

Astbury & Smallwood Parish News February 2010

Price 50p



FROM THE RECTOR,
Rev Jonathan D. M. Sharples

Dear Friends,

So, we're wondering what to do about a holiday this year. We were a bit rubbish and only managed a single weekend away last year, what with the move and other excitements. But this year we're not very likely to be moving, so we can think about the Great Escape. Two or three weeks somewhere completely different with an as yet unknown number of children (the number of our children wanting to come with us being inversely proportional to the perceived excitement of the place we opt for).

We are thinking of doing a house exchange – swapping homes with another family and thus having the dual benefit of a cheaper holiday and also a better feel for the community in which you're taking your break. We've done this with two families in France and one in Canada in recent years and they've all been excellent times.

One of the hidden benefits when we house-exchanged in the year we were selling our house in Chester, was that it forces you to get all the little jobs done around the house that otherwise might be put off indefinitely and cleaning everything to within an inch of its life. Well, you don't want other people coming into your house and thinking you live in a mess, do you? So you end up with a fixed house that smells of paint and floor wax.

Some people would view the prospect of an unknown family coming into their home with aghastness (which probably isn't a word, but you know it should be). We may be reluctant about letting others in to our personal living space; but how are we with our personal spiritual space? We're told way back in Old Testament writings that whereas man looks at the outside, yet God looks at the inside. The Lord, to whom all hearts are open and from whom no secrets are hid. How much internal spring-cleaning, fixing or repainting would we feel we need to do before we could say to God 'It's all ready for inspection!' And is that what he wants? Or would he be happy being asked in exactly how you are now – meeting you in the everyday, walking with you in the here and now. The Queen may go around finding that everywhere she goes smells of paint and disinfectant, but I think God prefers the little bit of dust and

chipped woodwork, the imperfect, the lived-in. We must never wait until we think we're good enough – but to let him come to us today, and each day. He seems to like to join us in the clean-up operation!

Jonathan

Editor - Mr W. Ball,
The Old Vicarage, Reades Lane, Congleton, CW12 3LL

Lay Reader in Training: We will be joined over the next few months by Lesley Murray who is in her second year of preparation to become an Anglican Lay Reader. At the end of her training she will be licensed by the Bishop to preach and lead services in her local church. We look forward to welcoming Lesley as she shares her experience with us and furthers her experience among us.

Pancake Evening in the Village Hall is on Shrove Tuesday, (surprise, surprise!) 16th February: Tickets are £2 from Mrs Moore.

Astbury and Smallwood Parish News: xThe subscription for the magazine of £5 for 2009 should be paid to the Wardens, Mr McCormick or Mr Ball as soon as possible. You will receive a receipt attached to your next edition of *Parish News* after you have paid. If you have not paid there will be a note to indicate that.

Publication is on the last Sunday of each month. The actual dates for 2010 are shown on the inside back cover. To guarantee inclusion of your article, please ensure that it reaches Mr Ball no later than the copy date (also shown on the inside back cover). Contributions may be handwritten or typed, posted to the address above, faxed to 298913 or emailed to williamball@supanet.com or williambball@btinternet.com. (Note the extra 'b' in the second email address.)

If any reader would prefer to receive a **large-print version** of the magazine (at no extra cost), please let me know.

If you wish to receive your magazine by post, the total subscription is £13.50. Cheques should be made payable to *Astbury & Smallwood Parish News* **not** *Astbury PCC*.

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place in School on Monday 22nd March immediately following the parish Easter Vestry at 7.30 pm. Those persons entitled to attend and vote at the meeting are those whose names are on the church electoral roll of the parish and also those resident in the ecclesiastical parish and on the register of local government electors.

Last year's Electoral Roll will be carried forward this year. Please check that your details (on the board near the font) are correct. If you are not on the Roll and wish to join, Application forms are available from the Wardens; completed forms should be handed to the Wardens no later than Sunday 7th March. In order to join the Roll, you must be a baptized member of the Church of England or of a Church in communion with it; 16 years of age or over; and either resident in the ecclesiastical parish of St Mary, Astbury or have habitually attended public worship here for at least the past six months.

Nomination Forms for the posts of Churchwarden are available from the Rector and should be returned to him prior to the meeting. He asks that anyone willing to take up either of these offices should speak to him.

All Sidesmen and five members of the Parochial Church Council will also be elected to serve for the following twelve months. The Parish Treasurer will also give her customary report.

All parishioners are welcome at this meeting. Do try to come: ask your questions, air your views. And if you would like to join the PCC, nomination forms are available from the Churchwardens. Candidates for election to the PCC must have had their names entered on the current Electoral Roll for at least six months.

The Rector and Churchwardens xThe Rector and Churchwardens acknowledge with grateful thanks donations of £345.00 in memory of Marjorie Pirie and £1,000 in memory of Denis Bibbey.

The Christmas charities this year have received £200 each to the East Cheshire Hospice and Christian Aid, and £250 to the Children's Society: all these are hard working charities locally, nationally and internationally.

The Children's Society boxes during 2009 collected £412 which is a very good collection from a small group of people, and if you would like to have a box please contact me.

The first Coffee Morning of the year raised £145 on a cold and wintry Saturday: everybody was glad of a warm drink and a sit down. The last few weeks which stretch to before Christmas have been the coldest for a long time and we do strive to keep the Church as warm as possible which shows in the December gas bill which was £1,130, with January's still waiting in the wings.

On that note I have a list of diary dates for fund raising events:

Shrove Tuesday 16th February Pancake Evening in the Village Hall at 7.00 pm the men are once again polishing their frying pans, tickets are £2.00 each available from Jean or Susan.

Saturday 6th March in the Village Hall the Bluebell Steel Band will be making a return visit, the evening starts at 7.30 pm. Tickets are £10 including refreshments, please bring your own drinks. Again tickets are available from Jean and Susan.

The dates for the Coffee Mornings are Saturday 1st May, 24th July and 30th October. Please remember any prizes or bric a brac items are always welcome.

The Women's World Day of Prayer is at 10.30 am on Friday 5th March at St. John's Church Buglawton: all are welcome.

The Cheshire Show dates are Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd June.
Susan Blakeman 01260 280067/ 273249

Music News: How do you think we're getting on musically? Time flies - I've been at Astbury for three years now. I still have plenty of new ideas, but any changes need to enhance services. What helps you worship, or what hinders you? Please do tell me – all feedback, good or bad, is really useful.

In the evening we've started using the same three chants (psalm, Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis) for each month. Hopefully this will help everyone join in with more confidence. Also, copies of the psalms with the pointing which marks the note changes are available.

New singers are always most welcome. In the morning three or four singers lead from in front of the chancel screen, and also sing during

communion, but it would be great to have a few more voices. In the evening there are usually twelve to fourteen in the choir, and we have had over twenty singers for special services, but there's still space if you'd like to join. We'll soon be starting rehearsals for Easter and will be singing at quite a few weddings.

Do talk to me after a service, ring 01260 270217, or email sally@drage.me.uk.

Sally Drage

Astbury May Day on 15th May 2010 will see the village celebrate 150 years since the first recorded May Day Festival at Astbury took place on 1st May 1860. No doubt the festival was celebrated for many years before that date, but to mark this occasion the May Day Committee would like to contact as many previous May Queens as possible. The May Queens would then be invited to join in with the celebrations in 2010 and to take part in a short parade around the Maypole.

Please contact Michael or Kath Moore on 01260 290135 or email to kmoore@sky.com if you are a former May Queen and would like to take part in the celebrations at May Day 2010.

Many thanks,

Michael and Kath Moore

Astbury Ladies' Fellowship: On a very cold, snowy night Fellowship members went to the Daneside Theatre to see *Dick Whittington*. This 30th Congleton pantomime had been written and directed by Jill Young, and was full of colour and dancing. Steven Mitchell, musical director, and Chris Mann (Sally the Cook) encouraged much audience participation, and many talented local artistes made for a very enjoyable show. The fight between King Rat (David Podmore) and Puss (Hannah Salisbury) was very dramatic.

In February, please note that there is a change of speaker: Mrs Celia Lea will take us on a slide tour of Some Cheshire Villages. This promises to be a very good evening, so do come along on 21st February for 7.30 pm in Astbury Village Hall. We wish everyone a happy and healthy year in 2010.

Carole Goodwin

Are you interested in tracing your ancestors? Even before television programmes such as *Who do you think you are?* many people had begun to research their Family History and were discovering their ancestors. Among the best resources, of course, are the records of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials held in Church Registers and the Inscriptions on the Gravestones in Churchyards. We have published a computer CD which contains all those inscriptions (from 1608) and also lists the burial places of everyone buried in our churchyards since 1892. It is easy to search through the more than 10,000 names recorded. The CD costs £12 (plus £1.50 p & p), cheques payable to Astbury PCC) and is available from Mr Ball. A companion DVD containing images of our Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials from 1572 to about 1910 is also available. This costs £20 (plus £1.50 p & p) and is also available from Mr Ball.

Lastly, the Report on our Eagle Lectern from the Hamilton Kerr Institute at Cambridge University is also available as a CD (cost £5) of the various documents in Microsoft Word or Adobe Reader format for you to print your own copy.

The **new** Word for Today booklets for February, March and April are now available at the back of the church. The Word for Today is a daily devotional, designed to help and encourage you in your daily walk with God. Each day you will get a quotation from Scripture and then a couple of paragraphs either discussing or exploring the verse. The booklets are a useful accompaniment and encouragement to reading the Bible: you will be amazed at the impact it has on your life. Please feel free to pick one up - there is no charge.

Jennifer Follett
UCB Representative for Astbury

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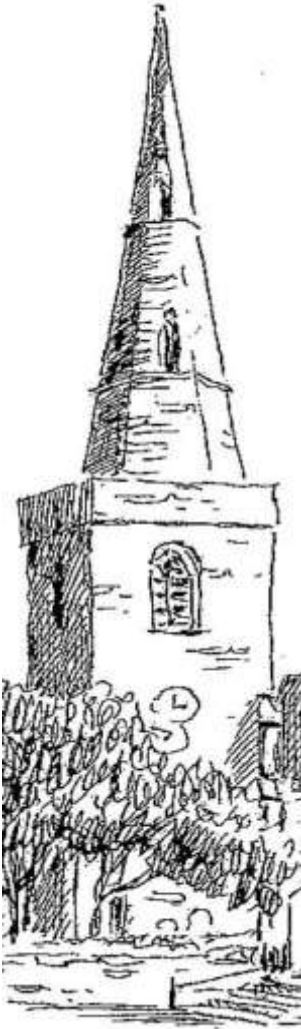
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CHURCHWARDENS		Mr L. Ford, Overton Green Farm. 01477 500466 Mr R Goodbrand, Holly Bush Farm . 01477 500219.
TREASURER		Mrs L. Blythe, Wharams Barn, Congleton Rd. 01477 500545
SECRETARY		Mrs L Goodbrand, Holly Bush Farm. 01477 500219.
SERVICES	9.30 am	1st Sunday Family Communion 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th Sundays Holy Communion
VILLAGE HALL		Mrs A. Bracegirdle. 01477 500342

CHURCH KEYS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

St MARY'S CHURCH, ASTBURY

RECTOR Rev Jonathan D.M. Sharples. Astbury Rectory. 01260 272625

CHURCHWARDEN EMERITUS Mr G. Taylor
CHURCHWARDENS Mr R. Moore, Trap House Farm, Congleton Road, Smallwood.
01477 500539
Mrs J. Moore, Trap House Farm, Congleton Road, Smallwood.
01477 500539

SERVICES	8.00 am	every Sunday	Holy Communion	BCP
	9.00 am	1st Sunday	Morning Prayer	BCP
	11.00 am	every Sunday except 1st	Junior Church	
	11.00 am	1st Sunday	Family Communion	CW
		2nd & 5th Sundays	Morning Prayer	CW
		3rd & 4th Sundays	Holy Communion	CW
	6.30 pm	1st Sunday	Choral Evensong	BCP
		2nd Sunday	Sung Eucharist	BCP
		3rd, 4th & 5th Sundays	Evensong	BCP

Services of Holy Baptism & Holy Matrimony by arrangement with the Rector

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Hon. Vice Chairman Mr A. McCormick, 81 Padgbury Lane. 01260 274567
Hon. Secretary Mr W. Ball
Hon. Treasurer Mrs S. Blakeman, 3 Astbury Marsh. 01260 280067
DEANERY SYNOD Mr A. McCormick, Mr S. Moore, Mr W. Ball
ELECTED PCC MEMBERS Mr G. Allen, Mrs S. Blakeman, Mrs S. Brown, Mr G. Dale,
Mrs S. Drage, Mrs J. Follett, Mrs C. Goodwin, Mr F. Griffiths,
Mr I. Pennington, Mr P. Powell, Mr H. Prince, Mr C. Shone,
Mr G. Taylor., Mr R. Wright
CO-OPTED PCC MEMBER Mrs J. Wagstaffe

SIDSEMEMEN see ASTBURY ROTAS, next page
BELL RINGERS TOWER CAPTAIN
CHILDREN'S SOCIETY Mrs S. Blakeman
ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER Mr H. Prince, 34 Falmouth Road. 01260 274935
FLOWERS Mrs B. Cook. 01260 290194
JUNIOR CHURCH Mrs J. Goodwin, Mrs J. Follett, Mrs M. Cheetham
PARISH NEWS EDITOR Mr W. Ball
PARISH NEWS FINANCE Mr A. McCormick
ORGANIST Mrs S. Drage
VILLAGE HALL BOOKING Mrs T. Meakin, 01260 295104

ASTBURY ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL, School Lane, CW12 4RG.

Head Teacher Mrs J. Wagstaffe. 01260 272528
Chairman of Governors Mr A. McCormick. 01260 274567

WEBSITE www.astburychurch.co.uk

CHURCH KEYS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS AND Mr BALL

Astbury Church bellringers meet to practise every Wednesday evening
between 8.00 and 9.00 pm.

Astbury Church choir meets to practise every Friday evening
between 7.30 and 8.30 pm.

Trailblazers, a group for young people aged 10 - 14 years, meet once a month on
Sundays between 7.00 and 8.30 pm at Astbury Rectory. Contact the Rector on 01260
272625 or Chris on 01260 297054.

ASTBURY ROTAS

	8.00am	11.00am	6.30pm
January	31stx C. Shone	R. Moore R. Wright	E. Cartlidge P. Powell
February	7th J. Nadin	R. Moore G. Dale	N. Alcock F. Davenport
	14th H. Prince	F. Griffiths E. Riches	S. Blakeman C. Bloor
	21stx A. McCormick	R. Moore R. Wright	E. Cartlidge P. Powell
	28th C. Shone	R. Moore G. Dale	N. Alcock F. Davenport
March	7th J. Nadin	F. Griffiths E. Riches	S. Blakeman C. Bloor

At the 11.00 am Communion service, Mr Griffiths administers the chalice
on the 1st Sunday, Mrs Blakeman on the 3rd and Mrs Cook on the 4th.

CLEANING ROTAS

February	5th B. Sutton, D. Cotton
	12th C. Garside, P. Taylor
	19th R. Birchall, J. Barlow
	26th J. Nadin, T. Morgan
March	5th S. Blakeman, J. Moore
	12th W. Prince, S. Stuffins
	19th M. Pennington, I. Pennington
	26th TBA

BRASS ROTAS

February 16th C. Brooks, M. Pennington, K. Wainwright
 March 9th J. Goodwin, D. Hull, D. Stuart

FROM THE REGISTERS

		<i>Service Attendances</i>			
		8.00	9.00	11.00	6.30
December	20th	10	-	24	144
	24th	-	-	71 (5.30)	138 (11.30)
	25th	13	-		
	27th	11	-	27	29
January	3rd	6	-	17	23
	10th	8	-	27	?
	17th	18	-	41	40

Holy Matrimony

November 21st xJonathan Tweats & Rebecca Louise Middleton
 December 24th xDavid George Ball & Lella Rosanne Judd

Burial of the Dead

January 12th xCyril Leigh 82
 January 19th xJean Sheratt 78
 January 22nd xAlfred Stubbs 87
 January 26th xJoyce Cartlidge 83 ashes

JOINT PARISHES CALENDAR FOR THE COMING WEEKS

JANUARY

Sun 31stxSEPTUAGESIMA

8.00amAstbury	<i>Parish News</i> published today
9.30amSmallwood	Holy Communion
11.00amAstbury	Holy Communion
6.30pmAstbury	Morning Prayer
	Evensong

FEBRUARY

Wed 3rd 7.30pmAstbury Women's Institute

Sat 6th 5.00pmAstbury Holy Matrimony

Sun 7thxSEXAGESIMA

8.00amAstbury	Holy Communion
9.00amAstbury	Morning Prayer
9.30amSmallwood	Holy Communion
11.00amAstbury	Family Service with Holy Baptism
6.30pmAstbury	Evensong

Sun 14thxQUINQUAGESIMA

8.00amAstbury	Holy Communion
9.30amSmallwood	Family Service
11.00amAstbury	Morning Prayer
6.30pmAstbury	Sung Eucharist

Tues 16thxSHROVE TUESDAY

7.00pmAstbury Pancake Evening

Wed 17thxASH WEDNESDAY

7.30pmAstbury Holy Communion
with Imposition of Ashes
Ladies' Fellowship

Fri 19th *Parish News* Copy date

Sat 20th 12.00noon Astbury Holy Matrimony

Sun 21stxLENT I

8.00amAstbury	Holy Communion
9.30amSmallwood	Holy Communion
11.00amAstbury	Holy Communion
12.30pmAstbury	Holy Baptism
6.30pmAstbury	Evensong

Joint Parishes Calendar, continued

FEBRUARY

Sun 28thxLENT II

8.00amAstbury
9.30amSmallwood
11.00amAstbury
6.30pmAstbury

Parish News published today
Holy Communion
Holy Communion
Holy Communion
Evensong

MARCH

Mon 1st 7.30pmAstbury
Wed 3rd 7.30pmAstbury
Fri 5th 10.30amBuglawton
Sat 6th 7.30pmAstbury

PCC Standing Committee
Women's Institute
Women's World Day of Prayer
Blue Bell Steel Band

Sun 7thxLENT III

8.00amAstbury
9.00amAstbury
9.30amSmallwood
11.00amAstbury
6.30pmAstbury

Holy Communion
Morning Prayer
Holy Communion
Family Service
Evensong





Parish News Publication & Copy Dates 2010-2011

- The April issue will be published on 19th March
Last Date for material 28th March
 - The May issue will be published on 25th April
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 - The June issue will be published on 30th May
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 - The July issue will be published on 27th June
Last Date for material 18th June
 - The August issue will be published on 25th July
Last Date for material 16th July
 - The September issue will be published on 29th August
Last Date for material 20th August
 - The October issue will be published on 26th September
Last Date for material 17th September
 - The November issue will be published on 31st October
Last Date for material 22nd October
 - The December issue will be published on 28th November
Last Date for material 19th November
 - The January **2011** issue will be published on 25th December
Last Date for material 17th December
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ASTBURY & SMALLWOOD PARISH NEWS

Edited by Mr W. Ball

Cover Drawings of St Mary's Church, Astbury, St John's Church, Smallwood
and All Saints' Chapel of Ease, Somerford © Marie McCormick

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