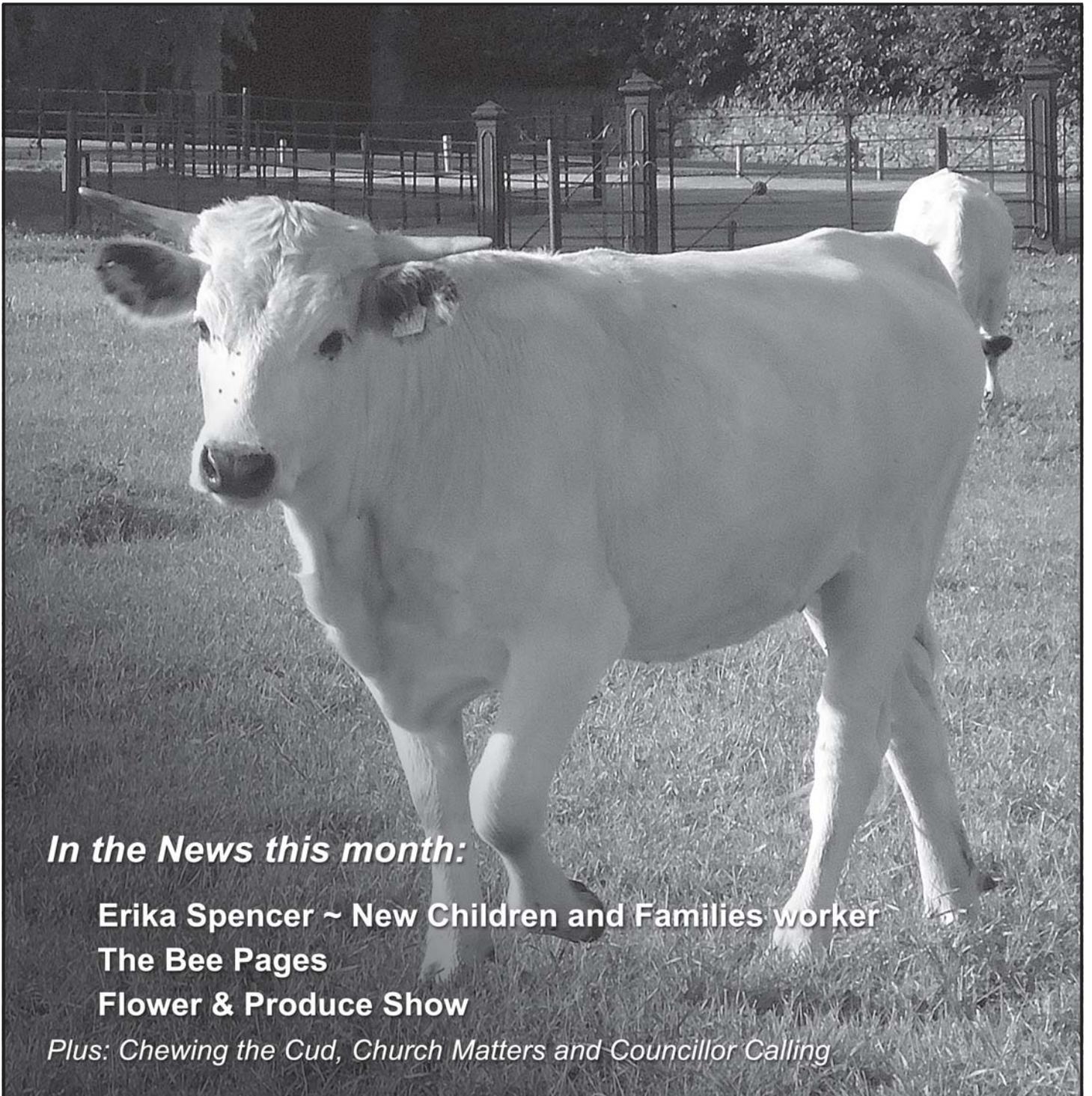


NORTH ASTON NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2011

No: 251



In the News this month:

Erika Spencer ~ New Children and Families worker

The Bee Pages

Flower & Produce Show

Plus: Chewing the Cud, Church Matters and Councillor Calling

NORTH ASTON NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2011, No: 251

Useful Contacts

North Aston News

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North Aston PCC

Clive Busby, Church Warden
Telephone: (01869) 338434
Email: casb@north-aston.com
Kildare Bourke-Borrowes, Churchwarden
Telephone: (01869) 340200
Email: k.bourkeborrowes@btinternet.com

North Aston Gardening Club

Chris Tuffrey, Chairman. See above.

North Aston Pet Alert

Please notify of any Firework Parties
Deirdre Oakley: Tel (01869) 340646
Also email: info@north-aston.co.uk

North Aston Farms

Telephone: (01869) 347865 or 347888
Email: jemtaylor@mac.com

North Aston Organics

Telephone: (01869) 347702
Email: northastonorganics@gmail.com

Nicholson Nurseries

Telephone: (01869) 340342
Email: office@nicholsons.gb.com

North Aston 100 Club

Norman West. Tel (01869) 340368

CDC Local Councillor

James Macnamara, Lower Heyford
Telephone: (01869) 340109
Email: cllr.james.macnamara@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

Thames Valley Police

Telephone: 08458 505 505

Out of Hours Doctor

Telephone: 08453 458 995

Upcoming Events

North Aston GC Flower & Produce Show

Saturday 3rd September, 2:00pm, The Green

North Aston Village Barbecue

Saturday 3rd September, 6:00pm, The Green

Coffee Morning

Weds 7th Sept. 10:30am-12:00pm. Old Bakery

Village Meeting

Thursday 15th September. 7:30pm, Old Bakery



CHAIRMAN Chewing the Cud

Time really flies when you are enjoying yourself, so please, please tell me where August has gone to. Still at least the weather has been quite good; the odd few days of rain have certainly helped the gardens.

The ballot for the village hall is drawing to a close. However, it was decided to extend the final date until Bank Holiday Monday. We wanted to give everyone the chance to have their say regarding this project, and it was difficult to get as many votes in as possible with people being away on holiday. The result will be given at the next Village Meeting on Thursday September 15th. We will also be discussing further the proposal to create a village plan for North Aston.

With the reduction of traffic through North Aston we have tried to get the kerbing completed. We had a very generous offer from Nicholsons to do the work but at the eleventh hour we were thwarted by health and safety. You need a licence for this and a licence for that, and it would seem you have to be qualified to put out traffic cones now. When speaking to Paul Wilson, who is the Highways Steward for Cherwell, he has suggested that we put our name forward towards community funding to complete the work. We have to make a contribution to the work required and the council pay the outstanding amount. We are now in the hat for this funding.

I have had details from the OCC regarding winter maintenance; they are going to give every Parish a one ton bag of salt and top up any grit bins. We currently do not have any grit bins, and while we have need for them, the village will have to pay for them. The cost will be in the region of £200 each, and we would then have to keep the bins topped up ourselves out of the one ton bag. We certainly could have done with them last winter.

I think it would be a good idea to have our own Emergency Plan which would be distributed to every household.

All this will be discussed at the next Village Meeting.

Do not forget the Village Flower & Produce Show on Saturday 3rd of September. When you submit your entries you will get details of times for placing your exhibits in the marquees.

I have only four months left as Chairman and I have already been told that I will miss the job. It is though very encouraging that there are people in the village willing to put themselves forward to take over.

See you all at the Flower Show.

Chris Tuffrey

You can call me by telephone on 07903 339155, send me an email: info@offac.co.uk, or just knock on the door at Gilmore's, The Green.

Next village meeting: September 15th, 7:30 pm, Old Bakery.

This Month's News

Due to the summer holidays this is an abbreviated issue of the *News*, and does not include a Village Hall update, a Letters page, the usual classified adverts, or a Traffic Monitor report. These elements of the *News* will return in October, although you can catch up on some of these topics at the Village Meeting on the 15th - see notice.

If you have any items for submission, please email them to: info@north-aston.co.uk

This Month's Birthdays

Matt Dale

Nicholas Oak Dale

Don Davidson

Camilla Durnin

Karen Hack (née Brown)

Sam Hatzigeorgiou

Clara Nicholson

and congratulations to

Peter & Jane Durnin

on their Wedding Anniversary!



Many Happy Returns to all the North Aston residents who celebrate birthdays this month. If you're not listed, or know someone who should be, please let us know.



100 Club



The lucky winners of the August Draw were:

First Prize (£10): Ian Pocock (#84)

Second Prize (£5): Mrs McCrory (#115)

If you are not currently a member and would like to join the North Aston 100 Club next year, please call Norman on 340368 to reserve your number.

You've got to be in it to win it!

Footpaths

As a result of a complaint made to Cherwell District Council about the overgrown state of some of the village footpaths, Sarah Aldous, the Rights of Way Field Officer for CDC Northeast, has advised the Village Meeting that the gates that (at the time of writing) create a length of enclosed pathway alongside the Park to North Aston Hall will have to be removed. Her full "adjudication" will be available at the Village Meeting on the 15th.

This is an unfortunate development, as it means that the secure, dog-proof stretch of path that some residents had worked hard to persuade Kevin Cash to include will now be lost. This also comes at a time when a regular mowing regime had already been arranged. Perhaps this is an occasion where speaking directly with neighbours in a spirit of community might have been a more effective course of action, rather than resorting to the heavy hand of writing letters to bureaucratic officials.

COFFEE MORNING

Come and join us for an informal get-together at the Bakery on the first Wednesday of each month. Tea, coffee and cakes will be served from 10:30am till 12:00 noon.

Everyone Welcome!

If you would like transport, or a helping hand across the road, please ring Gwen Short (01295 810762) or Beryl Greenwood (340122) to arrange.



We hope to see you on
Wednesday Sept 7th

NEXT VILLAGE MEETING

The next Village Meeting will take place on Thursday 15th September 2011 at 7.30pm in the Old Bakery.

Items for consideration include:

Update on the Village Plan for North Aston

Preparation for Harvest Supper

Result on Village Hall Ballot

Initial thoughts on Christmas events

A full agenda will be posted on the Village Noticeboard. If you have any items you would like discussed, please email brief details to: info@north-aston.co.uk.

Village Barbecue: 6:00pm Sat 3rd September

Don't miss the Village Barbecue on the Green after the Flower & Produce Show on Saturday evening. Bring your own food & drink - heat provided!

North Aston Gardening Club

Ahead of the Flower & Produce Show on 3rd September, there is not a lot to report this month.

Would all members please make themselves available to help set-up the Show on the evening of Friday 2nd September. Also, if there are any other willing volunteers, please do come along.

Do not forget entry forms must be in by Wednesday 31st August. See last month's News for full details . . .

Hope to see lots of you at the Show!

Chris Tuffrey

Announcement

Apologies are offered in advance for any inconvenience caused by a series of celebrations being staged at The Manor between September 1st and 3rd, including an evening of Live Music on Saturday September 3rd. Thank you for your understanding.

Flower & Produce Show

Saturday September 3rd
Starting at 2:00pm
North Aston Village Green

There will be a Village Barbecue on the Green in the evening starting at 6.00pm, please bring your own food and drink. Barbecues will be provided.

Exhibitors must live in the Parish of North Aston. An exception will be made for Sections E and F where the Grandchildren of resident Grandparents may enter these sections. See Entry Form for full details.

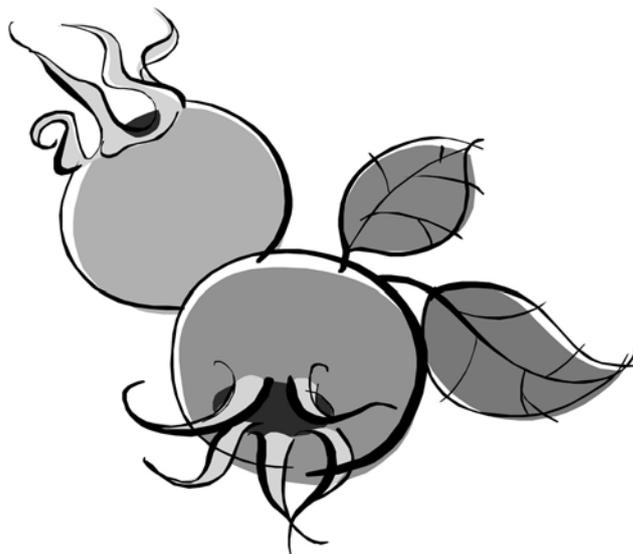
All entries must be in by the 31st August, Additional Schedules available from Chris Tuffrey, Gilmore, The Green, North Aston.

Village Barbecue: 6:00pm
Sat 3rd September

NICHOLSONS

Nicholson Nurseries is ready. Come in and see our new autumn stock from the beginning of September.

We look forward to seeing you soon.



Open weekdays 7.30am –4.00pm

North Aston, Bicester, Oxfordshire. 01869 340342 www.nicholsons.gb.com



The Church MATTERS



Erika Spencer is our new Children and Families worker



Erika, who lives at Home Farm Lane in Middle Aston with her daughter Daisy, was enthusiastically appointed to this position in the summer. She is someone who is already involved with Dr Radcliffe's, and has been a teaching assistant, has undertaken various voluntary work roles, and is altogether a very suitable person to be working with our smaller people and their families in the Benefice. We'll hear more from her soon; if you wish, you can contact her on: 01869 340 084 or at erikaspencher@orange.net.

Erika and Daisy at Buckingham Palace, left

Village Praise. Sunday 25th September 2011. 9:30 am.

Please come and join in this service where we sing all your favourite hymns. Bring the family too if you can, so we have lots of voices. If you would like a particular hymn sung, no problem - please call Clive (334 434), Beryl (340 122) or Kildare (340 200). Thank you. There will be refreshments afterwards.



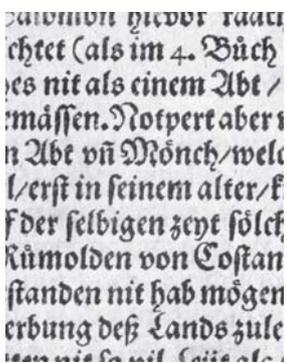
Ride+Stride 2011

Saturday 10th September. Join nearly 1,000 sponsored cyclists & walkers and visit as many churches as you can anywhere in Oxfordshire. It's a great day out, you are met in every church by delicious refreshments, and you raise money for a wonderful cause while you're having fun. Half the money comes to Saint Mary's and the other half to the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust (who help us from time to time). Last year £108,000 was raised. Get your Sponsorship Forms from Deidre Oakley, 14 The Green: 340646. (www.ohct.org.uk/bike)

Harvest Supper and Festival

Harvest Supper. Saturday October 1st ~ Harvest Festival. Sunday October 2nd

Any comments very welcome. Please email me, Kildare: k.bourkeborrowes@btinternet.com or tel: 340 200. If you wish you can also email Clive: casb@north-aston.com or tel: 338 434, or our priest Mark Clavier: mark.clavier@gmail.com or tel 349 267 | Any other member of the PCC will also be very happy to talk - see full list below.



Weekly Bible Study Group

Beginning Monday September 12th from 1:30-2:30 at the Rectory, Steeple Aston, and then every Monday at the same time. Everyone is welcome, and it's fine to just listen in.

A Pint with the Parson

The Gardiner Arms in Tackley at 7:30 on Wednesday September 14th.

Join Mark and some of the rest of us for A Pint with the Parson, which will now become a regular feature of our Benefice life, moving slowly from pub to pub. Come along and down one or two, and have a bit of chat and banter.



Any comments about the above are very welcome.

Please email Kildare: k.bourkeborrowes@btinternet.com (tel: 340200)
If you wish you can also email Clive: casb@north-aston.com (tel: 338434)
or our priest Mark Clavier: mark.clavier@gmail.com

Any other member of the PCC will also be very happy to talk, and they are: Bill Adams, Richard Bailey, Nick Bevan, Beryl Greenwood, Jenny Martin, Ted Short, Jeremy Taylor and Norman West.

**It's
your
Church**

Welcome back to

B E E PAGES

a new monthly forum

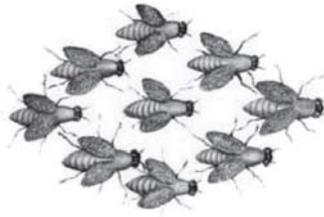
hosted by Miche & Kildare

Please email contributions to Miche

by the middle of the month

michefabrelewin@mac.com

call 0773404 9407



B E E PAGES

HONEYBEE GROUP is an informal gathering of villagers from North Aston. Our dedication is to learn more about the lifecycle & sustainable habitat of the honeybee to discover how North Aston village can offer:

- **sanctuary** from chemicals
- **landscapes** with bee-kind blossom
- **closer to nature beekeeping**

‘The bees know what they are doing: our job is to listen to them and provide the optimum conditions for their well-being.’ Phil Chandler

Miche writes: James Fearnley gave an illuminating talk at the Conference about the therapeutic value of propolis. I am inspired by the healing substances that are created by the honeybee. Honey is a miracle food - providing vital nourishment for the hive brood & adult bees during winter, as well as food for humans. It is also a powerful remedy for burns & cuts. So to hear James on propolis has been my latest discovery. Propolis is made within hives of the Western honeybee (*Apis mellifera*) which is found all over the globe. Known as the ‘defender of the city’, this dark sticky material is made with tree resins collected in spring and combined with wax to create a unique substance. Propolis plays a vital function in the health of the bee colony. It is used as a building material to strengthen comb and seal cracks, and for keeping out light and to maintain warmth in the hive. Similar to the role resin plays as part of the tree’s immune system, so propolis provides medicinal defences for the bees because of its anti-bacterial & antibiotic properties. It can be described as an externalised form of immune system for the beehive.

Kildare writes: Miche, Flora and I joined the UK’s first Natural Beekeeping Conference over near Worcester last month; what an inspiring occasion that was! A tented village in an utterly bee-friendly organic meadow by a river-bank; here over 120 bee-experts, -lovers and -keepers discussed in great detail numerous aspects of the challenges facing bees and bee-keepers, shared in the knowledge of some of the greatest experts in this field, dedicated themselves to keeping bees in the most natural and friendly ways possible and to do everything possible to allow bees to sustain their lives in a world that is severely challenged (thanks to us humans). It was organised by Friends of the Bees and the Natural Beekeeping Trust. (www.friendsofthebees.org) (www.naturalbeekeepingtrust.org).

In later **B E E PAGES** we’ll suggest a whole range of bee-friendly plants that you could grow. One thing I have done is acquire some young Manuka plants (*Leptospermum scorparium*) This big bushy shrub grows wild in the New Zealand alpine highlands; the seeds are collected there and raised in the UK. The pollen contains potent antifungal, antibacterial antiseptic and antiviral essential oils, and bees love it. Hopefully these will start flowering in a couple of years and we can raise more from seed and dot them around the village. We just HAVE to try to compensate for the wholesale loss of wild habitat and biodiversity that has been going on for the past 60 years. The signs are that North Aston is very willing to try to help do this.

HONEYBEE GROUP BEEHIVE VISITS



We are planning to visit Worton Organic Garden. David has kept bees for decades and he will talk us through his Steiner based hive which is for conservation and pollination purposes.

If you would like to join us please call Miche.

Next event:

The **HONEYBEE GROUP** has been invited to host a film; “Vanishing of the Bees”, during November 2011 with the North Aston Gardening Club - date and time to be confirmed.

Councillor Calling



Two new self-service initiatives to save some money start off this month's news, after which you may detect a pronounced green tinge to the Cherwell news....

Automated Systems

Kiosks have been installed in all CDC's offices to enable payment of council tax, business rates, car park season tickets, new recycling bins and even fines. If you've been sent an invoice, you'll need it for the machine to read your bar code, otherwise follow the instructions and, if baffled, there'll be staff around to help. This doesn't change the arrangements for paying at Post Offices and Paypoints, which remain unaffected. What it should do is to reduce queues and free more staff to deal with complicated queries – making life easier for everybody.

Bin Liners

Compostable bag dispensers have also been installed, to dish out rolls of the liners for those little brown kitchen food waste "caddies" at a cost of £2.50 for a roll of 30. These ones have been cunningly adapted from a design originally meant to sell pocket umbrellas!

Anything that makes food recycling easier is to be welcomed, as we still send 5,000 tons of the stuff to landfill in our green bills, incurring charges of £220,000 which could be well used elsewhere in these tough times and generating methane, one of the worst greenhouse gases, on decomposition. I learned this week that it's important never to use ordinary plastic bags in the brown bin as, in the composting process at Ardley, they prevent air getting to some "hot spots" and so generate foul odours which, if not careful, can plague our neighbours in Ardley and Middleton Stoney.

Setting an Example

Recycling isn't just for households, though. A survey of District Council offices put the councils themselves on the spot to see if they were leading by example or belonged to the "do as I say, not as I do" school of leadership. Happily to report, Cherwell came out with flying colours and has plans to do even better – so we are all in this together.

New Collections

Bin collections, changes to which I warned of last month, seem to have gone very smoothly with very few hiccups. Perhaps because we prepared for the worst, issued many warnings along with endless publicity, the biggest changes to collection days since the introduction of the blue bins themselves, seems to have gone off without a hitch – many thanks to all who were affected.

Permission Granted

Green news of a different sort is the granting of planning permission for the first "exemplar" site of the North West Bicester eco development. This will see about 400 houses, a third of them affordable, built up at the North of the intended area around Caversfield to demonstrate the concept. There will also be a community centre, nursery, primary school and pub to ensure this initial community can be self sustaining. What we now need is a master plan for the whole site to show how it all fits together and avoid the risk of piecemeal development.

House Conversions

Caversfield is also the site of a totally different project which came up at the same meeting – the conversion of the old RAF Bicester accommodation – last known as DLO Caversfield – into housing. The developers have had quite a task coping with a conservation area and many listed buildings because RAF Bicester, like Upper Heyford but from a different period, is considered precious by English Heritage so not a lot can be changed, yet a huge range of crumbling buildings, constructed for completely different purposes to very different standards, must be turned into desirable 21st century homes. Unfortunately, the cost of doing this has precluded any affordable housing, which I objected to but was outvoted. Despite that, it will be fascinating to watch this scheme unfold.

James Macnamara

Tel: 01869 340109

cllr.james.macnamara@cherwell-dc.gov.uk

NORTH ASTON ORGANICS

Vegetable Stall

Open Mon-Sat from 9.00am

In the car park behind the Old Bakery

- Wide variety of fresh seasonal organic veg at affordable prices
- Minimal packaging
- Zero food miles
- Supporting the local economy



Too busy?

Why not try our veggie box scheme - Fresh veg delivered to your door.

Email: northastonorganics@gmail.com

Tel: (01869) 347702



CHURCH SERVICES

PARISH WORSHIP IN SEPTEMBER 2011

STEEPLE ASTON

NORTH ASTON

TACKLEY

Sunday 4th - Trinity XI

9.30 am
Holy Communion
Fr Mark Clavier

8.00 am
BCP Holy Communion
Fr Mark Clavier

11.00 am
Holy Communion &
Children's Church
Fr Mark Clavier

6.00 pm
Evensong
Fr Robin Gibbons

Sunday 11th - Trinity XII

11.00 am
Holy Communion
& Children's Church
(Prayers for Healing)
Fr Mark Clavier

9.30 am
Family Service
Mr Nick Bevan

9.30 am
Holy Communion
The Rev'd Geoff Hunter

6.00 pm
Evensong
Fr Robin Gibbons
Fr Mark Clavier

Sunday 18th - Trinity XII

11.00 am
Holy Communion
Fr Mark Clavier

9.30 am
Holy Communion
Fr Mark Clavier

9.30 am
Holy Communion
The Rev'd Geoff Hunter

6.00 pm
Evensong
Fr Robin Gibbons
Fr Mark Clavier

Sunday 25th - Trinity XIV

11.00 am
Harvest Service
Fr Mark Clavier

9.30am
Village Praise
Mr Kildare Bourke-Borrowes

9.30 am
Holy Communion
Fr Mark Clavier

6.00 pm
Evensong
Fr Mark Clavier

Other Events this Month

Morning Prayer is said on Mondays at 9.15 am in North Aston, on Tuesdays at 9.15 am in Steeple Aston
and on Wednesdays at 9.15 am in Tackley

Wednesday 7th North Aston 10.30 am to noon ~ Coffee in the Old Bakehouse

Wednesday 21st Steeple Aston 10.30 am to noon ~ Coffee & Chat at *The White Lion*
