

PARISH MAGAZINE

for

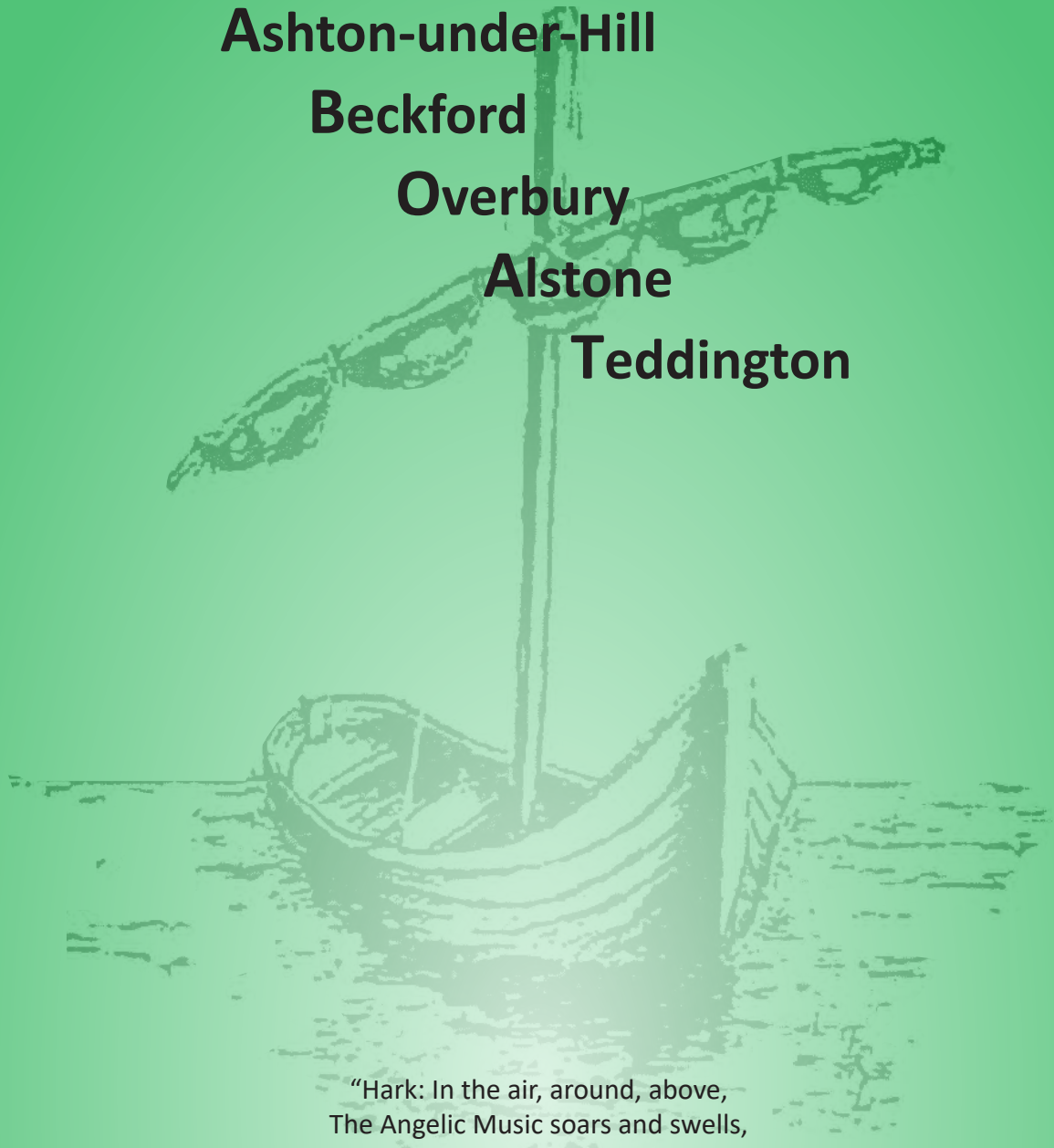
Ashton-under-Hill

Beckford

Overbury

Alstone

Teddington



"Hark: In the air, around, above,
The Angelic Music soars and swells,
And in the Garden that I love,
I hear the sound of Christmas Bells"

A Christmas Carol
Alfred Austin

December 2025

£1

Welcome to the December Parish News

Christmas is racing towards us, decorations, shopping, food preparation and parties! But let's all stop for a few minutes to remember the true meaning of Christmas.

We are delighted to hold the price of our magazine for another year at £10, I hope you all feel this remains good value and will be renewing your subscription in January when our delivery team come knocking.

I would like to end by saying a big thank you to everyone who has contributed to the magazine this month. I could not have produced this edition without your help.

If you have an article or notice to publish, or just a diary date

the deadline for contributions for the January edition is 12th December.

Please send contributions to helen.wilkes64@gmail.com in WORD format. *Helen Wilkes (Editor)*

One of the greatest gifts of the church is the Calendar that shapes the church year. It's a gift that had been sitting on the shelf of my Christian practice for a good many years and which I began to unwrap when I was training to be ordained.

The Protestant background from which I came saw every Sunday as Easter Sunday, so following Jesus' Passion through Holy Week leading to Easter was not a thing. Advent, the time of preparation and reflection for Christmas, that other great Festival of the Church was also not a thing. Thankfully, I did my on-the-job training (Curacy) in a Parish which did follow the Church Calendar and I was delighted with the multifaceted gift which emerged as we journeyed through the year together as five churches in one Parish.

I learnt that Christmastide didn't end on Boxing Day. The Christmas season continued for the Twelve Days of Christmas, from 25 December to the day before the Feast of the Epiphany celebrated on the 6 January. A full twelve days of celebration and feasting. This observance began around 567 CE. Jesus, the Son of God, entering human history in order to break down all the barriers between the created and uncreated so that God and humanity and all creation might move towards peace and restored relationship was a BIG thing. It couldn't be celebrated and absorbed in a day. So, twelve days were given to it so that we could rejoice in God's great gift to us, reflect on its meaning and its impact on our lives and realign ourselves with God's loving purposes for us, for humanity and the world.

Joy to the World is a Christmas song I love for the way it invites us to respond personally and as a church community to this extraordinary self-emptying and self-giving of God in Jesus the Christ: "Joy to the world the Lord is come! ...Let every heart prepare him room. ... No more let sins and sorrow grow! ... He rules the world with truth and grace..."

Contemplating and living these truths will anchor us and give us hope in our fragile worlds.

Let us rejoice and be glad all the twelve days of Christmas.

Rev'd Katryn



**Postcard of
Elmley Castle**
from
Wendy Sanger-Davies

Rota for December 2025

Date	Time	Place and Service	Presiding
2 nd December 2025	8.00pm	Advent Reflection – In person and online	tbc
7 th December 2025	9.00am	Alstone – Holy Communion	Rev Katryn
	9.00am	Besford – Holy Communion	Rev Andy Green with Rev Sooz deaconing
	10.45am	Bredon – Holy Communion	Rev Colin Butler with Rev Sooz deaconing
	10.45am	Little Comberton – Holy Communion	Rev Katryn
	4.00pm	Bredon's Norton – Carol Service	Lay Led
9 th December 2025	8.00pm	Advent Reflection -In person and online	tbc
10 th December 2025	6.30pm	Ashton Under Hill – Celebration of Christmas	Lay Led
14 th December 2025	9.00am	Overbury – Holy Communion	Rev Katryn
	10.45am	Little Comberton – Morning Worship	Rev Katryn
	10.45am	Eckington – Holy Communion	Archdeacon Mark Badger with Rev Sooz deaconing
	10.45am	Bredon – Morning Praise	Angie Godsell
16 th December 2025	8.00pm	Advent Reflection – In person and online	tbc
	4.00pm	Eckington – Carol Service	Rev Sooz Magee
20 th December 2025	4.00pm	Teddington – Carol Service	Rev Katryn
21 st December 2025	9.00am	Eckington – Holy Communion	Rev Peter Thomas
	10.45am	Defford – Carol Service	Rev Sooz Magee
	4.00pm	Elmley Castle – Carol Service	Rev Katryn
	5.00pm	Bredon – Carol Service	Archdeacon Mark Badger
	6.00pm	Beckford – Carol Service	Robert McCarthy
	6.00pm	Little Comberton – Carol Service	Lay Led
	6.00pm	Great Comberton – Carol Service	Lay Led
23 rd December 2025	6.00pm	Bricklehampton – Carol Service	Rev Katryn
	8.00pm	Advent Reflection – In person and online	tbc
24 th December 2025	3.00pm	Eckington – Crib Service	Rev Sooz Magee
	4.00pm	Elmley Castle – Crib Service	Rev Katryn
	3.30pm	Ashton Under Hill – Crib Service	Judith Hunter
	4.00pm	Overbury – Crib Service	Elaine Simpson
	5.00pm	Bredon – Crib Service	Rev Sooz Magee
	10.00pm	Defford – Christmas Eve Communion	Rev Colin Butler
	11.00pm	Beckford – Midnight Communion	Rev Katryn
25 th December 2025	9.00am	Bredon's Norton – Holy Communion	Reverend Mark Chapma with Rev Sooz deaconing
	9.30am	Besford – Holy Communion	Reverend Alma Organ
	10.00am	Little Comberton – Holy Communion	Rev Katryn
	10.00am	Eckington – Holy Communion	Rev Andy Green
	10.00am	Bredon – Holy Communion	Rev Catherine Lack
	10.00am	Overbury – Holy Communion	Rev Gerard Moate
28 th December	10.45am	Ashton Under Hill - Group Service	Rev Katryn

Midweek Communion

17th December – Little Comberton – Rev Katryn

If anyone has anything they wish to share, please contact Helen at
helen.wilkes64@gmail.com

NEWS FROM ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, BECKFORD



Photo: Trevor McGill

From the Beckford Registers

Interment of ashes – 1st November 2025

Neville Moores ANDREWS (former Churchwarden)

Died 9th Dec 2023

Mrs Leonora (Leo) Hamilton

The sad news of Leo's recent death has been received from her daughter Kathleen. Longer-term Beckford villagers will remember Leo and her husband Bill, who lived at The Cottage, Court Farm Lane and who were such energetic supporters of village life, working for the good of the community. In fact it was through Bill's efforts that for many years surgeries were held at Beckford Village Hall twice a week.

Bill died in 1994 and after a while Leo moved away, first to Stratford upon Avon and subsequently to Battersea in London where she remained until her death. In spite of leaving the village, Leo always remained a keen and generous supporter of Beckford church which she loved and that generosity has been greatly appreciated over many years.

Along with our fond remembrances we send our condolences to Leo's family.

Beckford December Services

Our services in St John the Baptist, Beckford, this month comprise the two Christmas services. On **Sunday 21st December at 6pm** we look forward to welcoming you all to the Carol Service. This service will be lay-led as has become the custom and will include favourite carols and the candle-lit period which is so well-beloved, as shadows flicker on the ancient walls of the beautifully decorated church and the Christmas season takes hold.

This year money raised by the collection will be donated to the Friends of the Holy Land – a non-political Christian charity, supporting the Christian population in Israel, West Bank, Gaza and Jordan, by funding a mixture of sustainable and immediate relief work, working in partnership with organisations such as the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem.

The service will be followed by the serving of mulled wine and mince pies so that we can enjoy a seasonal social gathering around the decorated Christmas tree.

Then, on **Christmas Eve**, there will be a late-night service of

Holy Communion at 11pm. This service usually only takes place in Beckford every two years so this is an opportunity to begin the actual festival of Christmas here in our own church.

Beckford Coffee Mornings

A reminder that there will be no Coffee Morning in December (the last Friday – the customary day - being Boxing Day). However we shall look forward to welcoming you all back in the new year when we shall hold our first Coffee Morning of 2026 on Friday 30th January.

Meanwhile we thank you for your support throughout 2025 and wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a good New Year.

Beckford Churchyard

It may be recalled that in the July magazine and on the noticeboards in the same month, notice was given that, with instructions received to enforce Diocesan regulations regarding the maintenance of churchyards, it was necessary to ensure that artificial floral tributes were not placed.

David Carvill

NEWS FROM ST. FAITH'S – OVERBURY & CONDERTON



Photo: Philip Halling / CC BY-SA 2.0

As we move into the Advent and Christmastide season, we have several opportunities to come together as a community and celebrate at St Faith's.

Holy Communion:

Sunday December 14th at 9am, led by Rev Katryn.

Overbury & Conderton Christmas Cracker: Come and join us on Sunday, December 14th at 4.30pm for our much-

loved Christmas Cracker. A candlelit evening of carols, readings, and even a surprise visitor for the children. Afterwards, we will share mince pies and mulled wine – the perfect way to start the Christmas season. The collection will be for The Salvation Army. *Everyone's welcome – bring your friends and family for a relaxed, festive evening.*

Christmas Eve Crib Service: On Tuesday, December 24th at 4pm, Elaine Simpson will be leading our Crib Service. It's a lovely, family-friendly service, especially for young children – come along and enjoy the story of the Nativity together.

Christmas Day: Christmas Day Holy Communion will be at 10am, led by Rev. Gerard Moate.

Group Service: December 28th, 10.45am at Ashton Under Hill, led by Rev Katryn.

Volunteers needed to decorate the church on Saturday December 20th at 10am. Please come along with friends and anything from the garden. There will also be a Christmas Tree for the children to decorate. It's a fun morning with coffee and biscuits.

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Juliet

07384630225 – julietvines@gmail.com

NEWS FROM ST.BARBARA'S – ASHTON



NOVEMBER We were delighted to host the Annual Remembrance Day service for the Beckford Parish on Sunday 9th November. It is always sobering to hear so many names read out of the young men from our local villages. Thank you to the British Legion to whom we were able to make a large donation from the generous collection of £545. Faith Hallett and Rev Gerard Moule organised the service and Anthony Greenwood played the organ. The Ashton Guides, Brownies and Rainbows provided welcome support and it was good to see a number of people at the Cross. Refreshments were served in the Village Hall. Thank you to all who were involved with the service, it is much appreciated.

DECEMBER Our Christmas celebrations start on **Wednesday 10th December** with the informal 'Celebration of Christmas'. Carols and refreshments. All welcome. **6.30pm**
Christmas Eve Crib and Christingle service **Wednesday 24th December at 3.30pm** Children's service but all are welcome. We continue with the Holy Communion in St Barbara's on the fourth Sunday of the month, which will fall on **28th December**. It is scheduled to be the parish combined service with refreshments afterwards.

Please check the parish list for dates and times of Christmas services at Beckford and Overbury.

Christmas wreaths. Wreaths of natural material are welcome in the Churchyard as tributes for the Christmas season .

Message from Pat Smith

To friends and neighbours.

No more cards from me at Christmas, instead I have decided to donate to The Air Ambulance, Cheltenham Hospital and Cancer Research UK.

Best Wishes

Pat

NEWS FROM THE CHAPELRIES – ALSTONE & TEDDINGTON

Our fantastically successful Christmas carol service is again at Teddington this year. Put **Saturday 20th December at 4 pm** in your diary. Children (and even adults, if the mood takes them) are encouraged to dress up as their favourite Christmas character; well, it is Christmas. If you don't have a favourite Christmas character, then anyone will do, and we may even have a prize for the best!

We will have mulled wine and mince pies afterwards (soft drinks too), so don't rush off!

If you plan to bring a large number of people, please let us know..... kieranjwhelan@gmail.com

Once again this year at Alstone we are planning to sing carols around Alstone In aid of the Children's Society after the schools have broken up, so if you are interest in joining us please email me – billannekyle@gmail.com – with the times you are available and for best time to start usually from bus stop at the of the village.



As in previous years, Teddington & Alstone Parish Council wished to remember those parishioners who lost their lives in both World War 1 and World War 2. To pay tribute to these brave service personnel, a wreath was laid at a ceremony by the lychgate to St Barbara's Church in Ashton under Hill ahead of the Remembrance Day church service.



The names of the individuals from the villages in the parish were read out by Teddington Parishioner, Mr Brian Foreman. Other wreaths were laid and names read out by representatives of the Parish Councils in Beckford, Overbury and Kemerton.

CRAFT CLUB

Teddington Village Hall

Friday 20th December, 10.00 – 12.00

Bring your own craft – tea & biscuits included

All welcome – £3



BECKFORD VILLAGE HALL



We are delighted to say that in collaboration with Beckford Village Hall, Cotswolds National Landscape (www.cotswolds-nl.org.uk) have sown wild flower seeds around the perimeter of the village hall field as part of our efforts to encourage wild life regeneration. This coupled with our strategy of not mowing the area under the trees and the perimeter of the field for the summer months should help encourage wild flowers and other wild life.

We will 'top' the area in March and September and will need some volunteers to clear the cut grass.

The rest of the field including the football pitches will continue to be mown regularly by the trusty village hall mowing club using the gang mowers or by the football club mowers.

There is still much work to be done on the plan drawn up with Natural Networks but we so far have not had anyone offer to help! See the report on the Facilities page of the Village Hall Website or at <http://bit.ly/3JBL1pm>

Paul Worrall

INFORMATION FOR BECKFORD VILLAGE

The Village Hall committee has been approached by a small family run dairy business called **Whole Moo World**. They operate milk vending machines around the area stocked with fresh, non-homogenised milk and milkshakes.

This is an opportunity to support a dairy farmer from the Herefordshire area and also gain some income for the Village Hall as well as providing a service for the community.

Below is a photo of the vending machine set up. There is no expense for the Village Hall and the dairy farmer will pay the Hall for locating the machine in the Village Hall grounds.

Susan Archer



Spooky Story Telling



Thanks to all who came to the Spooky Story Telling evening in Beckford Village Hall on 1st November, an enchanting evening of Halloween themed stories accompanied by rum punch and hot dogs. Over 30 people listening to wonderful stories written and told by Will and Fiona. The hall looked lovely with ghosts, spider's webs and a fire pit and although we did not set out to make a profit we cleared over £100.



What's happening in the cutting garden in December?

It's hard to believe another year is over and I have to say, I will be glad to have a new start in 2026! There are lots of things to look forward to, particularly Beckford Open Village in June. It certainly makes us focus on getting jobs done!

Here are some of the things I will be up to in the garden so that you can grow along too.

It's not too late to plant tulips so don't worry if you find a packet you've forgotten about – or the reduced packet at the garden centre! If you are planting in pots, keep them outside where they will feel the cold but not get soaked with rain.

The greenhouse is full of plants needing protection so I will keep a close eye on the weather in case I need to add the odd candle for warmth or throw a fleece over to protect seedlings. Below -5 is when I start to pay attention! It is important to open the greenhouse daily though to allow fresh air in and prevent damping off (a disease that can be caused with poor ventilation)

Don't worry about snow – its great for giving the garden a winter blanket - it's the frosts I'm not keen on.

Keep raking up leaves and feeding the birds. Don't forget about water for the birds too.

Outdoors I have covered a few of the beds with a porous covering to prevent weeds and give a little warmth. There is a layer of leaves underneath that I will dig in once the cover is removed in early spring.

It's a good time to wash and prep any seed trays. I try and make do year on year and have found some inventive trays to use. As long as there are drainage holes a tray should be good to use.

There are chrysanthemums still in flower so give me a call for local flowers. Talking of which, subscriptions and gift vouchers are available for that last minute Christmas gift which give you 3 or 6 months of monthly flowers - a real treat for yourself or a loved one.

To all the villagers and locals who have supported me or just enjoyed reading my monthly ramblings, Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

I will see you all in 2026
Happy gardening!

Julia
Grown in Beckford.
Tel : 07496 815642



Grown in Beckford

Locally grown seasonal flowers

about me

In 2023 new flower beds were added to the garden and planted up with annual and perennial flowers. There were soon too many to deal with and local villagers received free bunches every Friday (flowers on Friday). Demand increased and so Grown in Beckford started to grow.

my flowers

I offer seasonally grown, pesticide free garden flowers as bunches or as monthly subscriptions. I can also provide graveside flowers as well as funeral flowers (without the use of foam or plastic) that can be completely compostable.

contact Julia to discuss or order : 07496 815642

Juliainoz2003@yahoo.co.uk

Unexpected Treasures

by Andy Todd



What things do you most treasure? I wouldn't be at all surprised if they have little value in financial terms – things like a first painting or drawing brought home from school by a child, a letter from a loved one, or an irreplaceable photograph. Treasure is where your heart is.

The story is told of a prosperous businessman seen hurrying to a butcher's shop on Christmas Eve during the Depression of the 1930s. 'Buying your Christmas turkey?' a friend asked. 'No, hot dogs,' answered the businessman. He explained how a bank failure had suddenly wiped out his fortune. He faced Christmas with no money for gifts and less than a pound for food. Next day, he and his wife and small child said grace before dinner and then ate hot dogs – a whole kennel of them, in fact: his wife had given each frankfurter toothpicks for legs and dental floss for tails, ears and hair. Their child was enchanted, and her infectious delight spread merriment among them all. After dinner they gave thanks again for the most loving and festive time they'd ever had. 'Now it's tradition,' the man said. 'Hot dogs for Christmas – to remind us of that happy day when we realised that we still had one another and our God-given sense of humour.'

Christmas can be many things, but it is certainly an invitation to rediscover the treasure of being really human. What gives life meaning is not the accumulation of ever more material comforts, but a willingness to be open to those around: and that includes - unexpectedly perhaps - the vulnerable and marginalised in our society, not just family and friends. That kind of openness is risky, but our model and inspiration is the God who comes in the form of a defenceless baby. No centre stage, crowds or applause for him. Just a scruffy outhouse and a few oddball visitors. This king, it seems, needs to be looked for in unexpected places; but when anyone welcomes him, and in him all the world's vulnerable and defenceless, they find the greatest treasure of all.

So, look for treasure in unexpected places, and may you find unexpected joys this Advent and Christmas season.



Please pray for our partner dioceses

Diocese of Peru

In Peru, Bishop Jorge has asked for our prayers for all those in the population, especially in Lima, currently living in fear. Extortion carried out by mafia-style gangs is draining some 13 million soles (around £3 million) monthly from bus and taxi drivers, shopkeepers and business owners, and those not complying with the demands are being killed. This is causing widespread terror among ordinary Peruvians, and the police have not proved capable of dealing with the threat.

Failure to resolve a worsening situation was a key factor in the impeachment of President Dina Boluarte on 10 October, but political instability and violence has been a problem for many years. The new president, José Jerí, is the seventh president in the last eight years, and only two of these have been elected, the rest coming to power after impeachments or resignations. There have already been protests against Jerí as a result of allegations about his past. Young people, feeling marginalised and unprotected, are at the heart of these protest movements. It is thus a frightening time for most people in Peru, and our prayers for political stability and an end to the extortion and banditry are required.



Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel (Morogoro, Tanzania)

Diocese of Morogoro, Tanzania

In Tanzania, an election on 29 October returned incumbent President Samia Suluhu Hassan. Her party has ruled Tanzania since independence, and the election was deeply flawed with all credible opponents imprisoned or disqualified, the winning tally received by Hassan (98%) an indication of the undemocratic nature of the poll. In addition to violence during the campaign, there have been violent protests since polling day and hundreds are feared dead, with curfews and government crackdowns creating a volatile atmosphere. An internet shutdown in place since election day means accurate news is limited, but it is clear that the political unrest is affecting Tanzanians and many young people feel disenfranchised and ignored.

Our prayers are therefore needed for all in Morogoro, and Tanzania more widely, who are afraid or marginalised.



BECKFORD WI

Our president, Clare Henderson, welcomed 24 members and our WI Advisor, Kathy Law. Apologies had been received from several members.

We began with our AGM, Helen presented the Secretary's Report and the Financial Statements, both being accepted by the members. Clare then presented the President's Report.

All committee members were happy to stand again; their nomination was accepted. The committee for the coming year will be joined by Yo and Cheryl.

Clare then handed over to Helen and Margaret T for the in-house crafting session. Helen and Margaret introduced us to marbling of items – scallop shell candle holders, decorative wooden spoons and pretty glass jars.

After the well earned refreshments the normal business of the meeting was conducted. Several members had attended the recent New Speaker morning in Churchdown. Members had enjoyed the walk to Kemerton's Secret Garden and coffee at Bredon Hill Country. The film night had to be arranged for November.



Members of Beckford WI met at the lych-gate of St John the Baptist church at 11:00 on 11th November to lay the wreath that had been blessed at the Remembrance Service on Sunday. They were joined by the children from Country Pumpkins.

Next meeting – Monday 8th December 2025
Christmas Party & Sing-Along
Visitors are welcome



ASHTON WI

Ashton under Hill WI does not hold a meeting in December as there is always the Christmas lunch in the first week of the month. The local "Star Inn" is a popular venue and we include a special free Christmas raffle. They kindly let us sit and chat after the meal over coffee and treats.

The Christmas theme of "Festive Fun" had been chosen for the Annual Craft Competition this year – in October! (It was apparently planned for August early on.) It was held at Crowle Village Hall on 30th October and we had put together several entries; a felt stocking, a jar of chutney and a photographic entry. We also entered in the Group class – a festive table setting with hand made cracker, mince pies, and a floral table centre to hold a candle. The standard of entries was very high as usual and the room display overall looked stunning. The criteria for judging seemed more demanding than ever. Our marks were high but we didn't quite make the placing in the classes. The exception was Cathy's photo of deer in the distant mist where the title was "Early one Winter's Morning". We were thrilled that she came 2nd with marks of 19/20. Well done, Cathy, and thanks to Marjy, Doreen, Judith, Gillie, Joan and Rosemary for preparing the items. The speaker for the morning was Philip Bowen on Christmas customs and stories. It was a wide-ranging talk, with historical details and humorous anecdotes alongside illustrations. We were amused as Philip was booked to speak to us on the following Tuesday. The topic for our meeting was "The Gunpowder Plot". Eighteen members attended. This is an excellent speaker and we really enjoyed his take on the conspiracy. In some ways the whole plot was a lot more serious and threatening than has remained in the popular memory; it could have caused real political turmoil had it succeeded. It has become debased to Bonfire Night and fireworks in modern times. There is a strong local connection to many of the plotters who came from wealthy Catholic families in the Midlands. Houses such as Harvington and Coughton Court have priest holes which hid the travelling clergy. The defeat of the conspirators came at Holbeach House. We were delighted to have the 'right Philip Bowen' as last year a different one entirely came for an evening of poetry – fun, but not what we had expected. Sue Burnham gave the Vote of Thanks and Marjy and Jen stepped in to make the refreshments.

Walks and the Book Club carry on throughout November and into December. Instead of the coffee meet up on the 17th, we are holding a Tea Party at the Cricket Club in the afternoon of Wednesday 10th December. Games, a quiz and mince pies are promised. 2 for 2.30pm. Friends and members welcome. In the New Year we shall discuss the Resolutions for 2026 and talk about Treasured items. 7pm at the Village Hall on January 6th.

Happy Christmas and a
Happy New Year to all!



TEWKESBURY AND BREDON HILL PROBUS CLUB

**The Club for retired and
semi-retired Professionals
and Businessmen**

One of the highlights of 2025 was when we recently welcomed former Concorde pilot Captain John Hutchinson who gave three talks, giving us the benefit of his long and personal association with the iconic supersonic passenger aircraft. John's first talk was a generic introduction to the history and development of Concorde in the 1960's and how the Anglo-French joint venture designed, developed, built and brought the aircraft into commercial service. The second talk concerned the tragic crash of the Air France Concorde in Paris in 2000 with a detailed analysis of the causes of the crash and in John's final talk he told us his memories of the people and personalities he encountered over three decades of flying the aircraft for British Airways.

Another speaker who provided us with his own direct experiences of his subject was Zak Coombs who was on the hospital ship SS Uganda during the Falklands war in 1982. He was stationed on the ship and described some of his traumatic experiences bringing aboard severely injured soldiers for treatment in the ship's operating theatres.

In total contrast, we welcomed Paul Murphy who described to us the life and times of Norman Wisdom from his hard days in poverty at home with a cruel and merciless father, running away

from home, finding his way forward as a comedian and film star and becoming a rich man living in a mansion on the Isle of Man.

Another presenter who maintained the excellent standard of our speakers was retired Army officer Richard Jeynes, who described in detail the origins of the French Foreign Legion and the battles they were involved in. The Legion still operates today and although the Senior Officers are all Frenchmen, anyone from anywhere in the world can apply and be prepared to fight anywhere they are directed by the French Government. Most people think that men from dubious, sometimes criminal backgrounds make up the soldiers of the Legion, but Richard assured us that the selection process is very demanding and no-one with a criminal record would be admitted.

For more information on Probud Club, please visit our website or contact our Secretary Steve Tucker on 07803 907243.

Forthcoming Events in December:

**2 Dec - Henry VIII and the Field of Cloth of Gold
(with Dr Gillian White)**

**9 Dec - The stars and songs of old-time music hall
(with Fred and Diana Ward)**

16 Dec - Probud Christmas party

23 Dec - No meeting (Bank Holiday)

30 Dec - No meeting (Bank Holiday)



Chris Brown

<https://probudclub.net/tewkesbredon/>

Live Jazz

not at The Fox and Hounds

Due to the temporary closure of Bredon's "Fox & Hounds" after a fire, the 'first Wednesday of the month' live jazz has transferred to the delightful **Gupshill Manor, Gloucester Road, Tewkesbury, GL20 5SY.**

The gig on

Wednesday 3rd December

will feature amazing pianist **Dave Newton.**

Dave has an international reputation and has been voted Best British Jazz Pianist for sixteen separate years.

He'll be accompanied by the very experienced bassist **Clive Morton** and drummer **Roger Powell**, with songs from Gershwin, Porter, Ellington etc from vocalist **Penny Powell.**

Starts at 7.30pm

Free admission – Raffle

Gupshill Manor

Gloucester Road

Tewkesbury, GL20 5SY





CHRISTMAS SUPPER



Saturday 6th December, 2025

**From 6.30pm At the Beckford Inn in
Support of Beckford Village Church**

**Back for a fifth year, there's no better way to kick off
the celebratory season**

**Fabulous Seasonal Fare ~ Drink on Arrival ~ Crackers
Entertainment ~ Raffle**

FIRST COURSE

Roast English turkey, pork and
chestnut stuffing, pigs in blankets,
cranberry sauce,
duck fat roast potatoes, seasonal
vegetables, proper gravy
sauce

OR

Beetroot Wellington, smoked
celeriac, hasselback potatoes, kale,
mulled wine gravy (ve)

PUDDING

Sticky figgy pudding, rum
butterscotch, ginger ice cream (v)
OR

Caramel roasted pineapple, coconut
sorbet, passionfruit, lime, pistachio
praline (ve)

OR

Oxford Blue and Tunworth
Camembert, quince jelly, pickled
walnut, crackers (£5 supplement)

INCLUDES

Wine, Beer or Soft Drink on arrival. Christmas crackers on each table!

Only £40 per person

BOOK EARLY – LIMITED SPACES

Email: beckfordchristmassupper@gmail.com with
your choice of courses and any dietary requirements.

Payment details will be sent by return

*The Beckford Church Committee very much look
forward to welcoming you to the Beckford
Christmas Supper. All proceeds, after costs, will go
to supporting the work and fabric of St John the
Baptist, Beckford*





Surprising shows in surprising places

Our next Live and Local performance will be on 24th January in Ashton Under Hill village hall. Beat the post Christmas slump with an evening out in the company of friends and neighbours. Tickets will still only be £12.50 each, and as usual bring your own drinks and we will provide a few nibbles.



Join us for The Campfire Sessions, where Craig's heartfelt performances and storytelling shine. He shares the stories behind his songs, inspired by his journey to recovery, creating a deeply personal and memorable connection with the audience.

With sold-out shows on two national tours, festival appearances at The Long Road and YNot Festivals, and widespread support from BBC Radio across the UK, Craig Gould's talent for connecting with audiences through story and song is being rightfully recognized.

His album, 'Songs from the Campfire,' received critical acclaim, reaching the Top 20 in the UK's Official Folk Album Charts and featuring on the award-winning 'Folk on Foot' podcast chart show. His celebrated talent has received comparisons with songwriting royalty such as Cat Stevens, Leonard Cohen, Bob Dylan & Fleetwood Mac.

24th January 2026
Craig Gould & The Noble Thieves
The Campfire Sessions
Venue: Ashton Village Hall
Start Time: 19:30
Tickets: £12.50
To book tickets call 07768751342

Sheep on Bredon Hill



KIDS CORNER

Did You Know?

The Christmas Tree in Trafalgar Square, London

This tree has been a gift from Norway to London every year since 1947. It symbolises Norway's everlasting friendship and gratitude for Britain's support during World War II. The tree, a Norwegian spruce, is sent by lorry and ferry and put up in Trafalgar Square by a special team of riggers using a hydraulic crane. It is decorated in the Norwegian tradition with vertical strings of lights.



The Funniest Face

The funniest face looked out at me From a silver ball On the Christmas Tree!
At first I thought It was Santa's elf, But I looked again and It was just myself!
(Anon)

Christmas Word Search

K	C	D	S	L	E	I	G	H	R
V	V	H	F	A	M	I	L	Y	E
U	K	J	R	N	G	F	J	B	I
L	F	I	C	I	X	I	A	J	N
B	Q	N	A	M	S	O	F	T	D
E	O	G	N	E	F	T	F	T	E
L	X	L	D	R	U	A	M	O	E
L	Q	E	L	R	R	F	F	A	R
S	R	U	E	Y	B	O	F	M	S
M	Y	P	S	N	O	W	M	A	N

Word list:
BELLS
CANDLES
CHRISTMAS
FAMILY
GIFT
JINGLE
MERRY
REINDEER
SLEIGH
SNOWMAN



Christmas Jokes

How do you know when Santa's around?
You can always sense his presents.

What kind of music do elves listen to?
Wrap music!

Where do snowmen go dancing?
A snow ball!

Why does Santa go down the chimney?
Because it soots him!



ANOTHER SEASON OF REMEMBRANCE AND CHANGES FOR OUR BRANCH

Another Poppy Appeal and national Remembrance event has been and gone – seemingly in a flash. The money raised by Ian Dickson's gallant team of house-to-house collectors and in the tins at shops, pubs, petrol stations and schools is, at the time of going to press, still to be counted but, whatever the result, we are profoundly grateful for the generosity shown by so many people.

The Beckford & Ashton under Hill Branch of the Royal British Legion was held on Thursday 6th November at Beckford Village Hall. We were this year faced with making a radical change to the way we function. It was agreed several years ago that the Officers would continue until 2025. Following the death in January of our Chairman, Anthony Hallett, Paul Jay kindly stepped up to temporarily assume this role as well as continuing as Treasurer – a combination that was clearly unsustainable; Ian Dickson has done ten years as Poppy Appeal Organiser, raising more than £60,000 over that period and Faith Hallett eight years as Secretary. With nobody available to step into our shoes it became clear that the present situation could not continue. In July it was regrettably agreed by the Committee that the Branch be closed altogether but it

was then suggested by the RBL's Worcestershire and Herefordshire Membership Engagement Officer that, rather than consign our Branch name and all its history to the dustbin (which is apparently what closure would entail), we transfer from being completely autonomous to County Supported status. This removes the requirement to produce accounts or to have Officers or even a Committee. It also leaves open the possibility of restoring the Branch to its full glory at some point in the future if the situation demands. The two options were laid before all the members and County Supported status was selected almost unanimously. We are now applying to Worcestershire for approval. If granted, we hope to continue to organise an annual lecture and a garden party BUT the Poppy Appeal will be externally handled by the County in future rather than locally by Ian.

The Remembrance Service was held this year at the church of St Barbara at Ashton under Hill, led by the Reverend Dr Gerard Moate who has come to live in Overbury since retiring in April. The event began with a well attended ceremony: the names of all those from our villages who died during the two world wars were read and wreaths were laid on behalf of the Royal British Legion, Guides and Brownies, parish councils and WIs. Bill Ettridge, former long-serving RAF officer and an "older member of the community" recited the first part of the famous Kohima Epitaph and William as a much "younger" representative recited the second. Derril Green, Branch Standard Bearer for so many years, was on duty yet again while Charlotte carried the Guides standard and Annabel the Brownies. Emily and Jenny laid the joint Guides and Brownies wreath. During the service itself Freddie, Millie, Tabby and Dorrie read the prayers and Lottie, Ember, Francis and Phoebe took the collection. It was so good to have more involvement from younger members of the community – to whom the baton of remembrance will soon be passed. The whole occasion was very moving and ended with welcome refreshments in the Village Hall. Many thanks to all those who took part and helped to keep this important act of remembrance alive in our increasingly uncertain and war torn world.



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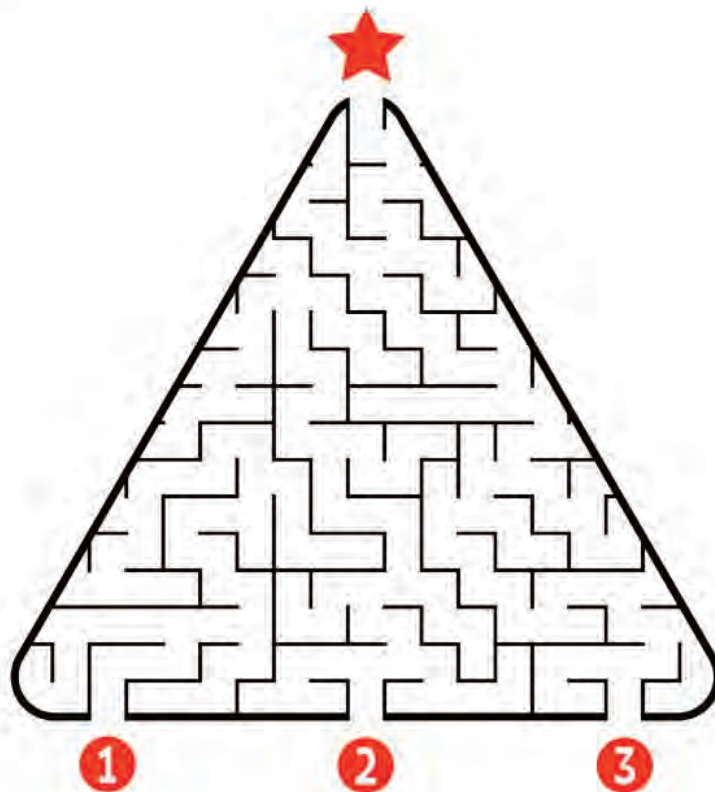


PARISH DIARY

2 nd December	10:15 am	Bredon Village Hall	Probus— <i>Henry VIII and the Field of Cloth of Gold</i>
3 rd December	7:30 pm	Gupshill Manor	Jazz Night
5 th December	12:30 pm	Chapel Hall, Ashton	Lunch Club
6 th December	6:30 pm	The Beckford Inn	Christmas Supper
8 th December	07:30 pm	Beckford Village Hall	Beckford WI— <i>Christmas Party</i>
9 th December	12:30 pm	Beckford Village Hall	Simply Soup
9 th December	10:15 am	Bredon Village Hall	Probus - <i>The stars and songs of old-time music hall</i>
12 th December			Cut-Off for January Parish News
14 th December	4:30 pm	St Faith's, Overbury	Christmas Craker
20 th December	10:00 – 12:00	Teddington Village Hall	Craft Club

Christmas Tree Maze

Which of the paths lead to the star at the top of the tree?





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Get in touch with the Estate Office, our administrative hub supporting the properties, farm, gardens, forestry and Grasshoppers Nursery teams if you would like to know more or are interested in renting one of our commercial or residential properties, as they are not always advertised.

Overbury Estate Office, Overbury, Nr Tewkesbury, Glos GL20 7NR

Phone: 01386 725111 or email

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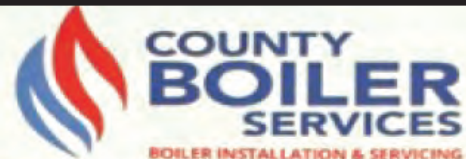
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	julietvines@gmail.com	

Contact and Secretary
overburychurchcommittee@gmail.com

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Helen Wilkes	07871 581071
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