

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 – April 2018

	Badger	Beckbury	Ryton	Kemberton	Stockton	Sutton Maddock
April 1 st EASTER	9am Communion KH	9.30am Communion CM	10am Communion KH	11am Communion KH	11.30am Communion TD KH	11am Communion CM
April 8 th		9.30am Matins KH				11am Memorial Service KH
April 15 th	9.30am Matins KH		9.30am Morning Worship TD	11am Communion KH (new)		6.30pm Evensong KH 1662
April 22 nd		9.30am Communion KH trad		6.30pm Evensong KH 1662		11am Morning Worship KH
April 29 th			9.30am Communion KH new	11am Morning Worship LT	11am Rogation Service KH	

KH – Revd Keith Hodson

CM – Revd Christine Mason

TD – Tina Dalton

LT – Local Team

PRAYER OF THE MONTH

O Lord, we give thanks for spring growth
and new life after winter.

Give us faith and hope in your gift of new life now
and resurrection after death

in the name of our risen Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen

Contributions for next month's newsletter to either –

David Tooth at Havenside, Beckbury-01952 750324. Email – davidtooth.salop@gmail.com

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



FROM THE RECTORY

“He who laughs last _____ “

Dear friends

April 1st is traditionally April Fools’ Day – and this year it is also Easter Sunday. I am sure there will be a number of preachers taking the opportunity of this co-incidence to say something different this year about Jesus’ death and resurrection.

The origins of April Fools’ Day celebrated for several centuries by different cultures are not clear. Some link it to the Roman festival of Hilaria, which was celebrated at the end of March and involved people dressing up in disguises. Others suggest that it dates back to 1582, when France switched from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar, and those who were slow to get the news or failed to recognise that the start of the new year had moved to January 1st and continued to celebrate it during the last week of March to April 1st became the butt of jokes and hoaxes.

In the first centuries of the Early Church many preachers presented the crucifixion of Jesus as a trick played by God on the devil. The devil had failed to trick Jesus with the temptations in the wilderness, but thought he had caught Jesus by using Judas to betray him and getting him put to death on the cross. But Jesus was no ordinary man, simply “born of Adam”, so death could not hold him captive for the devil. On Easter Sunday he burst free from the tomb and showed that he had defeated death and the devil. God had turned the tables and played the devil at his own game of death and won. “*He who laughs longest*”. The devil’s attempt to trick Jesus had backfired, and it was God who made a fool of the devil.

This is no longer a popular version of the Easter story. The idea of God “playing tricks” and “fooling the devil” is not one the Church finds attractive nowadays, but in its time it was a popular way of talking to people about Good Friday and Easter.

It is not easy finding an attractive and appealing way to explain what death and resurrection of Jesus means. But however the story is told, it is a story that has been told for centuries and across the world. As the 1965 Hollywood film proclaimed “*The Greatest Story Ever Told*” – on at a church near you from April 1st.

With Easter greetings

Keith Hodson

DIARY DATES FOR April

Sunday 1 st		Easter Sunday Services, see front page
Wednesday 4 th	10am	Prayers on Wednesday
Wednesday 4 th	7.30pm	Beckbury Parish Council meet in Beckbury Village Hall
Sunday 8 th	11am	Memorial Service at Sutton Maddock Church
Tuesday 10 th	1.30pm	Six Parishes Friendship Club visit to Garden Centre, meet outside Beckbury Church
Wednesday 18 th	10am	Prayers on Wednesday
Sunday 29 th	11am	Rogation Sunday at Stockton Church



CHURCH NEWS

There will be **Easter communion** services at all six churches on 1st April

The annual **memorial service** when we remember those who have died in the last twelve months (and earlier) will be at Sutton Maddock Church 11am Sunday April 8th.

Church AGM's take place in each of the local churches this month.
Check with church members for details of times and dates.

Rogation Sunday when we remember the growing crops of the farms is on 29th April with a special 11am service at Stockton.

BAPTISMS

Congratulations to Lance and Harvey Goss, sons of Richard and Lauren, who were baptised at Beckbury Church on 18th March 2018.

CONDOLENCES

We extend our sympathies to the family of the late Elsie Stokes, aged 103, formerly of Albrighton whose service was held on 9th March 2018 at Sutton Maddock Church.

We extend our sympathies to the family of the late Kathleen Austin, aged 75, whose ashes were interred on 9th March 2018 at Kemberton Church.

We extend our sympathies to the family of the late Joyce Wilkins, aged 99, of Shifnal whose service was held on 19th March 2018 at Sutton Maddock Church.

We extend our sympathies to the family of the late Derrick Selwyn, aged 95, formerly of Norton whose service was held on 20th March 2018 at Stockton Church.

BOB HODGINS

Anne Hodgins would like to thank everyone who attended her husband Bob's funeral service, and also to those who kindly sent letters and cards of condolence.

Anne would also like to thank everyone who contributed to the collection of £650.00 which was presented to the Stroke Unit at the Princes Royal Hospital, Telford.

BECKBURY ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

Spring is here, daffodils and bulbs are in flower and soon the trees will be in blossom. Don't be lulled into a false sense of security by the warm sunny days though. On average there are 4 frosty nights in April as well as the infamous April showers, so don't get caught out. Make sure you protect your newly sprouting plants with a thick layer of fleece if frost is forecast.

Veg growers' jobs for April.

- Sow onions, beets, winter cabbage and first carrots.
- Start succession sowing of peas, beans, lettuce and radishes.
- Finish planting late potatoes and catch up with earlies.
- At the end of the month plant cauliflower.

Outdoor sowing

- Crops to grow outdoors or under cloches include broad beans, beetroots, Brussel sprouts, summer cabbage, leeks, hardy peas and radishes.
- Tomatoes...many varieties can be grown outside in the summer. Sow late in March, potting on as they grow, then plant out in June.
- Celery...sow seeds in pots in the greenhouse during March/April to plant out in May/June.
- Put up runner bean poles and start supporting the growing peas with netting.
- Prepare seedbeds for outdoor sowing of main crop veg next month.

How about growing some edible flowers. They look amazing amongst the vegetables. They are also great for encouraging useful predators. Violets, nasturtiums and marigolds are my favourites. Then there is, of course, the jolly old sunflowers who produce nectar and seeds for the wildlife.

There are a few plots available if anybody would like to try growing their own fruit and vegetables. Please ring Gina (allotment chairwoman) on 07795625316.

SIX PARISHES OCCASIONAL CHOIR SINGERS

More than eight years of music-making came to an end last January, when the Six Parishes Occasional Choir Singers (aka the SPOCS) sang their last service at Stockton Church on Plough Sunday. Sadly, also, by the time the choir held their annual Choir Supper the following month, news had been received of the death of Bob Hodgins, the choir's founder in 2009. With rehearsals on Mondays, the choir have sung at local special events, such as HM the Queen's Jubilee and her 90th birthday, and at Ash Wednesday, Harvest and Christmas as well as ordinary Sunday services, a baptism and three weddings.

Members of the choir have visited Lichfield Cathedral on two occasions, joining with other choirs from the diocese for special services conducted by the cathedral's Directors of Music.

Initially the choir rehearsed in Beckbury church, but they latterly moved to Kemberton. Choir members were all much affected by the sudden death of one of the sopranos, Fiona Webb. But there has also been fun and laughter over the years, with support for each other through the good times and the bad. They have enjoyed one another's company at a variety of social events: annual Choir Suppers; a trip on the Severn Valley Railway and the annual choir picnic.

It was at one such picnic, and indicative of the conviviality at these events, that the SPOCS decided to produce a calendar, with local photographer Karen Hartnell-Beavis recording through the year, not only the choir, but also the six churches. It proved to be a sell-out, all six parishes benefitting from a share in the £3,000 proceeds, and it even received an excellent write-up in the 'Shropshire Magazine'!

Warm thanks are due to the churches in the Six Parishes for inviting the choir to sing with them, for being so welcoming, and for ensuring that everything was so conveniently arranged and well-organised. Thanks, too, to the many organists who have accompanied them: Chris and Sue Blake, Gerald Leach, George Riley and David Smith, and John Ramsbottom, a former Beckbury organist, who came over from Norfolk. Thanks to the partners of all the members of SPOCS for their support and encouragement.

Finally, thanks to the choir and their director for the music Rock Battye – we shall miss you!



SIX PARISHES FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Our March meeting began with a problem when we realised we could not use Beckbury Village due to a prior booking. A lot of head scratching was carried out until it was suggested that we try Norton Village Hall, and on contacting the booking clerk and explaining our predicament were told that the hall was free for that afternoon, and the rest as they say was easy.

Nearer the day the Norton Friendship Club were contacted and invited to join us for the quiz afternoon, so out of a problem came a very enjoyable afternoon for both clubs.

On the day itself some 24 members sat down to one of John Whitham's quizzes, and as expected we had some very hard questions plus some easy ones. We had a few blank looks during the interval, when two large home-made cakes arrived to celebrate recent birthdays, which were thoroughly enjoyed with our cups of tea. Then it was time to continue with our quiz. At the end, the afternoon was voted a success by both clubs and we look forward to repeating the visit later in the year.

For our meeting on Tuesday 10th April we are visiting Dobies Garden Centre at Gailey, cars will be leaving from outside Beckbury Church at 1.30pm.

BECKBURY PARISH COUNCIL

The Council met on Wednesday 7th March 2018.

Councillor Gibbins updated the Council about the Community Shop. The shop is on course to open its doors on Saturday 24th March 2018. Sessions have been held to train all the people who have volunteered to help in the running of the shop. For all the latest news please check the shop's website <http://www.beckburysshop.co.uk/>

The uptake of Smartwater was discussed in depth. The council expressed their disappointment in the lack of uptake from Beckbury residents. Smartwater was purchased for all residents to help deter crime and ensure that criminals knew that they were not welcome within our village. The council put on 4 dates (2 in December and 2 in March) for residents to collect their Smartwater kit. Only 27% of residents collected their Smartwater. The council decided that they would put on another 2 dates in the future for Smartwater to be collected. These dates will be in May and advertised via the Parish website and the newsletter.

The issues of potholes were raised again. The council have referred the matter to highways and await their response.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be Wednesday 4th April 2018.

Carl Steventon

This month's newsletter is kindly sponsored by
The Beckbury Community Shop
To celebrate its opening on Saturday 24th March 2018

BECKBURY COMMUNITY SHOP

Beckbury Community Shop opens!

The shop opened at 9am on Saturday 24th March to a queue of customers waiting on the newly built ramp. The shop was a hive of activity all morning; customers were treated to hot Beckbury Banger sausages and fresh homemade cakes and tea, coffee and conversation was flowing.

We were delighted to see the community coming together to support the shop – that’s what it’s all about!



Thanks to our first shift of volunteers, **Judith, Helen and David**, who welcomed customers and expertly managed the morning rush!



The shop looked great and the shelves were full of a wide variety of stock.

Pop in and see us if you’d like to place an order for bread and newspapers and let us know if you’d like the shop to stock something - we’ll do our best to help, it’s your community shop afterall!



BECKBURY COMMUNITY SHOP

There's something for everyone at Beckbury Community Shop.....



We've come such a long way, well done team!



BEFORE

A well deserved glass of champagne

AFTER

Thank you.....

The shop project wouldn't have been possible without the help and support of so many, we'd like to say a BIG thank you the following people and organisations: The Plunkett Foundation for help and grant support, The Prince's Countryside Fund for their substantial grant, Pleydell Smithyman Ltd Architects for the design and planning, Del Thomas and DWT Construction for the building works, Andy Hall and Retail Furniture, Steve Pike and Ironbridge Interiors, Tim Hughes for his surveying advice and guidance, Dave Cunningham for the joinery work, Beckbury Show for their donation, our shareholders for their generous support, our committee for their hard work and commitment and to you the community for supporting us!



BECKBURY COMMUNITY SHOP

Opening Hours

Monday to Friday	7.30am-11am 12 noon - 2pm 3pm - 7pm
Saturday	9am – 12 noon
Sunday	9am – 11am