

# The Parish Magazine

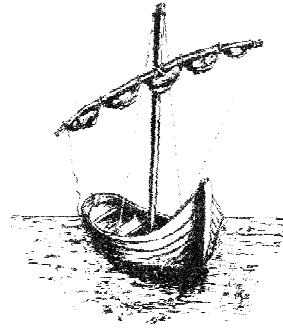
Ashton-under-Hill

Beckford

Overbury

Alstone &

Teddington

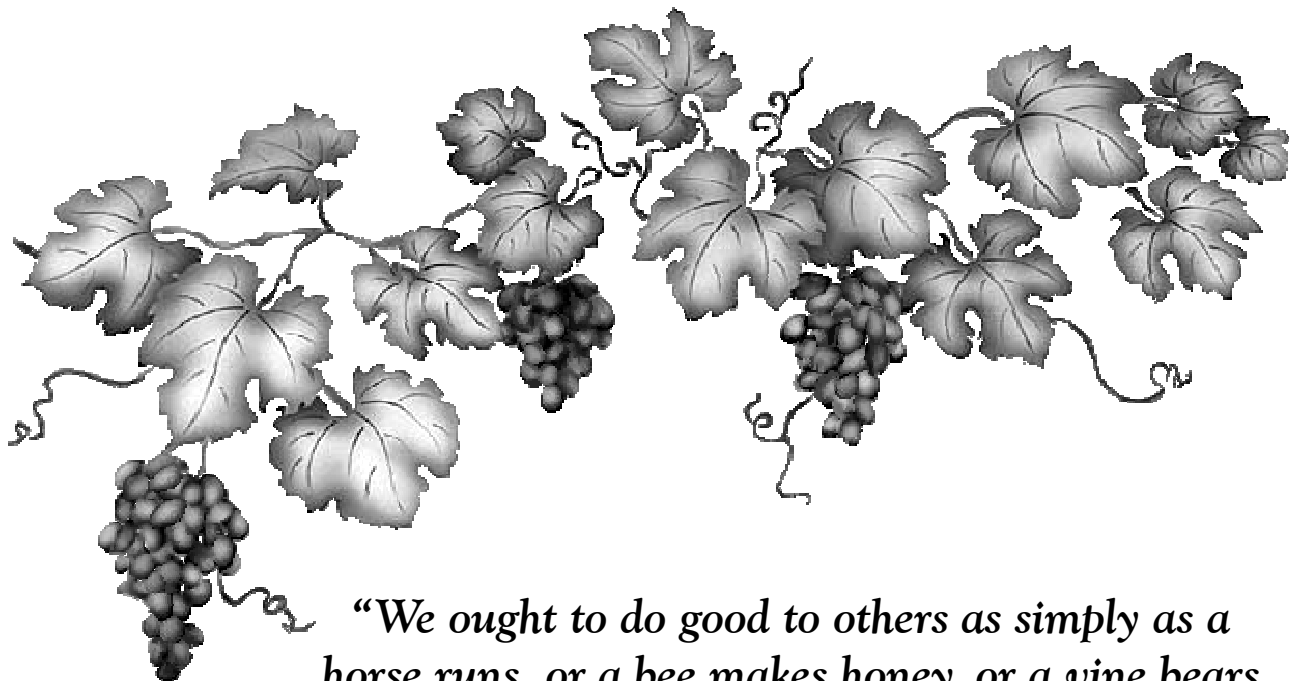


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September 2010

40p

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*“We ought to do good to others as simply as a horse runs, or a bee makes honey, or a vine bears grapes season after season without thinking of the grapes it has borne.”*

*Marcus Aurelius*

**Schedule of Services for September 2010**  
**The Parish of Overbury with Teddington, Alstone and Little Washbourne,**  
**with Beckford and Ashton under Hill**

	<b>Ashton</b>	<b>Beckford</b>	<b>Overbury</b>	<b>Alstone</b>	<b>Teddington</b>
<b>5th September</b> 14 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	<b>6.00 pm</b> Evening Prayer <i>D Oxley</i>	<b>8.00 am</b> BCP HC <i>S Renshaw</i>	<b>11.00 am</b> Family Service with Baptism <i>S Renshaw/ R Palmer</i>		<b>9.30 am</b> CW HC <i>S Renshaw</i>
<b>12th September</b> 15 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	<b>9.30 am</b> CW HC <i>M Baynes</i>	<b>8.00 am</b> BCP HC <i>M Baynes</i> <b>6.00 pm</b> Harvest Festival <i>M Baynes</i>	<b>11.00 am</b> CW HC <i>M Baynes</i>	<b>9.30 am</b> Morning Prayer <i>D Oxley</i>	
<b>19th September</b> 16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	<b>11.00 am</b> Family Service <i>J Dodge</i>	<b>9.30 am</b> Morning Prayer <i>R Palmer</i>	<b>8.00 am</b> BCP HC <i>S Renshaw</i>		<b>11.00 am</b> Harvest Festival <i>S Renshaw</i>
<b>26th September</b> 17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity <i>Back to Church Sunday</i>		<b>10.00 am</b> United Parish CW HC <i>M Baynes</i>			
<b>3rd October</b> 18 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity	<b>11.00 am</b> Harvest Festival <i>C Parr</i>	<b>8.00 am</b> BCP HC <i>S Renshaw</i>	<b>11.00 am</b> Patronal and Harvest Festival <i>S Renshaw</i>	<b>9.30 am</b> CW HC <i>S Renshaw</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 (when applicable), at  
Ashton

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

**Clergy**

Revd Matthew Baynes      Revd Terry Henderson      Revd Susan Renshaw  
Revd Clive Parr      Revd Christine Turpin, Assistant Curate

**Readers**

Captain Dennis Oxley, Church Army      John Dodge  
Roger Palmer      Kalantha Brewis



## ***Money is the Root of all Progress***

A few weeks ago the world's richest people were challenged to give half their money every year to good causes. Next month the Government will set out its spending cuts. It seems fairly clear that most of us are going to have to tighten our belts. And all this reminded me of a former Chancellor of the Exchequer's quote (which one? - see end of article) which I've used as the title for my article. St Paul is often misquoted on the subject of money. He actually said 'the love of money is the root of all evil' but often his first three words are missed out. Jesus had a lot to say on the subject indeed it turns out that one sixth of all his recorded sayings and one third of his parables refer to our relationship with money, so it's clear money was something that was often on his mind.

Many will recall the words used at our services of Holy Communion at the time of the offertory 'Yours Lord is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour and the majesty. Everything in heaven and earth is yours; all things come from you and of your own do we give you' (First Book of Chronicles).

The fact is, of course, we can't avoid the issue of money and live on air. It can be a good servant but a terrible master. Jesus gave a stern warning when he said 'No man can serve two masters, you cannot serve God and money'. What then ought we, as Christians, to do about money? There's the Gospel story of the rich man dressed in purple and fine linen who feasted sumptuously each day and we can also recall the story of the rich young man who, despite his great wealth was dissatisfied with his life. Today he might have leased a flat in Knightsbridge as well as owning a sizeable house in the Cotswolds. Not a bad man, even a good man in his way, often seen as a worshipper in his local church. So Jesus tells him to sell all he has and give it to the poor. Now is that what all Christians should do? In a flash we can all produce long lists of reasons as to why this cannot be. Money is a problem for us all, not just for those who have insufficient but also for those who have too much.

But it seems to me there is also something glorious about money. Properly used it can be an instrument of our devotion to Christ himself; problematical and ruinous potentially, but also a means of demonstrating our spiritual commitment.

Do you remember that marvellous account in St John's Gospel of how Mary, sister of Martha, took her most precious possession, a container of very costly perfume, and used it to anoint the feet of Jesus? Judas, himself bitten with the money bug, was quick to label the expenditure a complete waste. But it symbolised Mary's devotion to her Lord and what's more he accepted it as such. Never mind the past history of that precious possession. Never mind if Mary, with a shady life in the past, had obtained it in circumstances of which she was now ashamed. She was now using her material wealth for good and her motives were good.

There have been occasions in church history when the giving of money has been anything but good. Love of ostentation or the hope that a large gift will be set off against the enormity of the donor's sins as if God could be bought off or softened up with some kind of slush fund. Money can indeed corrupt religion as well as enhance it. Mary's gift was not so corrupted, nor was that other woman's offering St Luke tells us about. You'll remember the poor widow putting two tiny coins into the Temple Treasury. They were so tiny they could scarcely have made any real difference to the total collected at the end of the day. But Jesus said she had given more than the rich dropping their large donations into the collecting box because her gift expressed her total commitment to God, his providence and his mercy; marvellous money indeed.

*... continued*

I'd like to just change tack for a moment, and here I need to be careful as there is a danger of being patronising, but service and the use of our talents is at least equally important in our commitment to Christ. One of the things I've noted about our parishes is the huge number of people who are actively involved in the life of our churches. I'm not going to even try to list all the work that so many people undertake. I nearly said it's all there for everyone to see and a lot of it is but there is some that goes on behind the scenes quietly week in week out that's equally valued.

I suppose what I'm struggling to say is that our time and our talents and the money we have is not ours at all. We are in no position to give God anything; we can only give back to him what was his in the first place. And God delights in receiving our gifts. I remember giving my children pocket money but nevertheless being delighted when they saved some of it and bought a present for my birthday. It didn't matter that I'd given them the money in the first place. And it's the same with us; it's not a question of what does the church want or need but rather what we ought to give to God. May God take our gifts and money and talents and use them for the establishment of his Kingdom around the Hill because 'All things come from you and of your own do we give you.'

Every Blessing, *Clive Parr*

(The Chancellor's name - Iain McLeod)

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## ***Come to a Harvest Festival in Your Church!***

### **Beckford**

St. John the Baptist Church  
Sunday 12th September - 6 pm

Join the Rev'd Baynes for our annual Harvest celebrations, where we will give thanks and praise for the bountiful harvest.



### **Overbury**

St. Faith's Church  
Sunday 3rd October - 11 am

It is also our Patronal Festival AND we have a baptism that day so it will be very busy!

The service will be followed by a Bring and Share lunch in the Village Hall - everybody is invited and going to church first is not a pre-requisite!

### **The Chapelries**

St. Nicholas Church, Teddington  
Sunday 19th September - 11 am

Let's make this a full, praise worthy service. We have so much to be thankful for.

Please bring your harvest gifts to the church on Friday 17th or the morning of Saturday 18th and then yourselves on Sunday to raise the roof in praise.

Eventually our gifts will be taken to St Vincent's.

### **Ashton under Hill**

St. Barbara's Church  
Sunday 3rd October - 11 am

Everyone is warmly invited, and children (of all ages!) will be especially welcome.

Donations of harvest gifts to be distributed to the elderly and vegetables to decorate the church will be appreciated - please bring along to St Barbara's on Saturday 2nd.

There will be a collection for the charity Concern Worldwide, which works with the poorest people in the poorest countries of the world.



## The Curate Cogitates

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

### Ordination to the Priesthood and presiding at a Eucharist for the first time.

Well there has been much to cogitate recently. Writing retrospectively, I recall the Ordination as scary yet wonderful. There was, at different times, an awareness of personal support from friends and relatives, of local Church support, of Diocesan support and beyond that, a feeling of being part of something far greater too.

The link to the worldwide Church, and to the Church that is beyond time was underlined by the numbers of Christians present, the liturgy and the history of the Cathedral building itself. There was an increased sense of that 'great cloud of witnesses' and of the veil between heaven and earth being thinner for a while.

Key moments included the period of prayer and silent reflection in the crypt before the service, while hearing the 'buzz' of the Cathedral above our heads and a Taize chant went round in my head. (Laudate Dominum, laudate Dominum, omnes, gentes, alleluiah. ..repeated)

Then the moment that looked like a Priestly scrum, as they 'layed hands' on each of us in turn as we knelt before Bishop John. This was very powerful. I briefly wondered if I would be able to stand, as the weight - both physical and of the moment - was significant, and my knees were thus slightly wobbly. Fortunately I was OK and didn't end up in a Priestly pile on the floor.

Some may remember it differently I'm sure, but an unforgettable experience for all.

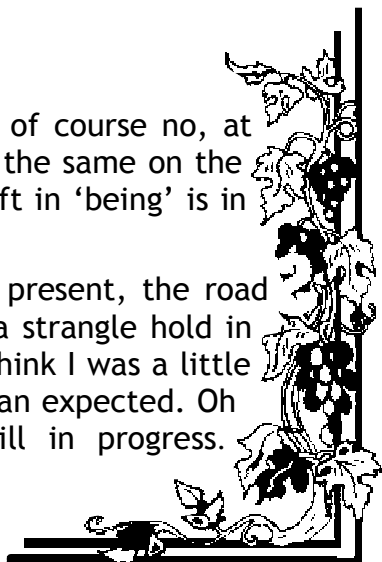
Next day, I was more nervous, as there was more to go wrong, but my first Eucharist was also a wonderful experience and felt a real privilege. I was helped along again by the great support of the many who were present. The sun shone straight into my eyes, so I couldn't see much, which probably helped too! I have presided a few more times since and each has felt slightly different.

'Do you feel different?' I have been asked quite a few times.

Well, yes. At times. Unexpectedly, but in a good way. And of course no, at times, decidedly not. On the face of it, life carries on much the same on the whole - though in part it will never be the same again. A shift in 'being' is in process and continues.

Of course, I still complain about this and that - notably at present, the road works at various points around the Hill. They have a bit of a strangle hold in certain areas and are causing me a few headaches. Today I think I was a little irate with a foreman, as the road was closed much earlier than expected. Oh dear. You see, I am really much the same. A work still in progress.

**Christine**



#### Shears Sharpened

**01386 881215**

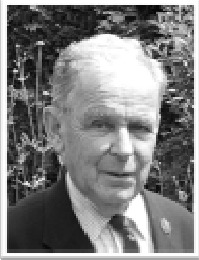
*Proceeds to  
Beckford Church  
Fabric Funds*



#### Thank Goodness it's Friday Coffee Morning



**Friday 24th September  
10am to 12noon  
at Beckford Church**



## News and Musings from St. Nicholas' Cottage

### A Surprise in Kenya

Recently I received news from the Church Army that the Rev. Joel Waweru has been elected as Bishop of Nairobi. When I went out to Nairobi he was one of the students training to be a Church Army Evangelist at the College in the Jogoo Road where I was Principal. We had students from Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. Joel was a Kikuyu and, in his younger days, experienced the events that led to Independence. I was fortunate to go to Kenya when President Moi was in power. He belonged to one of the smaller tribes and would certainly not have been elected President by a democratic vote. Kenyatta was a Kikuyu and belonged to the dominant tribe in Kenya. Kenyatta was the man to fight for freedom and Kenyan self rule. Moi was (for many years) the man to bring peace and prosperity to his country and a man who helped other nations to find stability. Sadly, these blessings have not continued in Africa today.

I was interested to see that Joel Waweru was to be consecrated Bishop in St Stephen's Church, Jogoo Road. The Cathedral Church is All Saints. St Stephen's Church was about three minutes walk from the complex containing our Headquarters, a Social Centre, our Training College, a Nursery and a school. Since I was there, they have changed and a University is on the site. Both St Stephen's Church and All Saints were built in the days when Kenya was a British Colony. The two churches are in completely different parts of Nairobi City. I suppose when they were built, the white colonialists dominated the All Saints congregation; politicians and professional people would tend to go there, whereas St Stephen's was mainly for the African working class population. The main service was in Swahili but there were also an English service and, quite often, I was the only white face in the congregation. The congregation at the English service was about two hundred, so mainly attended by Africans. So why did the Africans want to go to the English Service? The English service was first and quite often the two congregations jostled to get in and out of the Church! There was no such time constraint on the Swahili service!

It appears that the Archbishop of Kenya is Bishop of All Saints, Nairobi and that Joel Waweru will be Bishop of St Stephen's Nairobi. I suppose it is a bit like the Archbishop of Canterbury having so many duties outside his diocese that he leaves a great deal of diocesan work to his three bishops.

In my earlier days in Teddington, Joel Waweru, his wife and their two young daughters came to England to gain experience of life in a Yorkshire parish. It was arranged as a preparation for his being appointed General Secretary of the Church Army in Eastern Africa. He and his wife and family were brought to see me by Captain Edmund Wilbourne and Sister Joan Wilbourne but he never filled that post but became a vicar in Nairobi instead. Joel will not be the first former Church Army captain to become a bishop but he could easily become Archbishop of Kenya.

Another Church Army Captain who has been consecrated a bishop is the Bishop of Kingston, Jamaica. He came over to train as a Church Army officer when our college was in Marylebone. After Commissioning, he returned to his homeland. He has maintained his connection with the Church Army and is Chairman of a Committee of Representatives from all parts of the world where Church Army serves. He is Bishop Harold Daniel and he trained when I was on the staff of our London College. Like Joel, he was an outstanding Officer and priest.

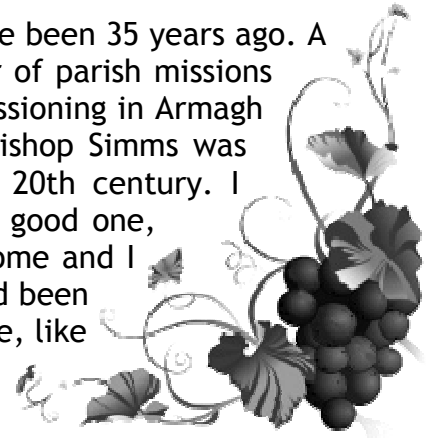
### As One Who Serves

"I am among you as one who serves" - these are the words of the Head of the Church,

the Lord Jesus Christ - the greatest authority figure of all times. Sometimes the Church leaders have been authority figures in a temporal sense - leaders in position of State, in Government, in local authorities, in financial businesses, in Trade Unions, employers, autocrats. How different is the authority of Him who took a towel, girded himself and washed his disciple's feet - the work of a slave!

We desperately need authority figures who are servants who do humble works. Of course, centuries of culture cannot be changed overnight, especially by a person of another culture. I was brought up in a culture where a gentleman stood up to give his seat to a lady on a crowded train or bus. When I went to Kenya, I was in my mid-fifties. The culture there was that a woman should give up her seat to a man, especially an old man. In their eyes, I counted for a seat on both counts - I was a man and certainly old! It is so long since I have been on a bus where people were standing that I do not know whether I would stand up for a lady or not - but I think I would have to judge her to be pension age! However, I found it embarrassing to be given a seat by a lady in Kenya but I had to express my gratitude - something an African man might well not do and accept her offer and the cultural difference that went with it. People of differing cultures are all commanded to take a towel and wash the disciple's feet - whatever the modern equivalent may be.

I remember my first visit to Northern Ireland - it must have been 35 years ago. A team of about fifteen officers were involved in a number of parish missions in the diocese of Armagh. We met for a Service of commissioning in Armagh Cathedral and had tea in the Archbishop's House. Archbishop Simms was probably the most saintly Archbishop of Armagh in the 20th century. I cannot remember his sermon, though I am sure it was a good one, but he was most diligent to serve us at tea in his own home and I see him graciously serving us with the good things that had been provided by the ladies of the Cathedral, led by his wife. He, like his Master, was among us as one who served.



**Dennis Oxley**



## Heritage Open Days

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2010, 12 - 5pm**

As part of the countrywide scheme of Heritage Open Days to open buildings not usually open to the public, there will be an opportunity to climb up to the top of St Faith's Church tower and enjoy the wonderful views. There will also be an exhibition of old photographs of the village in Overbury Village Hall, where tea, coffee and cakes will be served from 2pm until 5pm. Contact Christine Clark for further information on 01386 725405

**Warning:** *The steps to the top of the tower are very narrow and steep, so please wear suitable footwear.*

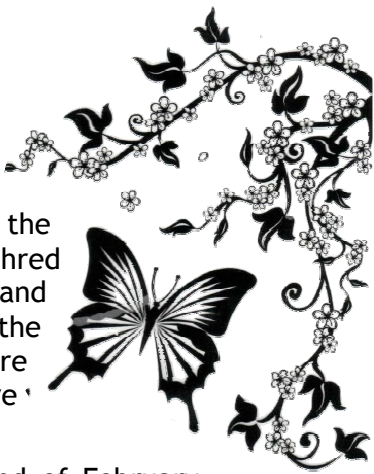
Visit [www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk) to see the many other properties that will be open during this event.

### "Sunnybank" Open House

This elegant period house in Overbury will be open during the weekend of 11th & 12th September to coincide with the Heritage Open Day. Please feel welcome to come and have a look around this recently renovated property, which is currently available to let. [www.overburystate.co.uk](http://www.overburystate.co.uk)

# Beckford Nature Reserve

During the late winter months the level of the lake rose by approximately fifteen inches due to the rain and heavy snowfall, which also caused the collapse of the brambles on the west end of the reserve; this prompted us to employ a contractor to clear and shred them. This left a bare area that is already filling out with nettles and is a good habitat for butterflies and insects generally. During the coming autumn we are planning to sow a suitable wildflower mixture to improve the botanical diversity of the area to include native species of grasses and wildflowers.



We had a fantastic turnout for our last working party at the end of February, which included four children; it is very encouraging that they are keen to be involved, and were of great assistance in collecting four large plastic bags full of rubbish, the remains of an old wheelbarrow, and an almost complete roll of wire netting! Other projects undertaken included the laying of chippings, coppicing of trees on the edge of the lake, and the construction of a low barrier on the peninsula.

Members from the University of Worcester and Herefordshire and Worcestershire Earth Heritage Trust asked to visit the SSSI on the Reserve to report on the condition of the geological face. Richard Edwards from the EHT was so impressed with the Beckford Nature Reserve, that he offered to give us a talk on local geology, and in June he gave a most interesting lecture on 'What the Ice Age did for Beckford'.

It is interesting to see that the ant hills on the sides of the footpaths around the lake have been receiving interest from the green woodpeckers, who regard the grubs as a valuable source of protein. Some species of blue butterfly also have an interesting relationship with ants, in that the latter feed on secretions produced by the caterpillar, and in return the ants protect the caterpillar from enemies. It is noticeable that this year has not been very good for butterflies in general, possibly as a result of the hard winter.

We were very sad to learn of the death of Rupert Ellis in February. Rupert was instrumental in negotiating the purchase of the Reserve on behalf of the village, and guided us through some tricky false starts during that unsettling time; his calm, courteous and logical manner, however, won us the prize in the end.

*John Clifford*

**Beckford Nature Reserve and Evesham Round Table** bring you a

## **BARN DANCE**

**Saturday 18th September**

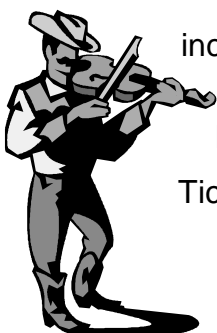
8pm - Midnight Court Farm, Beckford

Money raised from this event will be used to fund a new Hide with disabled access at the Nature Reserve, in memory of Rupert Ellis.

Tickets £12.50 includes a Pig Roast Bap

Live band, Prize Draw, Prize for Best Dressed

Tickets available from Beckford Stores or David Brody 08707 601383



### **My Poem**

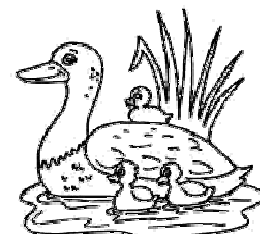
*As the cool Summer's breeze blew  
fallen leaves across the hard wet ground,  
fresh green grass sparkled like Christmas  
lights after the rain had slowly passed.*

*Ducks huddled in groups, shying away from  
swans drifting by like elegant ballerinas.*

*Flowers bloomed around the winding track,  
past a tall, twisted pear tree and out of an  
old wooden gate, away from all the wildlife.*

*This could only be in the Nature Reserve!*

**Emily Rose Campbell**  
Aged 13



## Beckford Nature Reserve

in conjunction with *The Beckford Inn* invite you to a  
**Village Supper**

Friday October 8th at 7.30pm at The Beckford Inn

2 courses for £8

(a vegetarian option available if ordered beforehand)

Tickets available from 1st September, contact: Jennifer 882029 or Diane 882532



### Beckford Social Club

The Beckford Social Club is situated behind Beckford Village Hall.

Come and enjoy a friendly atmosphere with great prices for drinks!

Membership £6, Senior Citizens & Students £3.50 or just come and see us.

Non- members £1 (when signed in by a member).

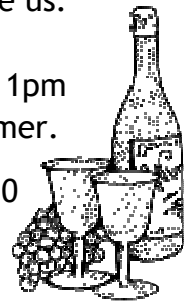
Opening hours are Mon - Fri 7 - 11pm, Saturday lunch 12 - 2pm & 7 - 11pm

Sunday lunch 12 - 2pm & 7 - 11pm. Wednesday closed during the summer.

Secretaries Mrs A Chidley 01386 47668 or Janna Gowthorpe 01386 881350

**Event for your diary! 11th September Race Night.**

For more information visit <http://www.beckford-village.org>

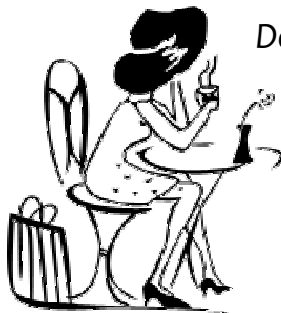


### Afternoon Tea and Stalls

Come and enjoy a lovely afternoon at Beckford Village Hall on  
**Sunday 12th September from 2:30 - 4:30 pm. £4 per person for Tea.**

All freshly prepared by Beckford WI, choose from  
Delicious Sandwiches, Scones with Homemade Jam and Cream,  
A selection of Cakes and Biscuits, all served with a  
Lovely Cup of Tea!

Afterwards, enjoy great local produce and gifts to buy from  
the WI Produce and Gifts Stall, Flowers from Grange Farm,  
Hand-crafted cards from Briony Coupe (for SANDS)



### ATTENTION ALL YOUNG PEOPLE!

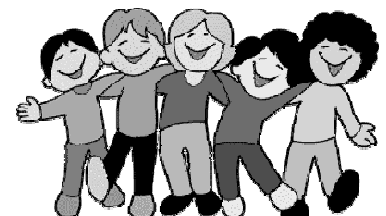
Beckford Community Council will be holding a meeting on September 17th at 7pm in the Village Hall for parents and children of the Village.

The purpose of the meeting will be to see if there is any interest in setting up a Children's Council. The ideas that are put forward could see the formation of a network of activities that will benefit all young people.

As the Village is fortunate enough to have a Village Hall and playing field, a Social Club, nature reserve and Church it makes sense to utilise our assets and talents for the benefit of the Community as a whole.

Volunteers will be needed to help with activities and the Community Council and the Parish Council will do all it can to facilitate this scheme going forward.

Peter Byrd, Chairman Beckford Community Council



## Parish Music

### Classical Music in Country Churches

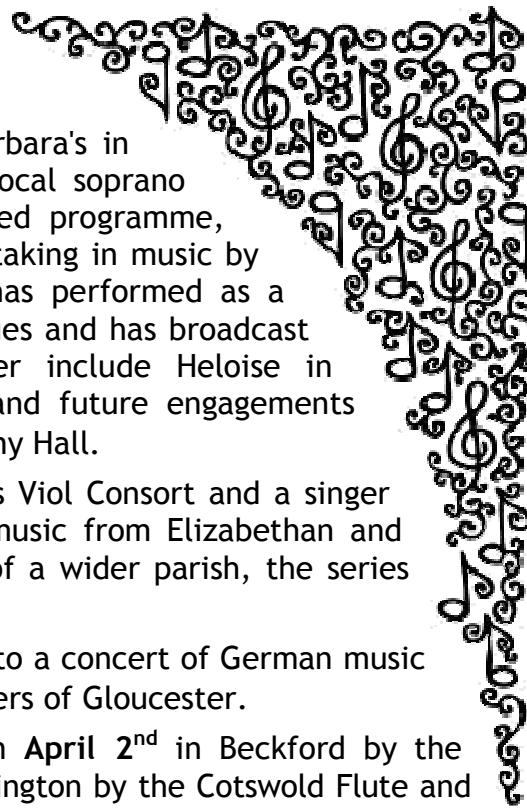
The 16th season of Parish Music starts at St Barbara's in Ashton at 8pm on **Saturday September 18<sup>th</sup>**. Local soprano Rebecca Rudge returns with a wonderfully varied programme, ranging from Mozart to Flanders and Swann and taking in music by Schubert, Lehar, Puccini and others. Rebecca has performed as a soloist at many of the UK's most prestigious venues and has broadcast on Radio 4. Operatic highlights of her career include Heloise in Offenbach's *Bluebeard* at the Buxton Festival and future engagements include *Carmina Burana* with the CBSO at Symphony Hall.

On **Saturday October 16<sup>th</sup>** in Alstone, the Chelys Viol Consort and a singer present *Four Funerals and a Wedding*, courtly music from Elizabethan and Jacobean times. Reflecting the recent creation of a wider parish, the series has been extended to Bredon for the first time.

On **Saturday November 13<sup>th</sup>** Bredon will be host to a concert of German music by Parish Music's old friends the Saint Cecilia Singers of Gloucester.

There will be three concerts in spring 2011, on **April 2<sup>nd</sup>** in Beckford by the Cantaloube Woodwind Trio, on **April 30<sup>th</sup>** in Teddington by the Cotswold Flute and Harp Duo and on **28<sup>th</sup> May** in Overbury by the Lendvai String Trio. Put these dates in your diary now.

Further details will be sent at the end of August to those on the Parish Music mailing list and will also be available on the website [www.ashtonunderhill.org.uk](http://www.ashtonunderhill.org.uk) or by phoning 881479 or 882060.



#### Whalebone - 'The Gathering Tour'

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

**7.30pm - Beckford Village Hall**

£7.50 on the door, £6.00 in advance

For tickets and more information:

**01746 765268**

[www.whalebone-music.com](http://www.whalebone-music.com)

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/whalebone](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whalebone)

There may be a local source of tickets closer to the date of the concert.

*Whalebone's music is a marriage of folk music and classic guitar rock played on acoustic guitars and fiddle, combining upfront spellbinding musicianship, infectious driving rhythms and exuberant presentation.*

#### St Nicholas' Church Autumn Fair **Saturday October 2nd**

2:00 to 5:00 pm Kemerton's Victoria Hall and St. Nicholas' Church  
(with a shuttle bus between).

All our regular popular stalls - and copious teas!

Face painting and children's harvest art workshop,

Children's concerts and shows, and other church music,

"Experience Harvest" church exhibitions, to celebrate the season!

*Proceeds to St Nicholas' Church funds.*



## Teddington & Alstone Barbecue

Despite the ever changing weather over 120 people enjoyed several hours of delicious food, fun-games and the company of friends.

This year the annual event was held at Alstone Playing Fields. There were burgers, sausages, salads and home-made cakes. Track events included running, egg & spoon, sack race and 3-legged races for all ages. In addition there was hoopla, putting and an inter-village skittles competition. This year won by Alstone. Mr Hearle presented his cup to John Morrison. The proceeds of £..... will be used for Alstone Playing field.



None of the day would have been possible without a small but dedicated group who organised, bought and oversaw the whole event. Thanks must also go to villagers generosity in providing raffle and tombola prizes. It is hoped some photos will eventually find their way onto the parish website. If you missed out please make a note to attend this event which will be in June next year.

## Ashton under Hill Women's Institute

Before the August meeting, everyone was captivated by Cody, the lovely guide dog that accompanied our speaker, Verna Clifford. During the business meeting, Cody sat patiently and when Verna was introduced he showed great interest in the proceedings, alert to her every movement.

Verna's interesting and lively talk began by showing a number of mechanical aids designed to help blind or partially sighted people, and told us of the difficulties they helped to overcome. We heard how the help of a guide dog can vastly improve the quality of life and we heard several examples of how Cody had used his intelligence and initiative in situations where, if on her own, Verna would have been at a great disadvantage.

Leamington Spa is the breeding centre for guide dogs and they are kept in a family environment which is much better. At the age of six weeks, puppies are transferred to the care of a puppy walker, of which there are 1500 in Britain. They introduce the dogs to different experiences they may encounter in their work.

From here, the dogs move on to learning various commands, how to work with their owner, obedience etc. Then finally a Guide Dog Ability Instructor will allocate dogs to new owners. A good guide dog does not have to be a pure breed - cross-breeds are often used.



It costs £50,000 to train a guide dog from birth to the time it meets it's new owner and a working life ends between 9 -10 years old.

Our next meeting will be an Open Meeting on September 7th when Simon Hudson Evans will give a talk on "Real Cheese Appreciation."

## Kemerton Lectures

30th September - 9th December 2010

### OUR CANAL HERITAGE

**Roger Butler**, LRPS, a talented photographer and keen traveller, explores the history, people and places associated with our waterways, drawing on superb slides and a wealth of personal experience. 10 sessions (including one field trip).



**Thursday evenings, 7.30 - 9.30 pm, Victoria Hall, Kemerton**

Fee: £45 for 10 weeks. Visitors are very welcome and may attend any one session for £5. Further details from Sue Bennett, 01386 725 245

## 23rd September - When the sun goes edgewise!



September 23rd is the autumnal equinox (if you live in the northern hemisphere) or the vernal (Spring) equinox (if you live in the southern hemisphere).

The equinoxes occur in March and September, when the Sun is 'edgewise' to the Earth's axis of rotation, so that everywhere on earth has twelve hours of daylight and twelve hours of darkness.

### Overbury Cricket Club News

Our Fun Night, held on 16th July this year again raised over £2,000. Once again we are indebted to Sue Mazzonier and her excellent committee for working so hard and to those of you who supported us.

On the playing side, unfortunately the unavailability of players throughout July and early August saw both Saturday 1st and 2nd league teams struggling. Both of them find themselves in mid table positions

Both Youth sides played exceptionally well this year. They have now finished their respective seasons. The Under 12's won all eight of their league matches and also won their match at Evesham against the best of the rest !

The under 15's won four of their matches in the Cheltenham youth set up. The coaches must be congratulated for their efforts and the support given to them by the parents.

For the first time in ages, we hosted a county match on August 1st which took place between Worcestershire and Oxfordshire under 14's. The event was very well supported and also the home side won!

Rob Cunliffe a former Gloucestershire County player ran sessions of junior coaching in June, July and early August.

Future events include the Annual Awards Night on Friday 17th September and the annual President's Match on Saturday 18th September - hope to see you there.

*Dave Devereux, OCC Chairman*

### Wildlife Notes

The alarming situation of our water vole population led to the vole and its burrows being given legal protection. However, this is of little help unless the reasons for decline are properly understood and rectified. The main cause of the water vole decline seems to have been the increasing numbers and spread of the American mink. These escaped from fur farms in the 1950s (or were released by irresponsible animal welfare activists) and spread across Britain within 50 years. Like the introduction of the grey squirrel, this is another stupid act of man's interference by bringing in alien species.

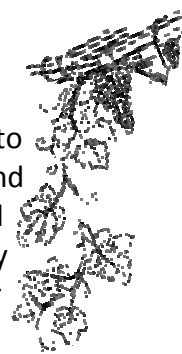
However, water voles were in decline before the mink problem arose, so other factors are also to blame. Work to the river banks to prevent flooding or erosion to riverside buildings deprive water voles of their habitat and vegetation to feed on. On the other hand, we cannot allow drainage systems to become overgrown or silted up - river banks have to be stabilised in some places or buildings may collapse. Faced with these problems, it can be wondered why a fuss should be made about water voles (of course it should!); they live in our drinking water and, if they are dying out, we should at least find out why, for our own sake as well as theirs.



Maybe mink and habitat destruction are not the only factors involved. What about artificial hormones that are now found in rivers from our sewage works? No wonder that fish stocks are reported down, let alone the water vole. Better news (I hope) next week ...

*Fred Wood*

## Volunteering Opportunities



**Care Assistants** - Are you caring and friendly? Are you a good listener and able to engage with visually impaired people with care, respect and sensitivity? Hand and Nail Care Assistants are urgently needed for a fortnightly social group for local people who are blind or visually impaired. Two volunteers are required to be fully trained in basic hand and nail care, providing a regular and valued service for group members.

**Fundraising** - Do you have the knack of making someone part with their cash? The Worcestershire Branch of a national health charity is looking for volunteers to help with local fundraising. This could involve helping out at events, or coming up with ideas for new fundraising activities with support from other branch volunteers. Whatever your level of involvement, you can be sure that by raising funds, you are helping to make a real difference to the lives of people living with a debilitating illness.

**Webmaster** - A local charity is looking for an enthusiastic and talented webmaster to raise awareness of the organisation by maintaining the website to inform the local community of current and future activities and opportunities. Your role will be to use your creativity in updating the site with all relevant information.

**Schools and Youth Volunteer** - This vital role is about raising the profile of a health charity within schools, colleges and/or nurseries by giving short presentations about the importance of healthy lifestyles. You will build up strong relationships with teachers and PE coordinators at schools within your agreed areas. You will be helping to encourage schools to participate in national fundraising whilst improving children's health. Where schools have supported the charity, you will attend cheque presentations and thank supporters for their help.

**Secretary** - The Worcestershire Branch of a national charity is looking for an enthusiastic secretary. The role is one that is integral to the success of the branch and includes preparing papers for committee meetings, taking minutes, organising the AGM, and dealing with all branch correspondence. The role is home-based with attendance at committee meetings and other events at various venues in Worcestershire.

If you are interested in any of the above, contact Val Jackman at Pershore Volunteer Centre.

**Tel: 01386 554299, ext 223** E-mail: [valj@pershorevolunteers.org](mailto:valj@pershorevolunteers.org)



### Advertising in the Parish Magazine

Advertising in our magazine is set out on a yearly basis, running from January to December. Towards the end of the year, we invite those who already advertise with us to continue for another year. Inevitably, there are some who do not wish to continue and these spaces are filled from the waiting list of people who have contacted us during the year.

To help with this annual job, we would like someone to help with the administration of the renewal process, sending out notices and collating responses.

If you have some time to spare, have access to a computer and would like to join our little band of volunteers who put together your monthly magazine, we would love to hear from you!

For more information, contact: Deborah Whitehouse 01386 882386

email: [d.whitehouse@homecall.co.uk](mailto:d.whitehouse@homecall.co.uk)

# PARISH DIRECTORY

<b>Revd. 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 Jean Tasker 01386 881270
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
Organist	Barbara Curr 01242 674136
<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**

Gilbert Watkins	01386 881455
Ray Satchell	01386 881441

## **Disability Awareness Representatives**

Alex Dodge	01386 881487
Nicky Sentance	01386 725309

## **Magazine**

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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>



## September Diary

7th	Ashton WI - "Real Cheese" Ashton Village Hall	7:30 pm
11th	Heritage Open Days, Overbury	12 - 5 pm
12th	Heritage Open Days, Overbury	12 - 5 pm
	Afternoon Tea, Beckford Village Hall	2:30 - 4:30 pm
	Beckford Harvest Festival	6 pm
13th	Beckford WI - "The Art of Belly Dancing" Beckford Village Hall	7:30 pm
14th	Simply Soup, Beckford Village Hall	12:30 pm
16th	<i>Copy Date For Magazine</i>	
18th	Barn Dance, Court Farm, Beckford	8 pm
	Parish Music, St. Barbara's Church, Ashton	8 pm
19th	Teddington Harvest Festival	11 am
22nd	Beckford Gardening Club - "Autumn Fireworks" Beckford Village Hall	7:30 pm
24th	Coffee Morning, Beckford Church	10 - 12 noon
25th	Picnic in the Paddock, Ashton under Hill	7:30 pm
26th	United Parish Worship, Beckford	10 am
<b>October</b>		
2nd	Kemerton Autumn Fair, Victoria Hall	2 - 5 pm
3rd	Overbury Harvest Festival	11 am
	Ashton Harvest Festival	11 am

## Ashton under Hill First School



### Picnic in the Paddock Marquee



Blind Cheese and  
Wine Tasting  
Auction of Lots

**Saturday 25th September**

7.30 pm Station House, Ashton under Hill

£7.50 per ticket

Cheeseboard for every table.  
Wines for sale. Over 18's only.

For tickets, information or to donate items for  
Auction or Raffle, contact:

Rachel 0797 7998 478 [revans-cook@iscadico.uk](mailto:revans-cook@iscadico.uk)

Ashton First School 01386 881333

Bring a picnic table,  
chairs and friends!



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