

The Parish Magazine

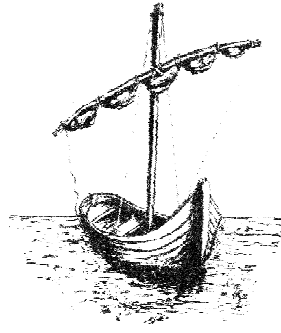
Ashton-under-Hill

Beckford

Overbury

Alstone &

Teddington



January 2012

40p



*Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.*

Alfred, Lord Tennyson, 1850

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

	Ashton	Beckford	Overbury	Alstone	Teddington
1st January 1 st Sunday of Christmas	11.00 am New Year Songs of Praise <i>J Dodge</i>	8.00 am BCP HC <i>M Baynes</i>	11.00 am Morning Prayer <i>R Palmer</i>	9.30 am CW HC <i>M Baynes</i>	
8th January Epiphany	9.30 am CW HC	8.00 am BCP HC 6.00 pm Evening Worship <i>C Turpin</i>	11.00 am Family Service		9.30 am Morning Prayer <i>D Oxley</i>
15th January 2 nd Sunday of Epiphany	11.00 am Family Service <i>T Henderson</i>	9.30 am CW HC <i>T Henderson</i>	8.00 am BCP HC <i>T Henderson</i>	6.00 pm Evening Prayer <i>R Palmer</i>	
22nd January 3 rd Sunday of Epiphany					10.00 am United CW HC <i>M Baynes</i>
29th January Candlemas	10.00 am CW HC	8.00 am BCP HC	6.00 pm Evening Prayer <i>D Oxley</i>		
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 Christingle Family Service <i>M Baynes</i>		9.30 am CW HC <i>M Baynes</i>

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

Morning Prayers will be said:

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

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

Clergy

Canon Matthew Baynes
Revd Clive Parr

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

Readers

Captain Dennis Oxley, Church Army
Roger Palmer

John Dodge
Kalantha Brewis



2012.....

Even if you did not go to see the Hollywood blockbuster 2012, you are probably aware that for some time the advent of this coming year has been surrounded by some pretty dark predictions. However, although you may like me, dismiss the veracity of the so-called 'Mayan prophecy' that the world is going to come to an end in the next twelve months, there is no doubt that 2012 is going to be by anybody's measure quite a year. We will have the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the Olympic Games, and Euro 2012, to note but three significant events in the secular calendar.

In the Church of England also there are some pretty major decisions to be made, ranging from whether or not to ordain women as Bishops to a discussion about what is called the 'Anglican Covenant' - a document which could re-define the relationships between the provinces of the Anglican Communion world wide. I realize that these two issues may not seem to be of any great significance for many, but how we as a church address them could have a profound effect on the way in which the Church of England develops in the future and on its place within our society.

These events are those already noted in the nation's and church's calendar. Yet the situation of economic and political uncertainty with which we end 2011 and begin 2012, means that few of us would be surprised if unknown events did not unfold, dwarfing those already in the diary in terms of significance and the impact on our lives. Will the Euro survive as a currency and, if not, what will be the consequences for Europe and the rest of the world? Will our current coalition government survive all the turbulence, or will competing demands and pressures open up huge fissures? As we look around the wider world we see that there are many nations whose political stability is teetering on the brink, and we are left wondering about the prospect of further conflict and unrest. None of us knows the answer to these or many other questions. So as well as the anticipation that surrounds a new year, there is more than the usual element of trepidation and even without the wizardry of Hollywood film making, it is not difficult to imagine a future that seems positively apocalyptic.

I would be the last person to minimize the difficulties and challenges which we face, but I cannot but help wonder if part of our heightened sense of anxiety stems from the incessant use of hyperbolic language employed by the 24-hour news media. Essentially, in order to maintain an interest in the news, the media has resorted to a 'language inflation' that has led, not only to a devaluing of the currency of language in the news, but also ensured that it is increasingly difficult to maintain any kind of perspective. For example the important conference of EU leaders which is taking place as I write this, has become '*the most important conference ever in the history of the Community that will completely re-define its future, and could make the difference between its survival and catastrophe.*' Well by the time you read this you will know if that is the case, but at the time of writing I seriously doubt it. We are facing not just a financial crisis, but '*the worst financial crisis this country and indeed the world has ever known.*' I wonder if you were able to have a conversation with one of the Jarrow marchers of 1936, who walked 300 miles to highlight the grinding poverty of the north east, you'd really find that to be the case? I believe that this 'language inflation' has now moved beyond the media only and has entered into the collective consciousness, with the result that all of us now feel as though we are constantly on the edge of the abyss. This state of mind, far from galvanizing us into action, leads only to depths of despair. We do nothing, because we believe that whatever we do we can make no difference.

As we look to the future in 2012 I suggest we take a deep breath and try to regain a sense of perspective. Yes, there are massive challenges to be faced, some yet unknown - and yes, there are many within our society who are suffering greatly, but we are not powerless. Each one of us can make a difference. At the beginning of the year the church celebrates the feast of the Epiphany - the time when we remember the bright star in the dark sky that led the wise men to the very source of hope. If we resolve nothing else for the new year let us commit ourselves, in however a small way, to be sources of light, making the world a better place. If we all did that the year 2012 really would be a year to remember.

Matthew Baynes



The Curate Cogitates

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

19.11.11 IMD (Curates' training day)

Healing and Deliverance Ministry

We were unusually alert, post lunch today, as we heard about deliverance ministry. Fascinating - considering things that go 'bump' in the night etc. A very small part of what we may be called on to respond to as Clergy, but handy to know where to turn if events are not easily explained. (Faulty electrics, central heating.....)

'Who are we going to call?...' Well, not quite the 'Ghostbusters' of the 80's film, but seasoned advisors are on hand. That's alright then! (I wonder if they have seasoned advisors for other bizarre bits of Ministry?)

22.11.11 Church Buildings made easy

Well it seems they are not easy. But at least the title got us to the information morning. Actually there was much of value to cogitate. 'A stitch in time saves nine' is a good maintenance mantra, but if the stitch can not be afforded, something usually gives. 'Sustainability' is perhaps the question, or nettle to be grasped. Or maybe mostly it is the elephant in the room. Much to cogitate and not easy at all.

26.11 and 3.12.11 Cotswold Male Voice Choir Concert and Tombola (Village Market)

Villages are a little like the tardis in Dr Who. For at these two events, a great number of people appeared from the 'tardis' that is Beckford, to fill the Church and the Village Hall. It was very good to see so many gathered together at two such different events, and I sensed a real community spirit.

6.12.11 Incognito no more?

A dash into Tewkesbury to a woollens sale at the Town Hall and I am recognised as I dash back to the car. It still happens that I recognise but can not always place those who say hello. Apart from Tewkesbury, it happens in Evesham, Pershore, and of course all Bredon Hill Villages. It is warming, but at the same time, sometimes I ponder, how far would I have to travel now to know I was incognito?

Christine Turpin

Ring In the New Year!!

You will be most welcome to join in a celebration of the New Year on **Sunday 1st January 2012 at 11.00 am at St Barbara's Church** with hymns and readings for the season, followed by refreshments.

We would like to hear your choice of hymns, carols and readings, so please contact Alex on 881487 or Malcolm on 881778.



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

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



Poppy Appeal 2011

The Royal British Legion appeal by the Beckford & Ashton branch raised a total of £3598.68, an increase of £113.69 .

I would like to thank all the voluntary collectors for all their hard work to achieve this excellent result. Many thanks to all who made donations. J. P. White

UPDATE FROM MZAMOMHLE

We have had news from the CATCH Project in South Africa that the new kitchen equipment is now installed and in daily use, which has made the life of the housekeeper, Ntombekhaya, so much easier. Bobby Cox from CATCH said "I often look into our kitchen and wonder how she coped previously!" This is evident from the happy smile on her face in the photograph.



This has been made possible by your generous support in the Beckford Group Parish, which amounted to £2412 this year, together with £189.27 from Ashton First School and £196.70 from the December coffee morning in Bredon.

I'm sure you will agree that this is a very worthwhile cause, making a great difference to the lives of the staff and children at the CATCH Project in Mzamomhle.

2012 Dates for your Diary

- Look at the Online Diary for more details -



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

Lent around Bredon Hill.....

Following on from the success of last year's Lent course on prayer Sister Mary from Mucknell Abbey will be offering a chance to explore in greater depth some of the aspects which were introduced in last year's.

More details to follow in next month's magazine.

Poverty and Homelessness Action Week - 28th January to 5th February 2012

At the Holy Communion Service at 10.00 am on Sunday 29th January in St Barbara's Church, Ashton, there will be a collection for the local charity Caring Hands in the Vale, which supports homeless people and needy families in Evesham and district.

While we all enjoy warm homes and enough food on the table in this cold winter weather, there are others in this area who have neither.

So please come and join in our service and give thanks for the good things we have, and for the opportunity to share a small piece of our good fortune with others less fortunate than ourselves. Thank you.

Part Three

“Hey guys, guess what? I think I can actually do this without dying.” - Me

As my adventure drew to its end, I still had two challenges left to face; the solo, and the final expedition. The solo was an experience entirely unlike anything I have ever undertaken. The aim of it is to spend 24 hours entirely on your own; without phones, books, iPods, people, or any distractions whatsoever. All you are given is basic rations, a pack of questions and a pencil. You are supposed to spend those 24 hours in solitude thinking and writing about your future and what you think you have learnt from OB. It is something I don't think I will ever experience again; it was such a rare opportunity to spend so long on my own, in such a beautiful place with nothing to do but think. The weather was, again, gorgeous, so I spent my time sat on a rock facing out to sea watching the sun set and then rise. It was beautiful, and to be able to do it meant so much to me, as it really gave me the chance to think. Although the rations were basic, and the slugs and midges abundant; the setting was idyllic.



Our final expedition was not one that went without its fair share of disasters; from the off, team member after team member were struck down. First to go was Emily, who had accumulated 2nd Degree burn on her shoulders after forgetting to put on sun cream on during one particularly sunny day hill walking (I warned you it was hot!), thus could not carry her expedition pack and had to go to hospital. Then on the first day, about 1K away from where we were expecting to camp on the first night, Ryan collapsed on the side of hill vomiting and hallucinating. Two ambulances, a land rover and a helicopter later we were two members down, as Willem had jumped at the chance to ride in a helicopter (but apparently was later told off for taking pictures during the flight!). When we arrived at the campsite later than expected and exhausted from our day, we decided to forget the tents and all camped out in the Bothy. I don't know if you've ever attempted to fit 9 people onto two bunk beds, but I can assure it was a night I won't forget!

The next day, after Willem was returned to us, we continued on our way. Yet, several hours later upon arriving at the campsite disaster had struck again as due to the constant shift of team members leaving then returning, bags had been mixed up resulting is us only have 2 x 2 man tents, and 2 x 1 man tents for all ten of us. Luckily, we were camping next to a rather creepy abandoned house, and after convincing the biggest three boys that it "really wasn't that bad" we all had somewhere to sleep that night. And as long as the guys didn't listen to carefully, you could barely hear the mice running along the walls.

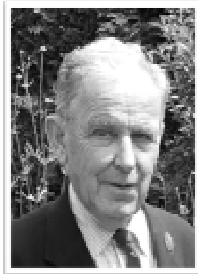
The penultimate and final days walking were long slogs in the brilliant sunshine, but entirely worth it. Despite the midge storm on our last night camping we all managed to survive in just about one piece (even Ryan and Emily, who managed to join us on the last few days). Although at many points it seemed like we were never going to be able to make it to the end, we did and it's an achievement that I am still proud of.

The final day at the centre was one of hilarity, although tinged with sadness. We all had to dress up to participate in the highland games in which each clan competed to be the best. Although I cannot recall who won, my highlights were; the boys all dressed in drag (or worse very short kilts), and everyone's face when they discovered we had to jump in the Loch at the end of it anyway!

Driving to the airport was emotional for everyone as we all knew that the last thing we wanted to do was leave. We had had an amazing three weeks together, and had formed a family that was going to miss each other terribly. The friendships made during those three weeks are ones that are going to last me for a long time. Every month we all write to each other (we decided to revive the art of letter writing), and although this makes me miss them even more it's comforting to know that I have friends all across the world who miss me as much as I them! We even have big plans to go visit the Netherlands for an OB reunion. Outward Bound taught me more about who I am that I could have dreamed of; it pushed me beyond the edge of my personal boundaries, evident in one of the last days when I faced my fear of heights and jumped off a bridge into Scimitar Gorge. From Gorge walking, to building a Tyrolean, to Sarah and I stealing Gary's clothing and attempting to wear every article; there was not a moment during those three weeks where I stopped, and because of this, the time flew by faster than imaginable.

My advice for anyone even thinking about going on an Outward Bound course is to just do it; don't even think about it, just sign up. You won't regret it- it is the chance of a lifetime, and Bredon is lucky to have an Outward Bound Association because it is an opportunity that not everyone gets. So take advantage of it! My experience, and the friendships made, will stay with me for the rest of my life, and I am incredibly proud of everything I achieved on it. I found a new side of myself, one that rose to the daunting challenge it was presented with. So go for it!

Megan Baynes



News and Musings from St. Nicholas Cottage

In Memory of Mrs Audrey Udale

Mrs Audrey Udale died on the 1st December at the age of 90 years at her cottage in Blacksmith's Lane, Little Beckford. Mr and Mrs Udale were both in their eighties when they moved to Beckford. Comparatively few Beckford people would know them and probably a good many people would be unable to direct an enquirer to Byre Cottage. Old Beckfordians would know where it was if they were told it was opposite the house where Mr and Mrs Andrews

lived! Mr Andrews was a headmaster in Evesham and a former Church Warden of Beckford Church.

Mr and Mrs Udale first met at Schonbrun Palace in Vienna in 1946 in the first year after the 1939-1945 war. The British Government had taken over the Palace for the Intelligence Department (presumably something comparable to G.C.H.Q or Bletchley) and Audrey was working there. A young man named Jack Udale was a Spitfire Pilot attached to the Intelligence Department. They had been married 62 years and have a long and interesting story to tell of work, interests, travel and family. They lived in North Wales for many years and, after retirement, lived in Spain. Their daughter and her husband live in America and have Byre Cottage as their base in England. It was decided that Mr & Mrs Udale should live there.

Unfortunately, Mrs Udale's health has been deteriorating for some four years and Byre Cottage, being a quirky old fashioned home, was not suitable for Mrs Udale and a new annexe was built where wheelchair movement was considered as essential. There they both lived and there Mrs Udale died.

I have been visiting Mr and Mrs Udale for three years, and I shall probably get into trouble for saying and writing this, but Mr Udale is numbered among the men who are outstanding in their loving care to their beloved wives in the long and distressing illnesses that they face in the last years of their lives. Of course, many wives look after their husbands with wonderful care and loving devotion but somehow we expect that to be so. Perhaps men expect women to be better than they are in certain ways - cooking, caring and cleaning, for example. May be these thoughts just indicate that I was born a long time ago!

Please pray for the bereaved and do remember those who have been married for many years and who have looked after their sick life partner in a commitment which has been their dominating concern for a long time and every hour of their waking lives, plus many interruptions in their sleeping hours. Those outside the situation, particularly those who are keen believers in God, may think that the death is a happy release. I often believe that is so, but the older people get, the longer they have lived together, the more lost they are and the harder it may be to face death.

Retired people in an affluent society may enjoy new experiences like holidays abroad but failing health can easily put a stop to that. Even trips to see the family overseas may come to an end. Wonderful contacts over the internet never quite compensate for not being able to see them in the flesh.

Faith in the Risen Saviour, Jesus Christ, can be very important in facing life and death, even when there are situations that seem to cry aloud to the contrary.

Dennis Oxley

Ashton says "Thank You!"

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to the Christmas Fair held at The Old Farmhouse in Ashton on 19th November last year. The final total raised was £2500, which was shared between St Barbara's Church Fabric Fund and St Richard's Hospice. In addition to £400 raised from the sale of St Richard's Christmas cards, calendars, etc., the £840 donated to St Richard's was doubled to £1680 by generous supporters of the Hospice. There was also Gift Aid to the church and the hospice on some of the donations received, which increased the funds further.

St Barbara's Church was full on 14th December for a joyful Ashton Celebration of Christmas, at which the collection raised £285 for the local charity Caring Hands in the Vale. Dianne Bennett from Caring Hands joined us at St Barbara's and explained how they provide practical support for homeless people, the elderly, and needy families, with survival packs, food parcels, and hot meals twice a week at their drop-in lunch venue.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE!



Teddington Quiz Night

Thank you once again to everyone who came along and supported this annual event.

As usual, the hall was full and everyone enjoyed themselves.

Due to the generosity of all involved, we have sent £273 to St. Dunstan's, a charity which supports ex-service men and women who have been blinded. *Anne & Phil Clark*

Beckford Concert on 26th November

The Cotswold Male Voice Choir attracted a large and appreciative audience for their second concert in Beckford, which was held in the church on 26th November.

On this occasion they were joined by the talented soprano Catriona Pollard whose lovely voice was heard to great advantage in pieces ranging from Mozart's *Alleluia* from "*Exultate jubilate*" by way of operetta to modern classics. The choir treated us to a very full and varied programme once again and the interval provided an opportunity for a social gathering while mulled wine and mince pies were served.

A happy and enjoyable evening meant around £400 was raised for Beckford church.

Alstone Carols

Alstone's intrepid waits, with reinforcements from Bengrove, Dixton, Teddington, Ashton and even Lincolnshire, defied the forecasters on a cold damp Thursday evening and sang carols round the village.

A record £180 was collected for The Children's Society and thanks are due to all who carolled, contributed and especially to John and Kay Morrison, who revived the choristers afterwards in their home with a log fire and good cheer.

Overbury & Conderton Parish Council

The next meeting will be held at 7 pm on Monday 9th January 2012 in Overbury Village Hall and all members of the parish are welcome to attend. The primary business at this meeting will be the budget for next year and the amount of Precept to be applied for. Please contact Ros by the previous Monday, 2nd January, if there are any items you would like to be added to the agenda for the meeting.

Ros Long/Clerk to the Parish Council 01386 725111 ros@overburystate.co.uk

RACING AT THE RAJ

On Saturday 26th November, a hundred happy, hungry punters gathered in Overbury Village Hall for an evening of curry and racing masterminded by Peter Horton and his team. Everybody entered into the spirit of the occasion with most people dressed for the races while others adopted the Raj element of the occasion and came looking rather more exotic!



A splendid curry buffet was provided by Everest Tandoori and Balti House from Cheltenham and the racing element was superbly orchestrated by Neil Townend and Moonlighting. A mixture of flat and steeplechase races, each with eight runners, were shown on a big screen; every horse was for sale and a "tote", led by Das Lipszyc and ably assisted by Bruce Hutt and David Worley took bets on each race - some of which yielded pleasingly good odds to the lucky winners! As the evening wore on, the runners were cheered home with ever more vociferous encouragement. Those unlucky on the track were able to have a non-equine attempt at winning yet more great prizes by buying raffle tickets.

The evening was much enjoyed by all those who were there and far exceeded every target by raising an astonishing £4,000 for St Faith's Church! Such a result would never have been possible without Moonlighting's professional expertise and the generosity of all those who donated such magnificent prizes. These included Alex Churchill, Martin Cooley, D B Systems, The Yew Tree, Bredon Hill Shooting Supplies, Overbury Stud, Overbury Farms, Kemerton Post Office, Pissarro Restaurant and Bar, Tipi Adventure, The Manor House Hotel in Moreton In Marsh and Ellenborough Park Hotel.

As importantly, the whole event would have been much less fun without Michael Randle's expertise behind the bar and the unstinting efforts of Bridget Worley, Nicky Griffiths and Sue Harness in the kitchen. Thanks are also due to all those who made delicious apple crumbles to cool the palate after the curry.

Faith Hallett

Beckford Christmas Market

Thanks to all the many that helped, donated or bought at the recent market.

A total of £766 was given to the village hall and church - that's a hundred pounds more than last Christmas. Thanks too to all who donated prizes and items for the tombola and raffle. There were two more stalls waiting in reserve had anyone dropped out.

We could have done with more small furniture and electrical items so please keep the Market in mind because if you give, we can sell - and make money!



The next Market is on Saturday May 5th 2012. *Yo Yates & The Team*

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



**Friday 27th January
10.30 at Beckford Church
All Welcome.
Proceeds to Church Funds**

Parish Minibus Shopping Trip to
Worcester

January 13th & 27th

Picks up from all villages on request.

*Call Andy Richmond 881237
Andrew Barnett 881145*

Brock's Bad Luck

F.D.Smith and Barbara Wilcox, past residents of Bengrove, wrote extensively on farming and country topics in the 1940s and 50s and their book *Sold for Two Farthings. Being the views of Countryfolk on Cruelty to Animals* (London 1950) has the following account of a badger raid on Middle Farm, Alstone (now the home of Peter and Pam Hanbury):-

Mr. Edwin Hearle, farmer, of Alstone, in Gloucestershire, lost eighteen pullets on three occasions in the winter of 1948-49. He also lost five cockerels in another raid. He suspected that these raids were the work of badgers.

Shortly after these events, he was roused at midnight by a neighbour telephoning to him. The neighbour was returning home late and heard a disturbance in Mr. Hearle's poultry yard as he passed along the road. The yard in question was close to farm-buildings and not far from the farmhouse. Mr. Hearle went out and, by the light of a torch, saw a badger inside a small fowl-house where there were four cockerels, large birds fit to kill. He roused two neighbours, who came with a gun and shot the badger inside the house. The badger had worked up the pop-hole with his nose and entered the house, when the pop-hole lid had fallen behind him and trapped him. None of the cockerels had been touched, presumably because the badger was too alarmed at finding his exit closed. As the badger died, the cockerels attacked him.

Naturalists who are interested in the badger are sometimes unwilling to believe in these raids by badgers and are inclined to put the damage down to foxes. The circumstances in which the badger was caught in [this account] are such as leave no doubt of the badger's guilt.

Previous badger associations with Alstone include an old photo of Mr Gist of Alstone Manor holding a live badger round the neck with iron tongs; and the contents of the Manor, sold after Mrs Gist's death in 1967, included a triumph of taxidermy - a complete badger family stuffed and dressed up as though taking part in a boxing match. Brock will not find much poultry in Alstone nowadays but he is of course under suspicion as the cause of much more serious problems.



Beckford Nature Reserve

We will have a vacancy from April 2012 for a Trustee/Treasurer.

If you can spare a few hours to support this valuable village asset or would like more information, please contact Geoff Stringer.

Tel: 01386 881248 or email: bnr@beckford-stores.co.uk



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 01242 620351 if you can help.

BECKFORD W.I.

The AGM for Beckford WI was held on 14th November which was attended by 26 members and four visitors. The monthly business included arrangements for the GFWI Christmas Concert in Cheltenham Town Hall on Wednesday December 7th, Beckford Market on Saturday December 3rd when we would be selling Christmas biscuits.

Yo then presided over the AGM. Diane Colvin, the Secretary, gave a full annual report which reflected on all the varied meetings and activities throughout the year. The Treasurer, Jennifer Berriman gave a very detailed financial statement and was pleased to announce a healthy bank balance. Yo, our president, reported it had been an enjoyable first year as President. Highlights included attending the National AGM in Liverpool and staging the TechFest. She thanked the committee and sub-committees for all their hard work over the last year.

Four members of the committee were taking a break for the next year: Margaret Thompson, Pauline Pearson, Bev Brookes and Maureen Themis. Yo thanked them for all their unstinting efforts. The AGM was followed by a lively Christmas Cracker Workshop which was great fun and produced some very pretty crackers and some less so!

In December we held our Christmas Party. The monthly business included welcoming Briony Coupe on to the committee. Members had been e-mailed a draft copy of the very interesting 2012 Programme and there were hard copies available for those members not on e-mail. Full printed copies will be available at the January meeting. It is Beckford WI's 90th Birthday in February and we would be having a cake made by one of the members to celebrate

The next meeting on Monday January 9th will see our very own Nick Clark showing slides from Capetown to the Kruger. Visitors are welcome £2.50. It is also a very good meeting to come along to if you wish to join Beckford WI as subscriptions are due for the year. We hope to see you! For more information telephone the Secretary on 882532.

Diane Colvin



ASHTON W.I.

We began December with a visit to Coughton Court. Nr. Alcester. Nadine drove the mini-bus and 14 members attended. The Court has many interesting stories and history to tell and the same family - the Throckmortons - have been living there since its beginning in the 14th century. It is now owned by the National Trust and is beautifully maintained and so are the gardens which are open to the public for most of the year.

We began with a brief history given by one of the local NT members (the Guy Fawkes plot had taken place there), then we all entered the Court where it had been decorated Victorian style throughout. At the end of the afternoon we were enthralled by children from the local school who sang carols for the visitors in the huge hall looking very festive with traditional Christmas tree, chandeliers and roaring log fire. A very interesting day.

Our Christmas supper was held this year at the local Star Inn where we enjoyed excellent festive food. A brief business meeting was held and the President Marjorie Facer welcomed Mrs. Maggie Dunsby to the committee.

Afterwards, Mr. Tony Maidment entertained everyone with magic tricks and illusions. He was thanked by Jen Creese

She was also pleased to announce that the new Ashton Recipe Book - "A Taste of Ashton through the Seasons" had now been printed and orders were taken at the meeting. Rosemary Halliday and the sub-committee were thanked for all the hard work that had gone into its production. Over 100 copies have already been sold. Nadine Simpkin and Marjory have been planning another year of outings and visits and Ashton WI look forward to another successful year.

Next meeting will be on 3rd January, when we shall be holding a Beetle Drive and also Mr. John Dodge had been invited to talk about next years activities planned for the Queens Diamond Jubilee.

Jen Creese

PARISH DIRECTORY

Canon Matthew Baynes**01684 772237**

mbaynes@toucansurf.com

Priest in Charge Beckford Group Parish

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.

Readers

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

Treasurer

Mike Sanger-Davies

01386 881910

Verger

Jim Wooldridge

01386 881049

Parish Enquiries

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 Hasteed	01386 882537
	David Carvill	01386 882002
Secretary	Sue Hasteed	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

Minibus

Andy Richmond	01386 881237
Andrew Barnett	01386 881145

Disability Awareness Representatives

Alex Dodge	01386 881487
Nicky Sentance	01386 725309

Magazine**Editor**

Deborah Whitehouse	01386 882386
Lauren House, Little Beckford, Tewkesbury, GL20 7AL	
E-mail: d.whitehouse@homecall.co.uk	

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

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



January Diary

A quiet month!

3rd	Ashton WI, Village Hall	7:30 pm
9th	Beckford WI, Beckford Village Hall	7:30 pm
10th	Simply Soup, Beckford Village Hall	12:30 pm
16th	<i>Copy date for magazine</i>	
22nd	United Parish Holy Communion, Teddington	10 am
27th	Coffee Morning, Beckford Church	10:30 am

February

5th	Christingle & Family Service, Overbury Church	11 am
-----	---	-------



Please remember that subscriptions for 2012 are now due.

Please have your £4 ready when your next issue is delivered.



The fan-heater under the cassock idea proved not to be such a good one



"We're looking for something to help us survive our church's early morning Winter services"