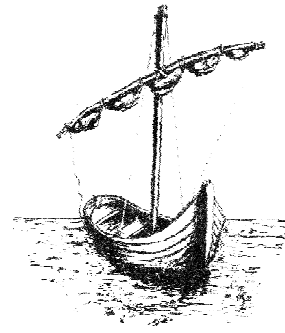


The Parish Magazine



Ashton-under-Hill

Beckford

Overbury

Alstone &

Teddington

February 2012

40p

*"The flowers of late winter and early spring
occupy places in our hearts well out of
proportion to their size."*

Gertrude S. Wister



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

	Ashton	Beckford	Overbury	Alstone	Teddington
5th February 3 rd Sunday before Lent	9.30 am Morning Prayer <i>J Dodge</i>	8.00 am BCP HC <i>M Baynes</i>	11.00 am Family Service & Christingle <i>M Baynes</i>		9.30 am CW HC <i>M Baynes</i>
12th February 2 nd Sunday before Lent	9.30 am CW HC <i>S Renshaw</i>	8.00 am BCP HC <i>S Renshaw</i> 6.00 pm Evening Worship <i>S Renshaw</i>	11.00 am CW HC <i>S Renshaw</i>	9.30 am Morning Prayer <i>D Oxley</i>	
19th February Sunday next before Lent	11.00 am Family Service <i>S Renshaw</i>	9.30 am Morning Prayer <i>R Palmer</i>	8.00 am BCP HC <i>S Renshaw</i>		6.00 pm Evening Prayer <i>D Oxley</i>
22nd February Ash Wednesday	7.30 pm Bredon Hill Group of Churches Ash Wednesday Service St Giles Church, Bredon				
26th February 1 st Sunday of Lent				10.00 am United CW HC <i>M Baynes</i>	
4th March 2 nd Sunday of Lent	9.30 am Morning Prayer	8.00 am BCP HC	11.00 am CW HC	9.30 am CW HC	

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



God's Search for Us

Sister Mary from Mucknell Abbey is giving three talks to our Bredon Hill Group Lent Course this year starting with a reflection on Job. The Book of Job is essentially the story of one man who held on to a faith that survived the torments of utter loss and expanded into new realms of wonder and delight.

Throughout all his difficulties Job is able to hang on. He has formed a relationship with God. If we are to do this it involves listening; listening to God's call. And that call is not just for the select few – ordained clergy or maybe the person in the next pew. God's call is for all who are part of the church.

And so when we hear that small voice within us, as we surely will if we make time to listen, then let us resolve to listen with an open mind and heart. Where is God calling us as a church community? How can we serve God best? Where is the new life and energy which will enable us to do our part in building the kingdom of God? God sees within each of us a very special person with unique gifts who can serve in a very special way. Fortunately God's not looking for perfect people, just those who are open to the Holy Spirit and willing to follow.

When confronted with such questions as 'why am I here?' and 'what am I for?' the text book answers are 'to seek God.' But I think it helps if we turn this notion on its head and instead think about God coming to find us, for after all it's we who are lost and it's God who is looking for us. I'm sure our Lent Course will help us with some of these problems.



Clive



The Curate Cogitates

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

14.12.11 A highlight of the Pershore College Carol Service in Wick today was a presentation by some of the young special needs students. They gave examples of gifts they were going to give to family or friends that involved time and caring rather than something bought in a shop. Such gifts included spending time playing with nieces or nephews, walking the dog and making a cake. We were all encouraged to think of something similar that we could give. It was the vulnerability of these youngsters that made the message all the more moving and humbling. Time is becoming a more and more precious commodity, such that all too often it is the gift we can least afford to give away. Yet in the long run, that is the gift we remember receiving, especially if given by a loved one.

This surely has many implications for how we love and care, at all times, not just in this season.

24.12.11 The Crib Service in Bredon was quite an experience. What stays with me is the stream of people filing past where I sat to visit the Crib. So many different people. The young, the old, the excited the more indifferent. Those familiar to me, those unknown. All have some connection with this place and with the Crib certainly. A snap shot of humanity. I sat there singing, but also pondering on what drew them there as individuals. Pondering how we convey the enormity of what happened, began in that Crib and how it continues to happen. I ponder how we can convey this to a new generation, to these people here and now, for the story continues and we take part, whether aware or not.

01.01.12 My cogitations of Dec 14th are added to today by my friend's 14 year old son, who mused that the 3 best things about Christmas are 'family, presents and food. And the best thing is.....errm.....family.' I don't think he considered that's what I would want to hear....and those who struggle with an overdose of family may be a little close to the festive season to concur with his youthful sentiment, but things are often clearer to children. We sometimes complicate and obscure truths as we grow older.

Maybe that's why Jesus wanted us to be as children, that is open minded and openhearted – even if that makes us a little vulnerable.

08.01.12 A safe combination of Candles and water today as we renew our Baptismal vows. Life is cyclical in many ways and remembering where our faith is rooted, and re committing is a good start to the New Year. Though its worth remembering that the circles we turn in do move ever forwards of course. We are not where we were this time last year. And in twelve months, we will have moved again. However, there is one constant, and the vows and symbols today remind us of that constant within the ever moving circles of our lives. For me that's the solid ground I need to survive the ever changing scenes and cycles that life brings.

10.01.12 PCC - I may not want such heated debate at every PCC, but tonight we came to life!! It was being cogitated for hours after the event. The practicality, the reality, the expectations and yes, even the theology. I go to sleep quite exhausted. ('It ' being charitable giving.)

12.01.12 Diocesan Teaching Morning - Strange, or not so strange following the above PCC meeting, I hear today that generous and open debate can expand our understanding of others' points of view. This in turn, in time, may modify our own points of view. This is surely no bad thing. Jesus was quite into modifying others' points of view and tried especially hard with the Pharisees I recall. It was also noted this morning that as Christians (read also 'Church') we are, in the way we care, to show God's care. Otherwise, we miss a major point.

The full implications of that sound like hard work actually. But he never said it would be easy I suppose.

Christine

Lent around Bredon Hill.....

This year's **Lent series** will be led by Sister Mary of the Mucknell Abbey Community. She will lead three sessions as follows:

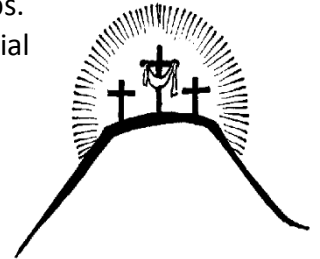
The first at Elmley Castle Church on **Wednesday 7th March**. Her subject will be '**Praying through Job - suffering**'

The second session will be on **Wednesday 21st March** at Overbury Church. The subject will be '**Praying through Ecclesiastes - meaninglessness.**'

Sister Mary's final session on Wednesday 4th April will be held in Eckington Church. The theme of this final session is yet to be determined.

All the sessions will begin at **7.30pm**. In the weeks between the sessions there will be opportunities to explore what Sister Mary has talked about in local groups. These will be organised parish by parish, but Mary will provide the material to stimulate discussion. We hope that many people will once again come together for what will undoubtedly be another very thought provoking series.

Please look in your local pew news/sheets for details of the local discussion groups.



LENT LUNCHEES 2012 - 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 St Richard's Hospice, Worcester.

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

24th February	16 Parkwood, Elmley Castle	Mrs Gail Taite
2nd March	Bredon Manor Farmhouse, Bredon	Mr and Mrs Stephen Deakin
9th March	St Benet's RC Church Hall, Kemerton	
16th March	The Old Farmhouse, Ashton under Hill	John & Alex Dodge
23rd March	Adsett Cottage, Beckford	Jonna Gowthorpe
30th March	True Blue Farm, Kinsham	Mr and Mrs JAD Hall

If you require any further information please contact Mrs Ruth Hall on 01684 772317 or Alex Dodge on 01386 881487



Ash Wednesday Service for the Bredon Hill Group of Parishes

will take place on

22nd February 2012

at 7.30pm,

St. Giles Church, Bredon.

Rev'd Christine Turpin to preside.

All welcome.

Pop in for Pancakes - Open House

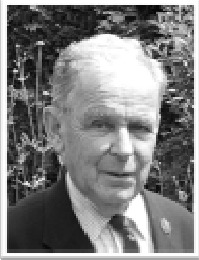
Please come along for a
Pancake Day Open House on
Tuesday February 21st
at Christine the Curate's house.

20, Cornfield Way,
Ashton-under-Hill.

Anytime between
2-4pm and 6-8pm.

All welcome!





News and Musings from St. Nicholas Cottage

In Memory of Pastor Douglas Bell

On Friday 30th December 2011, Ashton Chapel was packed for the Thanksgiving Service for the life of Pastor Douglas Bell who died after several periods of being in hospital in Evesham. Whenever he was in hospital, it seemed as though he was the best known patient in Cheltenham General or Evesham Community Hospital!

After he had moved to The Old Cattleyard, the spacious home next to Manor Farm where their daughter Lesley lives with her husband Charles, his beloved wife Marjorie died in 2007. Any relative of the Archer family has many visitors when in hospital, even if his son Stewart has a wife and two younger children in the family. Grandsons – now all married - William, Thomas and James all spoke of their grandfather at the Thanksgiving Service with much affection and all sharing the same Christian faith with active membership of Chapels or Church.

At the Service in the Chapel, son-in-law Charles raced through all the places where Douglas and Marjorie had lived – I believe there were eighteen of them – I thought I shall never remember them all. After going to Cliff College, a Free Church Evangelical Training College, like St Paul Douglas continued to combine Christian Service with paying his way and having a secular job. He took a great interest in Missionary work overseas and made several visits to support and encourage Christian work overseas. But the last few years of his life before complete retirement were spent in Woodmancote where he was the Pastor of the Free Church. He was also the Free Church Chaplain of Cheltenham and Delancey Hospitals and members of staff whom he knew were frequently visiting him in hospital when he was a patient. His knowledge of the business world enabled him to help several older church members with their practical and financial affairs when they had to move into residential care.

Douglas loved to be with children and delighted to go into Ashton Junior School where he helped pupils who needed to be encouraged in reading.

Pastor Douglas Bell will be remembered by many as a warm hearted Christian gentleman who preached and lived the Christian life. He greatly enjoyed driving his large, fashionable and powerful car. Although there is ample to make us believe that the Lord Jesus has said “Well done, good and faithful servant Douglas, enter into the joy of your Lord” there is nothing in scripture to suggest that he will be rewarded with a fast car!

In Memory of Mr George Wood

Some in our parish will know George and Molly Wood. Molly Wood hails from our parish, though George had roots in Scotland. Work at Smith’s Industries brought them to Bishops Cleeve and they had 64 years of married life together. Canon Towns conducted the funeral service at Bishops Cleeve Church. Canon Towns has been retired for several years and his wife died recently. He visited Mrs Wood before the service and I know that she found enormous comfort and hope through his ministry. We face sorrow in life and through faith in the Risen and Ascended Lord and Saviour, we can receive comfort and enjoy peace and, more than that, we can share it with others as Canon Towns shared it with Mrs Wood. To comfort others we must experience similar sorrows ourselves if we are to be of first class comfort to them.

In Memory of Mr Thomas Staight (otherwise known as Timothy)

“They all lived happily ever after” may be a too good to be true end of a rather improbable story but it sometimes happens in real life! I can hear you asking “who on earth is Thomas Staight? He was the brother-in-law of Mrs Doris Staight who lives at Fairhaven, Elmley Road, Ashton. Thomas, who died last month, was a farmer at Eldersfield and a bachelor so his next of kin are his nephews Howard, Stewart and Timothy Staight. Timothy now lives at Fairhaven, Ashton. Their Uncle, who has been in hospital in residential care, struggled to live in his home and

ended up at Severn Heights Nursing Home, Callow End where Mrs Doris Staight was a patient and where he lived for a few months up until his death.

How can I put this without causing offence? Uncle Tim was a loner who did not want his sister in law to bother him! But in Severn Heights nursing Home, he wanted to chat with her and when he died they were good friends. So years of remoteness were ended. If God does not matter very much, it is good to be on speaking terms before we die!

Dennis Oxley

A Note from Joy Gamble's son, Huw Roberts:

Mum suffered a large stroke at the end of September and spent two weeks in Worcester Acute stroke unit before being transferred to the Hillside re-enablement centre here in Hereford. She was supposed to have moved to Hereford at the end of October to live close to me and my family but instead she arrived in an ambulance. We continued with the house purchase hoping that one day mum would be able to live in it.

Mum has made lots of progress since September and is now speaking again and is feeding herself. She remains paralysed down the right hand side. We are hoping that she will continue to make progress, all be it slowly. Due to her being immobile and having a degree of cognitive impairment it was decided by all parties (and accepted by mum) that she needed to have nursing home care. On the 27th DEC she moved into Newstead Nursing Home in Hereford. She is settling in well but it is so quiet compared to her previous life as a social butterfly!

I would like to thank the people of Beckford and beyond for their love and support for mum. Every card and letter that she has received we have read to her at least once and each one brings a smile to her face. I've been touched by the calls and letters that we have had asking after her. She has also had several visitors from her friends – no mean feat considering the distance involved.

Please feel free to visit mum as it is good for her. This is a link to Newstead which contains a map on how to find them <http://www.srtrust.co.uk/newstead.asp> For those not on the net call them on (01432) 263131. Meal times are 9am, 12 noon and 5pm. It's advisable to ring before visiting as mum can go out on local day trips so may not be there.

Ironically mums home is a mile from Hughie's. I visited him on Christmas eve and he looked well. The staff at his home says he is missing mum and Jeanie. Jeanie has been retired but visits mum occasionally!

I would also like to say thank you to all of mums' friends who have helped her out in one way or another whilst she lived in Beckford. Despite her sight problem she was able to live independently and enjoy an active and varied retirement for many years.

We all miss Beckford and its people.

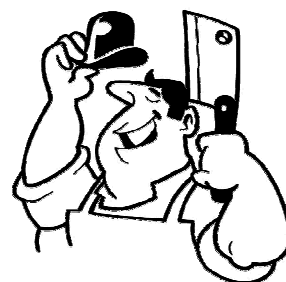
Huw Roberts

Creana and Martin of John Walker Butchers, Kemerton,

would like to inform their customers and friends that they will be retiring on 31st March, 2012.

This brings to an end a family run business of 85 years at this location.

We would like to thank everyone for their custom, support and friendship over the years.





Advance Notice! - Calling all singers!

There will be a devotional service of words and music on Good Friday evening at 7.30pm at Eckington Church for the Bredon Hill Group of Parishes.

Rehearsals for singers from around the Hill will begin on 26th February at 4pm at Eckington Church.

Everyone welcome - enthusiasm is all that is required!

IONA - August 24th - 31st, 2013

Following our two previous successful visits to Iona we are planning another pilgrimage from the Bredon Hill Group in the summer of 2013.

This time we will not be staying at the Abbey but at the Anglican retreat centre known as 'Bishop's House.' The house holds 23 people and we would have exclusive use of it.

As well as being able to enjoy worship at the Abbey we would also have the opportunity to shape our own programme. Bishop's house offers very comfortable accommodation about 5 or 6 minutes walk from the Abbey. Please have a word with Matthew or one of the clergy team if you are interested in knowing more.

More details next month!



Women's World Day of Prayer Friday 2nd March 2012

The Women's World Day of Prayer is a worldwide inter-denominational movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer on the first Friday in March every year.

It began in 1887 in a small New York community. Today more than 170 countries and islands take part, and the international order of service is translated into more than 60 languages and 1000 dialects.

The Day of Prayer begins on the International Dateline. The first service is held at dawn in Tonga. As the earth rotates a great 'Mexican Wave' of prayer rises through the Pacific and Asia, through Fiji, New Zealand, Japan, Philippines, Korea and Bangladesh to Africa; through the Middle East, Lebanon, Egypt and Cyprus to Europe east and west; across the Atlantic to the Caribbean, South, Central and North America, until the last service of the day is held on an island off the coast of Alaska.

By the end of the day, over 5000 services will have been held in England, Wales and Northern Ireland alone!

The 2012 Order of Service has been prepared by the Christian Women of Malaysia. The theme this year is '**Let Justice prevail**'. All services will take place on **Friday 2 March 2012**.

Our service this year will be held in **St. John the Baptist Church, Beckford at 2.00pm**.

The Speaker is Sue McLeish.

Men, women and children of all ages are welcome to attend and enjoy refreshments afterwards.

Bredon Hill online Diary

The diary is for **all organisations** in the Bredon Hill Group of Parishes and covers **all** of the villages around the hill. It is a good medium and it can help boost your fund raising efforts, so do make use of it! It also saves "double booking".

Please go to www.bredonvillage.com/ and click on "Diary". You can also find out more details for forthcoming events if they have been given to me. For contact details re events and if you have any dates you wish to be included, please email or call :

Joan Needham on **01684 772689** jneedham@toucansurf.com

22nd February: **Ash Wednesday.** Lent begins.
18th March: **Mothering Sunday**
8th April: **Easter Day**
13th –19th May: Christian Aid Week



United Parish Service

We hope to see you at Alstone on February 26 for the United Parish Holy Communion service at 10am. There will be coffee and biscuits afterwards and some extra parking opposite the church. We thank those who responded to our last month's appeal for helpers for the Alstone clock team. We hope to arrange for an initiation ceremony at the end of March when the hour changes!

Helpers wanted for Alstone Church Clock Team

Alstone Church clock, fitted as part of the restoration of 1876-80 and disconcerting unwary visitors and preachers by chiming the hour on the 1795 bell, had its winding electrified as a millennium project. But the clock still needs occasional maintenance and adjustment. This involves putting a long ladder up inside the church to gain access to the turret. We would be grateful for at least one more fit and able volunteer to assist our horologists in this elevating work. Please contact Anne Kyle on 620351 if you can help.

When to call 101 not 999



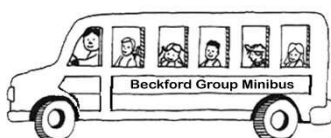
Anyone reporting crime should now call 101, not 999, except for emergencies.

Chief Supt Trevor Albutt of West Mercia said the new number applied to incidents such as stolen cars, property damage, suspected drug crime and minor traffic accidents. "Every day we receive inappropriate calls on 999 which stop or delay people with real emergencies getting through," he said. "We hope that adopting 101 will allow us to better prioritise the most urgent calls for help."

West Mercia is one of 43 police forces to adopt 101, which costs 15p for any duration of call. 0300 333 3000 will continue as a switchboard number to speak to a particular member of the local policing team.

Parish Minibus

*We now run a service to Bishops Cleeve on the first and third Fridays,
Worcester on the second and fourth Fridays.
Picks up from all villages on request.*



Bishop's Cleeve - 3rd & 17th February
Worcester - 10th & 24th February

Call Andy Richmond 881237 or Andrew Barnett 881145

PARISH MUSIC

Parish Music provides you with an opportunity to hear top class musicians play the very finest classical music in our lovely Parish Churches. Two concerts in March are not to be missed.

On **3rd March** in **Overbury Church** you can hear international award winners, **The Songmen**, performing a mixed programme - **Sacred, Soul'n and Swing**. The six members of this Tewkesbury based a cappella group are rapidly building a national and international reputation for exhilarating performances of a great variety of music, both sacred and secular.



Their programme for us is wide ranging. It begins with sacred music by renaissance masters, Victoria and Byrd, goes on to secular music of the same period before arriving in modern times with madrigals by John Rutter, folk song and popular arrangements. Expect to hear in each piece a perfect tonal blend, colour and precise intonation.



Then on **24th March** in **Bredon Church** you can hear one of the country's finest violinists, **Magdalena Filipczak**, accompanied by **Viktor Bijelovic**, playing short showpieces by Prokofiev, Wieniawski and Britten together with César Franck's popular violin sonata. Considered one of the finest works for violin and piano, this sonata was written as a wedding present for the famous violinist Ysaÿe, who played it, after a hurried rehearsal, to his wedding guests.

Winner of many prizes, Polish-born Magdalena currently holds a prestigious Artist Fellowship at the Guildhall School of Music. She has appeared at the Wigmore Hall, Spitalfields Church and the Barbican Centre as well as in Europe and North and South America. Viktor has wide experience as solo pianist and chamber music performer around Europe and has performed twice in front of HRH Prince Charles - at Buckingham Palace to mark the occasion of the Prince's 50th Birthday and in May 2006 to inaugurate the Tent at St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace.

Put these dates in your diaries now. Concerts start at 8pm and cost £10 (students free). For more details phone 01386 881479 or 882060. We look forward to seeing you there.

Did You Know....

- ♥ Women purchase 85% of all valentine cards.
- ♥ Parents receive 1 out of every 5 valentines.
- ♥ About 3% of pet owners will give Valentine's Day gifts to their pets.
- ♥ 73% of people who buy flowers for Valentine's Day are men.
- ♥ The Italian city of Verona, where Shakespeare's lovers Romeo and Juliet lived, receives about 1,000 letters addressed to Juliet every Valentine's Day.
- ♥ Richard Cadbury invented the first Valentines Day chocolate box in the late 1800s.
- ♥ Alexander Graham Bell applied for his patent on the telephone, an "Improvement in Telegraphy", on Valentine's Day, 1876.

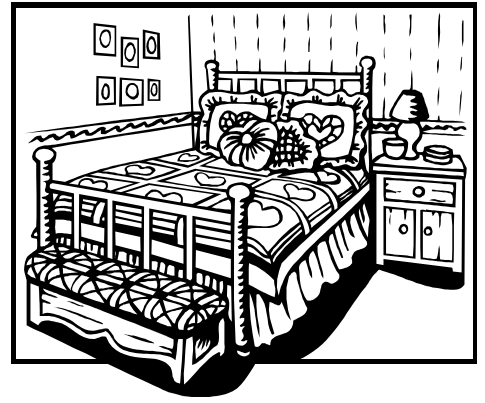


Don't forget your love on Valentine's Day, Tuesday 14th February!

Bengrove's Multi-Coloured Bedcovers

The wills of our ancestors are a great source of detailed information on their household goods, furnishings and bedding. Perhaps the most famous example is Shakespeare's "second-best bed and furniture" for his widow.

Will's will tells us nothing about the bedroom colour schemes in New Place, Stratford in 1616; but when prosperous yeoman Edmund Shewell, of what is now Bengrove Farm, made his will in 1629 he had to consider carefully how to share out household goods between three sons and three daughters and the items about which he was most precise were healings or bedcovers.



The executor and overseers (who one hopes were not colour-blind) had to allocate them as follows: daughter Margaret was to have one black and red and one green and red; daughter Elizabeth one black and red headed with blue and one black and yellow; son William one black and yellow headed with red; and son Armell one of unspecified colour to be laid out for him by the overseers. The remaining son and daughter were married with families and well provided for financially so presumably did not need more healings of whatever colour.

By February 1630 Edmund had died so the multi-coloured healings (and Armell's possibly monochrome one) were probably put to good use as winter drew to a close.

Teddington's Link with Christmas Hit Single

The BBC2 series "The Choir" showed choirmaster Gareth Malone bringing out the hidden choral talents of wives of soldiers serving in Afghanistan.

The Military Wives Choir, as it became known, caught the imagination of the nation when it performed before the Queen at the Albert Hall Remembrance Service and went on to produce a Christmas hit single with the specially composed "Wherever You Are".

It is good to know that one of the singing wives was Abi, daughter of Teddington residents David and Julie Morgan. The whole experience was a wonderful uplift for the wives and their families at a difficult time and it is especially gratifying that the proceeds of the Christmas record sale are being donated to military charities such as the Royal British Legion and the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association.



Ashton under Hill Cricket Club

is keen to recruit new junior players

Why not come along to indoor nets?

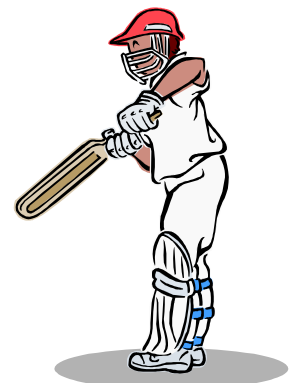
Saturdays, 5pm from March 3rd
Prince Henry's High School Cricket Centre

Competitive fixtures planned for all ages 11 - 16
when the outdoor season starts in May.

For further details contact

David Whitehouse

0777 194 2464



The Litter Picker

I saw a little lady in a hi-viz yellow vest;
She was scrabbling in the ditches, so she
didn't look her best.
She carried rake and black sack, and prodded
here and there.
She was picking people's litter, and I thought I
heard her swear.
'These people just keep chucking out their
litter' she did moan,
'Why can't they stick it in a bag, and take
their rubbish home?
Remains of bottles, eats and fags, I've had
enough!' Big sigh!
She may be seen in Beckford, too, so please
help her if you've time!

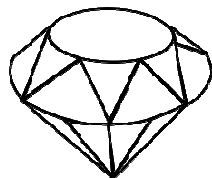


*Adapted from
'On a weekend in
March'
by Viv Ebbage*

ASHTON UNDER HILL W.I.

The President, Mrs. Marjory Facer welcomed members, including three new members to our first meeting of 2012. She first introduced Mr. John Dodge who, apart from being Chairman of the Ashton Open Gardens Committee is a keen historian of the Village.

He reported that he was looking for material for an exhibition to be staged in the Church to celebrate the forthcoming Queens Diamond Jubilee.



Newscutting, photographs and memorabilia relating to the event and subsequent anniversaries and celebrations held in the Village.

Members were urged to raid their attics, albums and cine-films to find interesting material. The exhibition will be shown at the Village celebrations 3rd June and at Open Gardens, 9th and 10th June.

The business meeting then proceeded with reminders of resolutions slips to be returned, and the Worcestershire Denman weekend in September.

Various outings being organized by the Federation include visits to the Olympic sites at London in March and April and the area meetings to be held on 27th and 28th March. Our own outings include a visit to Birlingham Church to see the snowdrops followed by lunch at the Swan, and afternoon tea at the swish Buckland Manor. The walk this month is on Tuesday, 17th January to "blow away those Winter cobwebs"! Meeting at the lychgate at 10.00am.



Marjory was pleased to announce that the first 100 copies of the WI Ashton Recipe Book had sold out and the subsequent 100 printed copies had almost all gone! She said it was intended to go ahead with another "Taster" event for a possible cake and biscuit follow up later in the year. Rosemary Hammond and the members who contributed were congratulated and thanked for their help. Dates for the County skittles were given out and players were requested.



The rest of the evening was continued with a Beetle Drive after much laughter the winner announced was our President Marjory, who was presented with a box of chocolates.

Next meeting will be on 7th February when Gill O'Donoghue will give us tips on how to keep fit (the easy way) and afterwards a little light entertainment by some of our members with a seasonal panto-sketch.

Visitors are always welcome to our meetings.

"Every gardener knows that under the cloak of winter lies a miracle ... a seed waiting to sprout, a bulb opening to the light, a bud straining to unfurl.

*And the anticipation nurtures our dream."
- Barbara Winkler*



Rainfall records for Overbury and Ashton under Hill in 2011

As the figures in the table show, 2011 was remarkably dry. It was the third driest year at Overbury since records began in 1925, the others being 1996 with 17.95" and 2003 with 19.33". Our Ashton records, which start in 2004 and include several wet years, give an average for the 8 year period of 29.94". Compared to this, 2011 was ten inches below the average. No wonder that the streams off Bredon Hill are reduced to trickles of water!



The low rainfall started early in the year with less than one third of an inch in both March and April when we had an unusually warm and pleasant Spring. It was great for getting on with the garden and planting seeds, but not so good for the larger seeds such as peas and beans as there was not enough moisture in the ground to stimulate germination and some poor crops resulted.

The months of May to July all had below average rainfall. Ashton was unfortunate in catching a very wet and windy day on the Sunday of Open Gardens (June 12th). Typically, August began with a few warm sunny days, but then deteriorated into cool cloudy weather with scattered showers around the Hill which dropped more rain on Ashton (3.05") than on Overbury (1.62"). Distant thunder was heard on a few occasions although thunderstorms were conspicuous by their absence from the Bredon Hill area. The end of September and early October brought some warm and sunny weather; above average rainfall did not arrive at Overbury until late November and Ashton in early December.

National records show that in 2011 the Midlands was the region of the UK which had the lowest percentage of its average annual rainfall. They also show that overall it was the second warmest year since 1910.

John Dodge & Fred Wood

MONTH	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Overbury Averages: 1951/2000	2.28	1.59	1.84	1.98	2.20	2.15	2.04	2.60	2.53	2.22	2.38	2.48	26.28"
Overbury 2011	2.12	1.84	0.33	0.20	1.54	1.44	1.20	1.62	1.55	2.08	2.53	3.05	19.50"
Ashton 2011	2.04	1.89	0.28	0.27	1.73	1.47	1.18	3.05	1.98	1.43	1.37	2.94	19.70"

LOCAL WALKS WITH THE COTSWOLDS VOLUNTARY WARDENS FEBRUARY 2012

Round and Round the Hills – Saturday Feb 04 - Moderate

Round Woolstone, Dixton and Oxenton Hills. Pub lunch available in Alderton with extensive views to south and west (weather permitting!) 6 hours; 11 miles.

Start: 10.00 am Junction of Gotherington road and Woolstone adjacent to Grange Farm. Please park considerately on roadside. OS Map ref 956 302

Perambulations at Power - 3 – Thursday February 09 – Moderate

Third of three walks exploring the fascinating area around Guiting Power and the interrelation between its geography, flora, history and modern usage. Exact route to be determined by whim and weather. Lunch available after the walk. 2-3 hours; 4-6 miles.

Start: 10.00 am Guiting Power village hall car park (Trust the Motorist). OS Map ref 095 246

A Winter Walk in the Evenlode Valley – Friday February 10 – Moderate

A gentle walk looking at the beauty of the Evenlode Valley at this time of year. Can be muddy. Lunch facilities at the end. 3 hours; 6 miles.

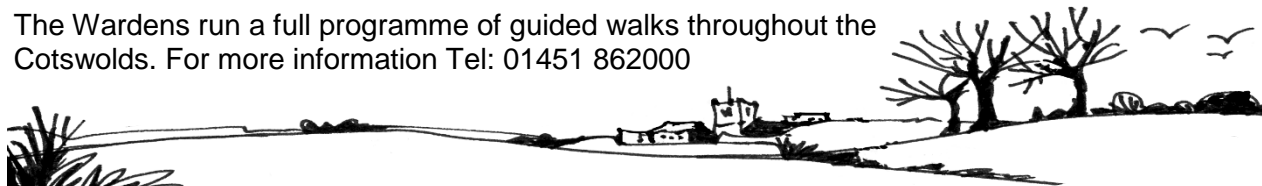
Start: 10.00 am Chadlington Memorial Hall in centre of village. OS Map ref 329 219

Walking from Longborough -3 - Thursday February 23 – Moderate

Third in series to celebrate Longborough's achievement of "Walkers are Welcome" status. Northwards to Blockley and return. Pub lunch available. 5 hours; 9.5 miles.

Start: 10.00 am Cotswold Food Store car park, Longborough (on A424). OS Map ref 170 296

The Wardens run a full programme of guided walks throughout the Cotswolds. For more information Tel: 01451 862000



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Pastoral Area of Responsibility: Beckford, Teddington and Alstone

Rector of Bredon with Bredon's Norton,

Rev. Terry Henderson**01386 710394**

terryhenderson2@googlemail.com

Associate Priest ~ Area of Responsibility: Ashton

Rector of Elmley Castle, Bricklehampton, Great and Little Combertons

Rev. Susan Renshaw**01386 750203**

revsusan@btinternet.com

Associate Priest ~ Area of Responsibility: Overbury

Vicar of Eckington with Defford and Besford, Rural Dean of Pershore

Rev. Clive Parr**01386 710700**

cw.parr@btinternet.com

Associate Priest part-time Non-Stipendiary Minister

Rev. Christine Turpin**01386 882263**

c.turpin@mac.com

Assistant Curate to the Bredon Hill Group of Parishes.

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01242 620435

John Dodge The Old Farmhouse, Ashton under Hill

01386 881487

Roger Palmer 5, Hill View Cottages, Cheltenham Road

01386 881746

Treasurer

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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	Mike Wignall	01242 620031
Flowers		
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

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Web Sites

www.bredonhillchurches.org
www.ashtonunderhill.org.uk
www.teddingtonandalstone.org.uk
www.overbury.org



February Diary

5th	Family Service with Christingle, Overbury	11 am
7th	Ashton under Hill W.I., Village Hall	7:30 pm
12th	Evening Worship, Beckford Church	6 pm
14th	Beckford W.I., Village Hall	7:30 pm
15th	Simply Soup, Beckford Village Hall	12:30 pm
16th	<i>Copy date for magazine</i>	
21st	Rev'd Christine's Pancake Open House	2 - 4 pm & 6 - 8 pm
22nd	Ash Wednesday Service, St. Giles Church, Bredon	7:30 pm
22nd	Beckford Gardening Club - 'Crete in April', Village Hall	7:30 pm
24th	Lent Lunch, Elmley Castle	12:30 pm
26th	United Parish Worship, Alstone Church	10 am

March

2nd	Women's World Day of Prayer, Beckford Church	2 pm
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Full details of all church services can be found inside the front cover of this magazine.

C&M Sizzlers Mobile Chip Shop

will be calling at Beckford from Saturday 4th February.

Saturdays 5pm - 8pm opposite Beckford Stores.



FOR SALE

Golf GTI, 2002, good condition, dark blue, 89,000 miles. Tax + MOT until September. CD player. £2750
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YOGA CLASSES

Ashton under Hill
Village Hall
Thursday Evenings,
6:30 - 8pm

Call
Lucy Murray
01386 710490

