

SIX PARISHES NEWSLETTER

for

St Giles' Church. Badger

St Milburga's Church. Beckbury

St Andrew's Church. Ryton

Rector: Revd. Keith Hodson tel 01952 750774

Email: keithhodson@talk21.com

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



Rota of Services for the 6 Parishes – December 2018

	Badger	Beckbury	Ryton	Kemberton	Stockton	Sutton Maddock
Dec 2nd	9.30am Matins LT		9.30am Communion KH new	11am Morning Worship KH		
Dec 9th		9.30am Communion KH new				11am Matins KH
Dec 16th	SATURDAY 5pm Carols KH	6pm Carol Service KH	9.30am Morning Worship KH	11am Communion KH new		4pm Carol Service KH
Dec 23rd					11am Communion KH	
Dec 24th		11pm Communion		5pm Communion		11pm Communion
Dec 25th	9am Communion		10.15am Communion			
Dec 30th		NO	SERVICES			

KH – Revd Keith Hodson

TD – Tina Dalton

LT – Local Team

PRAYER OF THE MONTH (from a traditional Christmas carol)

*Good Christians all, rejoice with heart and soul and voice,
Now ye need not fear the grave – Jesus Christ was born to save;
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.*

So help us O Lord to rejoice in your invitation to your Christmas feast
Through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

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

We wish you a merry Christmas.....

Dear friends

I wonder if you have a favourite Christmas carol? There are so many to choose from. Christmas attracts attention from lots of musicians and song writers, including of course non-religious songs without reference to the Bethlehem nativity. And if it hasn't started already I expect we will hear in shops and the media plenty of Slade and Band Aid, though some of you may prefer *'have yourself a merry little Christmas'*, *'let it snow, let it snow'* or even *'Rocking around the Christmas tree'* (there's a good start for your 2018 family Christmas quiz "who sang.....?")

In our carol services at church we won't be singing any of those hits from the recent past. While there is an element of community carol singing, there is also the element of worship and telling the Christmas story.

There are lots of occasions nowadays for this, including , TV, radio and on line with a variety of Christmas services and carols from different cathedrals and churches, and some people prefer "the church of the air" to singing with a crowd in a building.

St Francis (1223) is credited with reviving singing carols as part of telling the nativity story. But in England Cromwell and the Puritans stopped carol singing – indeed in 1644 they "abolished Christmas", and even later the Church of England was suspicious of all hymns and carols, and only chanted biblical psalms and canticles.

Thankfully the Victorians revived the old custom and we today are grateful that musicians and composers of that time collected and recorded old Christmas songs from around the country (hence some titles like The Sussex carol; the Herefordshire carol).

"Christmas comes but once a year" – though as I wrote last month, the season starts much earlier than it used to. Our services at the churches can be found in the [Six Parishes Service rota](#); I hope you find one of them at a convenient time for you in this busy season.

Wishing you all a merry Christmas

Keith Hodson

DIARY DATES FOR December 2018

Tuesday 4 th		Beckbury Shop Christmas Party
Wednesday 5 th	7.30pm	Beckbury Parish Council meet in Beckbury Village Hall
Tuesday 11 th	12noon	Six Parishes Friendship Club Christmas Party in Beckbury Village Hall
Wednesday 12 th	10am	Prayers on Wednesday
Wednesday 12 th	7.30pm	Ryton & Grindle Parish Council Meeting
Saturday 15 th	5pm	Carol Service at Badger
Sunday 16 th	4pm	Carol Service at Sutton Maddock
Sunday 16 th	6pm	Carol Service at Beckbury Church
Tuesday 25 th		Christmas Day



CHURCH NEWS

Times and dates for the church **Christmas carol and communion services** are listed in the Six Parishes Service Rota in this newsletter.

There are no local services on Sunday 30th December, but there will be services at Albrighton, Shifnal, Pattingham and Worfield Churches.

A good number of friends and family attended the funeral of **Mary Weaver** at Stockton Church where she was the organist for over sixty years, starting when in her teens and continuing until a few years ago. Mary sometimes invited children to 'come and have a go' on the organ and showed them what different sounds and notes could be played. She was also for a number of years the organist at Sutton Maddock, and over the years has played at many weddings and funerals of families in the area. *The day thou gavest Lord is ended.*

BAPTISMS

Congratulations to Iris Anne Moloney, daughter of Adam and Lucy who was baptised at Stockton Church on 28th October 2018.

WEDDINGS

Congratulations to Sean Rushworth and Laura Glaze who were married at Kemberton Church on 3rd November 2018.

CONDOLENCES

We extend our sympathies to the family of the late Pat Malkin, aged 79, of Albrighton whose service was held at Telford Crematorium on 1st November 2018.

We extend our sympathies to the family of the late Mary Weaver, aged 85, of Shifnal whose service was held at Stockton Church on 7th November 2018.

THANK YOU

Vera Malkin, son and daughter-in-law Ashley and Louise, and granddaughters Sarah and Jessica would like to thank everyone following Patrick's sudden death, for their kind words of comfort and cards of condolence, also for their support at his service at Telford Crematorium.

A special thank you to Revd Keith Hodson for his very moving service.

Donations given in memory of Pat raised £400.00 which will be divided between Albrighton Medical Centre and the Air Ambulance Appeal.

BECKBURY CoE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The children of Beckbury CoE Primary School marked Remembrance this year by making individual poppies. A wooden cross was made for each class to enable the children to display their poppies. Some of the children, along with members of staff carried them to St Milburga's Church ready for Remembrance Sunday.

On Monday 12th November, children and staff marked Remembrance by standing on the school playground for two minutes in silence. Directly after the two minutes silence our year six children read the poem written by Laurence Binyon.



*They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.*

In the photograph the banner between the children's crosses was made by Mrs Sonia Handley.

SIX PARISHES FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The November meeting was our traditional Christmas visit to a garden centre, with some of us looking for gifts, some for garden tools we simply must have for next year, and some members just looking. Towards the end of our visit we all enjoyed a hot drink and a cream scone with jam, a nice way to end a very enjoyable afternoon.

Our meeting on Tuesday 11th December, starting at 12noon in Beckbury Village Hall will be our Christmas Party for members and friends, please bring a gift wrapped in Christmas paper and labelled lady or gent. It is a bring-and-share party where everyone brings a selection of party food, and of course **the puddings**. If you know anyone who would like to join us please do not hesitate to bring them along.

To round off the afternoon some of the children from Beckbury School will be joining us to sing carols and, hopefully, getting our members to join in with some of the songs.

BECKBURY VILLAGE HALL – an update

At a public meeting in the Village Hall on 13th September we had the pleasure of launching the ‘**Beckbury Village Hall Refurbishment Fund**’ as part of our AGM. About 25 local residents saw our vision for the future of the Village Hall and heard about how we intend to raise the funds to achieve that vision.

The refurbishment will be phased with Stage 1 commencing as soon as we have secured the funds. During Stage 1 we intend to totally refurbish the roof including installation of Velux windows, remove the unsightly internal pipe-work and rewire including installation of new lighting.

We intend to bring the hall to a standard such that it will be financially self-sustaining.

Funds to bring it to this state will come from four main sources:

- a. One off grant funding from trusts
- b. Annual subscriptions from individuals
- c. One off donations from individuals/organisations
- d. One off fundraising events

As part of (c) we launched our **FAD (Fund a Day) scheme**. The running costs of the hall once refurbished are estimated at £14 a day. We are therefore inviting individuals to sponsor a day for £14 – we have ‘sold’ several days already – mostly people are sponsoring their birthdays, but you can choose any. There will be an annual reward for one lucky person, chosen at random from those sponsoring the hall in such a way. Please get in touch if you would like to do this.

Several residents have for many years made regular subscriptions to the hall. We are very grateful for these but would invite more residents to consider this way of supporting us in this way.

Since the launch we held a highly successful ‘Dinner, Drinks and Dance’ evening which was enjoyed by over 60 people and raised a magnificent £1,060 profit, meaning that we can now remove the pipe-works!

If you could help us by organising a fundraiser or in any of the ways suggested above, please do get in touch.

The committee has been very busy with writing Business Plans, fundraising applications, Health and Safety policies, Safeguarding policies etc etc. If you feel you can support us in any way please do come along to our meetings – you don’t have to be on the committee, all are welcome, **Our next meeting is at 7.30pm on Thursday 17th January 2019.**

Thank you so much for your ongoing support.

Heather Thomas, Village Hall Trustee/Secretary. T. 01952 750334 e: heathert806@gmail.com



**“BECKBURY BITTER”
is now being SOLD in the
Community Shop, Beckbury**



**A GIFT PACK of 3 bottles
is the perfect present this
CHRISTMAS**



BECKBURY COMMUNITY SHOP

It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas in the shop, our festive table and dresser are spilling over with seasonal goodies. We’ve got a fabulous selection of locally made decorations and gifts, a lovely selection of cards including local charity cards and the Beckbury Christmas card, featuring a painting of the church by a local artist. We also have delicious Beckbury made Christmas puddings, Beckbury Bangers in a Blanket and Beckbury Bitter and Hop & Stagger beer gift boxes, along with lots of other festive goodies.

We’ll be holding a volunteers **Christmas Party in Beckbury Village Hall on Tuesday 4th December from 7.30pm**. Join us, wearing your favourite Christmas accessory, for mince pies and a glass of mulled wine.

The shop has been shortlisted for an award! We have been selected as a finalist in the ‘Little Things’ category of the Plunkett Foundation’s Rural Ownership Awards. The awards celebrate and raise awareness of the unique contribution community businesses make to rural communities. Members of the committee will be travelling to London to attend the awards ceremony at the St Bride Foundation, near Fleet Street this month.

BECKBURY SHOP CHRISTMAS OOPENING HOURS;

Date	Opening Hours
Christmas Eve (Monday)	8.30am – 12noon
Christmas Day and Boxing Day	CLOSED
December 27 th , 28 th (Thursday and Friday)	8.30am – 6.30pm
December 29 th , 30 th , (Saturday and Sunday)	9am – 12noon
New Year’s Eve 31 st (Monday)	9am – 2pm

Finally, we would like to thank everyone who has supported the shop throughout 2018, it’s been a fabulous year and we’ve come so far. We wish you all a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year, and we look forward to supporting the community in 2019.

BECKBURY ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION

On 21st October we held our annual Giant Pumpkin competition. It was a great success with pumpkins of all sizes entering. The whopper of a winner entered by Barry Truss tipped the scales at 573lbs!! Second and third place was Nigel Bridgwater 218lbs and Peter Quinn 90lbs. There was also a children's category that was won by Lois Ward with her super giant pumpkin weighing 68lb. Well done all of you who nurtured your pumpkins throughout the hot summer to make the competition possible. The grand total made on that day was £165 and all proceeds have gone to the air ambulance.

We also had great success with our allotment produce show raising in total £526.50 for the Beckbury Show. Thank you to all who entered and bought raffle tickets.....I for one would like to be a cake judge next year, they looked amazing. There was also a record number of entries for the children's photographic competition. Lovely to see so many budding new photographers.

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

With the festive season soon upon us we hardly have time to think about our frost covered plots. But if weather permits and you feel like working off a few mince pies, then here are a few jobs to be getting on with.

- Bonfire rubbish
- Order seeds
- Plan veg beds
- Winter prune fruit bushes (not stone fruit)
- Force rhubarb
- 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!

So, 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. If anyone is interested in taking on a plot there are a few available. Please contact Gina Somerville (allotment chairwoman) on 07795625316

Heidi Pringle-Scott

BABYSITTER AND TUTOR

Around TF11

Octavia Hamilton – 17 years old

Octavia.hamilton@btinternet.com 07764 963 674

Can also help with chores such as collecting shopping, ironing etc.

Available **all weekends** and holidays (17.12.18 – 08.01.19)

Babysitter (£4.20 per hour), tutor, cleaner (£10 per hour)

All funds go towards a volunteering trip to Malawi to build a school

SKILLS: Strong communication skills, highly motivated, effective time management and organisational skills, high perseverance, active listening skills, strong with data entry, documentation, filing and technology.

BECKBURY TRAIL – SUNDAY 18TH November.

On a bright, sunny winter morning 300 runners gathered in Higford Lane, Beckbury, waiting apprehensively for the klaxon signalling the 11am start of this 5.6 mile run. Standing at the top of Higford Lane what an impressive sight appeared before the eyes as they all headed my way, with local runners Alex Lister, Lucie Tait-Harris and Tom McAllister well to the fore.



All too soon we lost sight of the runners as they headed for Stableford and then up a steep hill into Ackleton, next following a track over fields down to Badger Dingle, then to Badger and down The Chase to head back to Beckbury via the Wanderers and finally coming back into view at the top of Higford Lane. By now the breathing was getting harder as the hills told on lungs and legs, but yet another hill to climb and then over the last two fields for the run in to the finish.

Local runners featured well in the placings with 11th place going to Alex Lister 40.06 mins, closely followed by Lucie Tait-Harris 42.21 and Tom McAllister 42.51. James Paice finished with 49.45 and Peter Gibbins with 50.51 and not far behind was Ed Solari with 54.21 mins.

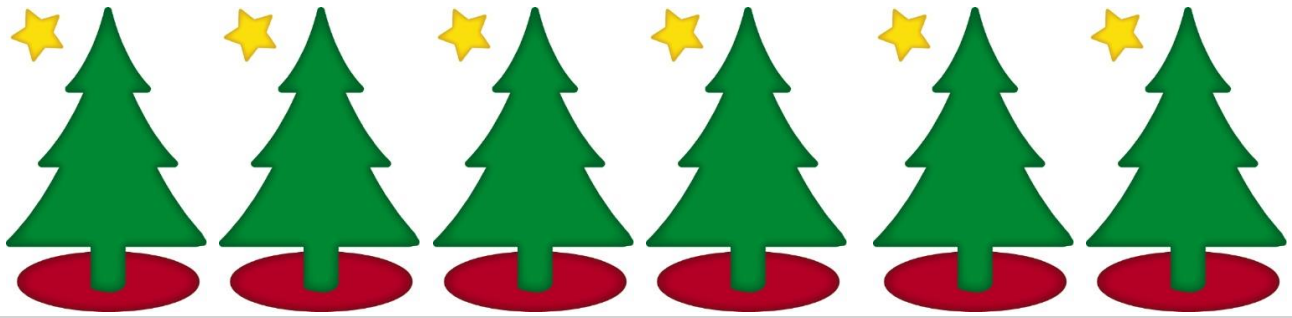
All in all a very successful day for everyone with praise going to Richard Handley (Race Director) and his team for their work, including remembering to have back-runners to pick up any litter dropped en-route.

MOBILE LIBRARY

There appears to be some confusion arising over the visiting days of the mobile library. It seems that there have been problems with having a large library van using our roads at the same time as refuse lorries carrying out their important work, so that the library now visits on a Monday as listed below:

Alternate weeks on a Monday

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| • 1. Ryton, church junction | 9am to 9.15am |
| • 2. Beckbury, opposite Lawton Close | 9.25am to 9.40am |
| • 3. Badger, The Crescent | 9.45am to 10.15am |
| • 4. Ackleton, Folly Road | 10.25am to 10.45am |
| • 5. Chesterton, phone box | 10.55am to 11.10am |
| • 6. Hilton, Sandpit Lane | 11.20am to 11.35am |
| • 7. Worfield, Hallon | 11.45am to 12.05pm |



CHRISTMAS GIFT FAIR

IN AID OF BECKBURY VILLAGE HALL

AT HOME

MEADOW HOUSE

BADGER LANE

BECKBURY TF11 9DQ

11AM UNTIL 8PM

ON WEDNESDAY 5TH DECEMBER

MISGRACEFUL JEWELLERY

CHILDREN'S LUCKY DIP, BAGLADY

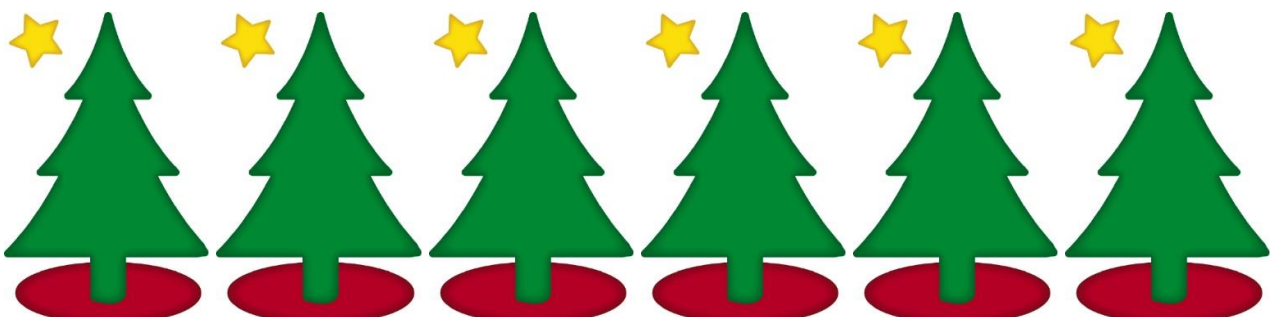
POCKETMONEY GIFTS,

CHOCOLATE NOVELTY

CHRISTMAS PLANTS, CAKE STALLS

PROSECCO & GIN BAR

MINCE PIES & SUPPER AVAILABLE



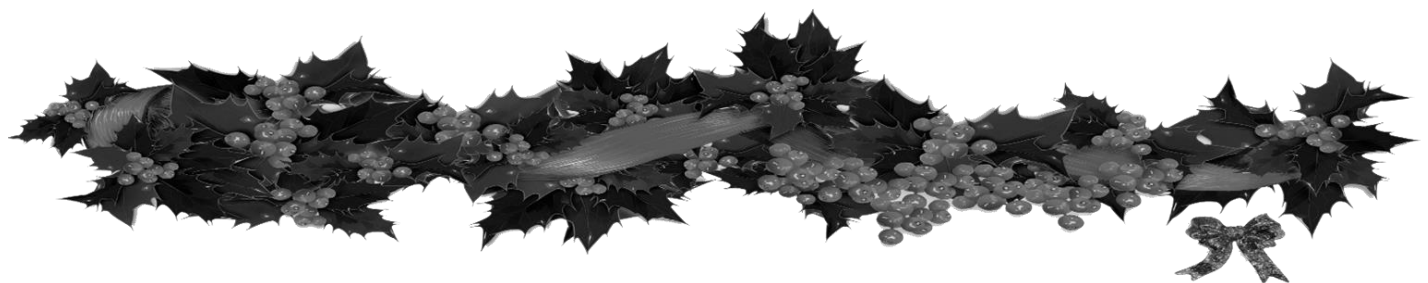
SHROPSHIRE'S 1ST ORGANIC MILK VENDING MACHINE

At Chatham's Organic Dairy, Brockton Grange, Shifnal. TF11 9LZ

The Chathams have been caring for cows on the award-winning family farm in the beautiful Shropshire countryside, near Shifnal, for three generations. They continue to strive to ensure that everything works in harmony on the farm today, passing on their love of sustainable farming. Their cows have the freedom to graze on pastures grown on healthy Shropshire soil, full of natural goodness, producing milk, **without** the use of antibiotics, artificial chemical herbicides and fertilisers or GM feeds, which they are proud to sell fresh from the farm.

You can now experience their newly designed dairy at the farm gate. Inside you can find **Shropshire's first organic milk vending machine**. You can purchase a **bespoke reusable glass bottle**, fill it straight from the vending machine, and help reduce your plastic footprint. The milk is gently pasteurised on-site to maximise the taste and non-homogenised so the cream rises to the top. You can also buy organic cheese and free-range eggs from a second vending machine. If you're lucky you may see the cows grazing in a field nearby.

Open 7 days a week from 6.30am – 8pm



David and Beryl would like to wish all our readers seasonal greetings and a happy and prosperous New Year.

We would also like to thank our friendly helpers who deliver the newsletters throughout the year, and also our sponsors who are so important in supporting us.

This month's newsletter is kindly sponsored by

Alan and Yvette Fletcher from Badger