

# The Parish Magazine

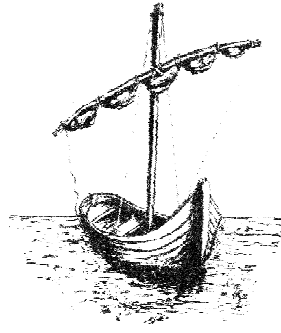
Ashton-under-Hill

Beckford

Overbury

Alstone &

Teddington



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March 2011

40p

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*"It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "*

*Matthew 4:4*

# LENT



Canon Matthew Baynes

Priest in Charge Beckford Group Parish



### "Swallows in January"

*"At once the Spirit sent him into the desert, and he was in the desert for forty days."*

Mark 1. 12

Many of you will know that I was very privileged to enjoy two weeks in South Africa at the end of January and beginning of February. It was wonderful to go from the cold of an English winter to enjoy the sunny cloudless days of the South African summer, to see swallows in January and trees in full leaf. The main purpose of my trip though was to enable me to visit the 'Catch Project' a charity which Beckford Group Parish has supported for a number of years. 'Catch' is a project based near East London, in which those living in the township of Mzamomhle are offered help to face the huge issues generated by grinding poverty and a lack of education. Among the most acute issues is a 50 % HIV/AIDS infection rate leaving many young children with nobody to care for them. The work of Sue Davies, the project's founder and her team is quite inspirational and although some might dismiss it as being just a pointless 'drop in the ocean' I think it can better be described as 'a little beacon of light.' As Isaiah so beautifully put it: "the people walking in darkness have seen a great light." We all know that if it is pitch dark, you start by striking one match and lighting one candle. I will be sharing more about the 'Catch Project' and what it is trying to achieve in later issues.

As well as visiting 'Catch' my trip also allowed me the opportunity to see a small part of South Africa, a country of breathtaking beauty and huge potential, but a nation which still very much lives under the shadow of its apartheid history. The plan for our journey was to begin in Cape Town and then work our way east towards the Eastern Cape and the Transkei. Instead of following the more well worn tourist path the 'Garden route' which hugs the southern coast we decided to drive up into the country and cut through the Karoo a vast desert area. Deserts for me are places of great beauty but I am also intimidated by their vastness and the bleakness of the landscape. I find strange thoughts going through my head. "What will happen if we break down, or run out of water?" There is always a huge sense of relief when the next sign of human habitation emerges on the horizon.

As we begin the season of Lent we reflect on Jesus forty days in the wilderness, time which he set apart to prepare for the rigours of ministry and to be alone with God. It must have been a testing time in every sense, physically and mentally, a time when he could do no other than rely on God for strength. It was no doubt also a test of commitment and perseverance.

Following Jesus example Christians are encouraged to set time apart during Lent to pray and to reflect on how they are living out the faith to which they have been called. Fortunately we do not have to survive the deprivation of the desert, or live on 'locusts and wild honey,' but we are nevertheless asked to take on some small act of self discipline which may help to focus our thoughts. This Lent in the Bredon Hill Group we have a great opportunity to come on a Wednesday evening and listen to the Bishop and other senior clergy of our Diocese reflect on prayer. I am sure that it will be a hugely enriching experience and it will be well worth setting the time aside and making the commitment. Full details of this course, including times and venues are printed elsewhere in the magazine. If you need a lift to get to the different venues please don't hesitate to get in touch.

May I wish you a holy and fruitful keeping of Lent.

*Matthew Baynes*



## The Curate Cogitates

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

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15.01.11 Not being late for my time management course today was my main priority. I wasn't. It was inspiring, and it was good to see fellow Curates from around the Diocese again. I don't seem to have more time yet though. Must manage more concertedly.

30.01.11 Candlemas. The rather grand purple cape I wore apparently only comes out once a year for today's service. Perhaps just as well in my case, as it was obviously made for a person far wider than myself. By standing fairly stiffly, I managed to stop it becoming an off the shoulder number. This of course does nothing to help one 'enter into' the liturgy. At theological college, they didn't teach us how to stay focussed during major wardrobe malfunctions.

They also didn't teach us what to say to someone who is dying. Or to those who have just lost that same person. Both occurred this week. Sometimes, maybe there are not any 'right' words. This was another first for me. A very sobering first. Yet I felt glad, privileged, to be there at those times. Hopefully my presence spoke as much as my words did. Or failed to.

'Every time will be different', I am told. That's probably why we could not easily be taught about it. And that's why, at such times, I sense I will need to pray, that I may simply be present, in a way that God wants me to be.

8.02.11 and 9.02.11 Children can be very searching can't they?

Being questioned by Class 5 of Bredon First School for an hour was actually great. It made me go back to first principles in many respects, which is no bad thing. Essentially examining my motivation, what I do, why, and whether it makes a difference in the community. Also thrown in were interfaith issues, death (of course), and infant baptism, at some length. (Possibly due to rising numbers who are not baptised and wonder what its all about.) All good stuff.

Younger Children (Class 2) came to look at the Church in Bredon too, and were a delight. They focussed more on parts of the Church, objects, vestments, etc, but they also had some good questions including those on prayer, bells, and how dead Jesus actually was ('cos then he wasn't!).

Both groups certainly kept me on my toes and I much appreciated the opportunity to talk with them in more depth than is possible during assemblies, though I enjoy those too. I look forward to the next grilling!!

*Christine Turpin*

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The Rector, Canon Matthew Baynes can be contacted at any time on 01684 772237, or email [mbaynes@toucansurf.com](mailto:mbaynes@toucansurf.com)



The Curate, Rev'd Christine Turpin,  
01386 882263, or email [c.turpin@mac.com](mailto:c.turpin@mac.com)



### **The Women's World Day of Prayer Service**

**Friday March 4<sup>th</sup> at 2pm**

**St Benets Catholic Church, Kemerton.**

The Speaker is Carolyn Harford. It has been prepared by Christian women of Chile. Refreshments will be served in the Church Hall afterwards. All are welcome - men, women and young people.

## ***Letter from the Revd. Terry Henderson***

For much of my Christian life I have been a Companion of the Society of St Francis. This is a group of people who wish to associate themselves with a religious order in the Anglican Church through prayer, friendship and seeking to live the spirit of the Gospel in the way of St Francis.

**A Companion is one who prays:** Companions are encouraged to deepen their spiritual life through prayer and meditation. Prayer is the chief means by which they journey with the Franciscan Brothers and Sisters. You receive an Intercession list of Brothers and Sisters and their engagements.

**A Companion is one who serves:** Companions are encouraged to take part in active service for those in need. In some areas Companions meet together for fellowship, prayer and mutual support.

**A Companion is one who seeks:** Companions are encouraged to read and study the scriptures and to deepen their spiritual life through reading and studying.

A Companion receives The Franciscan magazine three times a year and other material to encourage you to live the spirit of the Gospel in the way of St Francis. You will also be encouraged to have a Rule of Life and some guiding principles are given to you that will help with this.

My recent three month Sabbatical was a time for me to study the early Franciscans and their writings, and this was a great help to me in my living out the Gospel in the way of St Francis. I also took part in an eight-day pilgrimage to Assisi in Italy, which turned out to be a truly inspirational time for me. Assisi is the spiritual home of people who wish to follow the way of St Francis and his response to the Gospel.

Anyone can become a Companion of the Society of St Francis you do not even have to be an Anglican. If you feel that this may help you write to The Secretary for Companions, Brother Kevin SSF, The Master's Lodge, 58 St Peter's Street, Canterbury, CT1 2BE. Email [Kevinssf@franciscans.org.uk](mailto:Kevinssf@franciscans.org.uk).

Many people have found being linked with a religious order helpful and there are many other orders besides the Franciscans. I can help you decide or look further into this if this would be helpful to you. Some people also go on to be part of the Franciscan Third Order but many begin their Faith Journey with being a Companion first.

*Yours in Christ, Terry Henderson*

### **Lent around Bredon Hill**

Clear your diaries on a Wednesday evening in 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.

**16th March:** Bishop David - Praying through the senses. Venue: Elmley Castle Church.

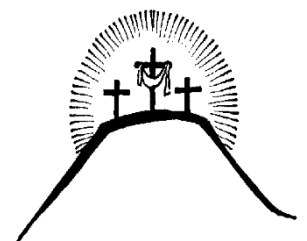
**23rd March:** Bishop Michael - Contemplative prayer and especially centering prayer. Venue: Eckington Church.

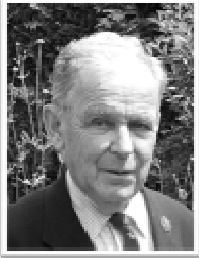
**30th March:** Archdeacon Roger - Prayer as Mission. Venue: Ashton under Hill Church.

**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 Church'  
(Sister Mary is from the new Mucknell Abbey Community)

**20th April:** The Dean - Intercessory prayer.  
Venue: Eckington Church.





## News and Musings from St. Nicholas Cottage

### In Memory of Mrs Sylvia Jean Evans

On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February, St Barbara's Church was full for the Thanksgiving Service for the life of Mrs Sylvia Evans following a private service at the Crematorium in the morning.

Her first home was in Worfield, Shropshire. She went to the village school and there she found a high standard of education, a friendly atmosphere and a deep concern that children should be encouraged to work hard and reach their full potential in life. Her father and mother were both wholehearted members of the local Church and went with their family to church as part of the normal routine of life. The family grew and eventually Sylvia had three sisters and four brothers. With such a family, there were always jobs to be done, care and responsibility for someone younger, courtesy, adventures, laughter and fun.

A change of her father's work led to the family moving to a leafy suburb of Wolverhampton, to a new school and, eventually, to studying and work in accountancy. It was as a teenager that Sylvia met George who came from a working class home in a different part of Wolverhampton. In those days, after World War 2, there was a great awareness of class divisions. Poor dears, we could not help it - it was bred into us! But the war threw people of different classes together and boys no longer got a hiding for not raising their caps to the squire and his lady. Both Sylvia and George had parents who expected their children to marry someone of their class, but once they were married nearly 52 years ago, they accepted their "new in-laws" with contentment and joy.

After their marriage, they moved to Cheltenham where George had a job. Sylvia was keen to set up home for their family which enabled them to be brought up in the country as she had been in her childhood. New houses were being built in Cornfield Way, Ashton under Hill. One house was ready and waiting to be bought but No 26 was on the plans. Sylvia wanted No. 26 because of the panoramic views that include Broadway Tower.

Their daughters Carrie and Zoe had the sort of childhood their mother wanted for them. The years passed by and grandchildren were born and grew into adulthood. Carrie went to Australia, but Sebastian, Greg and Ashley, still with one foot in Australia and one in Cheltenham, regard "26" as home in England. Zoe's family, now at Woodeaton, a few miles from Oxford and William, Edward and Olivier still value the home in Cornfield Way. A visit to Sylvia and George, or a visit from them was always a delight for their children, their sons-in-law and for their grandchildren. I bet we cannot all say that! I was six years old when my paternal grandmother died but I can recall the sense of relief when the time came for her to return to Worthing after her week's stay with us. I'm not sure my mother could have faced an eighth day!

Sylvia entered wholeheartedly into so many village activities. She joined small groups learning quilting, painting and tapestry and shone brightly. She went to the Women's Institute and for some while was Treasurer. Parish Walks, the Music Society and the Gardening Club were supported by Sylvia.

But it was the Church that was number one priority. She was a regular worshipper at St Barbara's. She was Sacristan for some time and Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer for some years. However, it was through her faith in God and in the Lord Jesus Christ that kept her going. George had his health problems and Sylvia looked after him. Then she became ill and he looked after her.

Before she went into the Macmillan Unit in Evesham Community Hospital, the Rev. Christine Turpin went into No.26 to take Holy Communion to Sylvia. She walked into the kitchen and asked George to join them. He was delighted afterwards that he had said "yes" and Sylvia was thrilled as well. Holy Communion services are like meals - if you go to them regularly, they are, like meals, essential to life but just a part of life. But some meals stay in the memories forever and some Holy Communion services stay until the end of our days - possibly even longer! My brother and I received communion with our mother a few days before she went into St. Christopher's Hospice, Sydenham Park, a few weeks before she died. It was the first Hospice opened in England by Dr Cicely Saunders, regarded as the founder of the Hospice

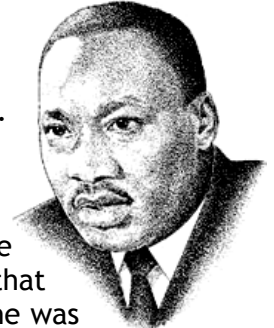
Movement. Whenever I enter a Hospice I feel that I am on holy ground. Special times are great, but good, plain food is essential daily.

May our memories of people like Sylvia Evans lead us to the God in whom she trusted, to the Saviour whom she loved because He first loved us and to the Holy Spirit who spreads abroad the love of God to all who knew him and to those who are seeking for something deeper in life. Amen.

*Dennis Oxley*

*“Nonviolence is a powerful and just weapon. which cuts without wounding and ennobles the man who wields it. It is a sword that heals.”*

*Martin Luther King, Jr.*



Martin Luther King Jnr. was born on the 15<sup>th</sup> January 1929, and is commonly regarded to be one of the greatest leaders of the Black Civil Rights movement to have ever existed. His belief in non-violence and love inspired many to follow his teachings, and challenge the oppression that African Americans faced in the 1950s and 60s in the United States. When he was assassinated on the 4th April, 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee, many regarded this as the end of the Civil Rights Movement. Martin Luther King is one of my heroes, because he stood up for what he believed in and never let go of his principles or beliefs, even when faced by great opposition, and although he may no longer be alive, I still believe that his teachings are applicable to the modern day world.

As I'm sure many of you will remember, just before Christmas, terrible riots took place in London due to the increase in tuition fees. The people who took part in these riots threw sticks at police horses, fought the policemen, and graffiti'd monuments and buildings, leaving MPs worried to leave the Houses of Parliament. These protests effectively achieved nothing, and the students who committed the acts of violence were portrayed negatively in the media, and lost support.

We live in a democracy, and therefore have a right to protest. However, I think that the students who did protest went about it entirely the wrong way. Violence insights hatred which will not lead to positive change. As MLK famously said, “in the centre of non-violence stands the principle of love.” And only love can bring about positive change.

If I had been in charge of the student protests then I would have done it completely differently, I would have organised sit-ins, marches, anything to attract positive media attention. Instead, the protestors allowed themselves to get too emotional and this only led to a loss of support from the general public. This is why Martin Luther King inspires me, he teaches to never let go of your principles even when it seems like things are never going to change, that even when you think little progress is being made, never to turn to violence.

*Megan Baynes*

### Pop in for Pancakes - Open House

Please come along for a Pancake Day Open House on Tuesday March 8th at Christine the Curate's house - 20 Cornfield Way, Ashton-under-Hill. Anytime between 2-4pm and 6-8pm. All welcome!



'Thank Goodness it's Friday' coffee mornings for March & April are cancelled. Normal service will resume on Friday 27th May.



### An Ash Wednesday

Service for the Bredon Hill Group of Parishes will take place on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2011 at 7.30pm at St. Mary's Church,

Elmley Castle.

Rev'd Terry Henderson to preside and Canon Matthew Baynes to preach.

All welcome.

## The 2011 Pilgrimage to the top of Bredon Hill on Good Friday

This pilgrimage has been organised by the local clergy of Bredon Hill parishes for some years now. Pilgrimages were of course going on before this in an informal way for many years. Bredon Hill we learn was a burial place for many ancient communities living around the hill, but you would need to speak to our local historians to learn more about this. What we can say with certainty is that for many people across the years, Bredon Hill has become a sacred place. There are of course many reasons why people take part in the Good Friday Pilgrimage each year, and for some people they just have a deep feeling within them that they need to be present for this.



The first thing a pilgrim does is to prepare for a pilgrimage, both physically and spiritually. If it was to be an arduous pilgrimage you would be advised take some water with you and anything you might need for the journey and to prepare for it by doing plenty of exercise before the day. You would need also to prepare spiritually - perhaps visit a special place/ church for some quiet prayer or reflection.

Every pilgrimage we make is different because people change - what are you bringing with you that is different from last year? What are you bringing with you that you would like to change but have not been able to? Be reflective on your life since the last Bredon Hill Pilgrimage. What things have drawn us closer to God since that time? What things have drawn us away from our God?

*Yours in Christ, Terry Henderson*

## Beckford Group Parish Annual Church Meetings and Elections - March 2011

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place on **Tuesday 22nd March at 7.30 pm in Beckford Village Hall**. Preceding this meeting, local Church Annual Meetings will be held on the following dates:

**Ashton**                    **Wednesday 2nd March in St Barbara's Church at 7.30 pm**

(coffee/tea and cakes from 7.0 pm in St Barbara's)

**Beckford**                   **Wednesday 2nd March in St John the Baptist Church at 7.00 pm**

**Chapelries**               **Thursday 10th March in Teddington Village Hall at 7.30 pm**

(Alstone and Teddington)

**Overbury**                 **Monday 21st March in Berkeley House at 7.30 pm**

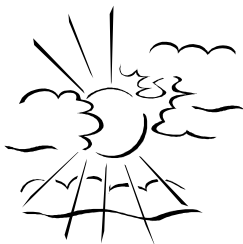
These meetings are open to everyone who lives in the Parish, or who is on the Church Electoral Roll. Please come along to hear reports on the past year's activities and to have your say about the future.

It will be appreciated if nominations to the Church Committees are made to the churchwardens in each village\* in advance of the local Annual Meetings, and no later than the day before (see dates above). If you wish to nominate someone, you need to have their consent before doing so. Churchwardens and Church Committee representatives on the PCC are nominated at the local Church Annual Meetings for election at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 22 March.

*John Dodge, Lay Vice Chairman, PCC*

\* *Details of churchwardens for your church can be found inside the back cover.*

## Jim Brennan



Jean Brennan and family wish to express their sincere thanks for all the support and kind thoughts received during Jim's illness.

Special thanks to Matthew Baynes for his frequent visits to Jim at St. Richard's Hospice, to Roger Palmer and Dennis Oxley for conducting a memorable service at St. John's on February 8th, and the Good Lord for the blessing of sunshine all day.

## 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:

11th March	The Old Farmhouse, Ashton under Hill	John & Alex Dodge
18th March	St Benet's RC Church Hall, Kemerton	
25th March	16 Parkwood, Elmley Castle	Mrs Gail Taite
1st April	Adsett Cottage, Beckford	Jonna Gowthorpe
8th April	Manor Farmhouse, Bredon	Sally and 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 letter from a visitor:*

I visited Beckford church on New Year's day, with my sister Anita. We had brought a bowl of snowdrops to leave beneath our parents plaques on the wall in the churchyard. "Peggy" and Charles Tandy had lived in Beckford all their married life and raised four children there until, one by one we left to get married. I'm the youngest, Elaine, and I was the only one to leave the area (more than 40 years ago). My husband and I had flown from Los Angeles to spend Christmas and New Year with our daughter and her family in Caerphilly, and New Year's Eve with my sister and her husband in Pershore.

My sister and I decided to go inside the church for a few moments and we were thrilled to see how beautifully it was decorated for the Christmas season! The font looked lovely and as we moved towards the altar, every window shone with colour and beauty. We were so pleased and proud that the church looked so loved and cared-for. We are very grateful to the local parishioners for their care, time and effort.



I picked up a copy of the Parish Magazine, and I have read it from cover to cover several times, relishing in the local news, remembering names of old friends and families from long ago. I would like just to say "thank you" to the community and to let you know how much I appreciate being able to "come home" to such a beautiful church.

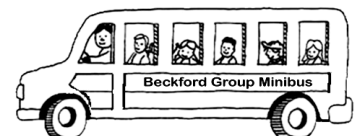
*Elaine Pearse (nee Tandy)*

Parish Minibus Shopping Trips to Worcester

**March 11th & 25th**

*Picks up from all villages on request.*

**Andy Richmond 881237 or Andrew Barnett 881145**





## MOTHERING SUNDAY at St Barbara's Church

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 under Hill. There will be posies for mums & grannies, and refreshments afterwards

### Posy Making for Mothering Sunday in Ashton

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.

### 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.

You are warmly invited to join us at **Beckford Church** for the following acts of Evening Worship. These dates are being published well in advance to give you plenty of chance to plan ahead. The services take place at 6pm.

Sunday 13th March - Lenten Reflections. (Celtic Evening Liturgy)

Sunday 10th April - The Passion. (Evening Worship)

Sunday 24th April - Easter Day Celtic Eucharist.

Sunday 8th May - Celebrating Community. (Celtic Evening Liturgy)

Sunday 5th June - Pentecost. (Evening Worship)

Sunday July 10th - Summer Celebration. (Evening Worship)

Sunday 14th August - Pilgrimage. (Celtic Eucharist)

Sunday 11th September - The Harvest of Creation.

Sunday 9th October - A Service of Healing and Wholeness.

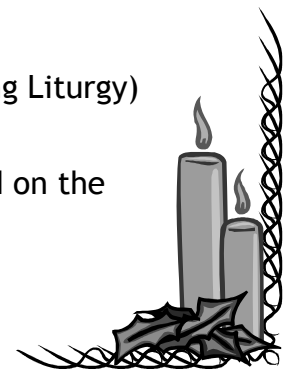
Sunday 13th November - 'We will remember them...' (Celtic Evening Liturgy)

Sunday 11th December. Carols by Candlelight.

Services begin at 6pm and are informal in style. Some will be based on the Celtic Liturgy used by the Iona Community.

Refreshments are served afterwards.

All are welcome.



*We do try our best to include everything that is sent for inclusion in your magazine, but owing to a packed Lenten issue this month, it has not been possible to include all items sent for submission. Those items relevant to April will appear next month. - Ed*

## For the attention of the people of Teddington:

We are in need of someone to take over the task of keeping the Electoral Roll up to date. This **IS NOT** an arduous job. It only needs renewing every six years. Chris Godfrey has done this job for several years and feels it is time to pass it on. She will be happy to explain what the role involve. Her 'phone number is: 01242 620006.

The **Chapelries AGM** will be held in **Teddington Village Hall on Thursday 10th March**. Once again, the Committee urge you to join them for this meeting. It will not be long and drawn out and you will be under **NO** obligations to do anything. St Nicholas Church is yours just as much as ours.

## We've Raised the Roof at Beckford!

Despite the disappointing news that English Heritage were unable to help with any funding, we are now able to go ahead with the repairs required to restore the Chancel roof at Beckford Church.

Following further consultation with the Church Architect and an experienced church buildings contractor, work will soon commence on the substantial repairs needed to maintain the south side of the roof. Recent fund raising now means that the necessary repairs to the roof are affordable.

Canon Matthew Baynes and Reverend Christine Turpin, along with the Church Committee want to thank all those who have generously helped to raise the money that has made this work possible.

This does not mean of course that we are not continuing to raise funds. We remain grateful to those who already generously give in support of the church and any further donations in support of our ministry are always welcome. If you are interested in helping us further please do not hesitate to contact one of the Church Wardens, or our treasurer whose details are at the back of this magazine.



## 1000 miles, 13 days and only 2 wheels

At the end of May 2011 I will be attempting to cycle the length of our beautiful Island in aid of the children's Cancer charity CLIC Sargent.

Along with 6 friends, I will be setting out from John O'Groats on May 21st aiming to arrive in Lands End 13 days later on June 3rd. In between there is over a 1000 miles of riding up and down some steep hills and along twisting country lanes, in all weathers. We are hoping that at

May the weather will be warm and dry and we should avoid the swarms of midges found around Scotland in June & July. Luckily we are riding from John O'Groats so it should all be down hill, shouldn't it?

For those of you that may not know me, I am not built like your typical cyclist, I am no Lance Armstrong that's for sure! I hadnt ridden a bike further than the mile round trip from home to the Overbury Cricket Pitch in the last 18 years until starting to train for this challenge. if you do see something bright yellow whizz past you around Bredon Hill chances are it's me out training in all weathers, so please do give me a cheery wave of encouragement.

I am really pleased we have the chance to raise money for CLIC Sargent, having lost both my Aunt Pam and Nanny Hemming to Cancer in recent years. I know the ride will be tough in many places but I am looking forward to the challenge knowing that the money we raise will help many children and their families at their toughest of times.

CLIC Sargent and I would really appreciate your support, If you would like to sponsor me and the team you can do this either online at our justgiving web page [www.justgiving.com/jogle2011](http://www.justgiving.com/jogle2011) or if you prefer you can call me, or my wife Clare, to pledge your support on 01386 725225.

*Many Thanks, Ian Shearer*

## OVERBURY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup>-1<sup>st</sup> 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. Do join us!

**14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> May.** A wonderful exhibition of quilting, cross-stitch and other needlework in the Village Hall including some items for sale Whitcombe Garden next door will also be open. Raffle. Lunches and teas. All in aid of Help For Heroes.

Looking further ahead, don't forget to make a note of the Overbury Street Market which is taking place this year on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July between 10-12.

### WANTED PLEASE!

Overbury First School is looking for a Clerk to the Governors. This key and very part-time role in the life of the school will, among other tasks, include taking the minutes at two early-evening (they start at 5.30 pm) meetings each term. No previous experience of working in a school is necessary and excellent training will be provided. Accurate typing and reasonable computer skills together with email/internet access are essential. A full job description and remuneration details are still being worked out but if you are interested in finding out more, do please call Liz d'Souza, the School Secretary and current Clerk, on 01386 725235 or email her on office@overbury.worcs.sch.uk.

March is Brain Tumour Awareness Month

**A coffee Morning in Beckford Village Hall  
on Thursday 17th March from 10am - 12noon.**

Raising funds for Hammer Out,  
a charity which provides support, and raises  
funds for research into brain tumours.



Former *That's Life* TV minstrel Grant Baynham and singer Hilary Spencer will present an evening of sparkling wit and music at Ashton Village Hall at 7.30pm on **Saturday 5th March.**

TV producer Ned Sherrin called their act  
"comic song touched with gold."

Judge for yourself at what promises to be a great cabaret night. Tickets cost £8 each and are available from Penny Scotland on 881594.

**Open Mic Night**  
Beckford Social Club  
Mon-Members Welcome  
**Saturday 13th March**

A free drink for artist  
Start 7pm till 10:30pm

Contact Benjamin White  
0788 165 7193 / 01386 881893



## Wildlife Notes

In the world of music “The Woodpecker Trio” may not be familiar to most people, so I was overjoyed to have the privilege of a private performance from three Greater Spotted Woodpeckers busily drumming on dead timber. Never before have I heard three of these talented birds so close together, each one producing a different range of notes - a sort of Woodpecker’s Breakfast Show presented not by Terry Wogan but perhaps by the “Little Drummer Boy”.



Some sixty years or so ago there used to be a song about the Woodpecker. I can only remember the first two lines - “For he’s up each morning bright and early, to wake up all the neighbourhood. And with his little song so cheery, he taps his serenade on wood”. If anyone knows the rest of the song, or the title, I would love to know.

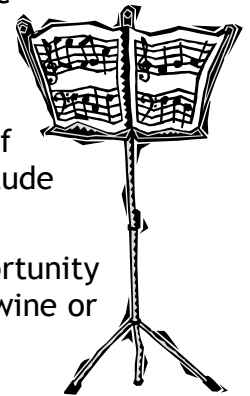
The Greater Spotted is our commonest woodpecker, a thrush size bird with black and white plumage and red under the base of the tail. The large white patches on the back are distinctive. This is the woodpecker responsible for loud drumming on a hollow tree - a bird of woodland, copses and park land, it is also seen in gardens where it sometimes visits feeding stations.

Our other woodpecker most often seen is the Green Woodpecker, a chunky rather wild eyed woodland bird but also seen in gardens, especially those with large lawns where it likes nothing better than grubbing for ants, particularly on light sandy soils. The loud laughing “yaffle” call carries a long way, and its bright green plumage with a yellow rump makes a splendid sight.

*Fred Wood*

## Parish Music

Parish Music have three outstanding concerts of classical music this spring starting with a woodwind trio on 2<sup>nd</sup> April in Beckford church. The Canteloube Trio was formed in 2003 by woodwind 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. The trio’s programme will include works by Mozart, Milhaud and Gordon Jacob.



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.

## OVERBURY AND CONDERTON PARISH COUNCIL

The next meeting will be held at 7 pm on Monday 14th March 2011 in Overbury Village Hall and all members of the parish are welcome to attend. Please contact Ros by the previous Monday, 7th March, if there are any items you would like to be included on the agenda for the meeting. The agenda for this meeting will be displayed on the Overbury and Conderton noticeboards as usual. *Ros Long/Clerk to the Parish Council* 01386 725111 : [ros@overburyestate.co.uk](mailto:ros@overburyestate.co.uk)

**OVERBURY VILLAGE HALL** - The Annual General Meeting of the Overbury Village Hall Management Committee will be held at 6.30 pm on Monday 28 March 2011.

# 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
<b>Revd. Terry Henderson</b> <b>01386 710394</b> terryhenderson2@googlemail.com	Associate Priest ~ Area of Responsibility: Ashton Rector of Elmley Castle, Bricklehampton, Great and Little Comberton
<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
<b>Revd. Clive Parr</b> <b>01386 710700</b> cw.parr@btinternet.com	Associate Priest part-time Non-Stipendiary Minister
<b>Revd. Christine Turpin</b> <b>01386 882263</b> c.turpin@mac.com	Assistant Curate to the Bredon Hill Group of Parishes.
<b>Readers</b>	Capt. Dennis Oxley St. Nicholas Cottage, Teddington 01242 620435 John Dodge The Old Farmhouse, Ashton under Hill 01386 881487 Roger Palmer 5, Hill View Cottages, Cheltenham Road 01386 881746
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mike Sanger-Davies 01386 881910
<b>Verger</b>	Jim Wooldridge 01386 881049
<b>Parish Enquiries</b>	via The Rectory, Bredon 01684 772237 Parish Secretary Helen Bromfield helen.parishoffice@toucansurf.com Tues 9 - 12, The Rectory, Bredon 01684 772237 Fri 9 - 12, Parish Office, Beckford 01386 881349

## Saint John The Baptist's Church, Beckford

Churchwardens	Sue Hastead 01386 882537 David Carvill 01386 882002
Secretary	Sue Hastead 01386 882537
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

Churchwardens	Anne Kyle, 01242 620351 Kieran Whelan 01242 620763
Secretary	Jane Rogers 01242 620592
Treasurer	Harry Jeffery 01526 397448
<b>Flowers</b>	
Teddington	Mary Healey 01242 620412
Alstone	Jane Rogers 01242 620592

## Transport Co-ordinators

Overbury	Faith Hallett 01386 725206
Teddington	Rosie Atkin 01242 620565
Alstone	Betty Beckman 01242 620289
Ashton	Ann Carnegie 01386 882393
Beckford	Roger Palmer 01386 881746

## Minibus

Andy Richmond	01386 881237
Andrew Barnett	01386 881145

## Disability Awareness Representatives

Alex Dodge	01386 881487
Nicky Sentance	01386 725309

## Magazine

<b>Editor</b>	
Deborah Whitehouse	01386 882386
Lauren House, Little Beckford, Tewkesbury, GL20 7AL E-mail: <a href="mailto:d.whitehouse@homecall.co.uk">d.whitehouse@homecall.co.uk</a>	

## Treasurer

Laurence Alexander	01386 881814
The Old Police Station Beckford, Tewkesbury, GL20 7AD	

## News Team

Beckford	Jessie Alexander 01386 881814
Chapelries	Rosie Atkin 01242 620565 Julie Taylor 01242 620990
Overbury	Ros Long 01386 725111
Ashton	Alastair Humphrey 01386 881479

## 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>



## March Diary

1st	Ashton WI, Ashton Village Hall	7:30 pm
2nd	Ashton Church Annual Meeting	7:30 pm
	Beckford Church Annual Meeting	7 pm
4th	Ashton Lunch Club, Cricket Pavilion	12 noon
	Women's World Day of Prayer, St. Benet's, Kemerton	2 pm
8th	Pancake Day Open House, 20, Cornfield Way, Ashton	2 - 4 pm 6 - 8 pm
9th	Ash Wednesday Service, Elmley Castle	7:30 pm
10th	Chapelries Annual Meeting, Teddington Village Hall	7:30 pm
11th	Lent Lunch - Old Farm House, Ashton	12:30 pm
13th	Evening Worship, "Lenten Reflections", Beckford	6 pm
	Open Mic Night, Beckford Social Club	7 pm
14th	Beckford WI, "Women's Health", Village Hall	7:30 pm
15th	Simply Soup, Beckford Village Hall	12:30 pm
16th	COPY DATE FOR MAGAZINE	
18th	Lent Lunch, St. Benet's RC Church Hall, Kemerton	12:30 pm
19th	Ashton Cricket Club Quiz Night, Ashton Village Hall	7:30 pm
21st	Overbury Church Annual Meeting, Berkeley House	7:30 pm
22nd	Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Beckford Village Hall	7:30 pm
23rd	Gardening Club, "Summer Perennials", Beckford Village Hall	7:30 pm
26th	Slainte, Dumbleton Village Hall	8:30 pm
27th	United Parish Worship, Overbury Church	10 am



Ashton Cricket Club's  
General Knowledge Quiz

Saturday 19th March 7.30pm

Ashton Village Hall

Teams of 4 - Entry cost £10

Call David Wood to book your team!

01386 881402

### **BED AND BREAKFAST at "ASHBEE"** Wood Lane, Ashton under Hill

Comfortable, modern accommodation  
comprising of one king-size bedroom,  
en suite, with TV and tea-making facilities.

Contact: Jen and Colin Creese

Tel: 01386 881266 e-mail:

jc.ashbee@btinternet.com

**An evening of  
fabulous Celtic music  
Slainte**

**Saturday 26th March**

Dumbleton Village Hall

Bring your own supper and  
drink. Doors open at 8 for  
8:30pm Tickets Available  
on the door at £5

Contact Sally **01386 881893**

### **FOR SALE FOR SALE FOR SALE FOR SALE**

Full sized cabin bed without mattress. Grey/silver  
metal frame and ladder, with light wood veneer  
cupboard, drawers and shelves underneath.  
Excellent condition. £55. **01386 881028**

2 attractive, professionally hand painted  
wardrobes in excellent condition. One in  
distressed cream, 115cm x 185cm. The other soft  
yellow dragged paint effect with gold stencilled  
sun, moon and stars 91cm x 176cm . £20 each.  
**01386 881028**