 am on Tuesday at Teddington, Thursday at Alstone,  
at 9.00 am on first & third Fridays, and 8.30 am on second, fourth, & fifth at Ashton.

**Holy Communion** is celebrated at 10.00 am on Wednesday in St Faith's Church, Overbury.

**Clergy**

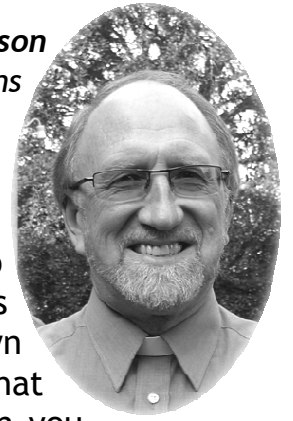
Canon Matthew Baynes  
Revd Clive Parr

Revd Terry Henderson      Revd Susan Renshaw  
Revd Christine Turpin, Assistant Curate

**Readers**

Captain Dennis Oxley, Church Army  
Roger Palmer

John Dodge  
Kalantha Brewis



*Dear Friends,*

We tend to think of eternal life as a quality of life which has no end, and that we shall know it only after death. In St John's Gospel eternal life is not promised just in the future, it is known in the now of life. John 17: verse 3 "And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."

Jesus lived in time, died at a particular time, but the risen Christ is beyond time, is always present through his Spirit in the now of life. That is why we can contemplate him in the Gospels, imagine the scene which is a past memory and yet can we meet with our Lord through that scripture in the here and now. The Spirit who lived in Jesus now lives in us, in our circumstances, in our temperament, in our abilities and disabilities. The more we live in this consciousness, the more we are living in eternal life as understood by St John.

One way of developing this consciousness is to practice living in the present. As soon as we try to do this, we realise just how we spend most of our time either anticipating the future or dwelling in the past. A French spiritual writer, Pierre de Caussade, has written a spiritual classic called 'The Sacrament of the Present Moment' and in this book he helps us to experience the God made known in Jesus in the now of our lives. Modern writers such as Thomas Keating, Cynthia Bourgeault, Eckhart Tolle and Lawrence Freeman, have made this theme popular for this generation of spiritual seekers. The book, 'The Power of Now' by Eckhart Tolle, has become a best seller around the world.

Some form of meditation should have a place in the lives of the followers of the Way of Jesus, and this spiritual practice is particularly helpful in developing the experience of meeting with God in the now of life. The modern writers I have mentioned all speak of different ways of meditation as a way of meeting the Divine in the midst of our lives.

*Mark 8:17-18* "Do you still not perceive or understand... Do you have eyes, and fail to see? Do you have ears, and fail to hear?"

Lord Jesus Christ,  
speak to our hearts in the stillness,  
keep us steadfast in the foundation that cannot be shaken,  
lift up our eyes to behold the vision of your glory;  
and perfect our faith, now and always. Amen

Spirit of God,  
make us open to others in listening,  
generous to others in giving  
and sensitive to others in praying:  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Yours in Christ, *Terry*



## The Curate Cogitates

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

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25.05.11 A pretend Wedding for Bredon Hancock's first school's reception class took place in the Church and what a splendid affair! It was heart warming as I took the 'couple' and all present through the service. The 'pretend promises' (vows) were taken very seriously. (Possibly more than by some doing it for real!!) Hopefully it will give them a feeling for how serious a business and yet how wonderful a Wedding in church is. It may be a pretend Baptism next year. Can't wait.

02.06.11 Ascension day. Thank goodness I was not expected to be at the top of a Church Tower at dawn this morning. This was of course quite common in years gone by, when services to mark the day were held aloft in the early morning. I assume it was intended to add colour to the account retold of the risen Lord Jesus, leaving the bemused disciples, and returning to the Father by disappearing in a cloud. Early morning mist and the dizzy open air elevation would certainly help the imagery. Unless you have vertigo. Or are not quite with it at dawn. Or can not climb the tower steps. Hmm. Is this why it's not so popular these days?

Pentecost approaches, when the bemused disciples receive the Holy Spirit and thus the help they need to set off on the task that is before each of them, as witnesses to what they have seen and heard.

We all need help in identifying our life tasks – which may change in implementation as life moves on. We certainly need help in sticking with them. We of course have access to that same helper, the Holy Spirit. And if the rather faceless nature of the Holy Spirit is a barrier, we can look back to the Son, and the Father, who send and are one with that Spirit. (Now that's verging on Trinity talk, which will keep for another day. )

11.06.11 A real Wedding today. Weddings are always special, but today's had an extra twist. A Jewish Rabbi lead the prayers for the couple. He was a friend of theirs, so it felt really special, but also special as the prayers reminded me of how close we are to our Jewish friends and faith ancestors, in how we speak of and perceive God. Though personally, I thank God I am not still waiting for my Messiah and Pentecost. You realise what 'good news' it is when trying to imagine it not being there. (Back to that Trinity again!)

*Christine Turpin*

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### MORE 2011 Dates for your Diary .....

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

1st July	Concert (part of Cheltenham Music Festival) <i>Tickets £12 – starts at 3pm</i>	St Giles Church, Bredon
4th July	Parish Walk, meet Sandys Arms at 7pm	Wickhamford
9th July	Cheltenham Symphony Orchestra 7.30pm <i>Tickets £14 Students £7 (under 16 free)</i>	Bredon Village Hall
	Street Market 10am - 12 noon	Overbury
11th July	Parish Walk, meet at Yew Tree at 7pm	Conderton
18th July	Parish Walk, meet at the church at 7pm	Little Comberton
25th July	Parish Walk, meet at The Queen Elizabeth at 7pm	Elmley Castle

Please also note that the RNLI Coffee Morning on 4<sup>th</sup> August will now be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> August.

Please check out our online diary too at [www.bredonvillage.com](http://www.bredonvillage.com) and click on "Diary". You can also find out more detail for each entry.

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

## **Sunday 17th July - Ploughman's and Pud Lunch for Mzamomhle**

Family Service at St Barbara's Church, Ashton, at 11.00 am followed by Fundraising for the CATCH Project at 12 noon.

Please join us in an informal Family Service at 11.00 am as we tell the story of Five Loaves and Two Fishes in celebration of sharing food and fellowship together.

Followed by a Ploughman's and Pud Lunch at 12 noon in the garden at The Old Farmhouse, Elmley Road, Ashton. Cakes and Preserves and Plant stalls, Good as New Bring and Buy, Raffle and Fun for the Children.

### **Donations to the CATCH Project at Mzamomhle, South Africa**

As many of you in the Beckford Group will know, this parish is committed to raising £1000 this year to renovate the kitchen in the CATCH house. This is an urgent need because at present it is not possible to maintain hygienic conditions to minimise the spread of tuberculosis which is a major infectious hazard there.

Contributions to the stalls and/or raffle prizes would be most welcome and can be delivered to The Old Farmhouse, or we will collect. For further information, please or contact Alex Dodge on 881487 or Malcolm Nelson on 881778

### **July Services in the Chapelries**



July 17th St. Margaret's Patronal Festival Evensong at 6pm

In 1510 William Askell in his will left one sheep to St. Margaret of Alston. We do not want a sheep but warmly invite you to join us for the Patronal Festival and share wine and light refreshments afterwards.

July 24th St. Nicholas, Teddington the United Parish HC at 10am.  
We look forward to seeing you.

### **Overbury's 33rd Annual Street Market**

Will be held in this beautiful Bredon Hill village on Saturday 9th July, from 10am until 12 noon. Come and join us for a fun and fascinating morning, with refreshments (starting with bacon butties!), stalls, crafts, open gardens and live music from 'Morning Dew' in period costume.

For further details please contact Andrew John (01386) 725229 or Overbury Estate Office (01386) 725111. Email: [overburypress@googlemail.com](mailto:overburypress@googlemail.com)

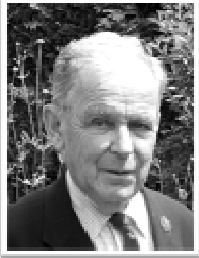
We will transfer to the Village Hall if wet. Car parking and entry are both free.

### **Garden Open in aid of the National Garden Scheme**

The garden at Whitcombe House in Overbury will be open from 2pm until 5pm on Sunday 3rd July, when delicious teas in aid of the Friends of Overbury School will be served and plants will be available for sale.

Adults £3.50, Concessions £3, Children under 12 free.  
Disabled access and dogs on lead welcome.





An Unusual Thought on The Trinity

I take an interest in a family in Prior's Park that have three Labrador dogs and a cat. The mother is called Lucky and her offspring are Ti and Jessica. When I call at their home, they are normally in the kitchen and they know that I am there before the door is opened. Excitement and anticipation begins in the kitchen. How do they know it is me before they see me? I knock three times on the door, in the Name of the Trinity, "In the Name of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit." Other people come to their door, but the reaction is quite different. A member of their family is taken no notice of, but the welcome I receive is overwhelming. Sometimes I am taken into the front room, and the whimpers from the kitchen remind me that they want to be remembered.

One day, before Ti and Jessica were born, when they had Lucky and another dog, I bowled into the kitchen and the welcome was quite different. They had not told me that they were looking after a neighbour's Alsatian. The Alsatian believed I was an intruder and rushed at me, barking. The two other dogs rushed at me with their usual welcome, the Alsatian looked on in surprise, decided I was a friend, not foe, and that he would join in the love-in! This dog did not know the significance of the Knock in the Name of the Trinity, but he was to share in the blessings of the dogs who did.



I suppose that many people are very uncertain whether they believe in the Holy Trinity. Perhaps it does not seem to matter. Some considerable time ago, this same family heard their dogs barking in the middle of the night. The next day they discovered their shed had been broken into and a bicycle, the pride and joy of it's owner, had been stolen. Clearly the dogs had heard the intruder and barked the alarm. If only the family had heeded the warning, instead of turning over in bed and going back to sleep!

We live in a world where we know that an alarming number of evil things can happen. We are aware that certain parts of our country are more likely to be crime areas than the beautiful villages in which we live. But more affluent areas are more appealing to professional criminals than an area where people are struggling to make ends meet. Of course, there is a great deal of kindness in all areas, but they can be bombarded by the forces of evil which cause distress. Spiteful gossip has been a feature of living in close knit communities for centuries. The wonder of the internet can be used to keep families together in ways which would have been impossible fifty years ago. People can see each other thousands of miles apart and communicate in ways that are beautiful and lovely. But the same wonderful equipment can be used to convey intimidating threats, to hack into people's private business, and other atrocious activities.

Of course, dogs are not theologians! Nor are the vast majority of people in the land. The Church considers certain beliefs as essential, and these are proclaimed in the Creed of the Church. The Book of Common Prayer declares that those who come to confirmation must be able to say the Creed, the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments and be able to answer the questions about them in the Catechism.

When I was in Kenya, the Bishop of Mombasa was one of the first intake of those trained as Church Army Evangelists, and so he had been a C.A. officer about 20 years previously. So a short visit was arranged for me to a few parishes in the Mombasa diocese, ending at Mombasa cathedral. I went to a confirmation class of about 30 children taken by the curate in the open air near the cathedral. It was quite literally learning the Catechism off by heart.

The were asked the Questions, and in unison they sing-said the reply. I was used to a more thought provoking style of preparation. But it may well be that more Africans who are confirmed remain as regular members of the Church till their deaths than the candidates who have been prepared in our group of parishes.

Let me end with a question. If dogs can be thrilled to hear the Knock in the Name of the Trinity, is God trying to say something to me through the Church, the Bibe, through people whose faith in God clearly means something important in their lives.

The fool hath said in his heart, "there is no God?" Perhaps God is knocking at your hearts, at the centre of your life. Will you roll over and drop off to sleep, or will you wake up and seek the Lord while He is near?

*Dennis Oxley*

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### **Christian Aid Week**

Thanks to a dedicated team of collectors we managed to raise over £649 in Ashton under Hill. This is a very significant amount, less than in previous years because we were two collectors short and parts of Ashton were not visited this year. Also many thanks to the people of Ashton who give so generously to this cause. Alastair Humphrey

### **Christian Aid Collection :Teddington and Alstone : May 2011**

Yet again the people of the villages have been most generous in their giving to the door to door collection; the sum of £433.05 was raised for the work of the charity overseas. Thanks to all concerned and, of course, to the team of collectors for their help in making the task a lot easier. It is greatly appreciated. Michael and Caroline Dray

### **Cheltenham Symphony Orchestra returns to Bredon 7.30 pm Saturday July 9th in the Bredon Village Hall**

Following last summer's highly successful concert, the CSO are delighted to be returning to Bredon.

Tickets £14 (students £7, under 15's free) available from Andrew Chapman 01684 772272 or at the door.

(If you are unable to get to this concert it will be repeated on the following day in Toddington Village Hall.)



### **Ashton Run Around Supper on Saturday July 2nd**

Another chance to meet new people, explore the village and enjoy its culinary delights. This year participants will meet at the Village Hall at 7pm for a free drink, then move to their first hosts for a starter, then to a second for a main course.

Desserts will be served for all back at the Village Hall at 10pm, with a bar until midnight. Tickets cost £15 per person.

All proceeds go to Ashton First School and Playgroup.

Call: Claire Kirke 881133, or email [claire.vincent@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:claire.vincent@hotmail.co.uk)

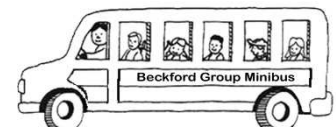


Parish Minibus Shopping Trips to Worcester

**June 8th & 22nd**

*Picks up from all villages on request.*

Call Andy Richmond 881237 Andrew Barnett 881145





## Overbury Pony & Pet Show - Sunday 3rd July

We're all set for our sixth show and hoping to see a few hundred children, ponies and dogs to enjoy a great family day out.

Once again, our young riders will be competing for the Mike Greaves Memorial Challenge Cup, awarded to the pony and rider combination to gain the highest number of points during the day from jumping and showing classes, and a handy pony round. In 2009, it was won by Amelia Williams riding Katie.

We would welcome some secretarial help on the day if anyone has a spare couple of hours. Our thanks to main sponsor Fox Saddlery ([www.foxsaddlery.com](http://www.foxsaddlery.com)) and to dog show sponsor Crescent Veterinary Centre in Tewkesbury, as well as additional local sponsors Bellinger Landscape Architects ([www.bellingerdesign.co.uk](http://www.bellingerdesign.co.uk)), Mr Mark Cottrell of Tewkesbury Marina and Karen Christiansen Dog Leads ([www.kcnordic.co.uk](http://www.kcnordic.co.uk))

All enquiries to Ruth Darling 01386 725630 email: [ruthedarling@btinternet.com](mailto:ruthedarling@btinternet.com). Schedules from [www.centralhorsenews.co.uk](http://www.centralhorsenews.co.uk)

## ASHTON UNDER HILL W.I.

The June meeting of Ashton W.I. commenced with the business when we heard that several members had attended a very interesting talk about the "Staffordshire Hoard". We were all delighted to know that the coffee morning held in aid of the Macmillan Unit at Evesham Community Hospital, in memory of Sylvia Evans, and held at Sherbourne House on May 20th, raised the excellent sum of £786.95.

The most recent W.I. walk was taken over the fields and lanes to Sedgeberrow when a group of us greatly enjoyed visiting a farm where we heard of an interesting project where the owner's daughter Emma Holyfield take parties of children around the farm and enjoy many outdoor rural activities. Our next walk will be to Elmley Castle, on 21st June, and to take a picnic lunch.

The speaker for the evening was Rob Hemming who gave us a fascinating insight (illustrated by excellent slides), about the history of a small town cinema. The cinema in this instance was the "Regal" and the town Evesham. Not only did Rob give us a detailed history of the development of the "Regal" from its earliest beginning, but he also led up to the subject by explaining the advancement of cine-photography itself from the time it began back in 1826. Among the slides shown were pictures of Evesham and Bengeworth people who were instrumental in funding and developing the "Regal" as well as those who were employed there down the years. Rob's guided tour down memory lane gave us many a laugh and revived memories of film actors and actresses, and also of the way of life which altered with the advent of television.



Fortunately, this Art Deco architectural gem is now being restored and we will again play a prominent part in the life of Evesham.

A vote of thanks was given by Joan Richmond.

Our next meeting will be a sugar craft demonstration to be given by member Mrs. Margaret Darby.



## Ashton under Hill Cricket Club

### Annual Social Evening

Friday July 22nd

### Ashton Playing Fields

Live music, games, a raffle  
and the usual bar & barbecue.  
Everyone is welcome to join us  
from 7.00pm onwards.

*Proceeds to Club Funds  
and a donation to St.  
Richard's Hospice*



## **Teddington's Clerihewer**

Teddington's late much-loved organist and centenarian, Trevor Roberts, was in the habit in his later years of composing clerihews.

The form was the invention of Edmund Clerihew Bentley, the author of *Trent's Last Case*, and consists of an irregular rhyming quatrain giving a totally unreliable biographical snippet about a famous historical figure. Trevor used to introduce newcomers to the form with one of Bentley's originals:-

Sir Christopher Wren  
Said, 'I am going to dine with some men.  
If anybody calls  
Say I am designing St Paul's.'



*Edmund Clerihew Bentley*

His own were all about composers and it may bring pleasant memories of a charming and gifted man in light-hearted mode to recall some of them. Here are two for starters:-

Gustave Mahler  
Wouldn't waste a thaler  
On watching a game of tennis,  
And was bored to death in Venice.

Sibelius  
Can make us forget our failures  
And for that there's nothing handier  
Than *Finlandia*.

*There are many more. Watch this space.*

## **Overbury Cricket Club**

Come along and enjoy yourselves at our annual Fun Night on Friday 15th July! There will be a wide range of attractions – old favourites and new ideas – and something for all age groups. Tickets are now available for the Grand Draw, with fabulous prizes to be won! The fun starts at 6.30 p.m.

The Casino Night, held at the club, and the Golf Day, run by Paul Tamcken at Evesham, were both very successful social and fundraising events.

Saturday League teams - the First team has now won three matches but the Second Team has not fared well due to the unavailability of several good players.

The Sunday side has won two matches and has lost two games

Youth teams - a great start for the Under 13's who have won all four games and the Under 12's have also lost no matches so far.

For more playing information please contact:-

Junior Chairman: Paul Tamcken 07778 305251

1ST XI Captain: Adam Brookes 07805 003219

Dave Devereux, OCC Chairman



## News from Ashton under Hill First School

As always, this has been a very exciting and eventful year at Ashton First School and now, as we near the end of the summer term, it is a good time to reflect on all that has happened.

The highlight of our Autumn Term was definitely the visit from Tim Miall, an Antarctic Explorer. Tim came to school and spent time with the children telling him about his forthcoming expedition to the Antarctic. The children enjoyed trying on his special clothing and were particularly fascinated to learn of his dietary requirement while in the Antarctic – lots of Haribo and chocolate! The pupils also created a school flag which had handprints of every child in the school. Tim was given this to take with him to fly in the Antarctic. While Tim was away in the Antarctic for 6 weeks, the entire school followed him via his web blog and after Tim returned to England, he came back to tell us all of his experiences and to show pictures of his time away.

Another highlight of the year was a visit from Ofsted in early January. It isn't often a school welcomes Ofsted inspectors with the enthusiasm we did but we were delighted to have them in school and to show them all the wonderful things we do as well as the changes we have made since the last inspection. Our hard work in the past four years was rewarded when we were deemed us to be a "good school with many outstanding features!" Needless to say, there was much celebration!



We joined in the celebrations for the Royal Wedding in April. In the run-up, we held a "Grandparents' Day" which saw us welcoming 70+ grandparents to school for a morning of themed activities, including country dancing, flag and bunting making and decorating crown and flag biscuits. The following day, we held our own playground party with special invited guests from The Vale of Evesham School. In the morning, Key Stage 1 visited the church for the special wedding of William Bear and Kate Teddy, while Key Stage 2 took part in circus skills workshops. Then Mr and Mrs Bear travelled back to school on "Dinky" the Shetland pony to join all the school for a feast in the playground where long tables were set out, all decorated in red, white and blue. It was a very special atmosphere and a memory that we will not soon forget!

This term, we are taking part in the National Gallery's "Take One Picture" programme, aimed at primary schools who are encouraged to base work on a selected painting in the Gallery. This year's painting is "The Family of Darius before Alexander" by Veronese and, in an attempt to get the pupils "fired up" about it, we took 67 of our pupils (from Year 1 to Year 5) to London to visit the National Gallery and see the painting up close. Now, in addition to exploring the painting in our Numeracy, Literacy, Science, History (etc!) lessons, we are also creating our own life-sized version of it. Do come by school towards the end of term to see the finished work!

Amidst all of these activities, there have been art days, science weeks, sports festivals, after school clubs, visitors of all shapes and sizes, drama workshops and music days, a whole school drama production and a moving Carol Service. And...best of all, there has been a great deal of challenging, exciting and stimulating learning.

Please do come visit us sometime; we would love to see you! We are holding an **Open Morning on Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, from 10 am to 12 noon** – do stop in and see our displays and join in some of our lessons!

*Bryony Baynes*



We were delighted to see the return of the Sand Martins in May after several years' absence. Natural England had given us permission to clear some of the vegetation from the SSSI during the winter, giving the birds a more direct run into the sand bank. It is a delight to see them again hawking for insects over the lake, and we think that there are about six breeding pairs. We were not so delighted to see our lovely baby ducklings and moorhens picked off by the Black Back Gulls; it would appear that only two young coots have survived.

As the early part of this year has been so dry there has been a noticeable effect on the level of the lake which is now very low. Early violets and bee orchids however, seem to have weathered the dry spring successfully, and are now starting to appear in greater numbers than in previous years.

March saw the completion of the new easy access hide dedicated to the memory of Rupert Ellis. It is an attractive building, and has already been much appreciated by the visitors.

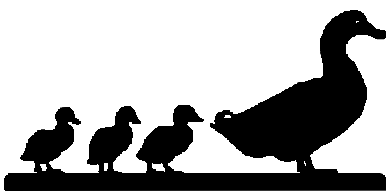
Our three year maintenance is now complete; one of the last elements was to partly coppice the alder trees on the island allowing more light to penetrate, and to encourage a more diverse under storey. We continue to take frequent advice from John Clarke of the Kemerton Conservation Trust, and Worcestershire Wildlife Trust who are both most positive and encouraging about our efforts to maintain the Reserve.

Successful working parties have been held throughout the autumn and winter, thanks to all our volunteers, and we now have Trevor McGill as an additional conservation warden to ensure the continuation of the future management of the reserve. As ever, our heartfelt thanks also go out to our very dedicated team of fundraisers whose financial contributions pay for contract work and equipment. A Duke of Edinburgh student is assisting us as part of his voluntary unit, and local children have made, and installed four additional bird boxes, all of which appear to be inhabited.

We have seen a marked increase in the number of visitors to the reserve, but as always it is our priority to maintain and improve its varied habitat for wildlife.

*John Clifford*

*Conservation Warden*



## **OVERBURY AND CONDERTON PARISH COUNCIL**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 7 pm on Monday 11th July 2011 in Overbury Village Hall and all members of the Parish are welcome to attend. Please contact the Clerk by the previous Monday, 4th July, if there are any items you would like to be added to the agenda for the meeting.

***Ros Long/Clerk to the Parish Council***  
***01386 725111 : ros@overburyestate.co.uk***

## LOCAL WALKS WITH THE COTSWOLDS VOLUNTARY WARDENS – JULY



### **Flower Foray on and around Cleeve Common Thursday July 7th – Moderate**

With Cleeve Common Conservation Officer, Ellie Philips, we hope to see the wonderful range of wildflowers on the common and in nearby butterfly reserves. Ellie will have scoured the common for the best route and with luck will find us some rarities. Please bring a packed lunch and be prepared for scrambling over the rougher areas. 5 hours, 5 miles.

Start: 10.00 am at Cleeve Hill Quarry car park. OS Explorer Map 179/989 272

### **A Dewpond for Racehorses, restored by Wardens Saturday July 9th – Moderate**

Just before the River Leach leaves the Cotswolds to join the Thames this delightful walk goes up the valley to the old Bibury racecourse. Why Macaroni Downs, Beer Furlong and Cupid's Corner? All will be revealed. 3 hours, 6 miles (am) plus optional loop 2 hours, 4 miles (pm) after a pub or picnic lunch.

Start: 10.00 am at Eastleach Turville, near Lechlade. Please park tidily in the village below Victoria Inn. OS OL Map 45/198 052

### **Two Rivers & Two Valleys Friday July 15th – Moderate**

Walk out along the beautiful Windrush valley for lunch at Naunton. Different scenery as we return to the Slaughters along the Eye Valley. Pub lunch available or bring a packed lunch. 5 hours, 9 miles.

Start: 10.00 am at St Mary's Church, Lower Slaughter. OS OL Map 45/165 225

### **A Remote and Beautiful Valley Tuesday July 19th – Moderate**

Explore some of the most beautiful and remote north Cotswolds as we pass through woods above the Hinchwick Valley before a return along the valley itself. Super views and big skies. 2.5 hours, 5 miles.

Start: 10.00 am at Hinchwick – please park tidily on the grass verge. OS OL Map 45/145 301

*PLEASE use appropriate footwear as some walks may be steep and muddy in places. MODERATE - includes some hills and rough ground. Sorry, no dogs allowed except guide and hearing dogs.*

*Walks are free although donations help to fund our conservation work and improvement projects.*

*The Wardens run a full programme of guided walks throughout the Cotswolds.*

*For more information see  
[www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk](http://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk)*

*Tel: 01451 862000 for any changes to arrangements such as due to bad weather.*



***I little something for those keen gardeners out there! Picture the scene, God & St. Francis are watching people mowing their lawns...***

**GOD:** Frank, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there on the planet? What happened to the dandelions, violets, milkweeds and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long-lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honey bees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colours by now. But, all I see are these green rectangles.

**St. FRANCIS:** It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers 'weeds' and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

**GOD:** Grass? But, it's so boring. It's not colourful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds and bees; only grubs and sod worms. It's sensitive to temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?

**ST. FRANCIS:** Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

**GOD:** The spring rains and warm weather probably make grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy.

**ST. FRANCIS:** Apparently not. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it - sometimes twice a week.

**GOD:** They cut it? Do they then bale it like hay?

**ST. FRANCIS:** Not exactly, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

**GOD:** They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

**ST. FRANCIS:** No, Sir, just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

**GOD:** Now, let me get this straight. They fertilize grass so it will grow. And, when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

**ST. FRANCIS:** Yes, Sir.

**GOD:** These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

**ST. FRANCIS:** You aren't going to believe this, Lord. When the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it, so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

**GOD:** What nonsense. At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn, they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. It's a natural cycle of life.

**ST. FRANCIS:** You better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them ailed away.

**GOD:** No!? What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter to keep the soil moist and loose?

**ST. FRANCIS:** After throwing away the leaves, they go out and buy something which they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

**GOD:** And where do they get this mulch?

**ST. FRANCIS:** They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch.

**GOD:** Enough! I don't want to think about this anymore. St. Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?

**ST. CATHERINE:** 'Dumb and Dumber', Lord. It's a story about....

**GOD:** Never mind, I think I just heard the whole story!



# PARISH DIRECTORY

<b>Canon Matthew Baynes</b> <b>01684 772237</b> 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
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<b>Revd. Susan Renshaw</b> <b>01386 750203</b> revsusan@btinternet.com	Associate Priest ~ Area of Responsibility: Overbury, Teddington and Alstone Vicar of Eckington with Defford and Besford
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<b>Revd. Christine Turpin</b> <b>01386 882263</b> c.turpin@mac.com	Assistant Curate to the Bredon Hill Group of Parishes.
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Secretary	Sue Hastead 01386 882537
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Flowers	Doreen Byrd 01386 881360
Bell ringers	Nick Hopkins 01386 881711

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

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## Web Sites

<a href="http://www.bredonhillchurches.org">www.bredonhillchurches.org</a>
<a href="http://www.beckford-village.org">www.beckford-village.org</a>
<a href="http://www.ashtonunderhill.org.uk">www.ashtonunderhill.org.uk</a>
<a href="http://www.teddingtonandalstone.org.uk">www.teddingtonandalstone.org.uk</a>
<a href="http://www.overbury.org">www.overbury.org</a>



## July Diary

1st	Ashton Lunch Club, Cricket Club	12 noon
	Beckford Nature Reserve Talk - "Severn Valley", Village Hall	7:30 pm
2nd	Ashton Run-around Supper	7 pm
3rd	Whitcombe House, Overbury Open Garden	2 - 5 pm
	Overbury Pony & Pet Show	
4th	Ashton under Hill First School Open Morning	10 -12 noon
5th	Ashton WI - "Sugarcraft" Village Hall	7:30 pm
9th	Overbury Street Market	10am - noon
	Cheltenham Symphony Orchestra, Bredon Village Hall	7:30 pm
15th	Overbury Cricket Club Fun Night	6:30 pm
17th	Ploughman's & Pud Lunch for Mzamomhle, Ashton	12 noon
	Alstone Patronal Festival, St. Margaret's Church	6 pm
22nd	Ashton Cricket Club Social Evening, Playing Fields	7 pm
24th	United Parish Worship, Teddington	10 am

Please note that there will be no Beckford Simply Soup for the months of July and August. Back again on September 13th. Have a good summer!



### Beckford Nature Reserve

Presents

#### Severn Valley: the evolution of a landscape

Richard Edwards from the Earth Heritage Trust returns for another talk on the geology of the local area.

**Friday 1st July 7.30 pm,**  
Beckford Village Hall

Free Admission -  
Refreshments Available  
Enquiries 01386 881248  
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stores.co.uk



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