

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

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DECEMBER 2021 SERVICES

	Badger	Beckbury	Ryton	Kemberton	Stockton	Sutton Maddock
Dec 5 th Sunday	9.30am Advent Carols					11am Advent Carols
Dec 10 th Friday			6.30pm Christmas Carols			
Dec 12 th Sunday		10am Family Christingle		6pm Christmas Carols		4pm Christmas Carols
Friday 17 th Sat 18 th		5pm Carols <i>if dry</i>				
Dec 19 th Sunday		9.30am Communion 5pm Carols <i>if dry</i>			11am Communion and Carols	
Dec 24 th Christmas Eve				5pm Communion and Carols		7pm Communion and Carols
Dec 25 th Christmas Day	9.30am Communion		10.30am Carols <i>Outside if dry</i>			

Please read CHURCH NEWS and FROM THE RECTORY for further details

JANUARY 2022 SERVICES

	Badger	Beckbury	Ryton	Kemberton	Stockton	Sutton Maddock
Jan 2nd		NO	SERVICES	THIS	SUNDAY	
Jan 9th			9.30am Morning Worship			11am Communion
Jan 16th		9.30am Morning Worship		11am Morning Worship		
Jan 23rd			9.30am Communion	11am Communion		11am Morning Worship
Jan 30th		9.30am Communion			11am PLOUGH	

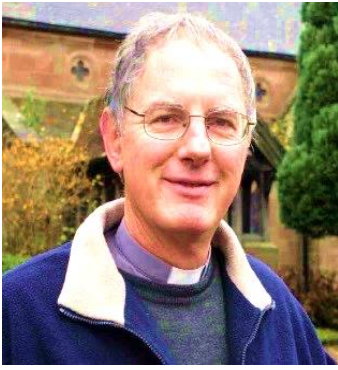
PRAYER OF THE MONTH

**Almighty God, in the birth of your Son at Bethlehem
you have shown us your love and grace;
Help us to live in the light and truth of Jesus Christ, born for us,
that we may know the fullness of his joy.**

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

Another year, another Christmas

Dear friends

Last year's Christmas plans for families and for church had to be considerably changed with 2020 Covid restrictions. While the government has not currently imposed restrictions, we are all hearing about the impact of the present situation on hospitals, medical centres and emergency ambulance call outs.

With some Covid protocols still in place in our local six churches, you will see some changes in the December Service Plan with further details in CHURCH NEWS.

One change is that there are fewer communion services this Christmas. One of my first Christmas sermons when I came here in 2008 started with a question – why does the Church celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas with a communion service and its symbols of bread and wine celebrating his death on the cross on Good Friday? The Church has a clever answer, but I still think it is an unusual mix. The Christmas carols are all about his birth at Bethlehem, but the focus of the service is more about his death.

Another change that everyone enjoyed last year at Beckbury and Ryton was the outdoor carol singing at the churches. Being outdoors was forced on us by Covid restrictions, but it turned out to be a lovely event. A number of people have been asking whether we will be doing it again this year. The answer is **YES** – *weather permitting*. Both occasions last year had clear dry skies. This year we have scheduled Beckbury's 5pm Carols for the first dry evening on the weekend 17, 18, 19 December. I hope my weather forecasters are the same that you listen to

At Ryton on Christmas morning we plan to be outside, but if it is wet we will be inside for a short time with doors open for ventilation as per Covid recommendations which also advise wearing masks in crowded places. If you are concerned or hesitant about attending Christmas services, you may consider that there is less risk by staying at home.

Let's hope that the weather is kind, and that we are all careful as we mix with others.

Wishing you a Happy Christmas and New Year

Keith Hodson

CHURCH NEWS

CHRISTMAS, COVID and CAROLS Our Christmas services are subject to any new Covid restrictions which may be introduced by the government if they consider the situation demands action in December. At services where we usually have a small attendance, social distancing will be in place, with pews maybe marked off to make alternate rows between people.

The government advise wearing MASKS in crowded venues, which may well be the case
At **KEMBERTON** 6pm Sunday 12th December and 5pm on Christmas Eve.

At **SUTTON MADDOCK** 4pm Sunday 12th December and 7pm Christmas Eve.

At **BECKBURY** CAROLS will be sung outside on the first forecast dry evening 5pm on the weekend Friday 17th or Saturday 18th or Sunday 19th December.
Bring torches etc to see the words on the carol sheets.

At **RYTON** Carols at 6.30pm Friday 10th December will be inside the church which will be well ventilated so please come warmly dressed as it will be cool in church.

RYTON's 10.30am Christmas Day service will not be a communion service, as we hope to repeat last year's enjoyable CAROLS outside. If it is not dry, we will sing carols inside church which again will be well ventilated and those attending are asked to wear **masks** (as per national recommendations). If you are concerned or hesitant about the Christmas services, you may consider it safer to stay at home, as we cannot restrict numbers of people attending.

There will be no Church Sunday Services on 26th December nor 2nd January.
Plough Sunday will be on January 30th with an 11am service at Stockton.

BAPTISMS

Congratulations to Poppy Southall, daughter of George and Claire, who was baptised at Ryton Church on 21st November 2021.

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to Anthony Heaton and Louisa Jordan who were married at Sutton Maddock Church on 27th November 2021

CONDOLENCES

We extend our sympathies to the family of the late Graham Walker, aged 99, whose service was held on 1st November 2021 at Badger Church

We extend our sympathies to the family of the late Diana Chantrey formerly of Beckbury, aged 71, whose service was held on 4th November 2021 at Telford Crematorium

We extend our sympathies to the family of the late Barry Truss of Beckbury, aged 66, whose service was held on 27th November 2021 at Beckbury Church

BECKBURY PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish Council met on Wednesday the 3rd November 2021. First the good news. We were pleased to welcome our new Councillor, Sahara Grist. Sahara has lived in the village for a few years in the house previously owned by Marjorie and the later Peter Lee. Peter was a member of the Parish Council for many years (and Chairman for quite a few) so there is a bit of a tradition there.

The bad news is that our Clerk, Les Oakley, has decided to retire, Les joined us some 26 years ago. He then was Clerk to another two or three other councils but over the years he has resigned his other posts but kept on with Beckbury, for which we were very grateful. Les has been of immense help to the Parish Council, and indeed to the village, over the years. In fact I think we would have been in great difficulty on more than one occasion had it not been for Les. We owe him a big thank you. Councillors clubbed together to present him with a huge jigsaw so that he can keep busy in his retirement.

Consequently Councillor Carl Steventon has taken on the position of Clerk to the Parish Council. This requires him to resign as a Parish Councillor. We therefore have a casual vacancy which we are advertising so as to hopefully fill the post at our January meeting.

As mentioned previously Peter Gibbins is heading a group who are trying to establish a children's play area on the playing field. Funds are required. The target is £35,000. Raised so far in grants and donations is just over £14,000, If you wish to donate or feel you can help in any way please contact Peter Gibbins on 750293.

The Council dealt with two planning applications. One for minor alterations at No 11 Ryton Road was not objected to. We did object to the renewed application for development of the fishing pools at Halls Cottage, Snowdon Lane, Burnhill Green

The Community Shop in Beckbury has welcomed two new Committee members, namely Steve Burgess and Julie Pleydell and the Committee are keen to recruit more volunteers to help staff the shop. If you are interested to volunteer please ask in the shop for a volunteer form.

We have contacted Shropshire Council Highways department to ask for the street cleaner to come and start sweeping up all the leaves which now litter the roads.

We continue to press the planning department for some action over the illegal encampment on Ryton Road.

Our next scheduled meeting is Wednesday the 12th January 2022, 7.30pm. The first 10 minutes is for public participation.

I know it's early but a Merry Christmas and Happy New year to all.

David Cummings, Chairman

BECKBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Casual Vacancy

The Parish Council wish to fill a vacancy that has arisen following the resignation of Councillor Carl Steventon

Anyone who would wish to apply to become a Councillor for the Parish of Beckbury please contact any one of the following people or by leaving an application by letter at the Village Community Shop. Applications should be received by the 23rd December 2021.

Chairman, David Cummings, 750393, or dandy_08@btinternet.com

Carl Steventon, 750251 or carlos9251@outlook.com.

12th November 2021

BADGER PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

A meeting of Badger Parish Council was held on Tuesday 16th November 2021. No parishioners were present for the Open Forum.

Matters discussed included recent fly tipping, problems caused by the closure of the road outside The Cottage following repairs to a water pipe and other road closures (past and planned). The date for the next Council meeting was set as Wednesday 19th January 2022 at 7pm, when it is hoped more parishioners will be present for the Open Forum.

Full details of the November meeting and other meetings can be found on Badger Parish Council website: www.badgershropshire.org.uk

BECKBURY COMMUNITY SHOP

Hello again,

Well, another year has nearly passed and Beckbury Shop is filled with lots of Christmas treats and gifts for you to spoil yourselves and your loved ones with.

As we move into the New Year, it's the perfect time to try something new. We are in need of more volunteers to help run the shop. Old faces and new will be very welcome, even if you can only manage the odd hour this will often be enough to keep the shop open. From personal experience I have gained a huge amount from volunteering at the shop, I've met lots of very friendly faces, got to know people in the village and feel like I belong in the community.

If you're not able to volunteer in the shop there are other roles behind the scene, for example collecting or purchasing stock, cleaning, gardening or maybe you have another idea that you think would help.

We also have a place on the management committee available. We meet every 6 to 8 weeks in the evenings, it's a great way to be involved and make a difference.

According to the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, Volunteering can help you to

- Gain confidence and self-esteem
- Make a difference to the lives of others
- Feel valued and part of a team
- Spend quality time away from work or a busy lifestyle
- Meeting new people and making new friends
- A chance to socialise
- Getting to know the local community

**If you would like to join us please contact myself Lara Wilkes 01952 750390
Or email Heather at heathert806@gmail.com**

Finally a quick reminder of our Christmas tree lighting event on **Saturday 4th December from 5.30pm**
We will turn the lights on at 6pm, so join us to sing a carol or two and have a hot chocolate or mulled wine.
Please feel free to bring along a decoration for the tree, homemade ones by children or adults are especially welcome.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

Lara Wilkes, Chair of Beckbury Community Shop

THE SIX PARISHES FRIENDSHIP CLUB

After enduring the recent months of Covid lock-downs and restrictions, members were getting restive, they just wanted to go out with friends not seen for over a year and catch up on the latest news. So, Beryl and I started to search for a suitable venue and by chance we alighted on the Masons Arms at Kemberton. The food looked good and reasonably priced so our venue was selected and a date fixed.

On the day we had 14 members present plus apologies from a lady who was having a chair lift fitted, John was busy taking a lady for a hospital visit and Keith who had a prior engagement. We were soon all seated on a long table and having a good old chin-wag, then we were invited to select our lunch which was a carvery, including turkey and pork, and for a change cottage pie with help yourself to a variety of fresh vegetables. What a lovely meal it was, even for one member recently out of hospital, the cottage pie went down a treat. Puddings were plain and simple – bread and butter pudding or apple crumble, the meal ending with tea and coffee. It was a meal fit for a king or queen and the Masons Arms is definitely on our list for a return visit.

After so much doom and gloom it was a treat just to go out with friends again.

BECKBURY & NEARBY VILLAGES LADIES GROUP

The next meeting of Beckbury & Nearby Villages Ladies Group will be held on **Wednesday 12th January 2022** starting at 7.30pm. Admission is £3.00 per visit, including refreshments. All meetings after this one will be held on the second Wednesday of every month in 2022.

Ladies, if you haven't attended any of our recent meetings, do please come along and see what we are planning, you may meet some old friends, or perhaps you may enjoy meeting new people.

CHRISTMAS BAGS – a request

Last year you may remember that a bevy of ladies helped to make handbags, from material donated by you. These bags were filled with personal cosmetic items; and were given to women fleeing domestic abuse.

Through this, I have become involved in an organisation that annually collects and delivers bags to those affected by abuse, whether physical or mental.

This year they are helping the **Holly Project**. The Holly Project, based in Wellington, is a support service for survivors of Child Sexual Exploitation. It offers a safe place for individuals, victims and their families. See <http://www.ymcawellington.co.uk/hollyproject>

Would you help this year too?

We are buying gift bags (over 200 this time!) and filling them with personal items e.g. soap, toothbrush and paste, tissues, shower gel, as well as hair bobbles, socks, gloves and hats.

If you have any unwanted items and are happy to donate them – unwanted shower gel from the last holiday(!) – this will be appreciated. The items do need to be new, but handmade is very acceptable.

Deadline 9th December 2021

Thank you.

For further information please contact Mary Johnson, Gemini, Beckbury. 01952 750762
Or mary@linington.com

**THANK YOU to everyone who supported the
Beckbury Christmas Craft and Gift Fair.**

**It was wonderful to see the community getting
together once again.**

**Thanks also to Beryl and her team for
providing the refreshments,
which raised £261 for Beckbury Church.**

BECKBURY ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

As you all know sadly our much loved character Barry Truss passed away recently. From all the allotment holders I would like to offer our sincere condolences to Carol and his family. We all loved him, a proper gent, full of mischief and always up for a laugh. So knowledgeable about growing vegetables, especially pumpkins!! We will all miss him terribly, sadly the allotments will never be the same without him.

Jobs to be getting on with on the allotment in December:

If weather permits a few hours on your plot can be very rewarding, both physically and mentally. Call it kind of therapy, and in these unsettling times I find it really helps to get out in the fresh air either gardening or walking.

Here are some jobs to be getting with:

- Net brassicas to protect from hungry pigeons, remove any yellow leaves so fungal diseases don't take hold
- Bonfire rubbish
- Order seeds
- Plan veg beds
- Winter prune fruit bushes (not stone fruit)
- Plant bare-root fruit trees
- It's not too late to lift and divide clumps of rhubarb, alternatively select a large clump to 'force' for an early crop next year
- Wash down greenhouses and polytunnels with Citrox (a natural disinfectant made from citrus fruits)
- Also containers, seed trays and potting bench (prevents pests and disease at the propagation stage)
- Prune grapes. This job was traditionally carried out on New Year's Day
- Ensure that the wheelbarrow doesn't have a flat tyre!

Although the allotment may look a little bare there is plenty to be getting on with if you can drag yourself away from the warmth of your fire.

So from all of the allotment holders we would like to wish you a very Happy Safe Christmas, and most of all let the New Year be something that will give us hope.

Heidi Pringle-Scott

THE SIX PARISHES CLIMATE CRISIS EVENT – REVIEW

When I started looking more deeply into the implications of climate change and what it meant, I understood on an intellectual level what the problems were; I understood that burning fossil fuels which release CO (Carbon Dioxide) that has been stored underground for millions of years was changing the carbon balance in the atmosphere, creating a greenhouse effect that was trapping heat and this inevitably leads to what we call *Global Warming*. So far so bad!

What I hadn't understood was that this gentle warming (what's a couple of degrees here and there?) has such a disproportionate effect on the climate; whether it's the heat dome that sat over North America last year or the forty days that the temperature soared over 56°C in Kuwait City in 2020 or the flooding in Ironbridge, Ludlow and Shrewsbury in the same year (and most recent years). In other words, Climate Change doesn't just add a degree or so to the average temperature; it destabilises the climate. And though the outcomes of this destabilisation can be estimated, we can only guess at the future consequences throughout the world of the frightening changes that we are bringing about.

When this all sunk in, climate change became less of an intellectual problem and more of a moral one. We may have it in our power to bring the situation back from the brink. Not just by governments acting to make binding international agreements (though that is important), or companies cutting out the use of plastic packaging (again, vital) but by **every one of us** taking stock of what we are doing and then planning the changes that are necessary in our lives to dial down and then repair the damage we are causing.

And if we all do this, and everyone throughout the world does this, then we might just leave a recognisable planet for our children and grandchildren (and the thousands of generations still to come) to enjoy and thrive on.

If you would like to join a group that will work towards helping each other to reduce our carbon footprints, get in touch with me or follow the work of a group such as:

South Shropshire Climate Action: Zero Carbon Shropshire: Save our Shropshire;

Thank you for coming to the Six Parishes Climate Crisis event on Saturday the 6th November. It was encouraging to see the interest that the event generated.

Jonathan HB jdh66@hotmail.com

'THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS' FAYRE

At BECKBURY VILLAGE HALL

On Sunday 12th December

10am – 3pm

Gifts, Crafts, Vintage, Edible and Handmade Goodies

Refreshments available

Free parking adjacent to Beckbury Village School

UNDERSTANDING DEMENTIA

From Tommy Bingham, living with dementia: “Live in the moment. People with dementia can only do what they can see and share at that moment. This is our reality, so go along with it. And remember that the person with dementia is doing the best they can. They may have moments of reality, so share these moments with them and see them as gifts”.

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

With Remembrance Day approaching Beckbury resident Jackie Johnson noticed that the local War Memorial was in need of a little tender care and attention. So after contacting the Revd Hodson for his permission, she started the painstaking work of cleaning and removing moss and detritus. Our picture shows Jackie near the end of her self-appointed work, just in time for the big day. *Thank you Jackie.*



May we remind all our readers that the next issue will not be available until the last week in January. Our good wishes to you all for a happy Christmas and a happy New Year.

Our thanks must go to our Newsletter deliverers, who trundle through all weathers – good and bad. We could not continue without your help – once again a big Thank You.

Unfortunately, due to recent increases in costs (including a new printer) sponsorship of the newsletter has been increased to £35.00 per issue, we very much regret this but as it is our first increase in 10 years we feel that we have been very successful in keeping costs down and with sponsors’ help have tried to give good value to our readers.