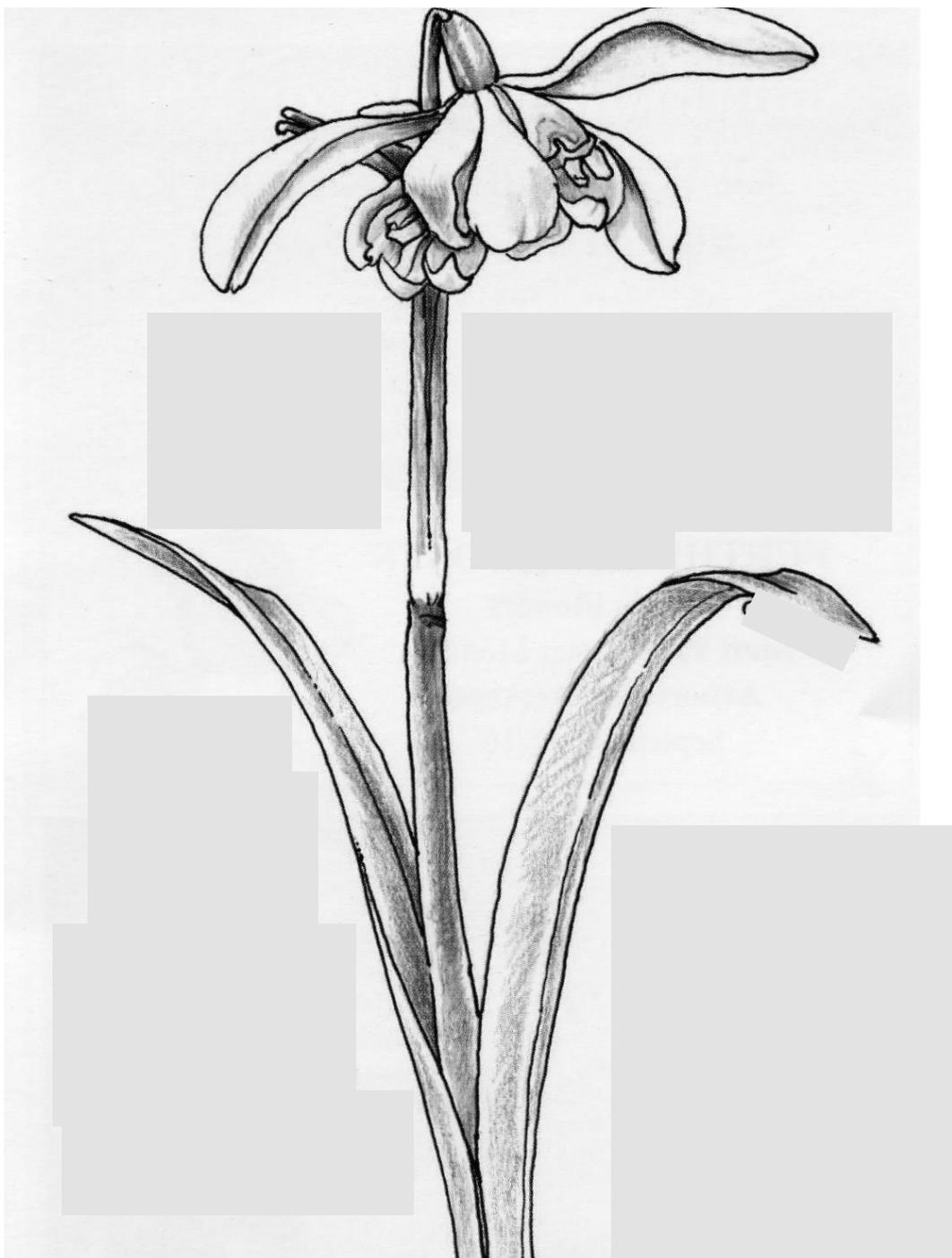


The Villager

A magazine for Avening, Cherington and Nags Head

February 2007

50p



Who to Contact
Parish Priest: The Reverend Celia Carter
Tel: 01453 832716 Fax: 01453 834885

AVENING:

CHURCHWARDENS	Paul Brown	01453 835983
	Stephanie Hamilton	01453 834910
LAY READER	Derrick Pierce	01453 835090
SACRISTAN	Gill Parsons	01453 832247
PCC SECRETARY	Margaret Barton	01453 835541
PCC TREASURER	Peter Lindesay	01453 834402
ORGANIST	Stuart Walkley	01453 757784
FLOWER TEAM	Gill Parsons	01453 832247

CHERINGTON:

CHURCHWARDENS	Beryl Milsom	01285 841248
	John Bate-Williams	01666 503544
SACRISTAN	Beryl Milsom	01285 841248
PCC SECRETARY	Elizabeth Workman	01285 841294
PCC TREASURER	Richard Lippiat	01666 502238
ORGANIST	Elizabeth Workman	01285 841294
	Beryl Milsom	01285 841248
FLOWER TEAM	Elizabeth Workman	01285 841294

VILLAGER MAGAZINE

EDITOR Kathleen Lindesay 01453 834402
Court Lodge, Avening GL8 8NX
e mail villager@lindesay.demon.co.uk

DEADLINE FOR COPY 20th of each month

The Parish Letter

When I last wrote we were all looking forward to Christmas....and now, towards the end of this month the season of Lent begins and we start to prepare for Easter.

In the weeks before we celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord, the Church encourages us to look at to ourselves and reflect on the direction in which our lives are going. We are fortunate indeed if there is not something within ourselves that we wish were otherwise, and some aspects of our lives which we know we could change for the better.

It is easy enough to push such thoughts to one side, but when we do, we miss the opportunity to start things anew, which is the great invitation of Easter.

A New Year, another Spring and the Hope of new beginnings.

It is a challenge, but to live life to the full is to move forward in expectation and hope.

Rev Celia

THE HEALING MINISTRY

A compelling part of Christian Ministry is to pray for healing in the name of Jesus Christ.

‘Healing’ in its widest sense of body, soul and mind....‘a return to wholeness’ a restoring of peace to the mind, a lifting of depression and dispelling of anxiety.....healing of the body.

A healing of relationships and the opportunity to pray for forgiveness for ourselves and for others.

Lent is a good time for such prayer.

A time to open ourselves to the healing power of God.

There will be a service of quietness, music and prayer on March 23rd at 7pm, where both general prayers for healing will be offered and there will be the opportunity for individuals to come forward for the laying on of hands, either for themselves, or for others.

I hope that you will feel able to come, whether or not you are accustomed to church or from whatever denomination and tradition, for we all have a common need for healing and wholeness.

Rev. Celia

LENT ACTIVITIES & MEETINGS

ASH WEDNESDAY: February 21st at 7 pm Holy Communion
in Holy Cross Church, Avening

In addition to our regular Lent meetings with lead Bible study and prayer, there will be two evenings of 'debate with supper' for those who consider themselves "enquirers" and are interested to know more of the Christian Faith.

MEETINGS

Wednesday 28th February: 7.30pm 70 Sandford Leaze
(by kind permission of Mr and Mrs Derrick Pierce)

Venues to be published next month for
March 7th, March 14th, March 28th

DEBATING EVENINGS WITH SUPPER

Friday March 2nd and Friday March 16th
7pm-9.30pm @ Avening Park

(Baby sitting Service: Carry cots at the house. Older children at The Farmery, where there will be several carers).

A Message from the Dean of Gloucester

The Very Reverend Nicholas Bury

This is extracted from the current edition of Our Diocese, and is available on line at www.glosdioc.org.uk

What would I bring him, poor as I am?

There were more people worshipping in the cathedral this Christmas than I have known in my ten years here – perhaps 4,000 people praising God over three days. And that makes a Dean rather pleased with himself.

Have we finally turned a corner? But are numbers of people the present we would bring our King at Epiphanytide? I think Jesus Christ's real concern is not so much how many people worship in our churches but whether the Christian message that all people are loved by God and that the response to that is to love God and all others is getting through. Are there any signs of that?

Bombs and Blair. After the utterly horrific debacle of Iraq the signs are that many more people will protest at the idea of another war. Opposition to such wars has greatly increased and the destruction of so many innocent people has convinced many that bombing is not the right way to rid the world of evil regimes.

Bananas and fairtrade. People have become much more concerned about who produces our food and that the poorest producers should not be exploited. One tiny example – Sainsbury's will only sell fair-trade bananas from now on.

Polar bears and climate change – caring for God's earth has become very important to most people and the plight of the polar bear may eventually bring the United States government to take the issue seriously. 74% of people in this country said last year that when they vote next time they will take climate change into account.

And finally, real hope for the poorest of the poor. British scientists have made a brilliant breakthrough and found a simple way of detecting TB early – and so reducing dramatically one of the biggest scourges of the very poorest people in the world.

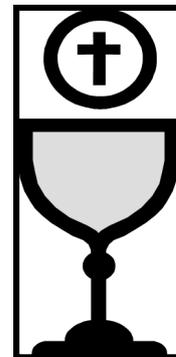
Straws in the wind or golden presents for a king? I pray the latter.

Happy Epiphany-tide!

Nick Bury

Church Duties:

AVENING



Date	Sidespersons	Chalice Assistant
Feb 4 th	C Boddam-Whettam / R Evershed	D Pierce
Feb 11 th	G Buchanan / S Hamilton	R Coates
Feb 18 th	J Pargetter/ P Brown	S Uzzell
Feb 25 th	K Lindesay / H Graham-Munro	P Lindesay
March 4 th	J Bird / S Hamilton	P Brown

CHURCH FLOODLIGHTING

Avening Church was floodlit in December/January :

- December 14th In memory of Wilson Nigel Hinder, from his son-in-law, Edith and family, and Cynthia.
- December 28th In loving memory of Frank Ind on his birthday, from his wife, Pat
- December 30th In loving memory of Sidney Swatton on this his birthday, from Jan, Simon and Judith

If you would like to have the church floodlit to commemorate a loved one or to celebrate a special event, please contact:

Paul Brown 01453 835983

The cost is £5.00 for 2 hours

SERVICES IN AVENING & CHERINGTON

Day/Date	Church	Time	Service
SUNDAY 4th February	Avening	8 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
<i>4th Sunday after Epiphany</i>	Cherington	9.30 am	Holy Communion (BCW)
	Avening	11 am	Holy Communion (BCW) & Sunday School
SUNDAY 11th February	Avening	8 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
<i>5th Sunday after Epiphany</i>	Cherington	9.30 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	Avening	11 am	Holy Communion (BCW) & Sunday School
SUNDAY 18th February	Avening	8 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
<i>6th Sunday after Epiphany</i>	Cherington	9.30 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	Avening	11 am	Holy Communion (BCW) & Sunday School
Wednesday February 21st ASH WEDNESDAY	Avening	7 pm	Holy Communion
SUNDAY 25th February	Avening	8 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
<i>1st Sunday in Lent</i>	Cherington	9.30 am	Holy Communion (BCW)
	Avening	11 am	Holy Communion (BCW) & Sunday School
SUNDAY 4th March	Avening	8 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
<i>2nd Sunday in Lent</i>	Cherington	9.30 am	Holy Communion (BCP)
	Avening	11 am	Holy Communion (BCW) & Sunday School

On Remembrance Sunday, November the 13th 2006, Avening Church was pleased to welcome Bishop Peter Ball, formerly Bishop of Gloucester. His sermon was inspiring and several people have asked to have it reproduced in the magazine. It will also be of interest to those who were not at this service.

I feel greatly honoured to be with you on Remembrance Sunday. Thank you very much and especially because some of you will have heroic war records in fierce combat. I kneel to you in gratitude.

One of the marks of a good military leader is that he weeps. Not when he or she is wounded or when death threatens but when his own lowly men are killed in battle. He has loved them and they are the often forgotten spoils of war. So let us today, in giving thanks for noble leadership, also remember the humble, countless ordinary men and women.

Yes indeed, but before I talk of them may I mention other things, which we reverently and gratefully celebrate on Remembrance Sunday. There is the wonder that we are still a free country, unfettered by cruel dictatorship. I pray that it may last. Again we must remember those who were left behind when their loved ones were snatched away – that terrible letter, that simply said that someone was missing, presumed dead, read with trembling hands by a mother or an aching-hearted lover. And if it be your Christian style, and it's very much mine, let us still offer their souls to our Saviour – our Redeemer: especially those recently killed in Iraq or Afghanistan. That they may rest in the peace of Christ's embrace.

But chiefly today may I concentrate on the ordinary: the unknown, the common fodder of war. They are in fact the agents of miracles. The exact equivalent of the seemingly insignificant in the Gospels, who were the agents of the Lord's miracles – that lad who produced the five loaves at the feeding of the five thousand. That shining face – “ I've got some Sir” - has receded back into the unknown of history. But he was the provider for that great miracle which revealed Christ as Saviour. Or watch the water-bearers at the marriage feast at Cana in Galilee, splashing up from the well with their full pots. Who knows their names now and the mightiness of their stature? But they were

those who fetched the sparkling liquid from which rich wine was made and Christ's glory first shone forth. Again, who knows the names of those strange shadow men who showed the way to the room of the Last Supper. What an everlasting miracle arose from there. Yes, all these came out of the side streets of history, to minister to miracle.

Oh! remember them, remember them. There was a young Bob, who perhaps had been a cowman up at Shipton Moyne, and whose young corpse became food for the rats of France in 1916. How I eagerly wait to shake his resurrection hand with gratitude. And there is that slightly posh gunner in the turret of his Wellington bomber, who still lies somewhere in the forest floor of Germany. We salute him gratefully today. What memorial sadly, my friends, has that frightened lad who was in the engine room of HMS Hood as it was blown to smithereens some sixty years ago? He has no memorial but it was because of all these that we sit here today. It is because of them that we laugh freely, love warmly and talk, even with our pleasant indiscretions.

The analogy with those Gospel players who flit on and off the stage of Salvation fits them totally. They were all humble agents of the salvation work of Christ, their Saviour. We salute and embrace them today. Their graves in Flanders filth, or forest fern, or ocean depths are still unknown. But the eyes of our Saviour saw them fall: sought them out, put them on His shoulders rejoicing, and took them into His love.

So now we praise God who gave them to us and we ask for grace that we too may be the humble agents of His Holy Gospel in our generation.

We salute you – the unknown. We love and revere you, who won for us our lives. Thank you.

Peter Ball

An Evening of Folk Classics with 'Classic Wind'

It was an event in the typical mode of Evening --- last minute panic on numbers, desperate routing of the faithful and the always to be expected breakdown of the heating. So, on a chilly night the well-wrapped and substantial audience for Classic Wind on the first Saturday in December huddled together in the Nave of our lovely Church. In the end this was a highly successful and enjoyable event raising nearly £400 for PCC funds.

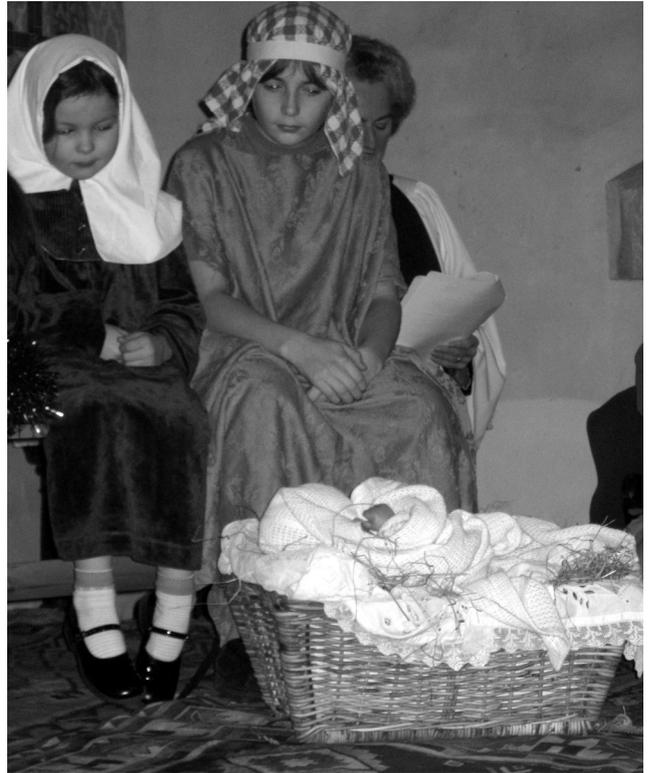
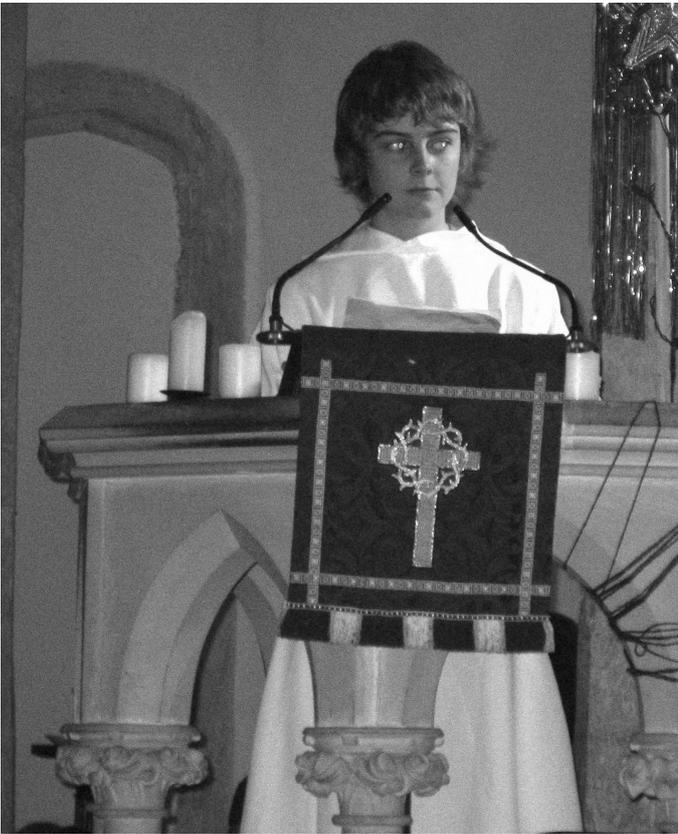
The concert was typical of the professionalism and warmth of Classic Wind. We are fortunate indeed to have a group of performers who are of concert standard and yet who bring accessibility and humour to their repertoire. The short introduction to the eight pieces placed the music in its context and gave an informal and informative mood to the evening. Peter Tomlinson makes it all look so easy, and such a pleasure to be there --- he is master of the occasion and his strength as a musician (principal flautist with the Cheltenham Symphony Orchestra) in love with his art is clear.

It is a fine assembly of Wind Instruments, with Flute (Peter Tomlinson), Oboe (Fiona Beck), Clarinet (Janet McKechnie), French Horn (Paul Tomlinson) and Bassoon (Peter Kerr). Each would have the propensity for stardom and individualism, but each knew their place in this quintet and came together as a bright, cheerful, and united team.

Within minutes the audience were tapping their feet, partly for warmth but mainly to the Sea Shanties of Malcolm Arnold, a rousing start indeed. Then a change of mood and scene to the lyrical, often wistful Russian Folk Dances of Lladov. No sooner had we transported ourselves to the Steppes than we were whisked to the music of Puccini and finally in the first half to the breezy music of Paul Patterson his compilation "Westerly Winds".

In the second half of the concert the dominant theme was the music of Gwyn Parry-Jones a post-war musician of considerable range and ability. First an interpretation of the elements, suited very much to the evening, in "Wind and Sea" then more familiar music in a

**CHRISTMAS EVE 2006
CRIB SERVICE at AVENING**





A real baby (girl) is placed in the crib by her mother



Children bringing their gifts for those with special needs



FOREVER YOUNG ~ CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Christmas lunch was held at Avening Social club on December 20th.

Christine, Jean and Lynn all received gifts of chocolates and flowers in appreciation of their work over the last seven months.



Anyone over the age of 60 is very welcome to come along to lunch at the Social Club on the first Wednesday of every month. Ring 01453 833246 to book your meal.

Maureen Stone



CAN YOU HELP?

The following message was received from a person who is seeking help in tracing her family history in this area.

Hello,

I came up to Avening in March of last year to see if I could find any information regarding my Grandmother who was born in the Nags Head on the 19th June 1904. Her name was Magaret Helen Strange and her parents were called Henry Daniel Strange and the mother was Annie Poyner.

My mother, Magaret Elizabeth Dixey, who later married a Reay, died when I was fourteen years of age in 1964. I am trying to do the family tree, so to speak.

I visited the local church and picked up your magazine and thought as you the address of someone or an organisation in your area that I might be able to contact who could help me in my research.

It is a beautiful area and I can now understand why my family always enjoy the countryside so much. By coincidence my partner is called Poulton and the church has a plaque in it with Thomas Poulton on it. That is my partner's second name and his nephew also; how weird if his family and my ancestors were knowledgeable about each other all those years ago. Although thinking about it, the Poultons must have had money and my ancestors were pub landlords – so maybe not!

Anyway I hope you do not mind the fact that I have emailed you and if you could assist me I would appreciate your help, I thank you in anticipation.

Jillian Hills

My email address is: tonypoulton@btinternet.com
Telephone number: 01268 655008 (that is in Essex)

If any reader can supply me with information relating to this family, I would be pleased to pass it on to Jillian Hills. Editor.



TO ALL CUSTOMERS OF AVENING POST OFFICE POST OFFICE CLOSURES

I am regularly being asked what the future is for Avening Post Office, will it remain open?

The only answer that I can truthfully give is that I do not know. BUT there are some things that you can all do to help ensure that it stays open and these include:-

- 1) When your house insurance is due for renewal let us quote you. It will not cost you a penny but could save you hundreds of pounds.
- 2) Before taking out holiday insurance with your tour operator or travel agent give us a try it might give you some extra spending money (and don't forget we can get most currencies usually within 24-48 hours and at a good exchange rate)
- 3) Let us arrange a quote for your next years car insurance (I recently saved myself £150 on car insurance by changing to the post office)
- 4) Make use of the new Post Office instant savings account (extremely good interest rates)
- 5) Why not apply for a Post Office credit card even if you never use it. (Although with the terms on offer it is a good bet).

These are only a few of the less well known products available from the POST OFFICE and are in addition to all of the usual things like buying stamps, paying bills, buying postal orders, and do not forget we can now offer cash withdrawals from most banks either at the counter or via our new cash dispenser (including Nat West and HSBC) there is no charge to you for these services.

ANY OR ALL OF THESE THINGS WILL HELP TO KEEP YOUR POST OFFICE OPEN BUT PLEASE REMEMBER IF YOU GO "ON LINE" OR VIA THE TELEPHONE PLEASE QUOTE OUR REFERENCE NUMBER WHICH IS 2885239.

I hope that this may help to explain the current situation to everyone and look forward to seeing you in the Post Office in the near future.

Derrick Pierce

HOME WORDS – Avening parish magazine, April 1889

*Last year there some extracts were published in the Villager from an Avening parish magazine dated 1889. In response to requests from readers, I am including a further extract from this magazine. With grateful thanks to Georgie Edmonds and Jim Hill for contributing this. The following account describes the installation of the new east window of Avening Church and some local gossip!
It is written by the Rector, the Rev. F de Paravicini.*

Here I must say a few words about our venerable church. Our architect, Mr H R Carpenter, accompanied by Sir Henry Dryden Bart., visited the church on August 13th and 14th and made a thorough inspection of all its old and deeply interesting features, some of which require still further inspection, consideration and research for their elucidation. Mr Carpenter paid special attention to the beautiful trefoil stonework in the east window of the chancel, lately so carefully and admirably carved and erected by Mr Thomas Essex, in preparation for the insertion therein of the beautiful painted glass executed by Messrs. Clayton & Bell on Mr Carpenter's design.

The work of this noble window will be completed before November 7th, on which day it is proposed to hold the opening service in the church.

As an instance of the kindly feeling entertained by the labouring and poorer classes towards their former employers and kind neighbours, that on the recent marriage of Miss Emily Jane Wigmore of this parish with Mr Forrester, the villagers presented them with a handsome marble chimney timepiece and a handsome set of tea service.

Naturally the ringers of the church bells proposed to express their own, with their good neighbours, good wishes for a member of the oldest resident family in the parish, whom they all respected, by a welcome and joyous peal of the church bells on the occasion of her wedding. But - can you believe it! - an order went forth that the bells should not be rung. That order, however, proceeded from one who was powerless to enforce it. He had no authority. He may intimidate by threats his own working men who were bellringers and so prevent them from ringing the bells but he could not deprive the

Rector of his legitimate and sole authority over the church bells, and the Rector cheerfully consented, on so auspicious occasion, to the pealing of bells of the church within whose sacred walls a Christian marriage had just been celebrated.

Time and space oblige me to conclude hastily.

Yours faithfully,
F De Paravicini.

See next month's Villager for more news from the Rev. De Paravicini.

CENTRAL HEATING FUEL OIL

Save money on your heating bills!!

by joining the 'AVENING DROP'

Contact	Frances Lindley
Phone	01453 835115
Email	flindly4@aol.com

A 'MULTIDROP' consists of several households grouping up to achieve the best oil price for delivery to a particular area. The September 'drop' consisted of 9 households for 9000 litres.

Minimum delivery to any single address is 500 litres.

This service is not available to those with a regular top-up a/c.

I shall check oil prices and put the order in for the best offer, considering such things as delivery date, no extra fee for credit card payments, willingness of supplier to deal with multi-drops, use of small tanker, long hose etc.

Please contact me if you are interested in possibly joining this scheme. The more participants, the greater the saving.

.....A QUIZ

in aid of the installation of a new heating system for Cherington Church was conducted recently. Quiz sheets were sold at £1 each and written answers submitted. The questions and correct answers are given below:

1. Bogus follows a shout.....Hailsham
2. Sounds like you play here with a queuePoole
3. Take 'L' from a nut and add it to a teamCrewkerne
4. Replace the 'K' in a large blunt needle with an 'M'
Bodmin
5. The second half usually goes under the first half
Bridgewater
6. Part of a face follows a Scottish manMonmouth
7. Protect the cod?.....Fishguard
8. A very religious skullHolyhead
9. An indefinite article follows a head coveringWigan
10. Do you find cakes of mint here?.....Kendal
11. A type of sticking follows a vehicleCarlisle
12. You also find this in EgyptAlexandria
13. Essential for a candle.....Wick
14. Sounds like a number followed by a long way.....
Forfar
15. Rhymes with a bunk on a shipPerth
16. A flower (or fish) follows begin to move.....Stirling
17. Will you find Guardsmen here?.....Coldstream
18. Stop then blow through your lips.....Haltwhistle
19. Add a weight to my sweetheart.....Darlington
20. Formerly known for its green woollen cloth.....
Lincoln
21. Sounds like an unpleasant old woman after neither.....
Norwich
22. Inter a holy man (4.2.7).....Bury St.Edmunds
23. A fox joined to a Spanish title.....Basildon
24. Does a tree cross here?.....Ashford
25. This rhymes with a type of snake.....Battle

Of the entries submitted, 43 were all correct so a draw took place.

The lucky winner is Mrs J Turner of Tetbury, who receives a family ticket to visit Berkeley Castle.

Beryl Milsom thanks to all who bought the quiz and all who helped to sell it.

The Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (GRCC)

has organised an event
at Maisemore Village Hall
on Thursday February 15th 2007
from 6pm until 7.30pm

to discuss the DTI's consultation on post office closures.

It will provide an opportunity to discuss the document and formulate a collective response from rural Gloucestershire.

For further information and to book your place,
please contact Naomi McMahon on
01452 528491 or email at naomim@grcc.org.uk

AVENING FOREVER YOUNG

FOR THE OVER 60's

would like to invite anyone interested to

BINGO & AFTERNOON TEA

at the Social Club

1.30 – 3.30 pm

On the following dates:

(3rd Wednesday in every month)

February 21st : March 21st

April 18th: May 16th

If you are interested, please contact:

Chris Howell 01453 833246

Lyn Uzell 01453 835674

MINCHINHAMPTON W.E.A

- Two new courses for the Spring term 2007
- Held at the Baptist Centre, Tetbury street, Minchinhampton

AMERICA FROM KENNEDY TO CLINTON

- Tutor: Dr Geoffrey Matthews
- Commencing Wednesday 17th January 2007
- 2.30 pm – 4.00 pm
- 6 weekly sessions £30

OPERA AND HOW TO ENJOY IT

- Tutor: Tim Porter
- Commencing Monday 5th February
- 10.30 am – 12 noon
- 6 weekly sessions £30

■ For further information contact: Mrs Ann Hoskin 01453 882597



Women's
Institute

Avening WI

The New Year has begun with membership going up to 31 and for this month's meeting we had visitors as well. What a great start!

We will be awarding a bursary of £150 for Denman College. Names have been taken and

the draw will be in February.. A friendly skittles match has been arranged and this will be good practice for the County skittles competition. We are still waiting for details of the Echo Quiz.

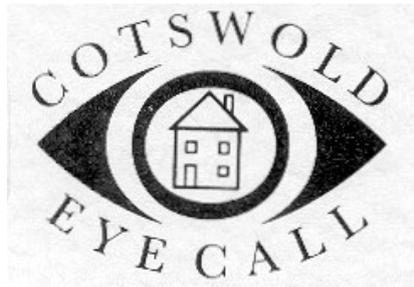
The Spring Council meeting at Cheltenham Town Hall is on March 21st. The two main speakers are Chris Beardshaw of 'The Flying Gardener' programme and Ruth Fitzjohn from Gloucestershire NHS Primary Care Trust. Trips are being considered to Ironbridge in the spring and to Wisley in the summer.

Our speaker in January was Mr Peter Berry. His talk was entitled 'Sub Zero China, Train Travel'. He has three main passions – steam trains, photography and world-wide travel. He took us on a trip, illustrated with beautiful slides, to China, visiting the Gobi Desert and Inner Mongolia, where the temperature was -30° to -40° : not for the fainthearted! China has an abundance of coal, hence the use of steam trains but sadly even these have come to a grinding halt as China is hosting the next Olympics and it would not look good or modern to be using this type of train. It was an insight , not always pleasant, into the way people live in this vast, deserted but beautiful area. This was a truly compelling talk, one of many that he gives. I think we shall be seeing him again and hearing of another of his adventures.

The speaker for February 8th is Mr James Coe who will give a talk entitled 'Inside Downing Street'. Visitors are always welcome for a small donation. The competition is for a 'Most interesting souvenir of London'.

Wendy Eldridge

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Tel: 01453 887822

An Old Woman's Lament

They've brought you up-to-date, Lord, down at St Cecilia's.
They've pensioned off the organ and they're praising with guitars.
They've done it for the young ones - we want to draw them in,
But I do wish they could worship without making such a din,
For I'm growing rather deaf, Lord, and when there's all that noise
It gets so very hard, Lord, to hear your loving voice.

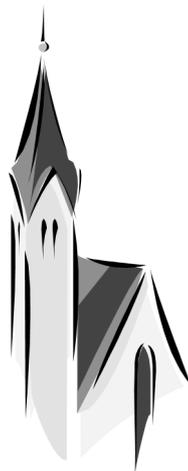
They've written brand new hymns, Lord, with tunes that I don't know
So I hardly ever sing now though I did love singing so.
They're very go-head, Lord, they're doing Series Three
But the words are not so beautiful as the others used to be.

They've modernised the Bible and the Lord's Prayer and the Creed
When the old ones were so perfect, they fulfilled my every need.
My mind's not quite so agile as it was some years ago
And I miss the age-old beauty of the words I used to know.

It's very clear to me, Lord, that I've overstayed my time,
I don't take change so kindly as I did when in my prime.
But it can't be very long now till I'm called to you above,
And I know I'll find you there, Lord, and glory in your love.

So till then I'll stick it out here, though it's not the same for me,
But while others call you 'You' Lord, do you mind if I say 'Thee'?

*By Mavis Clark
contributed by Jenny Voice*





Avening Playgroup

Happy New(ish) Year from all at Avening Playgroup.

Following a well earned rest, the Playgroup staff and committee members are busy welcoming new children and looking ahead to a new year of activities and fund-raising to continue to keep Playgroup going; and to improve it wherever possible.

We are now on the lookout for more people to join our small committee of loyal and friendly volunteers. You don't need to have children at playgroup – and we only meet about every 4-6 weeks. If you are interested in joining the committee and getting more involved in this vital village resource, please contact Debbie Brown at the number below.

There is a lot to report this month.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Thanks to all those people who made donations, helped out, and came along to support the bazaar which was again a great success. We raised over £600 to support Playgroup activities and continue to improve facilities for all our pre-school children.

WANT TO GET FIT FOR 2007?

Are there any keen cyclists in the village who would be willing to give up some time to raise funds for Playgroup? Two of our dads are organising a sponsored bike ride for the first weekend in March. We would love to get a good-sized group together to train for, and cycle a 25-mile circuit which can be done once, or, if you are really up for a challenge, more than once! If you are interested please contact Playgroup and leave your details or call Vicky Hulse on 01453 832097.

MORE GRANTS

Playgroup children will soon be enjoying using an indoor climbing frame (with safety mats); a new water tray, overalls and splash mats, thanks to grants received from the Gloucestershire Local Network Fund and the Rural Initiative Fund. Thanks very much to them for their support.

MOBILE PHONES

Upgraded to the latest and flashiest mobile phone model recently or got a new one for Christmas? Wondering what to do with your old phone/s? Please let us have your discarded phones – for every 50 we collect we get £75 for Playgroup. Call Playgroup and we will arrange to collect them from you.

TODDLER GROUP

We are sorry to report that due to lack of support, we have decided to close the Avening Toddler Group which met on Wednesdays between 1.15 and 3.15pm and was open to any parents/carers with children from 0 to school age. If you are interested in re-starting these sessions then we would be very pleased to hear from you. Please contact Playgroup on the number below – once we have enough interest, we will re-open.

Apologies for the 'deliberate' error in the last issue Playgroup article – it was of course the 27 October when we had our visit from The Princess Royal – not November!

For more information about Avening Playgroup please call 01453 832695 (weekday mornings).



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- A news item from Councillor Tony Slater
- You have probably noticed that **Avening roads** have had quite a bit of attention recently. While it has sometimes been a little inconvenient to have temporary traffic lights springing up, I am sure you will agree that having large pot holes and crumbling surfaces repaired was worth it.
- The work was carried out following great co-operation between Avening Parish Council and Gloucestershire Highways. Cllr Tony Slater prepared a report of the local roads needing most urgent attention, and then met with Gillian Portlock in September for a walk around the village to discuss them. Despite a very small budget Gillian was very supportive and subsequently arranged for teams to make the repairs. In addition, a number of larger scale projects have been identified and funding will be sought to progress them.
- Anyone can report potholes, damaged roads or street lighting faults simply by calling 08000 514514. An even easier method is to visit www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/pothole any time - 24 hours a day.

.....

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The Villager has a new advertiser this month.

Kevin Lea of **Oak Leaf Services** describes his business below:

I provide a reliable and professional handyman service specialising in small jobs that last between an hour and a day. I carry a range of tools with me and I am ideal for handling all those little jobs that never seem to get done, including handyman, maintenance and knife sharpening.

Some of the jobs I can do; assembling furniture and flat packs; putting up shelves, pictures and mirrors; fixing blinds and curtain rails; fitting smoke alarms; sticking doors and windows; repairing/replacing dripping taps, flush systems in toilets or ball valves; mending and fitting fencing and gates; painting decking; erecting sheds and greenhouses. Cleaning blocked guttering. My services are great for businesses, landlords and property agents.

Please call and I will arrange an appointment to meet with you to discuss your requirements and confirm the charges. I would be very interested to provide a regular service perhaps every fortnight or once a month to suit your requirements. Fixed hourly charges or by service offered.

Although small I care about the quality of service I offer. I am independent, reliable and committed to delivering excellent service at a competitive price to you. Based in Rodborough, Stroud, I provide services within the local area.

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KEVIN LEA

01453 762735

077408 54170

kevin.lea@virgin.net

www.oakleafservices.c

HEDGE LAYING - A DYING RURAL SKILL?

Local residents in Avening jumped at the chance to learn a dying rural skill on 16th December. The Parish Council had teamed up with the Royal Agricultural College in Cirencester to provide a skilled trainer for 8 people to learn how to lay a hedge in the traditional fashion.

The hedge on the boundary of the playing field had been getting a bit untidy and rather than just hack it with a mechanical trimmer the council investigated the possibility of employing a contractor to do the work, however as the price was prohibitive the Parish Clerk contacted the College who were pleased to assist. Following a notice in the village magazine all 8 places were snapped up and a date agreed. Vice Chair of the Parish Council Cllr Tony Slater said 'it was an ideal solution - saving money for our council tax payers, improving the look of the area and giving the opportunity for villagers to learn a new skill'.

The weather was kind and the work took place on a glorious sunny winter's day. Most of the people taking part were surprised at how hard it was to get a good result and at the sheer physical effort required, however looking at the completed stretch it has definitely been well worth the effort.

Trainer James Gillies from Veleg Ltd commented that a skilled operative should complete a chain (22 yards) a day, but the village team have a way to go before reaching that rate



Anyone interested in joining a future group should contact Tony Slater via the Parish Clerk or the Parish website <http://www.avening-pc.gov.uk/>.

Tony Slater



Avening Parish Council

Planning Applications December 2006

06/02726/FUL Rectory Cottage, Rectory Lane – erection of first floor extension. Members objected on the grounds that the proposed extension (due to its size) would be harmful to the character and appearance of the conservation area. Decision notice dated 20th December 2006 permits the development.

06/02940/FUL Transmitting Station, Tetbury Hill - installation of 1 x 0.3m dish antenna on existing tower. Members objected to the application on the grounds of the need for the proposed development, environmental considerations – namely the visual impact of the site and the effect on the adjacent conservation area, additional landscaping is necessary, and redundant structures should be removed. Members also objected on the basis of the health aspect.

06/02901/FUL Rusaven, 8 Mill Lane – erection of single storey side extension. Members had no objections to the application.

Decision Notices Received

Transmitting station, Tetbury Hill - installation of 1 x 0.3m dish antenna on the existing tower with a gas bottle enclosure, exhaust and duct – 13 November 2006 – permission granted.

The Beeches, High Street, Avening - two storey side extension – 16th November 2006 – permission granted.

Winterfold 23 West End Avening - replacement of existing bungalow and outbuilding with new house, parking barn and new access. Appeal Decision from Planning Inspectorate: appeal dismissed.

Village Hall

The parish council will be taking over the running of the village hall shortly. The council are keen to look to the future to make any necessary improvements/updates so that the hall can continue to be a focal point for the village, especially the school and current user groups. The council is exploring all options at the moment. A public consultation will be taking place through the next parish council newsletter.

Litter Bins

The parish council and Cotswold District Council will be installing three more litter bins in the village. Two at the playing fields and one near the garages at Sunground. There will also be an additional dog waste bin installed at the playing fields.



Rectory Lane

Cotswold District Council have asked residents at Rectory Lane to park considerately on refuse collection day (Thursdays) so that the SITA lorry can get along the lane to collect all of the household rubbish.

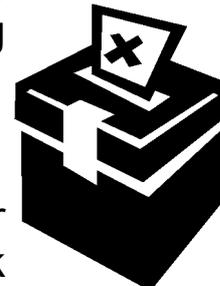
Local Council Elections 2007

Local elections take place on 3rd May 2007. If you are interested in becoming a councillor please come along to one of the parish council's meetings to see what the council does. There will be an exciting work programme for the year, guided by the village through the parish plan. It is a chance to make a difference and put your skills to good use in improving life in the village. For an informal discussion please contact the clerk or speak to one of the existing councillors.



Website www.avening-pc.gov.uk

If you are interested in placing a link to your organisation or business please contact the parish clerk for further information.



The Next Meeting of Avening Parish Council will be held on Thursday, 8th February 2007 In Avening Memorial Hall at 7.45pm (Planning at 7pm)

*Deborah Cook, Parish Clerk, 18 Martin Close, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 1XY Tel: 01285 656139
Email: parishclerk@avening-pc.gov.uk*

Cherington Parish Council

PLANNING APPLICATION

SITE: Grove Farm. Near Cherington

PROPOSAL: Alterations and extension to farmhouse.

Conversion of barns to ancillary residential use and staff/groom's accommodation and associated landscaping

APPLICATION: 06/03082/FUL

REF: CT. 2220/M

If you have any comments about the planning applications, please send them to : Cotswold District Council, Trinity Road, Cirencester GL7 1PX by 6th February.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Cherington Parish Council will next meet on Tuesday 6th February at The Old Rectory, Cherington. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Sue Russell, Clerk to Cherington Parish Council
31 Charlton Road, tetbury GL8 8DX
Tel/Fax: 01453 01666 503370

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Information supplied by Tetbury Tourist Information Centre

FEBRUARY 2007	Market Day every Wednesday morning
Feb 17-18	Dog Days at Westonbirt Arboretum. Contact 01666 880147 for more information.
MARCH 2007	Market Day every Wednesday morning
Mar 3	Didmarton Point to Point
Mar 23-25	Gatcombe Spring Novice Horse Trials www.britisheventing.com

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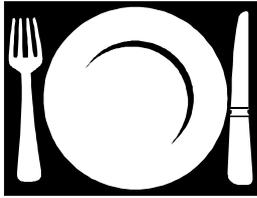
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Fridays. The dates in February are:

Friday February 2nd & 16th

The Green, Cherington

11.55 - 12.15

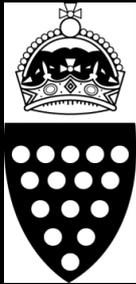
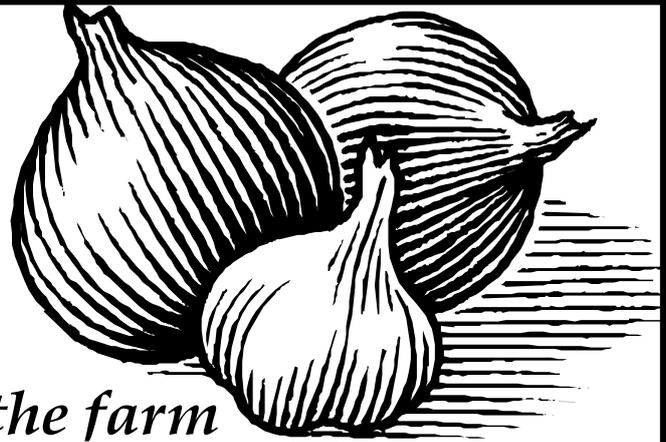


Useful Telephone Numbers

Avening Parish Council	Deborah Cook	01285 656139
Cherington Parish Council	Sue Russell	01666 503370
Cotswold District Councillor	Jim Parsons	01453 836596
Avening Sunday School	Debbie Brown	01453 835983
Avening Tower Captain	Andrew Lelliott	01453 835783
Avening Primary School	Diana Boulton	01453 833191
Avening Playgroup	Debbie Brown	01453 832695
		Home 835983
Avening Players	Julie Sharpe	01453 835565
A & C Cricket Club	Derrick Ind	01453 835752
Avening Silver Band	Jim Hill	01453 834438
Friends of Avening School	Nicola John	01453 833375
Cherington Reading Room	G Davies	01285 841318
Memorial Hall	Jon Green	01453 833048
Tennis @ Avening Park	Roger Lindley	01453 835115
Tetbury Hospital		01666 502336
Stroud Hospital		01453 562200
Avening Post Office		01453 832008
Women's Institute	Maisie Stanton	01453 834679
	Doreen Chesterman	01285 841346

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