

# 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](mailto:keithhodson@talk21.com)

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

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## SEPTEMBER 2021 SERVICES

	Badger	Beckbury	Ryton	Kemberton	Stockton	Sutton Maddock
Sept 5 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am Communion					11am Matins
Sept 12 <sup>th</sup>		10am Harvest				
Sept 19 <sup>th</sup>			9.30am Morning Worship	11am Harvest		
Sept 26 <sup>th</sup>		9.30am Communion				11am Harvest

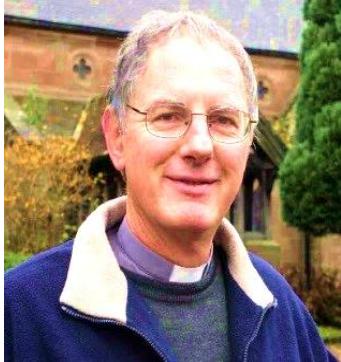
## PRAYER OF THE MONTH (from the Harvest service)

Eternal God, you crown the year with your goodness  
and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season;  
grant that we may use them to your glory,  
for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being.

Amen

Contributions for next month's newsletter to either:

David Tooth at Havenside, Beckbury – 01952 750324. Email - [davidtooth.salop@gmail.com](mailto:davidtooth.salop@gmail.com)  
Or Ruth Ferguson at Tarltons, Beckbury – 01952 750267 not later than 14<sup>th</sup> of this month, please.



## FROM THE RECTORY

### Holiday reflections

Dear friends

I was on holiday in Barmouth in August – many of you know the Welsh seaside town, at one time called ‘Birmingham by the Sea’ because it was the nearest resort for Midlanders, especially with the rail link from 1867. In Welsh it’s called Abermaw, the mouth of the River Maw, so its name has rather been ‘lost in translation’ into English.

As in Cornwall and other old mining areas, the hills behind Barmouth have ruins and relics from its mining heydays, when hundreds of men were employed to extract minerals including lead, silver and copper. In the town there are different relics; closed chapels from past religious revivals and from Victorian building for the increasing number of visitors. There are at least four former chapel buildings now closed and used for other purposes; one is the Dragon Theatre, another a café, and two more selling ‘beach ware’ (wind breaks, lilos etc).

We have more recent relics in our local towns here, even before Covid and lockdowns, with shops and banks closing branches. I don’t think Shifnal has a branch of any bank? Several chain stores have converted to online only sales.

The Church of England is another organisation where reviews and assessments are being made. Currently there is a process in our Diocese of Lichfield, as in other dioceses, gathering information about church buildings, church halls and schools, as well as ‘human resources’ (not a term I like but in common usage for many years). This has been done in previous decades, but I think this review will result in some hard decisions having to be made, because of the financial situation made worse by Covid lockdowns but already evident in the Church of England with falling numbers and rising costs as in many organisations.

The process is still underway so there are no results or decisions. They will be made known in due course, and at that point we will be able to see what the situation is, and what needs to be done in our diocese and in our local deanery of Edgmond and Shifnal.

Yours faithfully

*Keith Hodson*

# **CHURCH NEWS**

**Harvest Thanksgiving** Services will start this month across our churches:

September 12 <sup>th</sup>	10am at Beckbury
September 19 <sup>th</sup>	11am at Kemberton
September 26 <sup>th</sup>	11am at Sutton Maddock
October 3 <sup>rd</sup>	11am at Stockton Church

## **St Mary's Church Sutton Maddock**

Invite you to a concert of

### **"West Gallery Music Through the Ages"**

Performed by John Moore West Gallery Quire

7.30pm Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September

Refreshments served in the interval

**£10 ticket**

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The Shropshire Association of **Church Bell ringers** have been invited to ring the bells at Kemberton Church on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September at 3.30pm. This will be their last chance to ring the bells as they presently are before major restoration, consisting of a new metal frame replacing the old wooden one, and the addition of one or two new bells all tuned to make an improved ring of bells.

# **WEDDINGS**

Congratulations to Chris Henderson and Rebecca Northwood who were married at Beckbury Church on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

Congratulations to Jonathan Gale and Elizabeth Hotchkiss who were married at Stockton Church on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021.

Congratulations to Craig Turner and Marie Harte who were married at Kemberton Church on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

Congratulations to Martin Wootton and Gemma Jackson who were married at Badger Church on 14<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

# **CONDOLENCES**

We extend our sympathies to the family of the late Sarah Nelmes Lawton, aged 62, of Beckbury whose service was held on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at Telford Crematorium.

We extend our sympathies to the family of the late Maureen Moss, aged 86, of Telford whose service was held on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2021 at Sutton Maddock Church.

We extend our sympathies to the family of the late Sid Speke, aged 98, of Sutton Maddock whose service was held on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021 at Sutton Maddock Church.

We extend our sympathies to the family of the late Mark Bennet, aged 57, of Norton whose service was held on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2021 at Stockton Church.

# **UNDERSTANDING DEMENTIA**

From Tommy Bingham, living with dementia: “Think about how you present yourself. Are you tense, frowning? People with dementia are aware of nonverbal signs, facial expressions, your mood. If you smile in a relaxed manner, it may be contagious. Remember, people with dementia are like a mirror and will often reflect whatever emotions you express”

If you would like to understand more about dementia by listening to people with dementia,  
go to [www.dementiadiaries.org](http://www.dementiadiaries.org)      *John Webb*, Six Parishes Dementia Friendly Church Co-ordinator

The family of the late Roger Wilson would like to thank everyone for their cards and condolences at this sad time.

Donations for Dementia UK totalled £355.00p

# **BADGER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

A meeting of Badger Parish Council was held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021. On this occasion, no parishioners were present.

Matters discussed included pot holes (again!), hedge/verge maintenance and plans for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022. The provisional date for the next Council meeting was set as Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

Full details of the July meeting and other meetings can be found on Badger Parish Council website:  
[www.badgershropshire.org.uk](http://www.badgershropshire.org.uk)

# RIDE+STRIDE

Once again we will be taking part in Shropshire Historic Churches Trust Ride+Stride scheme on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September when we keep our Churches open for the day and invite people to come and look round our beautiful buildings. If anyone would like to take part please get a sponsor form from any church and then obtain sponsorship for the number of churches you manage to visit. All money raised is divided 50/50 between your local church and the S.H.C.T. As many of us are getting elderly and not as active as we once were, why not try a sponsored CAR RIDE, as one of our friends did in 2018!

It is so easy to do - .ask for a Sponsorship Form; then get some sponsors; then do a ride or stride on 11<sup>th</sup> September.      Simple.      **Please have a go this year.**

# **BECKBURY VILLAGE HALL UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2021**

We will be holding the **formal opening of the refurbished village hall from 2pm – 4pm on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> Sept**, which some funders, local dignitaries and we hope, residents will attend. We have booked a jazz band and refreshments will be available. There will be: a formal opening by our new local county councillor: Richard Marshal, a chance to meet some of the funders and time to see some of the old photos of Beckbury and surrounding area and to hear about the refurbishment and our plans. We will need to know the numbers for catering purposes, **so entry will be by ticket only and for local residents on a ‘first come first served’ basis, if you would like a ticket please contact Heather Thomas – see contact details below.**

**Our less formal event is from 5pm on the same day - Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> and is open to anyone who would like to come.** There will be a BBQ, cakes, tea and coffee, and a licensed bar where you can purchase food and drinks.

**If you are able to offer a cake for either event** we would be very grateful, in which case please contact Judith Gibbins at Judith@pcgassociates.plus.com, 01952 750293.

**Our AGM is at 8pm on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September at the Village Hall.** All are welcome, we would **particularly welcome nominations to join the committee** which can be done at the meeting or beforehand in writing to Heather Thomas (contact details below), please do come along and hear about our plans for the future of our, now state of the art, village hall.

Our website is currently being updated so **if you want to book the hall for the time being please phone Emily Lister on 01952 750473.** The website will be fully functional soon and then you will be able to book online.

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 – please see details below. Thank you to all of you who have sponsored a day already. At the AGM all sponsored dates will be put into a prize draw.

Hope to see as many of you as possible at one or both of the events on the 25<sup>th</sup> September.

Heather Thomas Sec/Trustee, Village Hall.

Heathert806@gmail.com m: 07938544804, t :01952 750334  
64, Beckbury, SHIFNAL, Shropshire, TF11 9DJ

## **BECKBURY CHRISTMAS CRAFT AND GIFT FAIR**

**To be held on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2021 in Beckbury Village Hall**

If anyone living locally would be interested in booking a table to sell their Craft, or would like more information please contact Lizzie Doble at [lizzie.doble@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lizzie.doble@hotmail.co.uk) or mobile 07939526840

# **BECKBURY COMMUNITY SHOP**

Hello again,

We are planning to hold an Apple Festival at Beckbury Village Hall on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2021. It's been a while since we have been able to organize an event. If you would like to get involved making this the "Best Apple Festival Ever" please let us know otherwise put the date in your diary and come along to take part in Apple Juicing and all kinds of apple related fun!

Keep your photos coming in for the Beckbury Calendar 2022. Images need to be landscape in orientation and high resolution. Please send to [beckburyshopcalendar@gmail.com](mailto:beckburyshopcalendar@gmail.com)

## **Beckbury Community Shop Annual Members Meeting 2021**

The shop is a membership organisation and so to attend the AMM you need to have purchased at least a £10 share. This dates back to when we were funding the shop and needed to raise funds. Anyone who wants to come and doesn't have a £10 share can purchase one before the AMM by contacting Heather Thomas or any other member of the management committee. You will then be able to attend all AMMs and vote on any decisions, or be eligible to nominate for and sit on the management committee. This gives you life membership, you don't have to purchase another one next year.

### **This year's Annual Members Meeting (AMM) will be held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at Beckbury Village Hall, 7.30pm. We hope you will join us.**

We have several vacancies on the committee this year and I am asking for nominations. If you would like to be more involved with the community shop and help shape its future please join us on the committee. We try to meet every 6 weeks to discuss how the shop is running, keep on top of any arising problems and organise community events.

If you would like to join our friendly welcoming committee you can nominate in person at the meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting but would still like to nominate you could write your nomination and leave at the shop marked for the attention of Lizzie Doble. This would need to be done by the 1<sup>st</sup> September. If we receive more nominations than vacancies available we will take a vote to elect new members at the meeting. If you need any further information please email me [larawilkes1971@gmail.com](mailto:larawilkes1971@gmail.com)

We very much look forward to seeing you at the AMM.

King regards

*Lara Wilkes, Chair of Beckbury Community Shop*

## **POOCHEES AND PONIES**

Are you going back to work in the office and having to leave your dog at home all day? Planning on booking a well deserved holiday?

Jan and Mollie Venables are available for looking after your dogs and/or horses/ponies - whether it is dog sitting for a holiday and/or regular dog walking whilst you are out at work. We are also very happy to look after your horses or ponies if you are planning to go away.

**Jan** – recently taken early retirement as a bank manager, I have years of experience looking after dogs and we currently have 3 labradors of our own. More recently I have gained experience looking after horses and learnt the ropes from Mollie.

**Mollie** – passionate about dogs and horses. She has gained qualifications at college in horse care and owns her own pony, Benji.

We have lived in Beckbury for 20 years and can be relied upon to make sure that your dogs and ponies get the best care possible. We can be very flexible on days and have very reasonable rates! Please get in touch if you would like some more information.

Jan and Mollie. Tel. 07986 322818.

E.mail: [janables.jv@gmail.com](mailto:janables.jv@gmail.com)

## THE LAST POST SOUNDS FOR A LOCAL HERO

The funeral of Sid Speke was held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> August at Sutton Maddock Church with all due reverence in memory of the last local man to have served in the last war. The following words belong to Sid talking some years ago about his experiences.

"In 1941 I travelled to Worcester by G.W.Railway to enlist in the Royal Navy, they asked if I could be ready at short notice and I said yes. On my return home I was notified almost immediately to report on 10<sup>th</sup> September 1941 to Worcester, which led to me and others travelling to Plymouth where I began extensive training as an electrical engineer. After training I was drafted to join the Battle Cruiser H.M.S. Bermuda at Greenock which then joined the Home Fleet at Scapa Flow to work up to a fighting unit. Our first operation was to sail to Plymouth (which had been badly knocked about by the German air raids) and pick up special forces and then take them onwards to Gibraltar. We joined Force H which consisted of a Battle Cruiser, an Aircraft Carrier, two Cruisers and 18 Destroyers who were protecting many troopships carrying the 1<sup>st</sup> Army Group who were involved in Operation 'Torch' and due to land in French North Africa at Algiers. On arrival we stood off and after the loss of considerable R.N. Personnel storming the harbour we were detailed to shell the forts, we only had 6 inch guns but the garrison had 7.6mm, much to our relief they surrendered but we were then attacked by over 20 Italian Torpedo Bombers. Thankfully we managed to dodge 21 torpedoes and two sticks of bombs. *The date 8<sup>th</sup> November 1942 stands in my memory for ever.*

In January 1943 we set sail for Iceland and offered protection to Russian Convoys and then on to Vaenga Kola Inlet in Russia. We next returned to Scapa Flow protecting ships from Russia. After a short break awaiting new instruction in March 1943 we sailed in heavy weather to Iceland, streaming Paravanes, these were in effect floating guillotines to cut mines free and bring them to the surface, we could then sink them with gun fire. They were only used local to harbour and brought aboard fairly quickly, however due to the weather this could not be effected and after about 36 hours a party assembled on the forecastle (the sharp end to the lay person) and two men were washed overboard, the ship turned into a beam sea and scrambling nets lowered, by luck the gunnery officer was rescued, but Commander R Griffiths, our upper deck commander was lost, this filled the ship with gloom as we sailed to Iceland and then returned to Scapa Flow.

Our next job was to escort the Queen Elizabeth 2 with the Prime Minister on board to America maintaining 28 knots for 48 hours, we did not get to America but came back to Scapa Flow to the news that King George V1 had visited the Home Fleet and ordered to "splice the main brace" and it touched us. "Hooray" In June we went with a force of Allied marines for the relief of Spitzbergen Garrison, returning to Plymouth for a refit we were soon off again to the northern tip of the Iberian Peninsula protecting the U boat chasers, these R.N. frigates were trying to trap them, our work involved up to 21 days steaming in a large area of the North Atlantic west of the Bay of Biscay. This work lasted until December when we again went north to Akureri in Iceland, then on to more Russian Convoys."

Sid was once asked why he joined the Royal Navy, his reply was that after his father's experience in the trenches during the First World War he did not want to be an infantryman.

After the war Sid returned to his old job at R.A.F. Bridgnorth, when that closed in 1963 his next job was at R.A.F. Cosford and he carried on around various military bases until retirement in 1985.

On a personal note in 1947 Sid met again a local girl he had not seen since 1938. They started walking out and on 11<sup>th</sup> September 1948 Sid and Ailsa married and settled with Ailsa's parents in Vicarage Lane Sutton Maddock. They enjoyed a happy marriage with three children, with only one blemish in this life when their first born Martin died in 1960 with a kidney tumour. Ailsa died in 2004 after a long illness leaving Sid with his two sons Steven and Max and their families. Sid's funeral at Sutton Maddock took place on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> August with a family only cortège starting from his old home, passing poppies dipping their heads in a nearby field. On entering the Church the coffin was draped in a white ensign, with Sid's cap and medals also on display. Family members were bearers on this final journey inside the church. The tributes culminated with the Royal British Legion tribute read by Graham Jones, ending by the playing of The Last Post and we all left with our own memories of Sid to the strains of 'Sailing' by Rod Stewart.

## **BECKBURY ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION**

The weather has been a bit mixed, we certainly need more sunshine to ripen our tomatoes. September is really the end of summer but quite often we have what they call an Indian summer so fingers crossed and hope we get an extended growing season.

There are still things we can sow and plant:

- Winter hardy spring onions
- Lettuce...artic king, they'll be ready early spring
- Oriental leaves...perpetual spinach, radish, rocket, mizuna (you may need to protect over winter)

Things to plant:

- Spring cabbage, onion sets, strawberries

Jobs to do

- Clear old foliage, put on compost heap
- Sow green manure
- Stake Brussels sprouts
- Lift onions and dry them ready for storage
- At the end of the month, pick the last of the green tomatoes and ripen on the window sill
- Cut down asparagus when the foliage turns yellow
- Keep feeding celeriac
- Lift main crop potatoes
- Prune back blackberries as soon as they finish fruiting

*Heidi Pringle-Scott*

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**This month's Newsletter is kindly sponsored by**

**Mrs Phyllis Wilson of Beckbury**