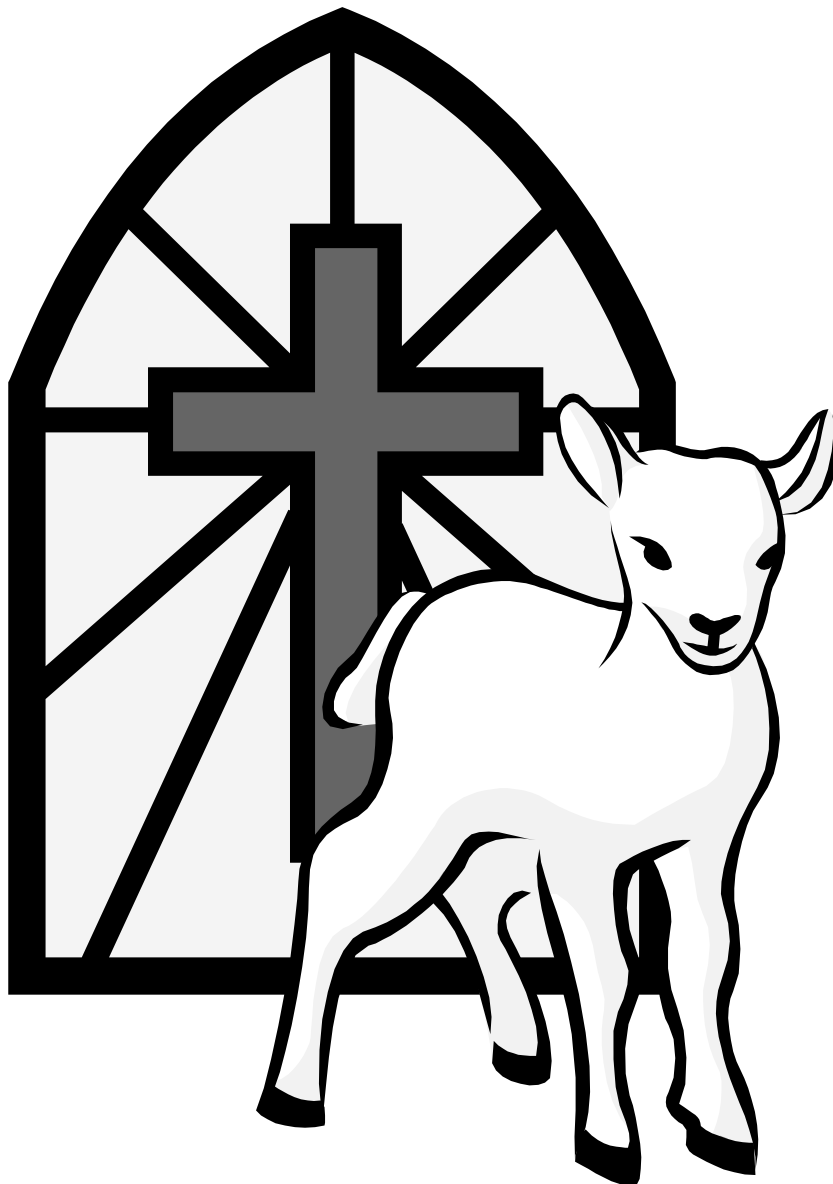


The Villager

A magazine for Avening, Cherington and Nags Head

February 2010

50p



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The Parish Letter

A Fairy tale Christmas.....white and beautiful.....and a wonderful snowy start to the New Year.

How lucky we all are to be enjoying it, here, in the Cotswolds, with the country looking absolutely stunning.and how blessed too, to be benefiting from living in a real 'Community'.

Both our villages have truly come alive these last few weeks. People walking around instead of using their cars, stopping to chat and exchange news. Neighbour helping neighbour....people taking soup and hot dinners to someone unable to get out. Others doing their shopping.....getting prescriptions.....delivering milk and bread.

The elderly and the infirm are receiving wonderful care and comfort from their neighbours. The attitude of "*we are all in this together*" has driven people to do all that they can to help one another.....from sweeping doorsteps, to tackling the ice and snow on the side roads.

It has certainly been difficult, and even a time of anxiety for some people. We have got our cars stuck and even found ourselves skidding across the roads and struggled to feed our animals and keep the water supply out in the fields. But it has been fun for much of the time.

Thank you everyone for your generosity and care for your friends and neighbours'. Let's keep it going and not let all our neighbourliness melt away with the snow.

Rev Celia

SERVICES IN AVENING & CHERINGTON

Day / Date	Time	Church	Event
Sunday 7 th Feb	0800	Avening	Holy Communion BCP
<i>Sexagesima</i>	09.30	Cherington	Holy Communion BCW
	1100	Avening	Holy Communion BCW & Sunday School (Coffee after service)
Sunday 14 th Feb	0800	Avening	Holy Communion BCP
<i>Quinquagesima</i>	0930	Cherington	Matins BCP
	1100	Avening	Holy Communion BCW & Sunday School
Wednesday 17 th <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	19.00	Avening	Ash Wednesday service
Sunday 21 st Feb	0800	Avening	Holy Communion BCP
<i>1st Sunday in Lent</i>	0930	Cherington	Holy Communion BCP
	1100	Avening	Holy Communion BCW & Sunday School
Sunday 28 th Feb	0800	Avening	Holy Communion BCP
<i>2nd Sunday in Lent</i>	0930	Cherington	Holy Communion BCW
	1100	Avening	Holy Communion BCW & Sunday School
Sunday 7 th March	0800	Avening	Holy Communion BCP
<i>3rd Sunday in Lent</i>	0930	Cherington	Holy Communion BCW
	1100	Avening	Holy Communion BCW & Sunday School (coffee after service)

BAPTISM in February

Terence Harvey

Our Mum and Dad

We had such a happy childhood – money was tight but we always did things together, things that didn't cost much money and ours was a home that was always full of people, love and laughter (apart from the times of course when we pushed our luck, and our Mum's temper just a little too far!!). Mum and Dad had so many good friends and a really supportive extended family.

Dad was a milkman by the time we were all at secondary school and that meant never having to walk home if it was raining – he would be there waiting for us at the end of the day and pile us (and half of Sunground) into the back of the milk van to save us from getting wet. And when we got home he would cook the tea that Mum had carefully prepared the night before, so that it was always waiting for her when she came home from work.

We were lucky – we had holidays (sometimes twice a year) in Stroud Creamery's caravans in such places as Westward Ho! and Bournemouth.

All three girls had, and still have, a love of horses, and even though money was tight Mum and Dad managed to pay for us to have weekly lessons at Hyde, and then inevitably became a taxi service going to and from the stables every weekend and during school holidays. Good memories.

Then, just as we were all getting ready to fly the nest, Mum suddenly died. It broke his and our hearts. They had held so many dreams of how they would see the world and grow old together.

In time Dad went back to the work he loved – putting milk on doorsteps for those people in the villages surrounding Tetbury. But he was so much more than just a milkman – he would look after his customers - taking parcels to the Post Office for those who couldn't get there, feeding cats and dogs, doing up zips for elderly ladies who would wait for him to arrive so they could finish getting dressed. And, most importantly, for many of his elderly customers, he was a vital window into the outside world, being the only person they spoke to from one day to the next.

During this time we did all we could to keep him occupied – taking him shopping, going to football and cricket matches, following the Beaufort Hunt, days out at various places and eating out at restaurants. One of his most important jobs was to feed our horses which he did without fail every weekday afternoon.

When Arron and Ellie were born in 1992, Dad found a new love and lavished it on them – he was soft and gentle with them – they would sleep soundly in *his* arms when they had screamed all night in ours! In 1994, JJ added a new dimension – it was a joy to watch Dad chasing Arron and Ellie with JJ in his arms. And then, in 1995, last, but by no means least, Jayme arrived! As a baby she lived in his arms, when she could walk she never left his side, she wanted to be with her Gramp all the time – and for most of it, she certainly was!!! Dad was extremely proud of his grandchildren – no more so than today that they had the love and courage to stand bravely before you and read their words for him.

Sadly Dad's health started to deteriorate when his driving licence was taken away after he failed an eyesight test due to his diabetes. His health and lust for life faltered. We don't want to dwell on those years, other than to say he bore them with the utmost dignity.

MY GRAMP

I can still feel my Grampy walking beside me every single day. Giving me a nudge when my confidence is low or a surge of energy when I'm feeling down. But that's the kind of Grampy he was; kind, helpful and amazing. He never failed to make me smile.

He was a fighter; he soldiered on until the very last second. And for that, I will always appreciate and miss him. He's taught me to keep going through all the dark and sad times, and laugh through the good ones.

The last words my Gramp ever said to me were 'Loves you Ellie'. Well I love you too Grampy, more than you could ever imagine. And I'll miss you every single day.

I always thought my Gramp was an angel. And now he is.

Carols by Candlelight in Avening **21st of December 2009**

The Church of the Holy Cross has always presented a spectacular setting for this annual celebration of the Christmas story. This year was no exception, with the huge Christmas tree glowing in the chancel, the lights low and candles giving a soft shimmering light; the church warm despite the freezing temperatures outside. Happily the freezing temperatures did not deter the many who crowded into the church. But there were innovations in store for us this evening.

Arrivals were presented with a hand held unlit candle in holder and the hymn sheet told us how we should use them when the time came.

In addition, we enjoyed a very special treat. Our worship was led by a new Community Choir formed by people in the area who simply like to sing. For a couple of months these good folk have been gathering on Sunday mornings to learn and practise under the name of "Almost Angels". Last night was their opportunity to communicate their enthusiasm to us by leading the community singing and by presenting to us "The Bells" by Allen Percival and "Christmas Night" by John Rutter. It is a long time since we had an adult choir in our church, so it was especially pleasing to be led by a mixed group of men, women and children, who obviously thoroughly enjoyed the chance to sing to us. The congregation responded to their leadership and their descants to sing all the carols with verve and sensitivity, almost lifting the roof of our wonderful ancient church. The "Almost Angels" added gloriously to our service.

However this was not the only musical treat. John Turner, playing his saxophone delighted us with two musical gems. John's first piece "I wonder as I wander" celebrated in the rich, mellow, inimitable sound of the saxophone, the beauties of the world we live in, whilst the unexpected final tremulous note left the question in our minds. "What is this earth and what is the meaning of our lives spent here?" Later in the programme John used the qualities of his instrument to play the ponderous and evocative tune of Peter Cornelius underscored by a C16th German chorale on the organ to evoke the mystery of the star-lit journey made by the Three Kings or wise men.

As is the tradition at Holy Cross, our readings were given by members of the community in Avening, representing the many different contributions

made to our village. It was a pleasure to have one, so well delivered by one of the youngest members of “Almost Angels”. There were unusual readings too, such as “The Bells” by Longfellow, written during the American Civil War, containing his lamentation upon the hatred rife amongst men and the chilling consequences of such hatred, familiar to us in our own time of strife between nations and ideals.

And in despair I bowed my head;
“There is no peace on earth,” I said;
“for hate is strong, and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, goodwill to men!”

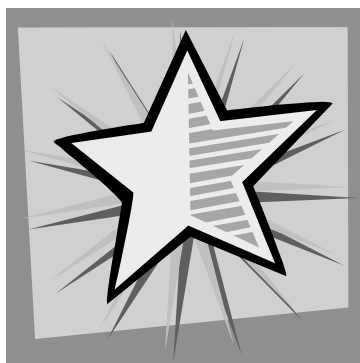
Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
“God is not dead: nor doth he sleep!
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, goodwill to men!”

During the penultimate carol, the choir members brought candles to the aisle end of each row of worshippers, and the first candles were lit. Then each person passed from their light to their neighbour until the whole church shone with the light of our handheld candles raised aloft to signify the spread of the Light of the World, as Celia read the gospel.

Our grateful thanks go to Rev. Celia, Stuart Walkley and the “Almost Angels”; also to John Turner, as well as the readers and the back room team who clean and warm the church, raise and decorate the Christmas tree, prepared flowers and candles and other necessities to give us such a special event to help us...

“Put the Christ back into Christmas”.

Margaret Barton



CHRISTMAS



The Evening Choir,
'Almost Angels'
directed by Stuart
Walkley, singing
carols at the Bell Inn



The Reverend Stanley Emson

Stanley Emson, or Stan as he was known, was Priest-in-Charge at Rodmarton and was a familiar figure to the Avening and Cherington congregations. Here follows a shortened version of the address given at his memorial service in Rodmarton in December.

It should have been Stanley speaking now. He was a great preacher whatever the occasion, a craftsman with words, with the ability to inspire, and to make us laugh and cry and reflect. On the big occasions he pulled out the stops. But funerals and memorials were his particular speciality, because he knew how to enter the territory of people's deepest and most sensitive emotions with great compassion.

I'll never forget Stanley's first words at a friend's funeral in Sapperton. He turned to John's widow and said: 'Monica, my first words are for you. People say that time heals. Well, in my experience it does not; but with time you get used to it, you learn to live with it.' Sue, I can do no better today than to offer you Stan's words.

But today, though sad, is also the celebration of a life that gave us so much to celebrate, and a thanksgiving for a man for whom we have so much to be thankful. It must be over twenty years ago, there was a church day organised one Saturday, of the kind that would have made Stanley groan, at which those who came from here and the other parishes in the benefice, were asked to consider an objective which we could all agree upon. By the end of the afternoon we managed to come up with this resolution : that the Church should make the love of Christ a reality in people's lives. I confess that this seemed to me over obvious and too vague. How foolishly mistaken I was. Because this objective, more an aspiration really, call it a prayer, was fulfilled when a year or two later Stanley and Sue came to Rodmarton.

In a short while others will pay tribute to Stanley as a man – our friend, and a father and grandfather : to his humour, his intelligence, and his warm humanity. We shall be celebrating aspects of Stanley's character in poetry and music that meant so much to him. It falls to me to speak of what he meant to us as a priest, not just in this parish, but in Coates, where he held the fort for months on end, and Sapperton & Frampton Mansell, and further afield, and for those who knew him as hospital chaplain in Cirencester. Father Bill Woodhouse, ordained a priest over sixty years, who also served the old Watershed benefice, said that Stanley was simply the finest pastoral priest he had known.

It was a long road from Stanley's boyhood in Peterborough to Rodmarton. There he had known not only poverty, and the humiliation and injustice that poverty can bring ; but he had also learned the dignity that is the due of every human being. He used to tell the story of how, as a young boy during the Depression, his father had sent him across the street to give a coin to a First World War veteran, a blind man selling matches. When he returned, he was told off for not raising his cap. ' But he's blind, he can't see,' Stanley replied. His father told him, ' Go back and raise your cap. He might be faking.' And so Stan was taught that if a man had fallen so far in need as to pretend to be blind, it was even more important to observe the lost dignity that he was due.

Stanley brought that kind of experience and understanding to his work as a priest, together with the fierce rage at injustice and cruelty and violence that had inspired his life-long love of the Labour party. And here was the first of the many unlikely miracles that accompanied him : when on arriving in Rodmarton of all places, in the one constituency in the country where the Conservatives actually increased their majority in 1997, he referred in the pulpit to Norman Tebbit as Margaret Thatcher's Rottweiler, and likened Thatcher herself to a mad dog that should have been taken into a police station yard and shot, no one took the slightest offence or exception – well almost no one, and that was short lived.

Here perhaps lies a clue to Stanley's quality as a priest : his honesty and lack of guile, a man who was utterly sincere, genuine, and without pretension or personal ambition. And if ever, inadvertently, he should have said the wrong thing, offended or hurt, such was his utter contrition as to make us love him all the more. There was nothing too good to be true about him. Stanley was no angel, no plaster saint. One of the great lessons he taught us is that sanctimoniousness and real sanctity are 180 degrees diametric opposites.

And because he was honest about his imperfections, we, who are all imperfect, felt that the Church had come to our level and that we belonged in it with him. It is easy to admire and love what is lovable. Stanley loved our unloveliness, the imperfect human being that we are, in order that we might be lovely.

Stanley knew no half measure, no clinical detachment from the problems we brought. His compassion was the real thing. And taking to heart our sorrows was a strain greater than most could carry. Some might have thought it inadvisable or unsafe for a priest, as for a doctor, to have become so personally involved. But in his reading and grounding in the Gospel, Stanley knew no other way. And when, in the Deanery, there were particularly traumatic situations, deaths, and funerals to be taken, in desperate circumstances that were difficult for others to handle, it was to Stanley that both clergy and undertakers would often turn.

All of us here will have our own stories to tell. When, during those dreadful and painful months that Stanley's ministry was threatened, and we felt that not only he but our own deep affection and regard for him were under attack, many told me of just what he had done for them and what he meant to them. The extent to which he had touched so many lives was little short of miraculous.

Yet if his life was such a rich gift to us, so perhaps may be his parting. Stanley was a priest of sure faith, and in later years I recognised a new gift of the Spirit, a grace given to those in old age who have given themselves in the service of God. Increasingly he came to see this world as the land of shadows, and what awaited him, in the words of the psalms, as the land of the living. This summer, despite weak health, he managed two last baptisms, by special request, in Rodmarton and Tarlton. On both occasions he arrived exhausted, having taken two services beforehand. I protested that others could have taken the earlier ones, but he would never refuse a service if asked.

Continued on page 14

Farewell to the Shop?

I am sure many people would like to join me in thanking the manager Kim Pittam and her staff for all they have done over the last few years to keep the shop open. They have worked long hoursgetting up at 5am, in all weathers, to ensure that people got their newspapers before going to work.

Sadly, it looks as though the shop will close, unless a buyer comes along in the next few weeks. Its closure will be a great loss to the village, and sad that it should close after 100 years of service to the Community.

Thank you Kim, Dave, Karen, Chris, Keith and Derrick for your hard work and care for your customers. We will miss you.

Thank you too, to Click Mitchell, for her gallant effort to keep the shop for the village.

Rev Celia

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Rev Stanley Empson.....

By the end, the sacraments had become his bread and wine and breath of life. He was the true servant of the greatest of all masters. May that grace be his gift to us now.

I'm sorry if all that sounds too solemn. Stanley was not at all solemn. He didn't care for champagne, and he was no champagne socialist, but he was our champagne. Thank God.

AVENING

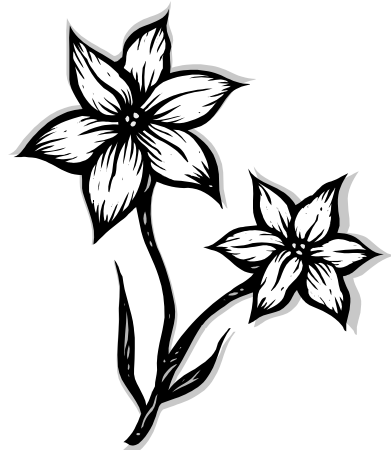
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Alfred William Risby

Private: 5th Battalion Canadian Mounted Rifles

Alfred William was born at Aston Farm Cottages on Saturday the 20th of October 1894, his birth being registered by his Grandfather in Tetbury thirteen days later. He was baptised at the Holy Cross Church, Avening on Sunday the 5th of July 1896 and the entry in the Parish Register described his mother, Sarah Ann Risby as a "single woman". She was just 19 years old when she gave birth to Alfred, having been born at Nags Head in 1875 and baptised the same year at Avening. She was the daughter of Alfred Risby, born in Avening around 1840 and his wife, Ellen Townsend who was a Cherington girl born around 1834. Alfred and Ellen were married on Saturday the 6th of December 1862, again at Holy Cross Church.

At the time of the 1891 census, the family were living at Nags Head where Alfred was an Agricultural Labourer but some time before Alfred William's birth they had moved to Aston Cottages. In the 1901 census, seven year old Alfred William is shown living with his Grandparents at Aston, his grandfather's occupation being described as Groom and Gardener. Despite lengthy searches, no sign can be found of Sarah Ann in that census but we do know that she was living in Weston-super-Mare, having given birth to a daughter registered as Dorothy Agnes Fowles in April 1900. No record can be found of a marriage between Sarah Ann and her husband, Herbert Fowles but they went on to have a further three children, the youngest being born in 1906.

For Alfred William, disaster struck in 1904 when his grandfather died, aged 64. He was buried in Avening Church cemetery. However, he continued to live at Aston until January 1907 when his grandmother also passed away, aged 73. She was also buried in Avening cemetery. This brought some action from Sarah Ann who took Alfred back to Weston-super-Mare. Unfortunately, his stepfather wanted nothing to do with him and hence, he lived in lodgings in Weston funded by Charity. Some time later in 1907 his plight came to the attention of the National Children's Home (NCH), a charity similar to Barnardos and he was assessed by a local pillar of society on their behalf in December 1907. In the assessment document, Sarah Ann is described as being "physically delicate" and of "very weak character" and Alfred as being "out of control" and likely to "enter into the Prison Class of youths". NCH took Alfred under their protection and he was moved to their London home in January 1908. Both Banardos and NCH had schemes where orphans and children from deprived backgrounds were sent abroad to Australia, Canada and other parts of the Commonwealth to give them a better start in life. These children were known as "Home Children" and on emigration to their new country, were given both homes and work to go to. NCH had a local representative who kept in touch with the child and retained some of the wages earned until the child reached 21, when the accumulated funds were given to him in the hope that this would go towards setting him up for life. Alfred William became a "Home Child" and sailed from Liverpool to Canada, arriving

in March 1910, by then aged 15. He worked on farms in the Millgrove and Dundas areas of Ontario. From copies of his letters to his NCH agent, it appears that he had a happy life and he was far from the dissolute child described in his 1907 assessment. In 1914, he acknowledged his gratitude to the NCH by making a donation to their funds and in December 1915 he asked that he be sent his accumulated funds after making a further donation. His letter of that time said that he was about to enlist in the Services and this he did on the 17th of March 1916. He was a volunteer (conscription didn't start in Canada until 1917) and joined initially the 129th Overseas Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force.

At the date of his enlistment he was described as being 21 years and five months old, 5ft 3ins (162cms) tall, with light brown hair, blue eyes and a fresh, fair complexion. He gave his religion as Methodist.

After basic training, he arrived in England on the SS Olympic on the 30th of August 1916. We like to think that during his brief spell in England, he was reunited with his mother - certainly he altered his will to her benefit at some time. He continued training until December when he was transferred to the 60th Battalion in France or Belgium. On the 16th of May 1917, he was transferred again, this time to the 5th Battalion of the Canadian Mounted Rifles, part of the 3rd Canadian Division.

By this time, apart from the stalemate of trench warfare, the war wasn't going well for England. The submarine battle against the merchant navy was being won by the enemy and so a new effort to take the Belgium ports being used by the Germans, was planned. In September small advances were made and General Haig felt that one more push would break the German lines. Passchendaele Ridge was the key to that success. British, Australian and New Zealand divisions were much depleted by the September battles and so, in October, Haig called upon the Canadian Corps, under General Sir Arthur Currie. He was reluctant to get involved but felt unable to refuse Haig, predicting some 16,000 casualties.

It had rained every day since the 19th of October and on the 26th, the first attack was made by the 3rd and 4th Canadian Divisions. The assault was quickly bogged down and they were forced to retreat to within 100 yards of the starting point. A continuation of the offensive was to be made on Tuesday the 30th of October and the 5th Battalion of the Canadian Mounted Rifles, part of the 8th Canadian Infantry Brigade, was to make an attack, with other Canadian Brigades on their left and right. The attack was to start at 5.50am. The night had been fine and cool as had the two preceding days and the shell-torn ground had dried somewhat, enabling the men to pick their way around the lips of the shell craters that were full of water. Signalling would be done by Lucas lamp, runners, wire and pigeons. The 5th Battalion's strength at the outset was 25 Officers and 565 men. As was usual, the whole attack was preceded by an Artillery barrage and this provoked a similar response from the enemy guns. The troops left their trenches at 5.54 am and progress was steady but slow but most of the objectives were taken by the end of the day. Those on the 5th Battalion's flanks were not so

successful, leaving the 5th's front exposed to fire from three sides. They held out, however, until relieved at 1.35am the following morning.



The devastation of Passchendaele

Passchendaele was finally taken on the 6th of November, but General Currie's prediction of heavy losses was well founded and this was borne out by the 5th Battalion's casualties. They lost killed, missing or wounded, 400 officers and men during that one day, Alfred William being one of those killed. He died ten days after his 23rd birthday and was awarded posthumously the British Medal and the Victory Medal, both being given to his mother on the 10th of June 1922. He has no known grave but is remembered on the Menin Gate and Rolls of Honour at Millbrook and Hamilton High School. Plans are underway to amend our War memorial in the Church to include his name.

We have been unable to locate any relatives. We are grateful to Ken Scheffler of Hamilton, Ontario for bringing Albert William to our attention (the search being complicated by the fact that he was William Alfred in Canada), to the local Millbrook newspaper, The Flamborough Review for their interest and assistance and to the National Children's Home, now Action For Children, for allowing us access to their database and records, despite there being no family connections. His name will be remembered at last in Avening.

Fred Vening



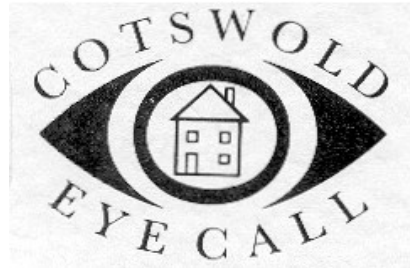
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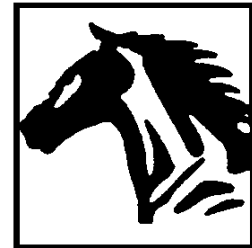
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Avening School

BRIGHT START TO NEW TERM

The new term got off to a bright start once the challenges of the snow were over and done with!

PLAYGROUND MAKEOVER

New seasonal murals around the playground welcomed the children back with a splash of colour, thanks to a team effort between Avening Primary School and Sir William Romney's School in Tetbury.

The themes and designs for each of the four panels were devised by the younger children in Avening. But the artwork and finishing touches were down to the artistic talents of students at SWR which has a special classification as a Performing and Visual Arts College. The whole project was brought together by SWR Head of Art, Karen Morris.

In these pictures you can see: some of the younger children next to the winter scene panel – which was enhanced for a few weeks with real snow and snowmen in the playground and school garden!

And some of the SWR pupils at our school to help celebrate the new murals.

CLUBS GALORE!

Our after school club, Kites is a roaring success. It goes from strength to



strength, with most places taken up most days of the week, allowing many parents more flexibility with work and other commitments.

The older children are enjoying the start of the new term with the offer of a vast variety of after-school clubs throughout the week. On the arts side the children (in Years 3 to 6) can choose from Sketching, Crafts and Model Making. Football, Tag Rugby and Netball are proving popular as sporting opportunities. Budding lawyers are trying their hand out at Mock Trial Club and acting skills being tried out at Drama Club.

In addition last year, through the School Newspaper Club, the *Warbler* school newspaper was launched. 'Reporters' attending this Club are starting to put the third edition ready for publishing later this term.

And finally, in keeping with the school's drive to increase its 'eco-friendliness' a new Nature Club has also been launched.

This raft of Club options are offered through the expertise and support of a range of staff and parents. We thank them for enabling the children to have so many interesting after school opportunities.



HAITI FUNDRAISER

Finally, being mindful of the awful challenges being faced by the people of Haiti after the earthquake and aftershock, the school held a fund-raising no uniform day. The money raised was sent to the Save the Children Emergency Appeal.

www.avening.gloucs.sch.uk In term time please contact 01453 833191

A Time of Change in Cherington

For many, many years life and the residents of this lovely village never changed. No matter how long you were away, when you came back everything and everybody were thankfully still the same. Over the last few years we have seen many changes with people moving away or sadly passing away. Cottages are soon filled, but then go empty again.

We are now very sad to be losing David Wood and Charlie. David was born and bred here and very much a part of village life, playing the organ beautifully and scoring for the cricket club. He could always be seen out and about with Charlie and other doggie friends. David is starting a new life in Devon and we wish him well in his adventure.

Wendy Eldridge

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Avening Playgroup

Happy New year to you all. Hopefully everyone had a good festive season and you have all been enjoying the snow! Playgroup managed to stay open in the bad weather thanks to the efforts of the staff who managed to get in. Thank you to the parents who helped clear away the path to make it safe. Those children that were able to get in made a fantastic snowman in the playground and enjoyed some sledging.

This term the children are learning about Winter, shapes rhymes and the Chinese New year.

We would like to say an enormous thank you to all of you for supporting our Christmas bazaar. We managed to raise over £850 which will help with the running costs of playgroup as well as enabling us to buy a few new resources. A highlight of December was also Father Christmas's visit. The turn out was fantastic and again we were able to raise over £230. Particular thanks go to dads Simon Harwood and Grant Morgan for their help assembling and driving the float. The children had a very enjoyable evening.

Our Toddlers group has also restarted for the term. This runs on Thursday afternoons from 1.30-3.30. All mums and toddlers are welcome, come along and have some fun!

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Women's
Institute

Avening WI

Snow Bound in January!

Unfortunately the first meeting of the year had to be cancelled due to snow and ice. Not to be outdone, we are having a craft morning in Cherington Village Hall trying our hand at different things with a bring and share lunch to follow.

We look back on a most successful 2009. The icing on the cake was our Quiz team – Mrs Gill Adams, Mrs Penny Fernando, Mrs Gill Thomas and Mrs Di Wall achieving second place in the final of the Gloucestershire Federation quiz.

We were able to send off 34 shoe boxes, filled by members, for needy children and contributing £100 towards transportation costs from the proceeds of our own quiz held in Avening Social Club. Many thanks to Mrs Beryl Milsom for the organisation of this great effort.

At our AGM in November we enjoyed making Christmas cake decorations, supervised by our president Mrs Doreen Pierce. We were pleased to welcome Mrs Wendy Jennings as our new secretary, but were sad to lose Mrs Wendy Eldridge from our committee after many years of supervising our monthly competitions.

Our shopping visit to Oxford was most successful; we even had a dry day! Several people visited the new textile exhibition at the Ashmolean Museum, as well as shopping!

We were fortunate to get 16 tickets for the Federation Carol Concert at Cheltenham Town Hall. (The event was heavily over-subscribed) It was a wonderful evening and we were all charmed by Aled Jones and inspired by his singing.

We had a very good Christmas meal at The Close Hotel in Tetbury and we also had a delicious American Supper at our Xmas Party,

with dishes brought by members. We had our usual fun and games, and gifts to members who had contributed towards the success of our WI during 2009.

Now we look forward to 2010 – our 80th year!

We plan to start mid-week craft days in Cherington Village Hall. Do come along and join us; we are a very friendly crowd.

Our programme is on our notice board at the Village Hall. Our speaker in February will be Mrs Boulton, Head of Avening School, who will tell us about her 'African Adventure'. Visitors are welcome.

***Wendy Jennings, Avening WI Secretary
Shirley Hand & Wendy Eldridge***

Fred Stevens

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Cherington Parish Council

Thank you to the Rev. Celia Carter and everyone who joined in the lighting of the Christmas tree, 60 adults and children enjoyed mince pies, sausage rolls, soft drinks and mulled wine. Have we set a precedent? It would be nice to be able to do it again next year.

The Parish Council are hoping to organise a litter pick again in March, details will be posted as soon as we get confirmation from Cotswold District Council.

TV Switchover in March. I do have information packs, should anyone wish to have one please let me know.

Car Park. In the next few months there will be spaces available, please let me know should you wish to have one.

Road Closure. Highways have applied for the closure of the road from **Yewtree Cottages to Hazelton Turning** and from **Hazelton Turning to St Peters Church, Rodmarton.** The closure will be from 8th February to 12th February 2010 inclusive, for resurfacing.

Planning Permits

[09/03702/TPO](#) The Old Rectory, Cherington Dawn Redwood fell and replant

[09/02203/FUL](#) Grove Farm, Cherington. Two storey extension and external alteration to farmhouse.

[09/03350/FUL](#) Westrip Farm Cherington. Two storey extension to pool house.

Planning Pending

09/03348/FUL Westrip Farm, Cherington. Erection of stable building and yard.

Plans can be seen on www.cotswold.gov.uk go to weekly planning list.

The next Parish Council meeting in on Monday 1st March 2010 at 6.45pm in Cherington Village Hall, all residents welcome to attend.

Sue Russell

Clerk to Cherington Parish Council

Crazy Inflation in Zimbabwe

Readers of the Villager may like to have a look at a Zimbabwean curiosity, a Zimbabwean **50 billion dollar note**. This is now completely worthless as Zimbabwe now uses the US dollar as their currency.

At the time this note was printed, I am told that it may have had the purchasing power of our equivalent of £20 or so. This of course quickly diminished with their peak inflation running at **2.2 million % per year**, the highest hyper-inflation the world has ever seen.



Over the past few years, the Zimbabwe dollar has had 25 noughts taken off to control the sheer scale of this inflation, carried out in chunks of 9, 9 and 10 noughts over a period of a few years. This particular ZW\$50 billion note was issued **after** these 25 noughts have been taken off.

Zimbabweans were perfectly used to carrying around quantities of these notes, bundled up into what they termed 'bricks', with such and such costing so many 'bricks', etc. I am also told that there is a spelling mistake on the note – it should actually be 'Special Agri Cheque'.... much to the amusement of the long suffering locals.

Since the currency has changed to the US\$ earlier this year, there is now a reasonable amount of imported food in the country. However all too many locals (particularly in rural areas) don't have much cash to afford this food, and the country still seems to be in a complete pickle to say the very least.....

Nicholas Winkfield

Wanted : Musical Director for Village Voices

Small choir (15-20 members) of over 50s, based in the village of Poole Keynes, South of Cirencester seeks Musical Director.

We sing for pleasure, a mixture of music but mainly pop/rock and music from the musicals, and have performed at several charity events.

We are friendly, committed and enthusiastic and have found benefit from singing, but unfortunately our Musical Director has decided she has too many commitments and must reduce her workload.

We meet once a week on Thursday evening (Term time only) for 1 ½ hours and have a Casio digital piano.

We are devastated! So if you'd be interested in taking on a small group of Over 50s, we'd be delighted to hear from you.

Please send details to: jahiscock@hotmail.co.uk or phone Judith on 01285 770301

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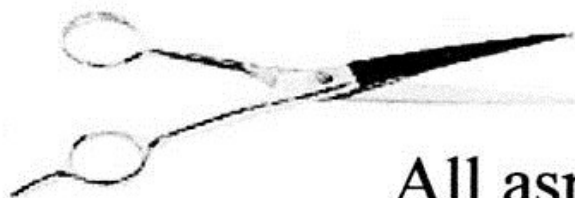
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Avening Parish Council

New Planning Applications – December

<p>09/03799/FUL</p>	<p>Avening Primary School, High Street, Avening GL8 8NF Proposal: Erection of two storey extension to south elevation The Parish Council did not submit a response.</p>
<p>09/03924/FUL 09/03925/LBC</p>	<p>Glebe House Cottage, 5 New Inn Lane, GL8 8NB Proposal: Alterations to existing buildings including: new dormer window, enlargement of existing door opening and insertion of timber painted glass doors at Glebe House Cottage; modifications to the internal arrangements, enlargement of existing window opening and insertion of new timber painted glazed doors at the Coach House; Erection of new entrance gates. The Parish Council had no objections.</p>
<p>09/04065/FUL</p>	<p>Land Parcel Corner Of Powis Lane And Old Hill, Avening, Gloucestershire, Proposal: Erection of detached two storey cottage. The Parish Council objected to the application on the following grounds: The site lies within the Avening Conservation Area. The proposal will have a harmful effect on the character and appearance of the conservation area. The proposal is contrary to PPG15, policies 15 and 42 of the local plan 2006 and NHE6 of the Gloucestershire Structure Plan. The site is located outside any Development Boundary identified in the Local Plan. On such sites, new dwellings that would result in open market housing are not supported. The proposal is contrary to the strategy in policy 19 of the Local Plan.</p>

	<p>The proximity between the proposed dwelling and 1 Powis Lane would cause harm to the amenities of the occupants of both dwellings, contrary to guidance in PPS1, Local Plan policy 46. The current cars parked on the street would be displaced and would increase the on street parking and cause more road safety issues.</p> <p>The yew trees and hedge contribute to the appearance of the conservation area, any change will have a harmful effect on the character and appearance of the conservation area.</p>
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Decision Notices Received

09/03520/LBC	<p>Avening House, High Street, Avening GL8 8NH Proposal: Internal alterations comprising the insertion of new partitions and door Decision: Application Permit dated 10 December 2009</p>
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Autumn Village Clean Up

The Parish Council would like to thank all those volunteers who took part in the Autumn Village Clean Up, which took place on 14th November 2009.

Grit Bins and Icy Roads/Pavements

The Parish Council would like to thank all those residents who helped put out grit on roads and pathways. Also, thanks to those who helped out in other ways such as keeping an eye on older neighbours, etc.

We have identified several sites for additional grit bins and we will try and have these installed in the next few months. The County Council has to approve the sites – as they are the ones responsible for filling the bins with grit. The County Council provides a certain number of grit bins and if the village want more, then the Parish Council has to buy the grit bins, although the County Council will fill and maintain them.

The Next Meeting of Avening Parish Council will be held on Thursday, 18th February 2010, at 7.30pm, in the Memorial Hall.

*Deborah Cook, Parish Clerk, 28 Partridge Way, Cirencester, Glos GL7 1BQ
Tel: 01285 656139*

Email: parishclerk@avening-pc.gov.uk

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT	PLACE	TIME
Feb 18th	Avening Parish Council	Memorial Hall	7.30pm
March 1st	Cherington Parish Council	Village Hall	6.45pm
June 6th	Avening Village fete		2 pm
July 4th	Avening Open Gardens		2pm

FIVE VALLEYS MOBILE LIBRARY

The mobile Library operates in this area as follows:

February 12th & 26th

The Green, Cherington

12.30 - 12.50

THE MOBILE POLICE STATION

will visit Avening & Cherington in February:

February 19th Avening 8.30-9.30am: Cherington 9.45-10.30am

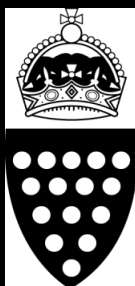
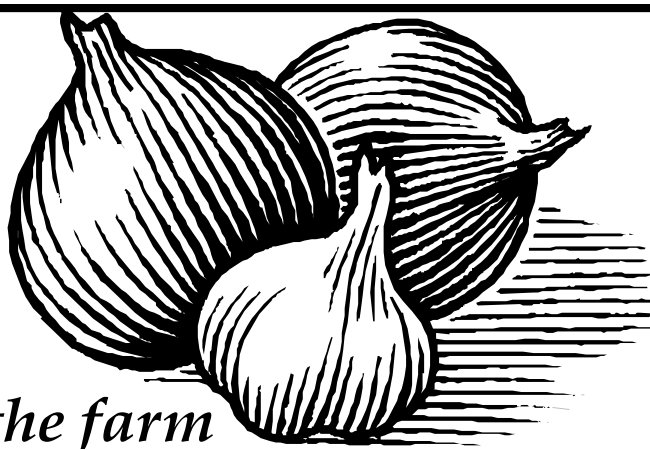
February 22nd Avening 1.30-2.30 pm: Cherington 2.45-3.30pm

Useful Telephone Numbers

Avening Parish Council Clerk	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	David Govier	01453 882914
Avening Primary School	Diana Boulton	01453 833191
Avening Playgroup	Debbie Brown	01453 832695 Home 835983
Avening Village Agent	Carolynn Dent	0781 0630156
Avening Youth Club	Cassie Chesterman	01453 834182
A & C Cricket Club	Derrick Ind	01453 835752
Avening Silver Band	Jim Hill	01453 834438
Friends of Avening School		
Cherington Village Hall	B Milsom	01285 841248
Memorial Hall	Simon Wheatley	01453 833838
Tennis @ Avening Park	Roger Lindley	01453 835115
Avening Group Oil Coordinator	Frances Lindley	01453 835115
Tetbury Hospital		01666 502336
Stroud Hospital		01453 562200
Avening Post Office		01453 832008
Corner Shop		01453 836931
Women's Institute	Doreen Pierce Christine Foster	01453 835090 01453 884630

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