

SIX PARISHES NEWSLETTER

For

St Giles' Church. Badger

St Milburga's Church. Beckbury

St Andrew's Church, Ryton

Rector: Revd. Keith Hodson tell 01952 750774

Email: keithhodson@talk21.com

Web Site: <http://www.beckburygroupministry.org.uk>



February 2021 SERVICES

February	7 th	14 th	17 th Ash Wednesday	21 st	28 th
Beckbury	9.30am Communion	9.30am Matins	10am Communion	9.30am Morning Worship	9.30am Communion
Sutton Maddock		11am Communion			11am Matins

Sunday services at Badger, Ryton, Kemberton and Stockton have been suspended under the Bishop's Dispensation in the current Covid situation.

PRAYER OF THE MONTH

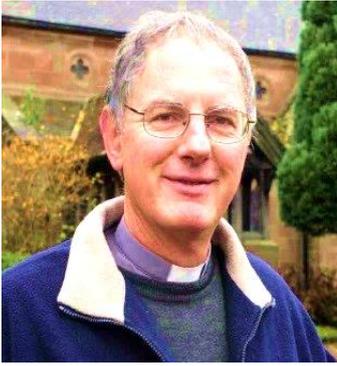
Give us, Lord we pray, grateful hearts and generous spirits
as we remember those in need, in Jesus' name.

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

Strange Times Part 3 LENT

Dear friends,

Lent begins in the middle of February with Ash Wednesday on 17th February. The old question used to be “what are you going to give for Lent?” In recent years this has changed to a more positive style “what new thing are you going to do in Lent?”

I suspect that this year with Covid Lockdown rules, everyone has already given up a lot of things and cannot face ‘going an extra mile’ in Lent. I heard recently that there had been an increase in sales of wine and beer and spirits in the autumn lockdown and over Christmas/New Year, and many were determined to join the “dry January” challenge. However it was reported that many people had given up after a few days!

As for taking on something new in Lent, many people have started new activities, learning skills, and on line courses, and maybe there is no novelty nor energy for doing this again for Lent.

The Bishop of Lichfield informed clergy and churches that he was not recommending a study book for Lent because church discussion groups cannot meet under lockdown rules (note that the Church does use Zoom and Teams for meetings, but clearly the Bishop thinks they are not going to work well for traditional church Lent groups).

So dare I suggest anything to mark the season of Lent with its traditional focus on fasting? Tentatively, on the basis that many people in our six parishes are “comfortable” in financial terms, let me suggest we think about giving to charities. While some residents are worse off with reduction of income and even job losses, it is reported that others are better off because we cannot spend so much on holidays, theatre and cinema visits, travel, meals out, entertaining friends.....

While support for the NHS and Captain Tom’s amazing appeal grew, other charities that rely on local fund-raising, especially smaller charities, have seen their income drop in 2020,

Can we make Lent 2021 a season for charity?

Keith Hodson

CHURCH NEWS

Please take away **Christmas wreathes and flowers from family graves** early this month. If you are unable to do this we can do it. Remember that with plastic, wire and oasis in many wreathes they go into the black bins, not the green garden waste bins.

Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday** 17th February when there will be a 10am service at Beckbury. Some of our churches are closed because of the Covid pandemic, while Beckbury and Sutton Maddock churches are carefully observing the “*hands face space*” rules.

BAPTISMS

Congratulations to Jax Evason, son of Simon and Adell who was baptised at Sutton Maddock Church on 20th December 2020.

CONDOLENCES

We extend our sympathies to the family of the late Robin Nicholls, aged 87, of Telford whose service was held on 16th December 2020 at Telford Crematorium.

We extend our sympathies to the family of the late Tony Foster, aged 87, formerly of Ryton whose service was held on 20th January 2021 at Ryton Church.

DOUGLAS BREEZE

After a long illness Doug died peacefully at home on 28th December.

We would like to thank the many friends who sent messages of condolence.

Due to the present pandemic there will be a private cremation.

We hope to arrange a gathering of family and friends at a later date and look forward to seeing you there.

Meanwhile keep safe and be happy.

Love Chippine, Deborah, Peter and Stuart.

NEW YEAR SERVICE

The start of 2021 was celebrated at Beckbury Church on 3rd January. At the Family Service old Christmas cards were recycled to make ‘candle’ calendars, each with a “glow in the dark” star illustrating the verse “*The Light shines in the darkness*”.

We also marked the visit of the three wise men (kings) to Bethlehem and joined together in signing (rather than singing) the well-known chorus of ‘We three kings’

*Star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright.
Westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

Depending on regulations, the next Family Service is planned for **‘Mothering Sunday’ at Beckbury Church 14th March starting at 10 am.**

CAROL SERVICE



To borrow the words of the City of Wolverhampton motto “out of darkness cometh light” and in the midst of rain and frost during December it was decided that Beckbury Church would hold an open-air Carol Service on a Sunday evening, the first date chosen was rained off, but Sunday 20th December dawned chilly but dry so the word came from Revd Keith Hodson that Beckbury’s first ever evening carol service was going ahead starting at 5 pm.

Help was quickly at hand to make final preparations, all that was needed were the carol singers, and suddenly people started arriving from Ryton, Badger, Beckbury, Burnhill Green and Ackleton and from other villages close by. A large number of people soon gathered, all socially spaced, in the churchyard and on the road outside, promptly on time Revd Hodson stepped forward to remind everyone of the spacing regulations required and then to the first Carol and so the evening began with Keith introducing the Christmas story through word and song. Everyone joining in and singing hymns many remembered from childhood.

It was a night to remember long after the final verses of *God rest you merry gentlemen* had been sung. As we made our way home that evening it seemed that the carol service had been like leaving a dark room and heading into the light and a brighter future.

After such a unique evening it would be remiss not to mention some of the people who had worked hard to make it happen; Richard Tate Harris for supplying and maintaining the paraffin lamps along the pathways, Sue Pearce for looking after music, Sonia Handley for the Christmas floral decoration in the porch, John Whitham for his help with the outside lighting and John Wood for his work with the Christmas tree and lighting, the willing hands who helped make the collection such a huge success and finally Revd Keith Hodson for arranging the whole event.

2021 CENSUS IN SHROPSHIRE

The Office of National Statistics (ONS) will carry out the 2021 Census on 21st March 2021. The Census will provide a picture of England and Wales, revealing the size and characteristics of the population and providing valuable information that will be used to inform policy development, funding allocations and future service planning. The 2021 census will be predominantly an online Census with paper forms made available to people that are unable to take part online.

Each household in Shropshire will receive a postcard during the 22nd-27th February 2021 raising awareness of the 2021 Census, followed by an initial contact pack (during the 3rd-12th March 2021) requesting each household to complete the Census questionnaire online or by requesting a paper questionnaire. A reminder phase begins after the 22nd March 2021 for non-respondents involving reminder letters and finally visits from field staff. Completing the Census is a legal requirement and as a last resort ONS have the option of taking court action against non-respondents.

BECKBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Beckbury Parish Council met on Wednesday 6th January 2021. The meeting was conducted online. Due to the current pandemic the Parish Council have reduced the times that they meet until Covid-19 allows us otherwise. We hope that you are all keeping safe and coping with the current situation.

Several items were discussed during the meeting:

- **Beckbury Community Shop** – Councillor Gibbins reported that the Community Shop had enjoyed a busy year with more people making use of the facility. A small number of volunteers have worked hard over the last 9 months to ensure that the shop remained open for the Parish and surrounding area.
- **Precept** – it was agreed that the Precept would be increased by an extra £500 this year. This to cover the upkeep of the village i.e. Maintenance of Street Furniture, Grass cutting at the Playing Fields, Electricity Bills etc.
- **Beckbury Parish Plan** – Actions were discussed during the meeting including;
 - **Road Maintenance** – the Parish Council still contacts the Council on a regular basis in relation to the state of the roads in Beckbury and surrounding areas. Some areas have been treated but there is still a lot more that needs doing, and we continue to challenge the Council on this front.
 - **Parking** - this is in relation to the parking along Lawton Close and Ryton Road with the obstruction of the footpaths. Councillor Cummings is looking at whether there may be a solution to ease the issue. We will report back the findings.
 - **Local Bus Route** – it was raised via the Parish Plan if the bus route timetable could be extended. This matter is being investigated.
 - **Annual Litter Pick** - this is a yearly event, but due to the Pandemic has been put on hold at this time.
 - **Footways and Bridleways** – Councillor Gibbins informed the Parish Council that some of these had been cleared and unblocked. It appears that work is ongoing to address the Parishioners' concerns.

A time and date for the next meeting is TBC.

Please stay safe everyone and a Happy New Year to all.

C Steventon
Clerk of the Parish Council

RYTON AND GRINDLE PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

<https://www.rytonandgrindle.org.uk/>

Ryton and Grindle Parish Council met on 16th December using Zoom. With restrictions still in place it is likely that the next meeting, due to take place on 17th March, will also take place on Zoom. The web link will be included on the Agenda and the Parish Council website. Alternatively, contact the Parish Clerk on clerk.rgpc@gmail.com

In December, the Parish Council discussed the condition of local roads and the disappointment of the lack of response to correspondence it had sent bringing this to the attention of Shropshire Council Highways. Residents who share concerns about potholes, road repairs and other issues under the remit of Shropshire Council may wish to use the Fix My Street website. Fix My Street <https://www.fixmystreet.com/>

On a more positive note, some thought and discussion has been focused on the Triangles area currently maintained by the Parish Council. The possibility of planting the area with wildflowers has been mooted. Any views on this idea would be welcome.

A decision has been made to replace the Memorial Benches that were vandalised this summer. Consideration was given to what material to use that would be long-lasting and vandal proof. It is hoped that the final choice will be in place by Spring.

The Parish Council wishes a Happy New Year to all residents.

BECKBURY COMMUNITY SHOP

We all at Beckbury Community Shop are doing everything we can to remain open as much as possible during this ongoing pandemic. We also have a responsibility to keep our volunteers as safe as possible. It has therefore been necessary to reduce our opening hours again. Thanks to the dedication of our wonderful team of volunteers we are still able to open every day.

Current opening hours are **9am until 12 noon 7 days a week.**

We have also taken the decision to temporarily close our takeaway drinks service. Cakes, biscuits and flapjacks will still be available to purchase to take home.

To keep you and our volunteers safe, access to the shop will be strictly limited to one person at a time, please wear a face covering and hand sanitiser is available on entering the shop. Please remember to give fellow customers plenty of space outside the shop too, if you are waiting for a customer to exit the shop please allow 2m between you and the next person. We really do appreciate your continued cooperation and patience during these challenging time.

And isn't it good to know that however difficult things get, we can pop to the shop, get ourselves a treat and know that behind the mask there is a smiling face to greet us.

Kind regards, *Lara Wilkes*

BECKBURY ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

I'm going to begin by wishing everyone a Happy New Year. Although it's not been the start we all wished for I still feel positive that after the lockdown we can look forward to a safer summer. Lovely to hear that some of our villagers have already had their vaccine.....so that's positive news.

It's been a cold start to the year, there's not a lot to do apart from browse the seed catalogues and make soup from the last of our root vegetables, but planning the year ahead is always exciting. Maybe try our hand at growing something more unusual! This year I will be having a go with Samphire (a salty marine vegetable delicious when cooked in butter and added to seafood and pasta) and a crimson-skinned Russian tomato 'Noire de Crimée' which has incredible flavour and very dark in colour, apparently as good for your brain as blueberries. Also there's some unusual Pumpkins and Squash I'd like to grow.

January/February is renowned for being a mixed bag of weather. From grey miserable days with persistent rain and sleet to bright and sunny ones that lure us into thinking winter is over. But there is light at the end of the 'poly' tunnel. You can start sowing a few crops such as certain varieties of chillies, aubergines, broad beans and tomatoes, and if you desire very early potatoes. You can begin to grow these in containers undercover or on your windowsill.

Other jobs to be getting on with

- Provided the ground is not frozen or water logged you can complete your winter digging and incorporate as much organic matter as you can
- You can dig up and divide rhubarb
- Plant out soft fruit bushes
- If you have outdoor peaches make a polythene shelter to protect from peach leaf curl
- Harvest leeks, parsnips, cabbage and Brussel sprouts
- Chit seed potatoes
- Plant shallots and garlic
- Broad beans can be sown directly outside
- Jerusalem Artichokes. Remember they grow mighty tall and can over-shadow other crops when they reach full height.

So although the plot may look a little bare there is still plenty to get on with. Roll on longer days and some sunshine on our faces.

Heidi Pringle-Scott

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for further information or contact on
info@worfe.co.uk**

GEOTHERMAL ENERGY

Would you be interested in exploring geothermal energy as a source of home heating?

Currently the Government are encouraging us to change our heating systems from fossil fuels (coal, gas) to green energy, and so are offering significant subsidies to encourage the change.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-the-green-homes-grant-scheme>.

I have been looking into geothermal energy – as unlike solar, it is available all year round!!! See <https://www.cse.org.uk/advice/renewable-energy/ground-source-heat-pumps>

As we have a bigger house, ground source heating is needed. Simply put this means drilling a bore hole or laying pipes under the garden and using the heat retained in the soil for water heating, which can then be used for washing or in a central heating system. I have had an engineer visit and he says it is very doable, but would have to be a bore hole, as we don't have enough garden to heat the house. The bulk of the cost of drilling the bore hole is getting the equipment into the village, but more than one bore hole can be drilled. I wondered if anyone else might be interested.

Then to prove a point, this week's Saturday Times has an article on how Swaffham Prior, in Cambridgeshire are about to have a village geothermal heating system, with about three bore holes.....

If anyone is interested I'd be happy to explore further. Or if you have experience of this please email mary@linington.com or ring 01952 750762 and ask for Mary.

BECKBURY VILLAGE HALL UPDATE FEBRUARY 2021

The Refurbishment

Thank you for all your patience whilst the refurbishment is in progress, especially when accessing the shop. We hope you will be pleased to know that the final stages are now under way. We expect all to be finished by the end of March subject to supplies coming through on time. Trustees will then focus on upgrading the outside space.

We are looking forward to an official opening probably sometime in June so watch out for the date.

Please can you help?

- We will need volunteers to help with decorating, if you would like to help please contact us, details below
- We are also looking for someone to support with social media. Once the hall is complete we have to work on marketing it and central to marketing will be a good social media presence, so if you are proficient in several social media platforms and would like to help please do get in touch.
- It still costs about £14 a day to run the hall and that is why we run the Fund A Day (FAD) scheme where you choose a date and pay £14 to sponsor that day – all this can be done at Beckbury Community Shop or by contacting me – see details below. Thank you to all of you who have sponsored a day already. At the AGM all sponsored dates are put into a prize draw.

Thank you for your ongoing and much appreciated support.

Heather Thomas Sec/Trustee heathert806@gmail.com m: 07938544804. t: 01952 750334

FEED THE BIRDS PROJECT

Shropshire Wildlife Trust have been running a bird feeder befriending project for nearly 4 years across parts of Shropshire. The idea is very simple; a trained volunteer visits someone who has been referred to the service on a weekly basis to fill up their bird feeder and chat with them about what they've seen and how they are.

Bird Feeder stations and food are provided by the project and volunteers spend up to an hour with their clients. We have started small but are now keen to support local community-led Feed the Birds schemes across Shropshire. If there is a small group of people locally who are interested we can train and support them and find referrals to match with them. Often local people know who the lonely and socially isolated people are in their community and bird feeding provides a perfect opportunity to provide a bit of joy and comfort to someone who is unable to feed the birds in their garden or get out as much as they used to. We can provide the training and support as well as starter bird feeding kits.

Training is a half day and is the same as Compassionate Communities so if anyone is already Coco trained, we can fast track them as a Feed the Birds volunteer.

If anyone would like to know more or would like to be involved in a local Feed the Birds group, contact Julie on 01952 750368 who will pass the information to Diane at Shropshire Wildlife Trust. If there is enough interest Diane would look into starting the scheme locally.

Other Feed the Bird schemes in Shropshire include: Ellesmere, Market Drayton, Pontesbury and Bishop's Castle. Telford and Wrekin Council have also run a Feed the Birds scheme for 4 years and we work closely with them as well as with medical practices across Shropshire and other agencies and organisations.

Diane Monether, Feed the Birds project officer
diane@shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk.

Tel: 07497 451838

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ACTION FRAUD AND THE NHS

As of 7th January 2021, Action Fraud had received 57 reports from members of the public who have been sent text messages claiming to be from the NHS, offering them the opportunity to sign up for coronavirus vaccinations. The texts ask the recipient to click on a link which takes them to an online form where they are prompted to input personal and financial details. In some cases the online form has looked very similar to the real NHS website. Pauline Smith, Head of Action Fraud, said: *“Remember, the vaccine is only available on the NHS and is free of charge. The NHS will never ask you for details about your bank account or to pay for the vaccine. If you receive an email, text message or phone call purporting to be from the NHS and you are asked to provide financial details, this is a scam”*.

How to protect yourself: In the UK, coronavirus vaccinations will only be available via the National Health Services of England, Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland. You can be contacted by the NHS, your employer, a local GP surgery or pharmacy, to receive your vaccination. **Remember, the vaccinations are free of charge and you will not be asked for a payment.**

The NHS will never:

- Ask for your bank account or card details
- Ask for your PIN or banking passwords
- Arrive unannounced at your home to administer the vaccine
- Ask for documentation to prove your identity, such as a passport or utility bills

If you receive a call you believe to be fraudulent, hang up. If you are suspicious about an email you have received, forward it to report@phishing.gov.uk. Suspicious text messages should be forwarded to the number 7726, which is free of charge.

If you believe you are the victim of a fraud, please report this to Action Fraud as soon as possible by calling 0300 123 2024 or visiting www.actionfraud.police.uk.

**THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER IS KINDLY SPONSORED BY
ANNE AND TIM BANKS OF WORFE VALLEY FARM**