

SIX PARISHES NEWSLETTER



for
 St Giles' Church. Badger
 St Milburga's Church. Beckbury
 St Andrew's Church. Ryton



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Rota of Services in the 6 Parishes – October 2016

| Sunday | Badger | Beckbury | Ryton | Kemberton | Stockton | Sutton Maddock |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Oct 2 nd | 9.30am Communion KH (trad) | | 9.30am Morning Worship TD | 11am Communion KH (new) | | 6.30pm Evening Worship LT |
| Oct 9 th | | 9.30am Communion KH (trad) | | 3pm Pets Service KH | 11am Harvest KH | |
| Oct 16 th | | 9.30am Matins KH | | 6.30pm Evensong KH | | 11am Harvest KH |
| Oct 23 rd | 9.30am Matins KH | 5pm Evensong 1662 KH | | 11am Morning Worship KH | | 11am Morning Worship TD |
| Oct 30 th | | | 10.30am All Saints KH | | | |

KH - Revd Keith Hodson;

TD - Tina Dalton;

LT - Local Team

PRAYER OF THE MONTH

God, whose farm is all creation, take the gratitude we give.

Take the finest of our harvest, crops we grow that we may live.

Amen

Contributions for next month's newsletter to either –

David Tooth at Havenside, Beckbury – 01952 750324. Email - david.tooth2@btinternet.com

Or Ruth Ferguson at Tarltons, Beckbury – 01952 750267 not later than 14th of this month, please.



FROM THE RECTORY

Dear friends,

The fields in our countryside show that harvest is nearly finished, with some fields left with stubble, some ploughed, while one or two have the new green growth of autumn sown cereals. We are in our harvest season at the local churches: one thanksgiving service already at Beckbury, and Stockton and Sutton Maddock in October.

Very recently I was at Shifnal Church with a visitor who was doing research and with Revd Sally Day, one of their church ministry team. She showed us the “*Green Man*” which I knew about, but I did not know that Shifnal Church had one. It is carved in the stone work of the tower arch inside the church but up very high, so hard to see and to recognise exactly what it is. The strange co-incidence was that while I was visiting the Roaches and “Lud’s Church” a week earlier (a natural cleft in the rock of a hill in Staffordshire) another couple there said, jokingly I think, “we’re waiting for the Green Man”. As I was wearing a bright green t-shirt at the time, I wasn’t quite sure how best to reply.....

While not at all part of Christian tradition, the *Green Man* has often been given a place by sculptors and wood carvers. The figure or face would appear to be pagan, perhaps a fertility figure or a nature spirit, and yet he frequently appears, carved in wood or stone, in churches, chapels and cathedrals, where examples can be found dating from the 12th century through to the 20th century. Carvings of the green man may take many forms, naturalistic or decorative. The simplest depict a man’s face peering out of dense foliage. Some may have leaves for hair, perhaps with a leafy beard. Often leaves or leafy shoots are shown growing from his open mouth and sometimes even from the nose and eyes as well.

This suggests that he is a symbol of fertility, while some think he represents change and transformation. While he is green and so linked to the spring, he is also a symbol of autumn and harvest, maybe simply because their faces and figures are generally of brown wood and stone, so the leaves have an autumn colour.

I am not aware of any “green men” in our six churches (it sounds like I am talking about Martian invaders now). Our harvest thanksgiving services focus on our creator God with lines in our harvest hymns such as

*He only is the maker of all things near and far
All things bright and beautiful.....The Lord God made them all
God, our maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied
Praise and thanksgiving, Father, we offer, for all things living thou madest good*

We also give thanks for our farmers and market gardeners who, while not being green men, have “green fingers” that produce the food we need and enjoy.

Come and join us

Keith Hodson

DIARY DATES FOR October

| | | |
|----------------------------|--------|---|
| Monday 3 rd | 10am | Badger Altar Frontal Workshop |
| Wednesday 5 th | 10am | Prayers on Wednesday |
| Wednesday 5 th | 7.30pm | Beckbury Parish Council meet in Beckbury Village Hall |
| Sunday 9 th | 11am | Stockton Church Harvest Thanksgiving |
| Sunday 9 th | 3pm | Kemberton Church Pets Service |
| Tuesday 11 th | 2pm | Friendship Club meets in Beckbury Village Hall |
| Sunday 16 th | 11am | Sutton Maddock Harvest Thanksgiving |
| Wednesday 19 th | 10am | Prayers on Wednesday |
| Saturday 22 nd | 10am | Ryton churchyard Clear up |



CHURCH NEWS

The Shropshire Association of **Bell Ringers** held their annual striking competition at Beckbury Church last month. Thanks to those who provided and served refreshments; and to our Beckbury team of ringers who took part.

Stockton has its **Harvest Thanksgiving** on 9th October followed by refreshments in church; Sutton Maddock's is on 16th October also with refreshments in church.

Kemberton Church have a **Pets Service** 3pm Sunday 9th October. All pets welcome – but tame and manageable please (or even “toy pets”!)

At the morning service on 25th September **St Mary's Sutton Maddock** said farewell to Jacky and Ed Butlin who have moved away from Sutton Hall farmhouse. Their home was often the venue for church meals, and their garden used for wedding photographs. Jacky was warden and vergger for several years, and Ed was the main church yard grass cutter and also did many repairs on the church building. A presentation was made acknowledging their contribution to St Mary's. We wished them well in their new home nearer to their family and grandchildren.

Remember to put your **clocks back one hour** on October 29/30th. There will be no more evening services nor 8.15am communions until next April 2017.

BAPTISMS

Congratulations to Thomas Parkes, son of Daniel and Eleanor, who was baptised at Beckbury Church on 28th August 2016.

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to Robin Norstrom and Sarah Maguire who were married at Stockton Church on 29th August 2016.

CONDOLENCES

We extend our sympathies to the family of the late Roy Northwood, aged 63, of Beckbury whose service was held at Telford Crematorium on 16th September 2016.

RYTON CHURCHYARD AUTUMN TIDY UP

Ryton Churchyard are having a clean-up on Saturday 22nd October starting at 10am. All help would be much appreciated, even if you can only spare a short time.

SIX PARISHES FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Well, what a wet day it was with 15 hardy souls battling through a thunderstorm in time for our 2pm start. With John Whitham as our caller a game of Bingo was quickly organised and started, but not without some confusion over how many games at one time we were playing and what were the rules for the first game, and it all led to a very pleasant afternoon. Over tea and cakes we discussed next month's meeting which will be for our annual shoebox appeal when we hope to decorate and pack in excess of 36 boxes for under-privileged children in Africa (see more in separate shoebox item). Can we ask all our readers and friends to help us with small gifts which mean so much to children who have so little.

List of Items

Must Have

Flannel

Soap

Toothbrush and toothpaste

Comb

Hat, gloves and scarf

Small soft toy (must have kite mark)

Sweets – **not chocolates**

Sweets in packets with a date of March 2017 or after. No reading books, war games or marbles

Extras

Pencils/crayons

Colouring book/paper

Cars – boys' toys, NO GUNS/KNIVES etc

Dolls – girls' toys

Bat – ball – skipping rope

Children's playing cards

any other small item for a child to play with

If anyone has any such gifts and would like them collected please contact David or Beryl on 01952 750324 who will be pleased to help.

BECKBURY PARISH COUNCIL

The Council met on Wednesday 7th September.

Peter Glaze attended the start of the meeting to discuss the arrangements for local footpaths affected by the forthcoming Beckbury Show.

Heather Thomas reviewed the actions completed from the 2013 Parish Plan. The Council agreed to update and republish the plan in 2018, i.e. a 5 year cycle.

Progress on the Community Shop Project was reported to the Council, we await the response to our pre-planning application, submitted by Paul Pleydell, and meanwhile the team have been updating our list of potential future volunteers – we could still do with some more so please make contact with Cat Spickernell if you are interested. cat.spickernell@yahoo.co.uk, tel. 750428

Work is near complete on the creation of a new web site for Beckbury as part of the Government's policy of encouraging Councils to be more transparent. The site should be ready to go live in October, managed by Carl Steventon.

It was reported that Gary Wellburn has started up a new under 8 football team, using the playing field.

The Parish Council's annual accounts for 2015/16 have been audited with no problems reported.

SHROPSHIRE BELL RINGING ASSOCIATION

STRIKING COMPETITION 2016

The competition this year was held in the deep south of the Association, at Beckbury on a cool, windy, damp day. The bells there are a tricky light six with a tenor weight of 4½ cwt. More than one ringer was apprehensive about ringing there. Eleven bands participated and several bands included ringers who had not taken part in a Striking Competition before.

Much preparation had been carried out to prepare the village for the descent of so many ringers – parking was not allowed outside the church and all cars were directed to park on the playing fields car park, a short walk from the village hall and church. The draw for the order of ringing was held in the village hall and tea was served there throughout the afternoon.

With the judges, Jean and Jim Nixon from Penkrige, seated in a local ringer's garage (with the door open) the competition began. The home team was drawn to ring first, and Shrewsbury 'A' was drawn last, again. Seven bands rang call changes and four bands rang a method. Grandsire Doubles by three bands and Cambridge Surprise Minor by the fourth.

The judges arrived at the village hall before the last team, so keen were they to get out of the wind and warm up. Proceedings were delayed slightly while the webmaster corralled a couple of bands for their photographs to be taken, then Andrew Gordon introduced the judges, who he has known since he was just a lad.

Jean gave comments on all the performances including 'the band weren't all ringing at the same speed', an inexperienced band', some nice ringing here', the slowest ringing of the afternoon', very good ringing'. There was little doubt which team had won.

The Ernest Willcox Cup for the fewest faults was collected by Gill Glover for the Shrewsbury 'A' team. The Call Change Trophy was collected by Jan Snowball for the Oswestry team. The Charles Allmand Memorial Shield was presented to Darren Pickett for the Baschurch team.



A vote of thanks was offered to the ringers and helpers for the use of their bells and for providing a sumptuous tea. If the Ringing Master had been less disorganized she would have remembered to present the judges with a gift of alcohol, chocolates and flowers. Instead of which Andrew Gordon kindly delivered these to the judges the next day.

The following day it was disclosed that Beckbury Church had benefitted by £341.50p from the ringing competition.

Our photograph shows the Beckbury Team, who finished 8th: back – John Whitham, Andrew Gordon and Peter Gibbins, front – Heather Thomas and Judith Gibbins, Andrew Pooler had to leave early.

BADGER CHURCH ALTAR FRONTALS

Slow but steady progress is being maintained.
We discovered that one velvet side panel was upside down!

Next meeting is on 3rd October at 10am.

If you can join us contact Liz on 01746 783424 or Kate on 01746 783636

BECKBURY ALLOTMENTS

We hope you enjoyed the Beckbury Show. The standard of entries was again very high. Congratulations to everyone who took part and thank you to all who donated Bric-a-Brac. We welcome Gina and Lee who have recently taken over an allotment plot. We wish them all the best for next year's season. If anyone is interested in acquiring a plot, please contact Mark Spickernell (Allotment Chairman) on 07870 621720.

October will see the giant pumpkin competition at The Seven Stars pub! Children from the local school have been busy growing pumpkins so I encourage you to come to the weigh-in on Sunday 23rd October at 11am.

For the allotment grower September/October can be one of the busiest times, harvesting and preparing the soil for the winter.

Here are some jobs to aim for:

- Dig up onions, potatoes and store. Light for onions, dark for potatoes to prevent from going green.
- Keep picking soft fruit. They will continue to produce until first frost.
- Prune and train summer fruiting bushes.
- Feed all late crops with chicken manure.
- Dig up and compost plants that have finished their season.
- Roughly dig over plot. It's a good time to sow winter grazing rye as a green manure and dig back in the spring.

Autumn is upon us, cooler temperatures and the days are noticeably shorter. Make the most of the remaining warmth whilst you can!

Heidi Pringle-Scott

BECKBURY CHURCH HARVEST FESTIVAL

A very special thanks to all the ladies who put so much time and effort into decorating the church for the weekend of 24/25th September.

There were lots of comments on how beautiful the church looked, with so many pretty flower arrangements and baskets of fruit and vegetables.

Once again thank you and well done everyone.

DEFIBRILLATOR NEWS

We are planning a Refresher Course for all the trained operators and hoping that some new people will join us as well. Do think about coming; the training is excellent and the machine itself is fool-proof!!! Possibly the Badger contingent will be joining us too.

The date is Saturday 5th November at 10am in Beckbury Village Hall with tea/coffee and biscuits included.

Please let us know on 01952 750358 if you will be coming, so we can inform the trainer from the Ambulance Service about numbers.

If some-one has collapsed and appears to be unconscious you should call one of the trained operators listed below. You should also dial 999 for an ambulance.

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Heather Thomas | 01952 750334 | Anne Evans | 01952 750347 |
| Di Rawthenstall | 01952 750208 | Roy Sutcliffe | 01952 750358 |
| Rick Cattel | 01746 783942 | Neil & Louise Dunn | 01952 750413 |
| Peter Gibbins | 01952 750293 | | |

GRINDLE HOUSE FARM PLANNING UPDATE

At the September meeting of Ryton and Grindle Parish Council, local Shropshire councillor Michael Wood gave members of the public and councillors an update on the Grindle House Farm planning application.

Having rejected the planning application for a change of use to the premises, Shropshire Council served notice on the estate on 24th August 2016. The applicants now have until the 23rd September to respond. They have the option to appeal the decision and if they do so, the appeal will go to the National Planning Inspector in Bristol who will have the final say.

If no appeal is made, the notice will be enforced but at that point the current occupants will have up to 8 months to vacate the premises.

For the time being, everyone is encouraged to record and report the continuing problems being experienced with HGV trucks delivery to and from Grindle House Farm, as this may prove useful in the future.

Allan Amey, chair of Ryton and Grindle Parish Council, promised that the council will keep local residents updated with developments.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX APPEAL 2016

As usual, I am asking for your help with the Shoebox Appeal which provides gifts for children around the world who are suffering because of war, poverty, natural disaster or disease. Last year 9,598 shoeboxes were sent from Telford to boys and girls in Zambia, thanks to the generosity of so many people in all kinds of ways.

Because of transport logistics, we won't know where our boxes are going to until almost the last minute. However, we do know that the contents of the boxes will be just the same as before. Please refer to the shoebox leaflet for more information, soon to be available in all our churches or from me, or visit www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk.

As in previous years, I have purchased a limited number of flat-pack boxes from OCC. They are easy to assemble and don't need wrapping which we know is the hardest part! If you would like one, I am asking for 50p per box, and all monies will go to the Shoebox Appeal.

We are working to the deadline of **Saturday 19th November** and your shoebox gifts, or a financial donation, will be much appreciated by then. If you have some spare time to help at the warehouse in November, please do contact me. Thank you.

Shiona Ferriday, Old School House, Church Lane, Sutton Maddock.
01952 730313. ferridaysp@aol.com.



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BECKBURY FORTHCOMING ROAD CLOSURE

Road to be closed: 41 Beckbury Village, section of road between Caynton Road and Badger Lane

Date and duration: 08.00 on 24.10.2016 to 26.10.2016 at 17.00

Purpose: New clean water connection

FORTHCOMING ROAD CLOSURE

Road to be closed: Ryton Road junction of Grindle to The Hern

Date and duration: 21.11.16 for 5 days (09.30 – 15.30)

Purpose: Openreach works – safe access to underground network

Applicant: A-Plant Lux Traffic

This month's Newsletter is kindly sponsored by

Mrs Sheila Smith, Beckbury