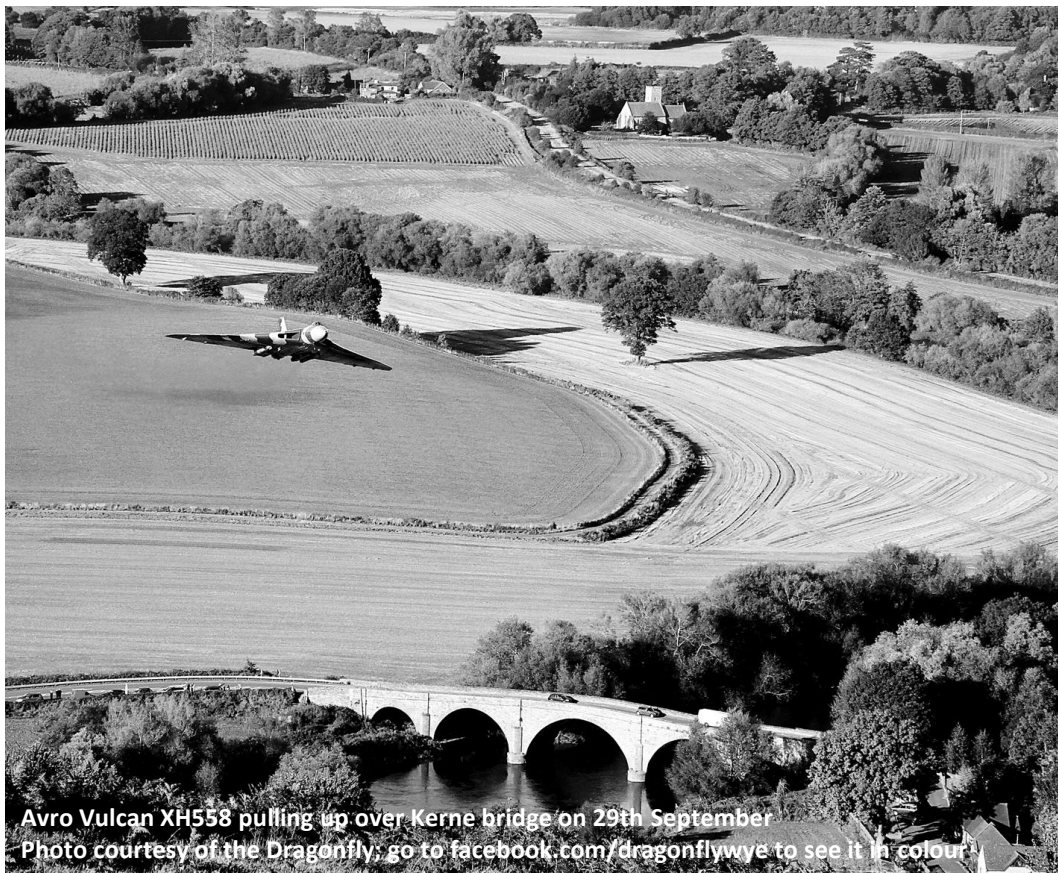


Walford Parish Newsletter

Autumn
2012

Issue
NO 6



Avro Vulcan XH558 pulling up over Kerne bridge on 29th September

Photo courtesy of the Dragonfly, go to [facebook.com/dragonflywye](https://www.facebook.com/dragonflywye) to see it in colour

**Vulcan Fly-past : Chairman's Introduction : Election of a Police & Crime Commissioner :
Walford Links : Neighbourhood Development Plan : Borders Broadband : National Grid :
Annual Audit : Village Agent : Parish Projects : AONB : Beaver Scouts : Rights of Way :
Lengthsman : Walford Primary School : Village Halls, WI & Churches : Meetings schedule**

Chairman: Frank Myers MBE
Vice Chairman: Philip Heath
Clerk: Catherine Murray

Website: www.walford-pc.org.uk

Disclaimer: The information contained in this newsletter has been supplied by individual councillors & other contributors. It does not necessarily reflect the view of the Parish Council as a whole, nor can the accuracy of the content be guaranteed.

Stunning display by Cold War jet

(Cover Photo)

A thrilling low pass over Walford fields, and with four jet engines howling at full power, the world's last flying Avro Vulcan pulled up into a climbing left turn. Seconds later, right above Bishopswood, the aircraft rolled almost fully inverted in what aviators call a wingover... and then calmly flew away to its next engagement. It was a sight no-one on the ground is ever likely to forget.

The one-off display, which occurred at 5pm on Saturday 29th September, was part of a three-hour flying tour drawn up to mark the 70-ton bomber's 60th anniversary. The mission: pay tribute to a dozen sites linked to the development or operation of the type, with a special appearance at Bishopswood – the only one in which Vulcan XH558 would do more than simply fly past. Impressive enough in itself, it was also precisely timed to coincide with a memorial service for airline pilot and executive Peter Williams, instrumental in the success of one of the aircraft's main sponsors.

But with maintenance costs soaring up and up, the Vulcan to the Sky Trust, the charity that operates XH558, has announced that next year's flying season is to be the last. If you've read this far, you might like to know where and when you can see it in the air: sign up for the newsletter at www.vulcantothesky.org.

Copy and photograph by Simon Cropper

Chairman's opening remarks

As we think about publishing our Autumn Newsletter, I hope that you all managed to find some summer and didn't suffer too much from the weather. For all of you who in some way rely on the land we wish you well in recovering from a very difficult year. If only we could find a market for weeds!!

Your Parish Councillors are about to embark upon a very important exercise as we come to terms with and implement the new Neighbourhood Planning Proposals but we need your help.

According to the Government, the aim of neighbourhood planning is to give communities a greater say over the planning of their areas, encouraging them to become supporters of sustainable growth. It is a very important process and, as we found with the recreation ground project, it is considered crucial to develop communication channels so that everybody can contribute to our thinking.

Put another way, Neighbourhood Planning is about letting the people who know about and care for an area plan for it. It should be led by the residential and business community, not the council, and is about building neighbourhoods – not stopping growth.

The power of public opinion was amply demonstrated when, following the results of the



*Councillor Frank Myers
Chairman*

questionnaire in our last newsletter and a well attended public meeting in the early summer, the recreation ground proposals were shelved and the committee disbanded.

Under the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations, a referendum for the consideration of the adoption of a Neighbourhood Plan must be held after the plan or order has been independently examined and approved by the local planning authority.

However, it is clearly very important for us to keep abreast of public opinion as any plans are developed. **To this end we are appealing to all of you who have email addresses to let us have them so that we can communicate views and opinions as widely and as quickly as possible.** We will continue to use all of our other channels to involve those who don't have a computer but an email circulation list will add to our ability to reach out as far as possible. *We do, of course, give absolute assurance that the addresses will not be used for anything other than communication of what your Council is up to.* If you would like to be included in this circulation list please email the clerk: clerk@walford-pc.org.uk with the subject 'Neighbourhood Planning'. If you wish to express any early opinions on the future of our Parish please include them in your email or write to The Clerk.

The Neighbourhood planning process is explained in more detail later on in this issue.

Information supplied by Councillor Frank Myers MBE - Chairman

Election of a Police and Crime Commissioner For the West Mercia Police Area

On 15 November 2012, in the first ever elections, 41 new police and crime commissioners will be elected across England and Wales to give you a say when it comes to cutting crime in your area. Each candidate may have different ideas, skills and experience to bring to the role. You can find out who the candidates are for the West Mercia Area by visiting the website direct on "**www.choosemypcc.org.uk**". Information on who to vote for and how they propose to make a difference will be **available on this site from October 26th, 2012**. These are important roles so ensure you choose the candidate that will tackle the issues you care about.

Along with Shropshire, there are eight other Authorities in the West Mercia area, namely Bromsgrove, Herefordshire, Malvern Hills, Redditch, Telford and Wrekin, Worcester, Wychavon and Wyre Forest.

The method of voting to be used in these elections is called "Supplementary Voting", where each eligible elector can vote for up to two candidates, by marking their ballot paper once in each of two columns. Full details of how this system will work is outlined on the Home Office website :

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/police/police-crime-commissioners/>

The number of votes cast will be verified on the evening of Thursday 15 November, and the counting of votes will take place the following day.

Walford Links Cycle / Bridle Way and Footpath

Earlier this year Walford Parish Council sent out a *‘Support Request Letter’* to potentially affected stakeholders, asking for responses to the proposed Walford Links Project. This was a consultation in addition to that carried out under the auspices of the Parish Plan. The exercise generated increased awareness of and interest in the project; particularly following discussions held by Ross Town Council, who replied *‘expressing their support in principle, subject to a consultation with the people of Ross-on-Wye, who would be affected by the scheme. The Town Council would like to work in partnership with Walford Parish Council in the consultation process.’*

The Media Release below, was sent to the Ross Gazette, following their request for further information :

‘Over the period 2005-2006 Walford Parish Council wrote, produced and endorsed a Parish Plan. This exercise included extensive consultation with the community which took the form of public meetings and questionnaires. The latter in particular had a high response rate. From the evidence gained through this process one of the needs of the community identified was the requirement for an alternative means of travelling through the Parish other than driving along the busy and dangerous B4234. This initiative is in accordance with the relevant mission statement within the Parish Plan that states: *“The Parish Council will support any approved plan for the creation of such cycle ways.”*

The Walford Links Project came into being in order to meet this requirement and to include walkers and horse riders. It identified the disused railway line as the optimum route for walkers, riders and cyclists with the principal being to allow locals to get about the Parish without recourse to a car. The long term plan is to develop the network that links Parish amenities. It is envisaged that the northern end will link to the Ross Town and Country Trail and the southern end will eventually link to the Peregrine Way, which runs from Symonds Yat to Monmouth.

We believe that this project has so many positives: it is good for the environment (through reduced motor vehicle use). It provides a relatively safe form of recreation for all ages of the community, which will promote a healthier lifestyle. It enhances access to local amenities for those without cars, or those who would prefer not to use cars if they do not have to. It will enhance further the attractiveness of the Parish as a holiday location and a place worth visiting and thus boost the local economy through tourism.

Regular meetings of the project group from 2006 to 2009 were held that included representatives from a wide variety of stakeholders. Funds were raised for a feasibility study that was duly completed. It became apparent during this period that further progress on the project would only be possible once the issue of Rights of Way had been addressed. We discovered that potential funding organisations in particular are reluctant to back such a scheme until it has the requisite permissions. Conversely it became clear that Herefordshire Council looked for such schemes to be suitably funded before addressing issues of Rights of Way.

This ‘Catch 22’ situation has taken several years to resolve and would not have been possible without the hard work of those members of Herefordshire Council who have helped the project.

The project will be reviewed by Herefordshire Council later this year, in particular to consider any rights of way issues. A report will be compiled which will include, amongst other things, information acquired via responses to the support request letter, sent out to potentially affected stakeholders earlier this year.

The bridleway, which would be available for the public to use on foot, cycle or horseback, would generally be of 3m width. At this point there is no plan to alter the surface significantly other than to clear encroaching vegetation and fill in the occasional hole; in the future if funding became available then a more durable surface may be considered.'

The Parish Council will display the information resulting from the support request and any further consultations and initiatives, on a 'Projects Page' on the Parish Council website: www.walford-pc.org.uk *(Please note, any responses received will have had names and addresses redacted in order to comply with the Data Protection Act)*

Project Leader: Councillor Philip Heath

Neighbourhood Development Plan

*Councillor Simon Kinder
Committee Chairman*

The Localism Act sets out how communities will be able to get more involved in the planning for their areas, and lets people who know and care about an area plan for its future through a Neighbourhood Development Plan. Unlike Parish Plans, Neighbourhood Development Plans have a statutory status and form part of the planning framework within the County. Because of this they have to be developed through a formal process which involves close consultation with the local community during the development of the plan, culminating in a local referendum before the Neighbourhood Development Plan can be adopted.

Walford Parish Council has agreed to take advantage of the opportunity provided by the Localism Act and produce a Neighbourhood Development Plan for the whole Parish. This will be based on and replace the existing Parish Plan, and will embrace a number of themes including protecting the local environment, improving community services, jobs and the local economy, housing needs, and providing a sustainable community for the future. A Neighbourhood Development Plan Committee has been established to take the work forward, which will sit in public forum immediately before the Parish Council meeting, as required. **Next meeting: 12th December 6.30pm - Bishopswood Village Hall.**

The Neighbourhood Development Plan will have considerable significance to everyone in the Parish as it will give us all greater control over the many local planning and development issues that face us. It is vitally important that the whole of our community is involved at every stage in the development of the Plan - it is the Parish's Plan. Not only will the Neighbourhood Planning Committee be seeking your views as the Plan is developed but we would welcome your comments and input at our Committee Meetings. We will keep you posted as to progress through the Newsletter and the Parish Website.

Borders Broadband Update

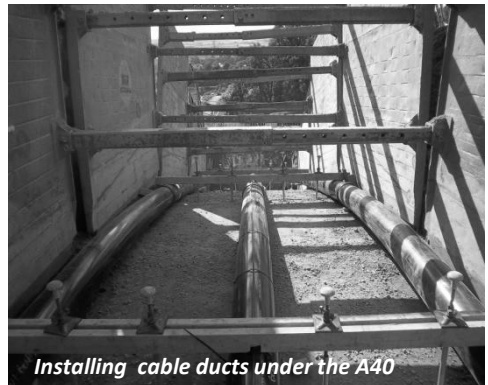
Councils in Gloucestershire and Herefordshire have agreed to enter into final negotiations with a single supplier to deliver superfast broadband to rural areas. The proposed contract covers the design, build and operation of a wholesale broadband network across both counties. The network will be used by any number of independent internet service providers (ISPs) who would then offer a range of retail broadband packages to the consumer.

This project, along with commercial improvements to the network, should see 88% of homes and businesses within our county having access to speeds of 30Mbps and above by the end of 2016.

Councillor Dave Berry, Broadband Champion. T: 01989 564005. E: dave.berry666@tiscali.co.uk

nationalgrid National Grid work continues in the area

“National Grid would like to thank local people for their patience during the recent highways work on the A40. This was necessary to maintain and improve the national electricity network, which will need to supply 50% more electricity by 2050. The work we are doing in the area will ensure that this part of the network continues to function for decades to come. Work has now finished on the A40 and the traffic management in place was removed on the weekend of the 13th October.



Our project will continue to install new electrical equipment until it is connected to the national electricity network late next year. Then we will reinstate the areas we have been working, to their previous condition.

If anyone would like to find out more about the work, please call our community relations team on 0800 073 1047. The line is available 7am – 7pm 7 days a week.”

Completion of the Annual Audit

The Parish Council are pleased to announce that the Annual Audit of Walford Parish Council accounts for the year ending 31st March 2012, was successfully carried out and completed by Mazars LLP, the certified Auditors.

The certified Annual Return has been returned to the clerk and the ‘Notice of conclusion of the audit and right to Inspect the Annual Return’ was displayed on the Parish noticeboard.

As you will know from previous editions of the newsletter, Village Wardens or Community Agents are locally based people who are able to provide face to face information and support which enables older people (aged 50 plus) to make informed choices about their future needs. The role of the Village Agent was outlined in some detail in the Winter 2011 edition of the newsletter; This information can be found by visiting the Parish Council website at: www.walford-pc.org.uk under the tab 'newsletter' click on the Winter 2011 edition and scroll down to page number 5.

A statement of need relating to the Herefordshire Village Warden Scheme was produced earlier this year by councillor Carpenter, with input from Ward Councillor John Jarvis, a copy of which can be obtained from the clerk and will be accessible via a link on the website in due course. We have looked at figures provided by the census office from 2001-2010 and based the statement of need report on those findings.

The predominant service area is Herefordshire. In terms of population, the comparison figures demonstrate age group percentages within the county and the age percentage within the Walford area. At the latest estimate Walford was judged to have 400 people over 65: that is 25% of its population, compared to the county as a whole, which has 22% over 65.

At a recent Adult Social Care seminar David Shepherd spoke about a Young People's seminar he had attended, where he asked what Young People were most concerned about and surprisingly, one of the main areas of concern was about the level of care that their Parents and Grandparents were getting, how they were being cared for within their community and the services that were available to them. This highlights the need for us to address the issues and be high profile in the outcome and how we are going to deliver.

The Parish Council would value input from parish residents throughout this process, as it is a service which will be set up for them. If, after the findings of the trial are reported, it is determined that this service will work in our county, it is proposed that it will be rolled out to the larger community within Herefordshire.

Other Parish projects

KERNE BRIDGE CANOE LAUNCH SITE: There is no further news to report on the proposal to manage the Kerne Bridge Canoe Launch site, but it is anticipated that discussions with Hereford Council will re-commence in the near future.

LAND AT FOREST GREEN: This has been refused Village Green status, due to a gap in its recorded use during the 1990's. There is more than one option available in order to protect this area of land - in either the short or the long-term, which the Parish Council will consider at the next meeting.

River Festival Planned

Visit Herefordshire in association with the Wye Valley AONB is planning a River Festival in May 2014. This unique Festival is planned as a progressive festival, starting at Hay on Wye and culminating at Chepstow. We are hoping you will consider helping make this happen with enthusiasm, expertise, ideas and funding. We are looking ahead to 2014 so that parishes along the river can bring the possibility of any financial support to the budget meetings which will be happening shortly.

We are looking for communities to get involved in making the River Festival happen at every point along the Wye and are hoping the Herefordshire Trow will be able to take part wherever possible – there are a few financial and practical challenges to overcome!

There is plenty of opportunity to get involved with the Festival in your community – indeed to be the people who make it happen! We are hoping to access some financial support to support the central core of the River Festival, marketing and promotion, but would be looking for communities to raise monies to support their River Festival event(s).

For further information please contact:

Clare O'Reilly, Business Development Manager, Visit Herefordshire

07703 671 188 clare.oreilly@visitherefordshire.co.uk

Nikki Moore, Information Officer, Wye Valley AONB

01600 710846 information@wyevalleyaonb.org.uk

WYE VALLEY AONB

JAC Study Tour – September 2012

*Information supplied by
Councillor Dave Berry*

This years' tour hosted by the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (WVAONB) Management Unit was attended by councillors Daniels and Berry.

Yat Rock - Andrew Blake the WVAONB Officer gave an update on the work that they have been doing. It has had a face lift and is now much easier to access and to walk around, the hill fort identity has been enhanced as has its geological aspects all brought out as information on new interpretation boards. This stunning view point remains one of the most popular in the UK with over 250,000 visitors per year.

Forest Holiday lodges at Christchurch – is a holiday accommodation operation run by Forest Holidays who are a joint venture with the Camping and Caravan Club and comprises 76 cabins situated in idyllic woodland surroundings. The site has a restaurant / tea room combined with a well-stocked grocery / gift shop and a meeting centre.

Bracelands – we were given a talk on two significant initiatives being run by the WVAONB:

Youth Rangers - enabling young people 14-16 years who live in the WVAONB to gain experience in a programme of activities featuring kayaking, caving, film making, archaeology, bush craft, ecology, rural skills and hands on conservation work, with support and training from dedicated staff and volunteers.

InsideOUT – is a project devised by the WVAONB Unit to address the problems that certain sections of the community have in accessing the Wye Valley landscape. 20% of people in the UK have impairments but various surveys have indicated that the use of green space by people with evident impairments never amounted to more than 0.5% of all users.

In 2009 the insideOUT site was established at Bracelands in partnership with the Forestry Commission. The first outside creative space was officially opened and a sculptured seat Wyeman by sculptor Matthew West was unveiled.



Staunton Meend – is an area comprising almost 20 hectares that is being restored to its original heathland/dry acid grassland habitat. The parish common land has been overcome by bracken whose eradication is proving to be difficult. A novel approach has been taken to managing the site by the introduction of a number of Exmoor ponies although that has not been without its problems as the ponies have learnt how to unlatch a gate and end up where they are not supposed to be.

The Kymin – is a National Trust landmark and viewpoint with interpretation through the Overlooking the Wye scheme. The recently restored Round House and Naval Temple gives an outstanding viewpoint towards Monmouth, the Brecons and the Black Mountains. The Kymin originally provided for the “Gentry” a meeting point whereby they could meet socially. Local wealthy land owners/ politicians deemed it a worthy place to install a memorial commemorating naval victories during Napoleonic times and wars with the Dutch.

Our thanks go to Andrew Blake and the team for an enjoyable and informative day.

For more information go to www.wyevalleyaonb.org.uk

Walford Beaver Scouts Group

Information supplied by Tony Lafford

Walford Beaver Scouts recently had a visit from local Bee Keeper Monica Sims who brought with her an observation hive of live bees plus some tasty honey straight from the comb for the Beavers to taste.

Monica talked about her bees and was inundated with questions from the children she even told them of how her Queen bee was delivered through the post!

**Walford Beavers meet on Thursday evenings
6pm – 7.30pm at Walford Village Hall.**



If you are interested please contact Tony Lafford on 01600 891053

Completed work:

A gate has now been installed at the Village Hall end of WA25 in Walford, as promised.

Work on WA104 (the riverbank in Bishopswood), WA53 (near Sunset Cottage) & WA67 (Howle Hill to Deep Dean footpath) has now been completed.

Work to be carried out:

WA87 - the bridleway that runs parallel to WA89 in Bishopswood from 589189 to 592185.

WA55B - especially south end where it meets the 'Howle Hill' at 605204.

WA86 - especially the north end at 611214 where the finger-post has been destroyed, & the line of path off the road is not visible.

WA89 - 591189 (north end) to 593184 (south end).



The Lengthsman report

*Please send any local reports to:
Lengthsman.co-ordinator@walford-pc.org.uk*



Completed work:

Cleaned gullies & grips along top of Lincoln Hill

Cleaned grips down Bulls Hill

Strimming from Walford Village Hall to Church & Church towards to Walford School

Cleared all obstructions from footpaths around school

Work to be carried out:

War Memorial to tidy hedge and weeds

Cleaning grips to from Bishopswood Stores to Bishopswood House

Clean along footpath by Bishopswood Stores

Clean grips from Bishopswood House to Water Treatment Works

The Lengthsman clearing the grips

Walford Primary School

Information supplied by Emma Hanham



As September came to a close, Year 6 at Walford Primary School helped to organise and run Infant Sports Day. It was a fun packed afternoon!

The younger children showed off their skills encouraged and supported by the Year 6 Prefects.

Great team work was demonstrated and much fun was had by all.



Walford Village Hall

Information supplied by Councillor Terry Snow

The exterior of the Hall needs repainting and estimates are being sorted. The prices received are a bit daunting as is finding a date and the weather to get cracking. Updating on the Play area for youngsters. We have had a pre planning meeting on site with the County Planning authorities and we are now able to move on with the project making a few amendments taking in the Planners observations prior to submitting a full planning application. Slowly but surely it progresses.

As with everyone else the weather has given us trouble at the Hall. Mud laden water has streamed across the car park area from the hill adjacent to the Hall. The bank and a hedgerow ditch held most back but it seems that a few rabbit holes provide channels for a stream of water to pour through.

I have been assured that an answer to the problem is being tackled by John Chinn and Eric Drummond who together, are conjuring up a layered rabbit hole blocking system. A big thanks to them and I sure hope it works.

Bishopswood WI

Information supplied by Ann Jones

Our remaining meetings this Autumn are as follows:

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 2nd. in conjunction with the Village Hall we holding a Fashion Show & Sale of Ladies Clothes from M&S, OASIS, MONSOON, C&C, NEXT & JEWELLERY AT REDUCTIONS OF 30% to 70%.

Friday December 14th. at 2-30pm. Frank Townsend will speak on "Complements of the Season"

Come & see your friends & neighbours on the cat walk at Bishopswood Hall 7-30pm
Tickets from Bishopswood Stores will cost £5-00 to include a glass of wine.

Bishopswood Village Hall

Information supplied by Chris Puzey

The weather has not been kind to us this year; the Big Picnic to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee was held at Hazelhurst – under cover of various marquees, tents and awnings because of the wet weather. Despite that a great time was had by those who braved the elements. The annual August Bank holiday event including the duck race was again marred by wet weather – but the BBQ and live music in the evening bought over 70 people to the village hall, a much needed boost to the fund raising!

Breakfast in Bishopswood continues on the first Sunday of each month – full English, cereal, toast, tea, coffee and a read of the Sunday Papers, all for a fiver! Hosted by All Saints Church, there is a short service for those who wish to stay after breakfast.

The Christmas Social is being planned at the time of writing – Saturday 8th December. Lydbrook Band will provide the entertainment and there will be the usual array of delicious home made food and desserts.

Its time to renew your membership of the Bishopswood 100 Club – or to join for next year! Just £12 to join gives you the chance of winning one of three monthly cash prizes. Telephone 01600 891330 for details.

We are delighted to have been able to have PV cells installed earlier this year, our thanks to Caplor for making it so easy. We look forward to the savings on our energy bills.

All Saints Church – Bishopswood

Information supplied by Derek Jones

Date	Service and time	Other Information
Sunday 21 st October	6 pm Evensong	All Saints Church
Sunday 28 th October	11 am Patronal Holy Communion	All Saints Church
Sunday 4 th November	Church Breakfast and service	Details as October 7th
Sunday 11 th November	Remembrance Sunday 10.45 am 11.15 am Service	War Memorial All Saints Church

St Michael and All Angels Church

Information supplied by Gay Chinn

Sunday 4 th Nov	9.30am - Matins
Sunday 11 th Nov	10.50am - Remembrance Service
Sunday 18 th Nov	3.30pm - Evensong
Sunday 25 th	11.15am - Family Service
Sunday 2 nd Dec	9.30am - Matins
Sunday 9 th Dec	9.30am - Parish Communion
Sunday 16 th Dec	3.30pm - Carol Service
Sunday 23 rd Dec	11.15am - Family Service
Christmas Eve	4.00pm - Christingle Service 11.30pm - Midnight Mass
Christmas Day	9.30am - Parish Communion

Walford Parish Council meetings schedule

6.30pm Finance Committee 7.30pm Full Council	14/11/12	Walford Village Hall
6.30pm Neighbourhood Planning Committee 7.30pm Full Council	12/12/12	Bishopswood Village Hall
7.30pm Full Council	09/01/13	Walford Village Hall
7.30pm Full Council	13/02/13	Bishopswood Village Hall
6.30 pm Finance Committee 7.30pm Full Council	13/03/13	Walford Village Hall
6.30pm Annual Parish Meeting 7.30pm Full Council	10/04/13	Bishopswood Village Hall
7.30pm Annual Council Meeting	08/05/13	Walford Village Hall

Clerk: Rose Cottage, Coughton Ross on Wye, Herefordshire, HR9 5SF.

Tel: 01989 562476 **E mail:** clerk@walford-pc.org.uk 9am-1pm & 2pm-5pm