



**THE FRIENDS OF  
CHARNWOOD  
FOREST**



Church Planting and Beambending in Charnwood Forest

Talk by Terry Sheppard

7.30 p.m. Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2010

Woodhouse Eaves Village Hall

This evening's talk is in two parts and brings together two strange and, apparently, unrelated facts and yet they are bound together in that both occurred in the heart of Charnwood Forest and the latter event occurred, so to speak, on the former's doorstep.

You may have wondered how the Charnwood managed to acquire such beautiful churches as St James at Oaks in Charnwood and the twins of Copt Oak and Woodhouse Eaves. These churches are not medieval in origin and are not alongside a stately house as its chapel. Copt Oak and Oaks in Charnwood are not even in the centre of a popular village and yet all three are relatively modern having been opened in 1815 and 1837. We will explore how and why these three churches came to be 'planted' in Charnwood Forest with manorial pride, cynicism and jealousy featuring in the process plus their significance at the time to the economy of the area.

The second part of the talk tells the amazing story of the cat and mouse electronic 'beam bending' war waged on the Luftwaffe bomber navigation beams from four sheds and a trailer in a field near the Abbey. This presentation is taken from a first hand account of a wireless mechanic whose outstation was located in St Joseph's Close, Charley.

Terry Sheppard is a retired College Bursar, is one of Rothley's three heritage Wardens and a member of the Charley Heritage Group. He edited and produced the Heritage Group's recent book, "World War II in Charley, Charnwood's Hidden Parish". He also gained his advanced certificate in local history from Nottingham University on his dissertation "Church Planting in Charnwood Forest".